



I ♥ MY PANTHER BENEFITS

Phone: (305) 348-2181 • Email: benefits@fiu.edu • Website: hr.fiu.edu/benefits

Benefits Updates – February 13, 2023

Wellness Bite Webinar: Food Allergy Awareness

Join our upcoming [Wellness bite-sized webinar](#) with Baptist Health on **Wednesday, February 22**, at 12 p.m. Whether you are living with a food allergy or supporting those with food allergies, this webinar will provide useful information and tips to help navigate the world of food allergies.

Benefit Deductions for 9-Month Faculty

The benefit premiums for 9-month faculty members will be double deducted from paychecks issued between **Friday, February 10 – Friday, May 5**, to ensure that there is no break in benefit coverage during the summer months (June – September). Upon your return in the Fall Semester, single deductions will resume, beginning on the first paycheck in September of 2023, which will cover October 2023 premiums.

Florida Prepaid Open Enrollment: Wednesday, February 1 – Sunday, April 30

[Florida Prepaid](#) offers college savings with tax advantages. Since 1988, the Florida Prepaid College Board has been offering Florida families a secure and tax-free method to financially prepare for a child's higher education through two 529 plans: The *Florida Prepaid College Plan*, a prepaid plan to cover the cost of tuition, required fees and dormitory housing at a Florida College or a state university; and the *Florida College Investment Plan*. Enroll by **Tuesday, February 28** for a chance to receive a [\\$50 Amazon gift card!](#)

State Employee Adoption Benefit Program

State employees who adopt a child from Florida's child welfare system may receive a one-time lump sum of \$10,000 for a special-needs child and \$5,000 for a non-special needs child. The funding for this program varies each year and the amount of the annual appropriation affects how many applications will receive the benefit. The Office of Child Welfare will accept applications during the annual [open enrollment period](#), **beginning Monday, January 2 until Friday, March 31**. To be considered for benefits, applicants must submit a completed application for adoption benefits. For more information, please contact the [Adoption Information Center](#) or call 800-96-ADOPT.

Health Savings Account (HSA) Policy Clarification

Certain changes that were communicated during the 2022 Open Enrollment period regarding eligibility requirements for [High Deductible Health Plans \(HDHP\)](#) and [Health Savings Accounts \(HSA\)](#) will not go into effect on **Sunday, January 1, 2023**, as previously communicated. As a result, Medicare-eligible employees aged 65 and over **will continue** to be eligible to participate in an HDHP and make payroll contributions and receive monthly contributions from their employer into their HSA. Affected employees may request applicable changes **no later than Tuesday, February 28**, by contacting the **People First Service Center directly at 1-866-663-4735**.

Questions? Contact Benefits Administration at 305-348-2181 or email benefits@fiu.edu.