

**BELMONT COUNTY EMPLOYEES  
FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT PLAN  
SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION**

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XI  
SUMMARY



# BELMONT COUNTY EMPLOYEES FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT PLAN

## INTRODUCTION

We have adopted the Flexible Spending Account Plan also known as a "Flexible Benefits Plan" for you and other eligible employees. Under this Plan, you will be able to choose among certain benefits that we make available. The benefits that you may choose are outlined in this Summary Plan Description (sometimes referred to herein as the "SPD"). We will also tell you about other important information concerning the Plan, such as the rules you must satisfy before you can join and the laws that protect your rights.

One of the most important features of our Plan is that the benefits being offered are generally ones that you are already paying for, but normally with money that has first been subject to income and Social Security taxes. Under our Plan, these same expenses will be paid for with a portion of your pay before Federal income or Social Security taxes are withheld. This means that you will pay less tax and have more money to spend and save.

Read this Summary Plan Description carefully so that you understand the provisions of the Plan and the benefits you will receive. This SPD describes the Plan's benefits and obligations as contained in more detail in the legal Plan document, which governs the operation of the Plan. The Plan document is written in much more technical and precise language. If the non-technical language in this SPD and the technical, legal language of the Plan document conflict, the Plan document always governs. If you wish to receive a copy of the legal Plan document, please contact your employer.

This SPD describes the current provisions of the Plan which are designed to comply with applicable legal requirements. The Plan is subject to federal laws, such as the Internal Revenue Code and other federal and state laws which may affect your rights. The provisions of the Plan are subject to revision due to a change in laws or due to pronouncements by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or other federal agencies. We may also amend or terminate this Plan. If the provisions of the Plan that are described in this SPD change, we will notify you.

Every attempt to answer most of the questions you may have has been made regarding your benefits in the Plan. If this SPD does not answer all of your questions, please contact the Claims Administrator (or other plan representative). The name and address of the Claims Administrator can be found in the Article of this SPD entitled "General Information about the Plan."

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PLAN

This Section contains certain general information which you may need to know about the Plan.

### 1. General Plan Information

Belmont County Employees Flexible Spending Account Plan is the name of the Plan.

The provisions of your Plan become effective on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

Your Plan's records are maintained on a twelve-month period of time. This is known as the Plan Year. The Plan Year begins on January 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### 2. Employer Information

Your Employer's name, address, and identification number are:

**NAME:** Belmont County

**ADDRESS:** 101 West Main Street  
St. Clairsville, OH 43950

**EIN:** 34-6000236

### 3. Claims Administrator Information

The name, address and business telephone number of your Plan's Claims Administrator are:

The Health Plan  
PO Box 953  
Charleston, WV 25323  
(866) 347-3640

The Plan Sponsor keeps the records for the Plan and is responsible for the administration of the Plan. However, The Claims Administrator will also answer any questions you may have about our Plan. You may contact the Claims Administrator for any further information about the Plan.

#### **4. Service of Legal Process and Plan Sponsor**

The name and address of the Plan's agent for service of legal process are:

**NAME:** Belmont County  
Attn: Katie Bayness, HR Administrator

**ADDRESS:** 101 West Main Street  
St. Clairsville, OH 43950

**EIN:** 34-6000236

#### **5. Claims Submission**

Claims for expenses should be submitted to:

The Health Plan  
P.O. Box 953  
Charleston, WV 25323-0953  
(866) 347-3640 (Phone)  
(866) 347-3643 (Fax)

## **II**

### **ELIGIBILITY**

#### **1. When Can I Become a Participant in the Plan?**

Before you become a Plan member (referred to in this Summary Plan Description as a "Participant"), there are certain rules which you must satisfy. First, you must meet the eligibility requirements and be an active employee. After that, the next step is to actually join the Plan by following the steps in Question 4 below.

#### **2. What Are the Eligibility Requirements for Our Plan?**

You will be eligible to join the Plan once your eligibility requirements have been met and you are eligible to join the group health plan.

#### **3. Are There Any Employees Who Are Not Eligible?**

Yes, there are certain employees who are not eligible to join the Plan. They are:

Employees who are part-time. A part-time employee is someone who works, or is expected to work, less than 30 hours a week.

Leased Employees.

Self-employed Employees.

Employees who are not eligible to participate in the Company's major medical health coverage plan.

#### **4. What Must I Do to Enroll in the Plan?**

Before you can join the Plan, you must complete a Salary Reduction Agreement otherwise known as a Flexible Spending Account Enrollment Form to participate in the Plan. The Enrollment Form includes your personal choices for each of the benefits which are being offered under the Plan. You must also authorize us to set some of your earnings aside in order to pay for the benefits you have elected.

### **III**

## **OPERATION**

#### **1. How Does This Plan Operate?**

Before the start of each Plan Year, you will be able to elect to have some of your upcoming pay set aside on a pre-tax basis. These amounts will be used to reimburse you for allowable expenses that you incur during the plan year. The portion of your pay that is set aside is not subject to Federal income or Social Security taxes. In other words, this allows you to use tax-free dollars to pay for certain kinds of benefits and expenses which you normally pay for with out-of-pocket, taxable dollars. However, if you receive a reimbursement for an expense under the Plan, you cannot claim a Federal income tax credit or deduction on your return. (See the section entitled "General Information About Our Plan" for the definition of "Plan Year.")

## IV

### CONTRIBUTIONS

#### 1. **How Much of My Pay May I Elect to Set Aside?**

The IRS puts a limit on how much you can contribute annually towards each benefit. This amount may change from year to year. Refer to your Enrollment Form for the most current allowable election amounts.

#### 2. **What Happens to the Election Amounts I have Set Aside?**

Before each Plan Year begins, you will select how much of your income that you want to set aside for projected expenses. It is very important that you make these choices carefully based on what you expect to spend on each covered benefit or expense during the Plan Year. Later, they will be used to pay for the expenses as they arise during the Plan Year. Refer to Section 6.2 for important information regarding amounts that are not spent during the plan year.

#### 3. **When Must I Decide Which Accounts I Want to Use?**

You are required by Federal law to decide before the Plan Year begins, during the election period (defined below). You must decide two things. First, which benefits you want and, second, how much should go toward each benefit.

#### 4. **When Is the Election Period for Our Plan?**

Your election period will start on the date you first meet the eligibility requirements and end 30 days thereafter. (You should review Section II on Eligibility to better understand the eligibility requirements.) Then, for each following Plan Year, the election period is established by the Employer and applied uniformly to all Participants. It will normally be a period of time prior to the beginning of each Plan Year. The Employer will inform you each year about the election period. (See the Article entitled "General Information About Our Plan" for the definition of Plan Year.)

#### 5. **May I Change My Elections During the Plan Year?**

Generally, you cannot change the elections you have made after the beginning of the Plan Year. However, there are certain limited situations when you can change your elections. You are permitted to change elections if you have a "change in status" and you make an election change that is consistent with the change in status. Currently, Federal law considers the following events to be a change in status:

- Marriage, divorce, death of a spouse, legal separation or annulment;
- Change in the number of dependents, including birth, adoption, placement for adoption, or death of a dependent;
- Any of the following events for you, your spouse or dependent: termination or commencement of employment, a strike or lockout, commencement or return from an unpaid leave of absence, a change in worksite, or any other change in employment status that affects eligibility for benefits;
- One of your dependents satisfies or ceases to satisfy the requirements for coverage due to change in age, student status, or any similar circumstance; and
- A change in the place of residence of you, your spouse or dependent that would lead to a change in status, such as moving out of a coverage area for insurance.

In addition, if you are participating in the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account, then there is a change in status if your dependent no longer meets the qualifications to be eligible for dependent care.

There are detailed rules on when a change in election is deemed to be consistent with a change in status. In addition, there are laws that give you rights to change health coverage for you, your spouse, or your dependents. If you change coverage due to rights you have under the law, then you can make a corresponding change in your elections under the Plan. If any of these conditions apply to you, you should contact your Employer.

You may not change your election to the Health Flexible Spending Account if you make a change due to cost or coverage for insurance or if you decide to participate in a Health Savings Account.

You may not change your election under the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account if the cost change is imposed by a dependent care provider who is your relative.

## **6. May I Make New Elections in Future Plan Years?**

Yes, you may. For each new Plan Year, you may change the elections that you previously made. You may also choose not to participate in the Plan for the upcoming Plan Year. However, if you do not change the elections already in place from the previous Plan Year, we will assume you have elected not to

participate in the Plan for the new Plan Year. New elections must be made during the election period prior to the beginning of each Plan Year.

## V

### BENEFITS

#### 1. What Benefits Are Available?

##### Health Flexible Spending Account:

The Health Flexible Spending Account enables you to pay for expenses allowed under Sections 125 and 213(d) of the Internal Revenue Code which are not covered by our medical plan and save taxes at the same time. As long as you do not participate in a Health Savings Account you may claim reimbursement for all of your drug costs. You may not, however, be reimbursed for the cost of other health care coverage maintained outside of the Plan, or for long-term care expenses. A list of covered expenses is available in IRS Publication 502. You can also contact you Claims Administrator for specific questions.

In order to be reimbursed for a health care expense, you must submit to the Claims Administrator a bill from the service provider. Amounts reimbursed from the Plan may not be claimed as a deduction on your personal income tax return.

Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account: The Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account enables you to pay for out-of-pocket, work-related dependent day-care cost with pre-tax dollars. If you are married, you can use the account if you and your spouse both work or, in some situations, if your spouse goes to school full-time. Single employees can also use the account. An eligible dependent is someone for whom you can claim expenses on your Federal Income Taxes . Children must be under age 13. Other dependents must be physically or mentally unable to care for themselves. Dependent Care arrangements which qualify include: (a) A Dependent (Day) Care Center, provided that if care is provided by the facility for more than six individuals, the facility complies with applicable state and local laws; (b) An Educational Institution for pre-school children. For older children, only expenses for non-school care are eligible; and (c) An "Individual" who provides care inside or outside your home: The "Individual" may not be a child of yours under age 19 or anyone you claim as a dependent for Federal tax purposes. You should make sure that the dependent care expenses you are currently paying for qualify under our Plan. The law places limits on the amount of money that can be paid to you in a calendar year from your Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account. Generally, your reimbursements may not exceed the lesser of: (a) \$5,000 (if you are married filing a joint return or you are head of a household) or \$2,500 (if you are married

filing separate returns); (b) your taxable compensation; (c) your spouse's actual or deemed earned income (a spouse who is a full time student or incapable of caring for himself/herself has a monthly earned income of \$250 for one dependent or \$500 for two or more dependents). Also, in order to have the reimbursements made to you from this account be excludable from your income, you must provide a statement including the name, address, and in most cases, the taxpayer identification number of the service provider, as well as the amount of such expense as proof that the expense has been incurred. In addition, Federal tax laws permit a tax credit for certain dependent care expenses you may be paying for even if you are not a Participant in this Plan. You may save more money if you take advantage of this tax credit rather than using the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account under our Plan. Ask your tax adviser which is better for you.

## VI

### BENEFIT PAYMENTS

#### 1. When Will I Receive Payments From My Accounts?

During the course of the Plan Year, you may submit requests for reimbursement of expenses you have incurred. Expenses are considered "incurred" when the service is performed, not necessarily when it is paid for. The Administrator will provide you with acceptable forms for submitting these requests for reimbursement. If the request qualifies as a benefit or expense that the Plan has agreed to pay, you will receive a reimbursement. Remember, these reimbursements which are made from the Plan are generally not subject to federal income tax or withholding. Nor are they subject to Social Security taxes. You will only be reimbursed from the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account to the extent that there are sufficient funds in the Account to cover your request.

#### 2. Electronic Payment Cards

If the Employer allows the FSA to be accessed by an electronic payment card (e.g., debit card, credit card, or similar arrangement), Participants will be required to comply with substantiation procedures established by the Plan Administrator in accordance with applicable IRS guidance regarding electronic payment card programs. In addition, the following provisions shall apply:

(a) *Initial and Periodic Certification.* Before receiving an electronic payment card, a Participant must certify that he or she will only use the card to pay for Medical Care Expenses, will not use the card for expenses that have already been reimbursed, will not seek reimbursement under any other health plan for expenses paid for with the card, and will acquire and keep sufficient

documentation (see subsection (d) below) for expenses paid with the card. The Participant must also agree to abide by any other the terms and conditions of the card program as set forth herein and in any cardholder agreement issued in conjunction with the card, including but not limited to payment of any fees for participation in the card program and the Plan's right to recoup improper card payments by withholding amounts from Compensation and offsetting against other Health Flexible Spending Account claims. The Participant must reaffirm these agreements during each subsequent Open Enrollment Period in order for the card to remain activated. In addition, these agreements are reaffirmed each time the Participant uses the card. Failure to abide by these agreements may result in deactivation of the card.

(b) *Deactivation of Card.* A Participant's card will be deactivated when participation in the Health Flexible Spending Account ceases or at other times as set forth herein (e.g., for failure to comply with the Plan's substantiation and recoupment procedures). A Participant whose card has been deactivated must request reimbursement for Medical Care Expenses through other methods (e.g., by submitting paper claims).

(c) *Merchants; Card Use.* Card use is limited to eligible merchants as provided in applicable IRS guidance and as further identified by the Plan Administrator or its designee. The card's debit balance (or credit limit, as applicable) must be limited to the amount of the Participant's available reimbursement. Each time the card is swiped, the Participant certifies to the Plan that the expense for which payment under the Health Flexible Spending Account is being made is a Medical Care Expense that has not already been reimbursed from another source and that reimbursement for the expense will not be sought from another source. Use of a card to pay for a service or product is not considered to be a claim for benefits under the Plan; a claim does not arise until a paper or electronic reimbursement request is submitted.

(d) *Documentation.* For each expense that is paid with the card, the Participant must obtain and retain a bill, invoice, or other statement from the merchant describing the service or product, the date of the service or sale, and the amount of the expense. The documentation must be retained until the close of the Plan Year following the Plan Year in which the card transaction occurred. If the Participant is asked to provide the documentation to the Plan, he or she must do so within the period specified in the request. A Participant who is unable to provide adequate or timely substantiation upon request from the Plan must repay the Plan for the unsubstantiated expense. In addition, the Participant's card will be deactivated.

(e) *Correction of Improper Payments.* Participants must repay the Plan for any improper payments that are made with their cards. Improper payments may be recouped in accordance with applicable IRS guidance. If the Plan is unable

to recoup an improper payment, the Employer will treat the payment as it would treat any other business indebtedness. If the debt is not collected and the Employer forgives the indebtedness, the payment will be treated as wages in the year in which the indebtedness was forgiven.

### **3. What Happens If I Don't Spend All Plan Contributions During the Plan Year?**

Any monies left at the end of the Plan Year will be forfeited. Obviously, qualifying expenses that you incur late in the Plan Year for which you seek reimbursement after the end of such Plan Year will be paid first before any amount is forfeited. However, you must make your requests for reimbursement no later than ninety (90) days after the end of the Plan Year. Because it is possible that you might forfeit amounts in the Plan if you do not fully use the contributions that have been made, it is important that you decide how much to place in each account carefully and conservatively. Remember, you must decide which benefits you want to contribute to and how much to place in each account before the Plan Year begins. You want to be as certain as you can that the amount you decide to place in each account will be used up entirely.

However, your plan has an additional option to allow you the opportunity to use funds in your Health Flexible Spending Account. Your account uses the:

Rollover option allowing participants to rollover up to \$500 of their unspent balance to be used in the future plan year.

### **4. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)**

If you take leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act, you may revoke or change your existing elections for the Flexible Spending Account. If your coverage in these benefits terminates, due to your revocation of the benefit while on leave or due to your non-payment of contributions, you will be permitted to reinstate coverage for the remaining part of the Plan Year upon your return. For the Health Flexible Spending Account, you may continue your coverage or you may revoke your coverage and resume it when you return. You can resume your coverage at its original level and make payments for the time that you are on leave. For example, if you elect \$1,200 for the year and are out on leave for 3 months, then return and elect to resume your coverage at that level, your remaining payments will be increased to cover the difference - from \$100 per month to \$150 per month. Alternatively your maximum amount will be reduced proportionately for the time that you were gone. For example, if you elect \$1,200 for the year and are out on leave for 3 months, your amount will be reduced to \$900. The expenses you incur during the time you are not in the Health Flexible Spending Account are not reimbursable.

If you continue your coverage during your unpaid leave, you may pre-pay for the coverage, you may pay for your coverage on an after-tax basis while you are on leave, or you and your Employer may arrange a schedule for you to "catch up" your payments when you return.

## **5. Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)**

If you are going into or returning from military service, you may have special rights to health care coverage under your Health Flexible Spending Account under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. These rights can include extended health care coverage. If you may be affected by this law, ask your Employer for further details.

## **6. Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act and "Qualified Reservist Distributions"**

In accordance with the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (the HEART Act), an Employee ordered or called to active duty may receive distributions of unused amounts in his\her Health Care Flexible Spending Account as a "qualified reservist distribution". A "qualified reservist distribution" (QRD) is permitted if:

- The individual is a member of a reserve component ordered or called to active duty for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days or more or for an indefinite period; and

- The request for distribution is made during the period beginning with the order or call to active duty and ending on the last day of the Plan Year that includes the date of the order or call to active duty.

The Employee must provide the Employer with a copy of the order or call to active duty. If the order or call specifies that the period of active duty is for one hundred eighty (180) days or more or is indefinite, the Employee is eligible for a QRD, and the Employee's eligibility is not affected if the actual period of active duty is less than one hundred eighty (180) days or is otherwise changed. If the period specified in the order or call is less than one hundred eighty (180) days, a QRD is not allowed. However, subsequent calls or orders that increase the total period of active duty to one hundred eighty (180) days or more will qualify an Employee for a QRD.

Once a QRD is approved, no additional contributions will be allowed from the Employee for the remainder of the affected Plan Year.

The amount available will be the amount contributed to the Health Care Flexible Spending Account as of the date of the QRD request minus Health Care Flexible Spending Account reimbursements received as of the date of the QRD request. No further reimbursement will be made for medical expenses incurred after the date a QRD is requested for the remainder of that Plan Year.

## **7. What Happens If I Terminate Employment?**

If you leave employment during the Plan Year, your right to benefits will be determined in the following manner:

(a) You will still be able to request reimbursement for qualifying dependent care expenses from the balance remaining in your dependent care account at the time of termination of employment. However, no further salary reductions will be made on your behalf after you terminate. You must submit all claims within ninety (90) days of termination of employment.

(b) For health Flexible Spending Account coverage on termination of employment, please see the Article entitled "Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA."

## **8. Will My Social Security Benefits Be Affected?**

Your Social Security benefits may be slightly reduced because when you receive tax-free benefits under the Plan, it reduces the amount of contributions that you make to the Federal Social Security system as well as the contribution made by your employer to Social Security on your behalf.

# **VII**

## **HIGHLY COMPENSATED AND KEY EMPLOYEES**

### **1. Do Limitations Apply to Highly Compensated Employees?**

Under the Internal Revenue Code, highly compensated employees and key employees generally are Participants who are officers, shareholders or highly paid.

If you are within these categories, the amount of contributions and benefits for you may be limited so that the Plan as a whole does not unfairly favor those who are highly paid, their spouses or their dependents. Federal tax laws state that a plan will be considered to unfairly favor the key employees if they as a group

receive more than 25% of all of the nontaxable benefits provided for under our Plan.

Plan experience will dictate whether contribution limitations on highly compensated employees or key employees will apply. You will be notified of these limitations if you are affected.

## VIII

### PLAN ACCOUNTING

#### 1. Balance on Your Account

The Claims Administrator will provide you with a portal that shows your account balance. It is important to check your balance periodically. Remember, you want to spend all the money you have designated for a particular benefit by the end of the Plan Year.

## IX

### ADDITIONAL PLAN INFORMATION

#### 1. Your Rights Under ERISA

Plan Participants, eligible employees and all other employees of the Employer may be entitled to certain rights and protections under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and the Internal Revenue Code. These laws provide that Participants, eligible employees and all other employees are entitled to:

(a) Examine, without charge, at the Administrator's office, all Plan documents, including insurance contracts, collective bargaining agreements, and a copy of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) filed by the Plan with the U.S. Department of Labor, and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration;

(b) Obtain copies of all Plan documents and other Plan information upon written request to the Administrator. The Administrator may charge a reasonable fee for the copies;

(c) Continue health coverage for a Participant, Spouse, or other dependents if there is a loss of coverage under the Plan as a result of a qualifying event. Employees or dependents may have to pay for such coverage; and

(d) Review this summary plan description and the documents governing the plan on the rules governing COBRA continuation rights.

In addition to creating rights for Plan Participants, ERISA imposes duties upon the people who are responsible for the operation of an employee benefit plan. The people who operate your Plan, called "fiduciaries" of the Plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the best interest of you and other Plan Participants.

No one, including your employer or any other person, may fire you or otherwise discriminate against you in any way to prevent you from obtaining a benefit or exercising your rights under ERISA.

If your claim for a benefit is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you have a right to know why this was done, to obtain copies of documents relating to the decision without charge, and to appeal any denial, all within certain time schedules.

If you have a claim for benefits which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or Federal court. In addition, if you disagree with the Plan's decision or lack thereof concerning the qualified status of a medical child support order, you may file suit in Federal court.

Under ERISA there are steps you can take to enforce the above rights. For instance, if you request materials from the Plan and do not receive them within thirty (30) days, you may file suit in a Federal court. In such a case, the court may request the Administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110 a day until you receive the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of the Administrator. If you have a claim for benefits which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, you may file suit in a state or Federal court.

If it should happen that Plan fiduciaries misuse the Plan's money, or if you are discriminated against for asserting your rights, you may seek assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor, or you may file suit in a Federal court. The court will decide who should pay court costs and legal fees. If you are successful, the court may order the person you have sued to pay these costs and fees. If you lose, the court may order you to pay these costs and fees; for example, if it finds your claim is frivolous.

If you have any questions about the Plan, you should contact the Claims Administrator or your Employer. If you have any questions about this statement, or about your rights under ERISA or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) or if you need assistance in obtaining documents from

the Administrator, you should contact the nearest office of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, listed in the telephone directory or the Division of Technical Assistance and Inquiries, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. You may also obtain certain publications about your rights and responsibilities under ERISA by calling the publications hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

## **2. Claims Process**

If a claim under the Plan is denied in whole or in part, you or your beneficiary will receive written notification. The notification will include the reasons for the denial, and may include reference to the specific provisions of the Plan on which the denial was based, a description of any additional information needed to process the claim and an explanation of the claims review procedure. Within a reasonable time after denial, you or your beneficiary may submit a written request for reconsideration of the application to the Administrator.

Any such request should be accompanied by documents or records in support of your appeal. You or your beneficiary may review pertinent documents and submit issues and comments in writing. The Claims Administrator will review the claim and provide, within a reasonable time period, a written response to the appeal. In this response, the Claims Administrator will explain the reason for the decision, with specific reference to the provisions of the Plan on which the decision is based. The Plan Sponsor has the exclusive right to interpret the appropriate plan provisions. Decisions of the Plan Sponsor are conclusive and binding.

In the case of a claim for medical expenses under the Health Flexible Spending Account, the Claims Administrator will provide written or electronic notification of any claim denial within a reasonable period of time following submission of the claim. The notice may include some or all of the following, but will always include that information required under ERISA:

- (a) The specific reason or reasons for the denial;
- (b) Reference to the specific Plan provisions on which the denial was based;
- (c) A description of any additional material or information necessary for the claimant to perfect the claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary;

(d) A description of the Plan's review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures. This will include a statement of your right to bring a civil action under section 502 of ERISA following a denial on review;

(e) A statement that the claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claim; and

(f) If the denial was based on an internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion, the specific rule, guideline, protocol, or criterion will be provided free of charge. If this is not practical, a statement will be included that such a rule, guideline, protocol, or criterion was relied upon in making the denial and a copy will be provided free of charge to the claimant upon request.

When you receive a denial, you will have the right to appeal the decision within a reasonable period of time. You may submit written comments, documents, records, and other information relating to the claim. If you request, you will be provided, free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claim.

The period of time within which a denial on review is required to be made will begin at the time an appeal is filed in accordance with the procedures of the Plan. This timing is without regard to whether all the necessary information accompanies the filing.

A document, record, or other information shall be considered relevant to a claim if it:

(a) Was relied upon in making the claim determination;

(b) Was submitted, considered, or generated in the course of making the claim determination, without regard to whether it was relied upon in making the claim determination;

(c) Demonstrated compliance with the administrative processes and safeguards designed to ensure and to verify that claim determinations are made in accordance with Plan documents and Plan provisions have been applied consistently with respect to all claimants; or

(d) Constituted a statement of policy or guidance with respect to the Plan concerning the denied claim.

The review will take into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial claim determination. The review will not afford deference to the initial denial and will be conducted by a fiduciary of the Plan who is neither the individual who made the adverse determination nor a subordinate of that individual.

### **3. Qualified Medical Child Support Order**

A medical child support order is a judgment, decree or order (including approval of a property settlement) made under state law that provides for child support or health coverage for the child of a participant. The child becomes an "alternate recipient" and can receive benefits under the health plans of the Employer, if the order is determined to be "qualified." You may obtain, without charge, a copy of the procedures governing the determination of qualified medical child support orders from the Plan Administrator.

### **4. Newborns' and Mothers Health Protection Act**

Group health plans generally may not, under Federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

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## **CONTINUATION COVERAGE RIGHTS UNDER COBRA**

Under federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), certain employees and their families covered under health benefits under this Plan will be entitled to the opportunity to elect a temporary extension of health coverage (called "COBRA continuation coverage") where coverage under the Plan would otherwise end. This notice is intended to inform Plan Participants and beneficiaries, in summary fashion, of their rights and obligations under the continuation coverage provisions of COBRA, as amended and reflected in final and proposed regulations published by the Department of the Treasury. This notice is intended to reflect the law and does not grant or take away any rights under the law.

The Employer or its designee is responsible for administering COBRA continuation coverage. Complete instructions on COBRA, as well as election forms and other information, will be provided by the Employer or its designee to Plan Participants who become Qualified Beneficiaries under COBRA. While the Plan itself is not a group health plan, it does provide health benefits. Whenever "Plan" is used in this section, it means any of the health benefits under this Plan including the Health Flexible Spending Account.

## **1. What is COBRA Continuation Coverage?**

COBRA continuation coverage is the temporary extension of group health plan coverage that must be offered to certain Plan Participants and their eligible family members (called "Qualified Beneficiaries") at group rates. The right to COBRA continuation coverage is triggered by the occurrence of a life event that results in the loss of coverage under the terms of the Plan (the "Qualifying Event"). The coverage must be identical to the coverage that the Qualified Beneficiary had immediately before the Qualifying Event, or if the coverage has been changed, the coverage must be identical to the coverage provided to similarly situated active employees who have not experienced a Qualifying Event (in other words, similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries).

## **2. Who Can Become a Qualified Beneficiary?**

In general, a Qualified Beneficiary can be:

(a) Any individual who, on the day before a Qualifying Event, is covered under a Plan by virtue of being on that day either a covered Employee, the Spouse of a covered Employee, or a Dependent child of a covered Employee. If, however, an individual who otherwise qualifies as a Qualified Beneficiary is denied or not offered coverage under the Plan under circumstances in which the denial or failure to offer constitutes a violation of applicable law, then the individual will be considered to have had the coverage and will be considered a Qualified Beneficiary if that individual experiences a Qualifying Event.

(b) Any child who is born to or placed for adoption with a covered Employee during a period of COBRA continuation coverage, and any individual who is covered by the Plan as an alternate recipient under a qualified medical support order. If, however, an individual who otherwise qualifies as a Qualified Beneficiary is denied or not offered coverage under the Plan under circumstances in which the denial or failure to offer constitutes a violation of applicable law, then the individual will be considered to have had the coverage and will be considered a Qualified Beneficiary if that individual experiences a Qualifying Event.

The term "covered Employee" includes any individual who is provided coverage under the Plan due to his or her performance of services for the employer sponsoring the Plan. However, this provision does not establish eligibility of these individuals. Eligibility for Plan coverage shall be determined in accordance with Plan Eligibility provisions.

An individual is not a Qualified Beneficiary if the individual's status as a covered Employee is attributable to a period in which the individual was a nonresident alien who received from the individual's Employer no earned income that constituted income from sources within the United States. If, on account of the preceding reason, an individual is not a Qualified Beneficiary, then a Spouse or Dependent child of the individual will also not be considered a Qualified Beneficiary by virtue of the relationship to the individual. A domestic partner is not a Qualified Beneficiary.

Each Qualified Beneficiary (including a child who is born to or placed for adoption with a covered Employee during a period of COBRA continuation coverage) must be offered the opportunity to make an independent election to receive COBRA continuation coverage.

### **3. What is a Qualifying Event?**

A Qualifying Event is any of the following if the Plan provided that the Plan participant would lose coverage (i.e., cease to be covered under the same terms and conditions as in effect immediately before the Qualifying Event) in the absence of COBRA continuation coverage:

- (a) The death of a covered Employee.
- (b) The termination (other than by reason of the Employee's gross misconduct), or reduction of hours, of a covered Employee's employment.
- (c) The divorce or legal separation of a covered Employee from the Employee's Spouse. If the Employee reduces or eliminates the Employee's Spouse's Plan coverage in anticipation of a divorce or legal separation, and a divorce or legal separation later occurs, then the divorce or legal separation may be considered a Qualifying Event even though the Spouse's coverage was reduced or eliminated before the divorce or legal separation.
- (d) A covered Employee's enrollment in any part of the Medicare program.

(e) A Dependent child's ceasing to satisfy the Plan's requirements for a Dependent child (for example, attainment of the maximum age for dependency under the Plan).

If the Qualifying Event causes the covered Employee, or the covered Spouse or a Dependent child of the covered Employee, to cease to be covered under the Plan under the same terms and conditions as in effect immediately before the Qualifying Event, the persons losing such coverage become Qualified Beneficiaries under COBRA if all the other conditions of COBRA are also met. For example, any increase in contribution that must be paid by a covered Employee, or the Spouse, or a Dependent child of the covered Employee, for coverage under the Plan that results from the occurrence of one of the events listed above is a loss of coverage.

The taking of leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 ("FMLA") does not constitute a Qualifying Event. A Qualifying Event will occur, however, if an Employee does not return to employment at the end of the FMLA leave and all other COBRA continuation coverage conditions are present. If a Qualifying Event occurs, it occurs on the last day of FMLA leave and the applicable maximum coverage period is measured from this date (unless coverage is lost at a later date and the Plan provides for the extension of the required periods, in which case the maximum coverage date is measured from the date when the coverage is lost.) Note that the covered Employee and family members will be entitled to COBRA continuation coverage even if they failed to pay the employee portion of premiums for coverage under the Plan during the FMLA leave.

#### **4. What is the Procedure for Obtaining COBRA Continuation Coverage?**

The Plan has conditioned the availability of COBRA continuation coverage upon the timely election of such coverage. An election is timely if it is made during the election period.

In the case of an individual who is not a Qualified Beneficiary and who is receiving coverage under the Plan solely because of the individual's relationship to a Qualified Beneficiary, if the Plan's obligation to make COBRA continuation coverage available to the Qualified Beneficiary ceases, the Plan is not obligated to make coverage available to the individual who is not a Qualified Beneficiary.

If Timely Payment is made to the Plan in an amount that is not significantly less than the amount the Plan requires to be paid for a period of coverage, then the amount paid will be deemed to satisfy the Plan's requirement for the amount to be paid, unless the Plan notifies the Qualified Beneficiary of the amount of the deficiency and grants a reasonable period of time for payment of the deficiency

to be made. A "reasonable period of time" is 30 days after the notice is provided. A shortfall in a Timely Payment is not significant if it is no greater than the lesser of \$50 or 10% of the required amount.

## **5. What is the Election Period and How Long Must It Last?**

The election period is the time period within which the Qualified Beneficiary must elect COBRA continuation coverage under the Plan. The election period must begin no later than the date the Qualified Beneficiary would lose coverage on account of the Qualifying Event and must not end before the date that is 60 days after the later of the date the Qualified Beneficiary would lose coverage on account of the Qualifying Event or the date notice is provided to the Qualified Beneficiary of her or his right to elect COBRA continuation coverage.

**Note:** If a covered employee who has been terminated or experienced a reduction of hours qualifies for a trade readjustment allowance or alternative trade adjustment assistance under a federal law called the Trade Act of 2002, and the employee and his or her covered dependents have not elected COBRA coverage within the normal election period, a second opportunity to elect COBRA coverage will be made available for themselves and certain family members, but only within a limited period of 60 days or less and only during the six months immediately after their group health plan coverage ended. Any person who qualifies or thinks that he or she and/or his or her family members may qualify for assistance under this special provision should contact the Plan Administrator or its designee for further information.

The Trade Act of 2002 also created a new tax credit for certain TAA-eligible individuals and for certain retired employees who are receiving pension payments from the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) (eligible individuals). Under the new tax provisions, eligible individuals can either take a tax credit or get advance payment of 65% of premiums paid for qualified health insurance, including continuation coverage. If you have questions about these new tax provisions, you may call the Health Coverage Tax Credit Consumer Contact Center toll-free at 1-866-628-4282. TTD/TTY callers may call toll-free at 1-866-626-4282. More information about the Trade Act is also available at [www.doleta.gov/tradeact](http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact).

## **6. Is a Covered Employee or Qualified Beneficiary Responsible for Informing the Plan Administrator of the Occurrence of a Qualifying Event?**

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to Qualified Beneficiaries only after the Employer or its designee has been timely notified that a Qualifying Event has occurred. The Employer (if the Employer is not the Plan Administrator) will notify the Plan Administrator or its designee of the Qualifying Event within 30 days following the date coverage ends when the Qualifying Event is:

- (a) the end of employment or reduction of hours of employment,
- (b) death of the employee,
- (c) commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the Employer, or
- (d) enrollment of the employee in any part of Medicare,

**IMPORTANT:**

**For the other Qualifying Events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you or someone on your behalf must notify the Employer or its designee in writing within 60 days after the Qualifying Event occurs, using the procedures specified below. If these procedures are not followed or if the notice is not provided in writing to the Employer or its designee during the 60-day notice period, any spouse or dependent child who loses coverage will not be offered the option to elect continuation coverage.**

### **NOTICE PROCEDURES:**

Any notice that you provide must be ***in writing***. Oral notice, including notice by telephone, is not acceptable. You must mail, fax or hand-deliver your notice to the firm listed below:

<Company Name>

If mailed, your notice must be postmarked no later than the last day of the required notice period. Any notice you provide must state:

- the **name of the plan or plans** under which you lost or are losing coverage,
- the **name and address of the employee** covered under the plan,
- the **name(s) and address(es) of the Qualified Beneficiary(ies)**, and
- the **Qualifying Event** and the **date** it happened.

If the Qualifying Event is a **divorce or legal separation**, your notice must include **a copy of the divorce decree or the legal separation agreement**.

Be aware that there are other notice requirements in other contexts, for example, in order to qualify for a disability extension.

Once the Employer or its designee receives *timely notice* that a Qualifying Event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each Qualified Beneficiary will have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Covered employees may elect COBRA continuation coverage for their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children. For each Qualified Beneficiary who elects COBRA continuation coverage, COBRA continuation coverage will begin on the date that plan coverage would otherwise have been lost. If you or your spouse or dependent children do not elect continuation coverage within the 60-day election period described above, the right to elect continuation coverage will be lost.

## **7. How is My Participation in the Health Flexible Spending Account Affected?**

If you qualify for COBRA continuation coverage, you can elect to continue your participation in the Health Flexible Spending Account for the remainder of the Plan Year, subject to the following conditions. You may only continue to participate in the Health Flexible Spending Account if your remaining premiums for the year are less than you can receive in reimbursement. For example, if you elected to contribute an annual amount of \$1,200 and, at the time you terminate employment, your premiums would be \$612 for the remaining months in the year.

If you only claimed \$150, you may elect to continue coverage under the Health Flexible Spending Account. If you elect to continue coverage, then you would be able to continue to receive your health reimbursements up to the \$1,050. However, you must continue to pay for the coverage, just as the money has been taken out of your paycheck, but on an after-tax basis. The Plan can also charge you an extra amount (as explained above for other health benefits) to provide this benefit.

## **8. HIPAA Privacy Rights**

Under another provision of HIPAA, group health plans (including the Health FSA) are required to take steps to ensure that certain “protected health information” (PHI) is kept confidential. You may receive a separate notice from the Employer (or medical insurers) that outlines its health privacy policies, including with regard to electronic PHI.

## **9. If You Have Questions**

If you have questions about your COBRA continuation coverage, you should contact the Employer or its designee. For more information about your rights under ERISA, including COBRA, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA’s website at [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa).

## **10. Keep Your Plan Administrator Informed of Address Changes**

In order to protect your family’s rights, you should keep the Employer informed of any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Employer or its designee.

# **XI**

## **SUMMARY**

The money you earn is important to you and your family. You need it to pay your bills, enjoy recreational activities and save for the future. The flexible benefits plan will help you keep more of the money you earn by lowering the amount of taxes you pay. The Plan is the result of your employer’s continuing efforts to find ways to help you get the most for your earnings.

[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Plan document is hereby executed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020

<Company Name> Belmont County

By: Katie Bayness

Its: HR Administrator