

NALC Health Benefit Plan



<http://www.nalc.org/depart/hbp>

2005

A fee-for-service plan with a preferred provider organization

Sponsored and administered by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), AFL-CIO

Who may enroll in this Plan:

- A federal or postal employee or annuitant eligible to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program;
- A former spouse eligible for coverage under the Spouse Equity Law; or
- An employee, former spouse, or child eligible for Temporary Continuation of Coverage (TCC).

To enroll, you must be or become a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

To become a member:

- If you are a Postal Service employee, you must be a dues-paying member of an NALC local branch.
- If you are a non-postal employee or annuitant, or a Spouse Equity or TCC enrollee, you become an associate member of NALC when you enroll in the NALC Health Benefit Plan.

Membership dues: NALC dues vary by local branch. Associate members will be billed by the NALC for the \$36 annual membership fee, except where exempt by law.

Enrollment codes for this Plan:

321 Self Only

322 Self and Family



JCAHO accreditation: Caremark's 18 Specialty pharmacies and United Behavior Health

URAC accreditation: First Health's Utilization Management Services and United Behavioral Health

NCQA accreditation: Caremark's 5 CarePatterns® Disease Management Programs

See the 2005 Guide for more information on accreditation.

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UNITED STATES
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20415-0001

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Participant:

Welcome to the 2005 Open Season! By continuing to introduce pro-consumer health care ideas, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) team has given you greater, cost effective choices. This year several national and local health plans are offering new options, strengthening the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program and highlighting once again its unique and distinctive market-oriented features. I remain firm in my belief that you, when fully informed as a Federal subscriber, are in the best position to make the decisions that meet your needs and those of your family. Plan brochures provide information to help subscribers make these fully informed decisions. Please take the time to review the plan's benefits, particularly Section 2, which explains plan changes.

Exciting new features this year give you additional opportunities to save and better manage your hard-earned dollars. For 2005, I am very pleased and enthusiastic about the new High Deductible Health Plans (HDHP) with a Health Savings Account (HSA) or Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) component. This combination of health plan and savings vehicle provides a new opportunity to save and better manage your money. If an HDHP/HSA is not for you and you are not retired, I encourage you to consider a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) for health care. FSAs allow you to reduce your out-of-pocket health care costs by 20 to more than 40 percent by paying for certain health care expenses with tax-free dollars, instead of after-tax dollars.

Since prevention remains a major factor in the cost of health care, last year OPM launched the *HealthierFeds* campaign. Through this effort we are encouraging Federal team members to take greater responsibility for living a healthier lifestyle. The positive effect of a healthier life style brings dividends for you and reduces the demands and costs within the health care system. This campaign embraces four key "actions" that can lead to a healthy America: be physically active every day, eat a nutritious diet, seek out preventative screenings, and make healthy lifestyle choices. Be sure to visit *HealthierFeds* at www.healthierfeds.opm.gov for more details on this important initiative. I also encourage you to visit the Department of Health and Human Services website on Wellness and Safety, www.hhs.gov/safety/index.shtml, which complements and broadens healthier lifestyle resources. The site provides extensive information from health care experts and organizations to support your personal interest in staying healthy.

The FEHB Program offers the Federal team the widest array of cost-effective health care options and the information needed to make the best choice for you and your family. You will find comprehensive health plan information in this brochure, in the 2005 Guide to FEHB Plans, and on the OPM Website at www.opm.gov/insure. I hope you find these resources useful, and thank you once again for your service to the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kay C. James".

Kay Coles James
Director

