

2026 Open Enrollment

HRA Kick-Off Meeting
September 25, 2025





Open Enrollment Team

- Jessica Lingo Bureau Chief, Benefits
- Amy Liechti Team Lead, Group Insurance
- Mackay Hicks COBRA, Life & LTD, Flex Administrator
- Susan Piel Retiree Specialist
- Kelley Hall Workday Benefits Specialist
- Julie Finnell HR Tech, Benefits
- Carol DeVries HR Tech, Benefits
- Danielle Potter Benefits Web Master
- Lisa Jones HRE Communications



Agenda

- Highlights of 2026 Open Enrollment
- Flex Spending Accounts
- Life Insurance
- Retiree Open Enrollment
- Q & A



Zoom Items

- Everyone will be muted. Please use the chat function for questions.
- Video will be recorded for later use.



HRA Role

- You are the main contact for employees in your agency
- HRA should contact HRE on behalf of the employee
- If you don't know the answer, see it as a learning opportunity instead of directing the employee straight to HRE
- HRE role is to assist the HRA





2026 Benefit Highlights & Premiums

2026 Open Enrollment Timeframe

Active Employees	October 6th – November 6th* at 5pm (CST)
Retirees	October 15th – December 7th

^{*}Note this is a Thursday



2026 Benefit Changes

Health Insurance

- NO medical plan design changes in Iowa Choice or National Choice
- Minor pharmacy changes due to legislation passed in 2025
- NO benefit changes in Alliance Select (SPOCcovered employees)



2026 is NOT an active enrollment for health or dental

- Employees do not have to re-enroll in health or dental if they do not want to make any changes
- Their health and dental will remain the same in 2026



Employees must enroll each year in Workday

- Health Flexible Spending Account (FSA)
- Dependent Care FSA



Health Flexible Spending Account

- The maximum Health FSA is \$3,300 in 2026
- The maximum Dependent Care FSA contribution is increasing to \$7500 per household. (\$3,750 if the employee is married and filing a separate tax return).



Health Insurance Resources

Call Wellmark Customer Service

- 800.622.0043
- 888.781.4262 (TTY)

2026 Open Enrollment Web Page

https://das.iowa.gov/open-enrollment-period (Coming Soon!)

- Health Insurance Options Side-by-Side Comparison
- Summary of Benefits and Coverage Iowa Choice
- Summary of Benefits and Coverage National Choice
- Summary of Benefits and Coverage Alliance Select



2026 Monthly Health Premiums

All Fulltime Employees (except SPOC-covered)

Full-time employees (30+ hours per week)	Total Premium	State Share	% of State share	Employee share	% of employee share	
Iowa Choice						
Employee	\$900.00	\$836.00	93%	\$64.00	7%	
Family	\$2,106.00	\$1,896.00	90%	\$210.00	10%	
National Choice						
Employee	\$988.00	\$836.00	85%	\$152.00	15%	
Family	\$2,314.00	\$1,896.00	82%	\$418.00	18%	



2026 Monthly Health Premiums

SPOC-Covered Employees

Full-time employees	Total premium	State share	% of State share	Employee share	% employee share
Single	\$824.05	\$782.85	95%	\$41.20	5%
Employee and Child(ren)	\$1,559.93	\$1,372.73	88%	\$187.20	12%
Employee and Spouse	\$1,687.65	\$1,485.13	88%	\$202.52	12%
Family	\$2,529.01	\$2,149.65	85%	\$379.36	15%



Health Insurance Opt-Out

Elect to opt-out of a state-sponsored health insurance plan and receive \$125 monthly

Eligibility for the Opt-Out

- Full time (30+ hours per week) and benefit eligible
- NOT covered by Iowa Choice, National Choice, or Alliance Select (active or retiree) through a family member, including a domestic partner
- Covered by a Board of Regents health plan eligible for the Opt-Out



Health Insurance Opt-Out

- Elected the opt-out in 2025
 - The opt-out will roll over in 2026
 - Unless the employee elects health insurance during this Open Enrollment Period
- Did not elect the opt-out in 2025
 - Must elect the opt-out option in Workday
 - No default to the opt-out option



Dental Insurance

 This year is an open enrollment year for all employees *INCLUDING* SPOC-covered employees (per Collective Bargaining Agreement)



2026 Benefit Changes

Dental Insurance

- NO benefit changes for SPOC-covered employees
- Added the Enhanced Benefits option for all other employees
 - Offers additional oral health services to members with certain medical conditions
 - Eligible employees must opt-in by contacting Delta Dental
 - No additional cost
 - More information coming in Jan HR Express



2026 Monthly Dental Premiums

All Employees (except SPOC-covered)

Full-time employees (30+ hour a week)	Total premium	State share	% of State share	Employee share	% of employee share
Employee	\$38.00	\$38.00	100%	\$0	0%
Family	\$96.00	\$48.00	50%	\$48.00	50%
Part-time employees (20-29 hours a week)	Total premium	State share	% of State share	Employee share	% of employee share
Employee	\$38.00	\$19.00	50%	\$19.00	50%
Family	\$96.00	\$24.00	25%	\$72.00	75%



2026 Monthly Dental Premiums

SPOC-Covered Employees

Full-time employees	Total premium	State share	% of State share	Employee share	% of employee share
Single	\$38.00	\$38.00	100%	\$0	0%
Family	\$95.00	\$74.00	78%	\$21.00	22%

*2026 health & dental premiums will be reflected on the December 26, 2025 pay warrant



Resources – Available Now!

HRA Information: 2026 Open Enrollment Period

https://das.iowa.gov/hra-open-enrollment

Links

- 2026 Health and Dental Insurance Premiums
- 2026 Life Insurance Premiums
- 2026 Pay Period Calendar
- Forms
- Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA)
- More!



Communications

HRExpress - 2026 Special Open Enrollment Edition

- Email will be distributed on or by October 6th
- Print & distribute for employees who don't have access to a computer or are on a leave of absence





Flexible Spending Accounts

Annual Limits

Health FSA: Health expenses for self, spouse and dependents

Annual limit
 2026 - \$3,300

Dependent Care FSA: eligible expenses for the care of children under age 13 and for dependent adults who need care during the employee's work hours.

Annual limit
 2026 - \$7,500





Contributions to Health FSA

Application of Maximum

- \$3,300 limit applies on an individual basis. If both spouses are eligible for health FSA, each has \$3,300 limit.
- \$3,300 is a plan limit. If employee works for two employers that offer a Health FSA, employee may elect the maximum under each employer's plan.





Contributions to Dependent Care FSA

Application of Maximum

- \$7,500 limit applies on a household basis. If both spouses contribute, the limit is split between them. This is not a plan limit, so all contributions in a year count toward \$7,500 regardless of employer.
- \$3,750 limit if married and file taxes separately.



Health FSA Carryover

Carryover

- Carryover of unused 2025 contributions into 2026 is \$640. This is in addition to the 2026 limit of \$3,300.
- Carryover of unused 2026 contributions into 2027 is \$660.
- Carryover dollars are spent first for claims incurred in the following year and must be used in the following year or are forfeited.



Open Enrollment

- Must enroll each year.
- Remind EEs on leave.
- Prior to OE ending, review enrollments for EEs who had issues in prior years.



Open Enrollment

Click here to complete your Open Enrollment for 2026 Benefits. October 6 through November 6, 2025, 5:00 p.m. (CST)

Employee Benefits Open Enrollment Selection



Open Enrollment

- EEs can make changes to submitted elections until OE ends
- Open Enrollment 2026 Guide
- If the employee has a question, please have them email fsa@iowa.gov



New Hires/Events During OE

New Hires

- May be enrolling for 2025 and 2026
- Review elections carefully

Life Events

- Life event BPs during and after OE can cause issues with OE elections
- Review OE elections after a life event



New Hires

- Please give new hires FSA brochure.
- 30 days to enroll.
- No proration, so review annual election.
- Once coverage begins can't change without life event.





Life Events

Common Events

- Marriage/Divorce
- Birth 60 days to make changes
- Childcare provider, hours, rates

Tips

- Make sure requested change is consistent with event
- Remind EEs to check coverage/beneficiaries for all benefits





Terminating Employees

Claims eligibility

Health Care

- Can have entire annual amount
- Claims incurred through end of month of last deduction
- Retiree can prepay with final check by submitting form

Dependent Care

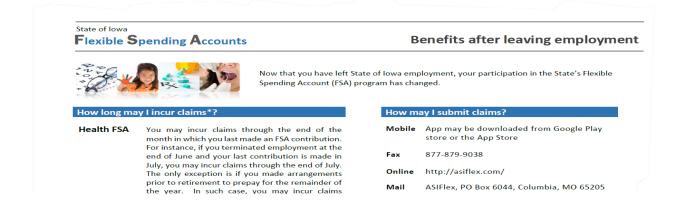
- Can have only what they contributed
- Expenses incurred while employed
- Expenses incurred after term if new job or looking for work



Terminating Employees

Employee Communications

- Remind them of coverage end dates
- Give them the FSA brochure





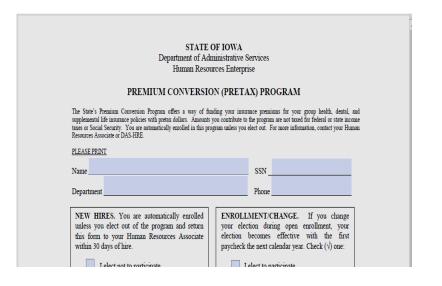
Premium Conversion

Open Enrollment

- Send form to HRE
- Effective with first pay in Jan

New Hires

- 30 days to elect out
- Give form only if elect out
- Send form to HRE







Life Insurance Overview

2026 Life Insurance

- Basic & Supplemental Life no changes for 2026
- 2025 elections will carry forward into 2026

Basic Life Insurance	
All employees (except SPOC covered employees)	\$20,000
SPOC-covered employees	\$50,000

^{*}Basic Life is paid by the State

Supplemental Life Insurance	Minimum Coverage	Maximum Coverage	Purchased in increments
All employees (except SPOC covered employees)	\$5,000	\$100,000	\$5,000
SPOC-covered employees	\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$100,000



Evidence of Insurability (EOI)

Action	Submit EOI (Y/N)
Keeping the same amount of coverage	N
Decrease or Cancel coverage amount	N
Increase coverage amount	Υ
Current Employee, but 1st time request	Υ

- EOI must be on file with The Standard by 1/05/2026
- Increase is effective 1/01/2026 or first of the month following approval from the carrier. (The Standard)



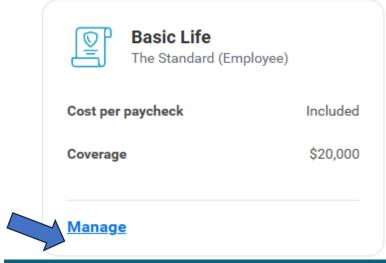
Evidence of Insurability Reminders

- Pending reasons or requests for additional information will be mailed directly to the employee's home
- Request for increase will be cancelled if:
 - If EOI is <u>not completed</u> by January 5, 2026
 - If EOI is <u>denied</u> by the Standard
 - In both instances, the amount will default to what employee currently has in place



Life Benefit Elections

Insurance



Beneficiaries for Basic and Supplemental Life are entered under the Basic Life Benefit Card only



Projected Total Cost Per Paycheck

Plans Available

Select a plan or Waive to opt out of Basic Life.

Confirm and Continue





Review/Update Beneficiaries

Coverage

Calculated Coverage \$20,000.00

Coverage \$20,000

Plan cost per paycheck Included

Beneficiaries

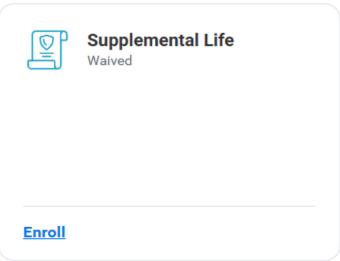
Select an existing or add a new beneficiary person or trust to this plan. You can also adjust the percentage allocation for each beneficiary.



- Add a new beneficiary, click the + button
- Remove a beneficiary, click on the button
- Enter percentage amount



Selecting Coverage

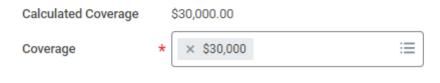


Supplemental Life - The Standard (Employee)

Projected Total Cost Per Paycheck \$6.81

Coverage

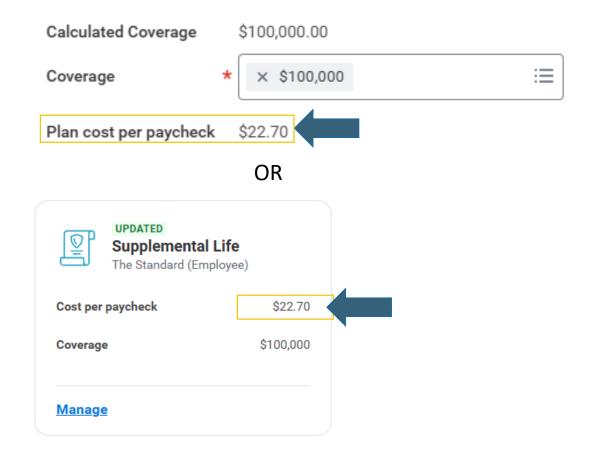
Plan cost per paycheck





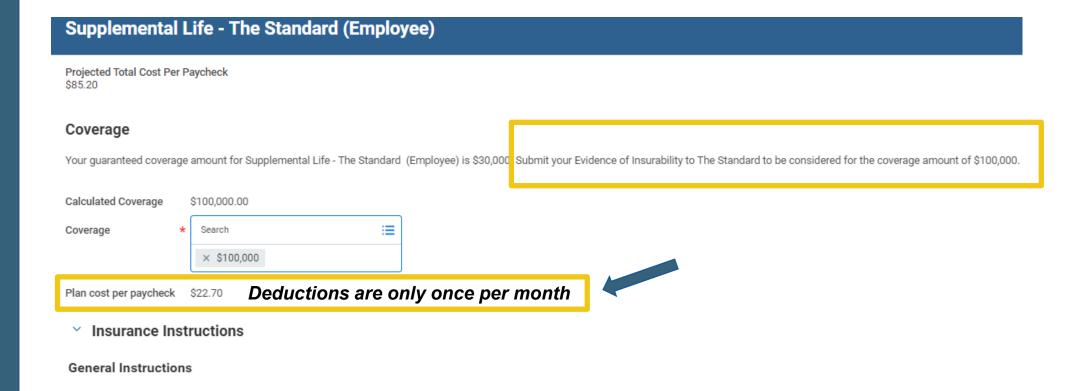
Life Insurance Deductions

- Premiums based on the amount of life insurance elected and your age <u>Life Insurance Premiums</u>
- Deductions are once monthly, not biweekly





EOI Process in Workday





EOI Process in Workday

Important Information

When you select Basic Life - The Standard (Employee), you can also select Supplemental Life - The Standard (Employee). If you waive any of these: Basic Life - The Standard (Employee), Workday automatically waives any of these: Supplemental Life - The Standard (Employee).

General Instructions

Please select 2026 Open Enrollment website for Open Enrollment information.

Beneficiaries for Basic Life AND Supplemental Life are selected under the Basic Life Card and apply to both coverage options.

Supplemental Life Insurance rates pull monthly.

Employees should not submit Evidence of Insurability (EOI) during Open Enrollment. After Open Enrollment, you will be sent, via mail to your home address, a letter from The Standard with directions that will guide you through the required online EOI Medical History Statement (MHS). EOI is subject to approval. EOI is required for the following scenarios:

- You are enrolling in Supplemental Life for the first time (excluding at the time of hire or newly benefit eligible), or requesting an increase in the
 coverage amount
- · You are returning from a non-FMLA Unpaid Leave of absence in excess of 30 calendar days (excluding Military Leaves)

Please note, coverage will not become effective until you receive an approval from The Standard and your coverage has been approved in Workday. If EOI is not on file with The Standard within 60 days from the last day of Open Enrollment, your request for additional Supplemental Life insurance will be cancelled.

Please select Life Insurance website for Supplemental Language Information.

Supplemental Life Insurance rates pull monthly.

Employees should not submit Evidence of Insurability (EOI) during Open Enrollment. After Open Enrollment, you will be sent, via mail to your home address, a letter from The Standard with directions that will guide you through the required online EOI Medical History Statement (MHS). EOI is subject to approval. EOI is required for the following scenarios:

- You are enrolling in Supplemental Life for the first time (excluding at the time of hire or newly benefit eligible), or requesting an increase in the coverage amount
- You are returning from a non-FMLA Unpaid Leave of absence in excess of 30 calendar days (excluding Military Leaves)



Life Insurance Reminders

- EOI must be on file with The Standard by 1/05/2026
- Please take this opportunity to review your life insurance beneficiaries, although you may make changes to the beneficiaries any time during the year
- Beneficiaries for Basic and Supplemental Life are selected under the Basic Life Benefit Card only
- Refer to the Benefits <u>Open Enrollment 2026 Guide</u> for step-by-step directions on updating your beneficiaries



Resources

Web Page Resources:

- 2026 Open Enrollment
- 2026 HRA Open Enrollment
- Life Insurance Website

Mackay Hicks- Life, LTD, COBRA, FSA Email: mackay.hicks@iowa.gov

- claimsItdlife@iowa.gov
- cobra@iowa.gov
- fsa@iowa.gov

Phone: 515-805-5457



Retiree Insurance Overview





What we will cover today:

- Overview
- Process
- Basic Information
- Retiring During Open Enrollment
- Retiree Options
- Premiums
- Retiree Communications
- Things to Remember
- Questions



2026 Overview

- Retiree Open Enrollment will run October 15th -December 7th
- Retiree packets are expected to be in the hands of retirees no later than October 15th
- There will be no on site Retiree presentations
- A recorded presentation will be on the Retiree Open Enrollment website
- There will be 4 online question and answer sessions
 - Dates, times and joining information for these presentations are available on the Open Enrollment website



Process

- Retirees will NOT be using Workday
- It is not an active enrollment for health or dental
- There is no need to re-enroll if they want to remain with their current coverage



Process

Applications:

- Applications will not be sent with the Open Enrollment packet.
- If you receive a call from a retiree and they report they didn't received the Open Enrollment packet or are interested in changing plans. Forward their name and address/email and information requested to: stateretirees@iowa.gov or susan.piel@iowa.gov



Retirement Eligibility



- Must be age 55 at the time of retirement
- Must be taking IPERS payments directly after retirement
- Must be the policy holder at the time of retirement



Retirement

SLIP

Can only participate in SLIP program if retiree is not eligible for Medicare

Dependent's Medicare eligibility has no effect on the retiree's SLIP participation



Retiring during Open Enrollment

- Have an employee who will be retiring before the end of 2025? They are eligible to make changes which will be effective 1/1/2026.
- Do they want different coverage effective January 1?
 Have them fill out a second application with their choice clearly marked.
- Place on top of form: Open Enrollment 2026



Retiree Options

- Health Insurance
- Group MedicareBlue Rx for Iowa
- Dental Insurance
- Health Flexible Spending





Active vs Retiree Coverage

If you go on RETIREE HEALTH COVERAGE, (including SLIP coverage), you are:

No longer eligible for:

- Prudent Rx (CVS Caremark)
- Livongo (Diabetes Prevention Program)
- Blue365 (Insurance discount program)

Medicare eligible

Medicare becomes your primary payer



Retiree Health Options

No one covered is eligible for Medicare

Iowa Choice – Single or Family Coverage

National Choice – Single or Family Coverage





Retiree Health Options

If one individual is Medicare eligible and all others covered are not Medicare eligible

- Iowa Choice Single or Family
 MedicareBlue Rx for reduced premium
- National Choice Single or Family
 MedicareBlue Rx for reduced premium



Retiree Health Options

All covered are Medicare Eligible

- Iowa Choice Single or Family
 MedicareBlue Rx for reduced premium
- National Choice Single or Family
 MedicareBlue Rx for reduced premium
- Group Program F Single plan only
 Dependent can enroll if Medicare eligible
- Group Program N Single plan only
 Dependent can enroll if Medicare eligible



Group Medicare Blue Rx for Iowa

- There is no need to re-enroll if they want to remain with their current coverage
- With Iowa or National Choice
 - There is a premium reduction for those who are Medicare eligible and sign up for this plan.
 - If they cancel their MedicareBlue Rx they will pay the higher premium rate



Group Medicare Blue Rx for Iowa

- With Group Program F or Group Program N
 - Individuals are not required to stay on our Part D plan
- 2026 maximum out of pocket costs will be \$2100 for those prescriptions on the formulary





Dental Insurance



- Current selections will roll over
- Can continue dental insurance without health insurance
- Can drop spouse or dependents at any time



Flexible Spending and Retirement

- Health Care Flexible Spending
 - Retirees can prepay with their final check by submitting the Prepayment form. (Send to fsa@iowa.gov)
 - This allows them to use their entire annual amount
 - Covers claims incurred through 12/31 of that year
 - Must be done prior to their last day of work





- SLIP Retirees with no dependents Medicare eligible
- SLIP Retirees with dependents Medicare eligible
- Direct Bill Retirees or dependents not Medicare eligible
- Direct Bill Retirees and or dependent Medicare eligible
- Medicare Eligible Retiree and Dependents only
- Group MedicareBlue Rx for Iowa
- Dental



SLIP Retirees with no dependents Medicare eligible

Plan	Monthly Premium	SLIP Contribution	Retiree Share
Iowa Choice			
Single	\$900.00	\$836.00	\$64.00
Family	\$2,106.00	\$1,896.00	\$210.00
National Choice			
Single	\$988.00	\$836.00	\$152.00
Family	\$2,314.00	\$1896.00	\$418.00



SLIP Retirees with dependents Medicare eligible

Plan	Monthly Premium	SLIP Contribution	Retiree Share
Iowa Choice			
Dependent enrolled in Medicare Blue Rx	\$1,215.00	\$1,215.00	\$0
Dependent NOT enrolled in MedicareBlue Rx	\$2,112.00	\$1,896.00	\$216.00
National Choice			
Dependent enrolled in Medicare Blue Rx	\$1,333.00	\$1,333.00	\$0
Dependent NOT enrolled in MedicareBlue Rx	\$2,324.00	\$1896.00	\$428.00



Direct Bill Retirees or dependents not Medicare eligible

Plan	Monthly Premium
Iowa Choice	
Single	\$900.00
Family	\$2,106.00
National Choice	
Single	\$988.00
Family	\$2,314.00



Direct Bill Retirees with an individual Medicare eligible

Plan	With MedicareBlue RX	Without MedicareBlue Rx
Iowa Choice		
Single	\$479.00	\$996.00
Family	\$1,215.00	\$2,112.00
National Choice		
Single	\$527.00	\$1,097.00
Family	\$1,333.00	\$2,324.00



Retiree and all covered dependents Medicare eligible

Group Program F and Group Program N

	Group Program F	Group Program N
Single Plan	\$329.30	\$216.90



Group MedicareBlue Rx (\$5/\$10/20%/45%/33%) plan Referred to as Group MedicareBlue Rx plan for Iowa

Monthly Premium \$140.20



Monthly Dental Premiums

Single - \$38

Family - \$96



Retirees communication

- We are continuing to request those who wish to be on our email listing to send their email to stateretirees@iowa.gov with "Email Address" in the subject line.
- As with any email list there is the option to opt out.
- There will be an email sent out this year to all those on the email list prior to the start of the Retiree Open Enrollment



Things to remember

- Retirees will get a new Wellmark ID and card.
- Retirees don't get a new Delta Dental card,
- Ensure you are using the most up to date forms.
 These can be found:
- https://das.iowa.gov/state-employees/humanresources/retirees/retiree-applications-and-forms
- To participate in SLIP the retiree must be the policy holder



Things to remember

- Employees retiring during Retiree Open Enrollment are eligible to make changes to be effective 1/1/2026
- If retirees contact you requesting information send an email to stateretirees@iowa.gov or susan.piel@iowa.gov with name, address or email and requested material(application or packet)

HRA Information: 2026 Open Enrollment Period

https://das.iowa.gov/hra-open-enrollment



Things to remember

Retirees send their application (except SPOC)

Mail: Iowa Dept. of Administrative Services

Human Resources Enterprise

Hoover Bldg. - Level A

1305 E Walnut Street

Des Moines, IA 50319

Email: stateretirees@iowa.gov or

susan.piel@iowa.gov

Fax: 515-242-6450



Questions?





Thank you!

Benefits Open Enrollment Team

- Jessica Lingo Bureau Chief, Benefits
- Amy Liechti Team Lead, Group Insurance
- Mackay Hicks COBRA, Life & LTD, Flex Administrator
- Susan Piel Retiree Specialist
- Kelley Hall Workday Benefits Specialist
- Julie Finnell HR Tech, Benefits
- Carol DeVries HR Tech, Benefits
- Danielle Potter Benefits Web Master
- Lisa Jones HRE Communications

Health & Dental Questions – employee.benefits@iowa.gov
Life & LTD Questions – claims!tdlife@iowa.gov
COBRA Questions – cobra@iowa.gov
FSA Questions – fsa@iowa.gov
Retiree Questions – stateretirees@iowa.gov

