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# Flexible Spending Accounts

Health FSA & Dependent Care FSA → Give yourself a raise



## Flexible Spending Accounts

### Why Enroll in an FSA?

Give yourself a raise! Increase your spendable income by reducing the amount you pay in taxes.

Our participants save approximately \$27 in taxes for every \$100 they set aside in an FSA.

Easily budget for the cost of health care expenses → your full Health FSA amount is available on your effective date.

**Health Care Reimbursement Account**  
(Health FSA)

**Dependent Care Assistance Account**  
(Dependent Care FSA)

## The FSA Advantage

You can benefit from an FSA if you spend money on health care or dependent care expenses.

### Here's How it Works →



**Decide if you want to enroll in the Health FSA, the Dependent Care FSA or both**



**Determine how much you spend annually on health care and dependent care expenses**

- Use our *Election Worksheet & Eligible Expenses* handout or our Tax Savings Calculator on our website to determine your expenses

- Refer to your FSA Enrollment form for the maximum permitted election amounts
- **Important:** Because you are receiving pre-tax treatment on the FSA funds, IRS regulations require that funds be spent within the time frame your plan specifies or you lose access to them. Make a conservative election; only consider expenses you and your family expect to incur.



**Your employer divides your annual election by the number of pay periods you have in the plan year**

- This amount is payroll deducted each pay period on a pre-tax basis throughout the year



**Access your funds throughout the plan year to pay for eligible expenses**

- Use your debit card
- Submit for reimbursement through one of our quick and convenient reimbursement methods

## Example Tax Savings Through An FSA

	Before FSA Enrollment	After FSA Enrollment
Annual Earnings	\$45,000	\$45,000
Annual FSA Election Amount	\$0	-\$1,500
Taxable Income	\$45,000	\$43,500
Approximate Taxes Paid	-\$12,150	-\$11,745
Annual Tax Savings → Increase in Spendable Income by Enrolling in an FSA		<b>\$405</b>

## Understanding the Health FSA

Health FSA funds can be used for health care expenses incurred by you, your spouse, and your dependents up to age 26



One of the biggest advantages of the Health FSA is that you have access to your full annual election amount on the very first day of the plan year!

Eligible expenses are out-of-pocket costs you have for medical, dental, orthodontia, vision, and hearing products and services.

You can use the Health FSA for your own and your family members' expenses, even if you and your dependents are not enrolled in your employer's medical plan.

Refer to the Eligible Expenses handout for a list of common eligible items, or visit [benstrat.com](http://benstrat.com).

## Understanding the Dependent Care FSA

Dependent Care FSA funds can be used for dependent care expenses you incur so that you (and your spouse if married) can be gainfully employed or attend school full-time.

To be eligible, the person must be your tax dependent who is:

- Under the age of 13
- Age 13 or older if physically or mentally incapable of self-care and residing in your home at least half the year

As funds accumulate in your Dependent Care account through payroll deductions, you can use your debit card or submit for reimbursement.

Visit the FSA resources page on [benstrat.com](http://benstrat.com) to learn more.



### Eligible Expenses

Day Care  
Before/After School Programs  
Summer Day Camps  
Babysitters/Nannies



### Ineligible Expenses

Kindergarten  
Private School Tuition  
Overnight Camps  
Educational Classes



## Using Your FSA Funds

### The Benefit Strategies Debit Card

The Benefit Strategies debit card is a VISA debit card pre-loaded with your full annual Health FSA election amount. You use the card to pay for IRS-qualified expenses directly at the point of sale or when paying a bill. The card works in settings such as physician offices, dental and orthodontic offices, optometrists, pharmacies, chiropractors, urgent care centers, and hospitals\*.

The IRS requires you keep all original documentation\*\* for purchases associated with the debit card. Benefit Strategies may also request copies of your documentation to verify a debit card purchase.



*\*If you are enrolled in the Dependent Care FSA, the card can also be used in dependent care settings. Just remember that the card will only work for an amount that does not exceed the available balance in your Dependent Care FSA account on that day.*

*\*\*To be valid, documentation must include: date the expense was incurred, patient name (if applicable), amount of the expense after any insurance adjustment, provider name, and service/product description.*



#### Health FSA Funds

Your full election amount is available on the first day of the plan year.



#### Dependent Care FSA Funds

Your funds are available as they accumulate through payroll deductions.

### Electronic and Paper Reimbursement Methods

3 → 5 DAY TYPICAL TURNAROUND TIME

Reimbursements are made payable to you, either by paper check or direct deposit. All reimbursement methods require you to submit documentation.\*\*

- Submit on-line through your secure account at [benstrat.com](http://benstrat.com)
- Download the Benefit Strategies mobile application to submit through your mobile device
- Complete a paper claim form to submit via fax, secure email, or mail

## FSA Account Resources

### Your Online Account on [benstrat.com](http://benstrat.com) & Our Mobile App

Through your secure on-line account at [benstrat.com](http://benstrat.com) or on our app available on iOS and Android devices, you can file for reimbursement, upload documentation, set up text message alerts, view claims history, account balances, filing deadlines, and more.

## Have Questions?

We've got you covered.

Mon → Thurs: 8:00am – 6:00pm ET  
Friday: 8:00am – 5:00pm ET

Online Chat: [benstrat.com](http://benstrat.com)  
Text-To-Chat: 888-401-3539  
Email: [info@benstrat.com](mailto:info@benstrat.com)

Toll Free: 888-401-3539  
Language translation service available  
(Automated system available at all times)