

Summer Enrollment is Over - Now What?

Summer Enrollment—that one time of year when you can make changes to your health benefits without having a qualifying life event (QLE)—has ended. Some of you made benefits changes; others decided to continue with what they already had. What are some next steps?

Confirm Your Enrollments

Whenever you make a Summer Enrollment election change, look for a confirmation from ERS. The confirmation will be sent immediately to the email you have on file, or it will be mailed to the address on file at ERS.

Hold on to your confirmation letter so you have a record of what changes you made, then, when you get your October paycheck, make sure the pay stub matches the elections listed on your confirmation letter.

If there is a conflict, notify your HR benefits coordinators. Your coordinators can help confirm if the elections you made are reflected accurately. Your HR Benefits Coordinators can be reached at: (409) 880-1780 (Terri Jones) or (409) 880-2257 (Cynthia Walker).

Contacting Program Administrators with Questions About Coverage and Care

Remember, the best source for information about coverage and other program features is the third-party administrator (TPA).

If you have a question about how to set up a primary care physician, use dental or vision benefits, go to the plan's website or call the plan's customer service center. You should ask the TPA questions about anything aside from eligibility and enrollment.

New Consumer Directed HealthSelectSM members: Open your HSA

If you enrolled in Consumer Directed HealthSelect for the first time, you'll need to open your health savings account (HSA) with Optum Bank. Even if you don't plan on contributing your own money to the account or already have an HSA at another bank, you have to have an Optum Bank account to get the state's monthly contribution. (The state will deposit funds only in Optum Bank HSAs.)

To Open An Account:

1. Go to <http://www.optumbank.com>.
2. Click the *Enroll Now* button on the left side of the page or the Open an HSA tab at the top of the page.
3. Follow the instructions on the Health Savings Account (HSA) Enrollment page. If you need help, call the number provided.

(Please note that you must open your Optum Bank HSA yourself. ERS or your HR department cannot do it for you.)

Verifying Dependents



If you enrolled your dependents—children or spouse—in health coverage during Summer Enrollment, you need to send documents proving their eligibility. If you haven't already, you should get a letter from Alight Solutions very soon. Please pay close attention to any letters, calls or emails from Alight. If you're having trouble getting the needed documents by the deadline, call Alight before the deadline to talk about your options. If you don't send documents proving a dependent's eligibility by the deadline, that dependent will be dropped from coverage in all Texas Employees Group Benefits Program (GBP) plans.



Human Resources Benefits News Brief

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RETIREMENT SEMINAR
 (MUST RSVP TO ATTEND)
[https://orgsync.com/135560/
 events/2463831/occurrences/5913098](https://orgsync.com/135560/events/2463831/occurrences/5913098)

OCTOBER 30, 2018
 LIT Multi-Purpose Center
 802 E. Lavaca Street
 BMT, TX 77705
 8:00am—1:00pm

Discount Purchase Program

From mortgages and travel to computers, your Discount Purchase Program has savings on all kinds of big-ticket purchases. You can save up to 20% at nearly 8,000 hotels with the Wyndham Hotel Group. Avis Rent a Car offers ERS employees 25% off rental rates. When you use Chase to finance or refinance your home, you can get \$1,250 off your mortgage, and an experienced mortgage banker will help you every step of the way. MetLife Auto & Home policies can help you lower your auto Insurance premium. Customers save an average of \$507 when they switch. Samsung has special offers on laptops, tablets, phones and more. When you shop now, you can save up to 40%.

Visit: www.DiscountProgramERS.com

Get Familiar With Your Optional Benefits: TexFlex



TexFlex has created an online tool you can use to see if you should be setting aside money each month to pay for qualified health care, dependent care, commuter expenses or limited care expenses. To use the tool:

Go to the [TexFlex website](http://www.spendingaccounts.info/texflex-fsa-wageworks/).

[http://www.spendingaccounts.info/
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- On the homepage, click the Program Resources tab on the top ribbon.
- Click Decision Support Tool / Savings Calculator.

After a short video, answer the questions to learn if you should be contributing to an FSA and, if so, how much?

So, how am I saving money if it's coming out of my paycheck?

Many people ask this question. The answer: Setting money aside in a TexFlex spending account lowers your taxable income, so you pay less in taxes.

Online Social Security Replacement Card

Texas allows certain individuals to apply for a replacement Social Security card online.

To apply, one must create or log into their *my Social Security* account at socialsecurity.gov. Please find the attached document with details about eligibility criteria and a step-by-step guide to "Request Your Social Security Card Online."

Once the application is complete, Social Security send emails to communicate the process. The first email will confirm our receipt of the request. If we need additional information, we will contact the applicant. The last email, usually within 2-10 business days, will notify the applicant when the card is one the way. It is important to note that Social Security does not issue a receipt when a replacement card is requested online. The emails are notification of the request and process. Emails can be used, in lieu of a receipt, until the social Security card arrives in the mail.