



# I ♥ MY PANTHER BENEFITS

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## Benefits Updates | March 3, 2025

### Sick Leave Pool Program Open Enrollment Reminder | February 21 – March 7, 2025

The annual [Sick Leave Pool \(SLP\) program](#) Open Enrollment period began Friday, February 21, 2025, and will end **Friday, March 7, 2025**. An email invitation was sent to all eligible employees, including new and renewed members. For additional information, please email [Benefits@fiu.edu](mailto:Benefits@fiu.edu)

### SurgeryPlus is Now Lantern

As recently announced by the Division of State Group Insurance earlier this February, **SurgeryPlus** is now **Lantern**. This state vendor offers access to high-quality and affordable care for a wide range of planned surgical procedures, along with a personal Care Advocate to guide you through the process. With Lantern, you'll receive a "bundled" medical service that covers the major costs of surgery, meaning you'll pay less for your procedure and have the opportunity to earn rewards as part of [DSGI's Shared Savings Program](#).

### Discover How to Get Paid to Save on Medical Care | Healthcare Bluebook & Lantern

As a participant in the State Group Insurance health plan, you and your dependents are **automatically eligible** to join the **Shared Savings Program** at no additional cost. By making smart healthcare choices, you can earn rewards effortlessly through the use of the state's vendors [Healthcare Bluebook](#) and [Lantern](#) (formerly SurgeryPlus). It's simple to shop for eligible high-quality, low-cost medical care in your area and [start earning rewards](#).

Be on the lookout for ID cards and communications from [Healthcare Bluebook](#) and [Lantern](#) to learn more about how you can [begin saving today!](#)

### Educational Retirement Webinars | Spring 2025

Planning for retirement and maximizing your [retirement](#) savings are essential steps in [key to](#) securing your financial future. It's crucial to understand the retirement savings plans available to FIU employees, as well as the benefits that you and your beneficiaries will receive.

Explore the upcoming [educational live webinars for Spring 2025! Don't miss the opportunity to attend these sessions, where you can engage with guest speakers and financial advisors, and get answers to all your questions.](#)  
~~for Spring 2025! Don't miss the opportunity to attend these sessions, where you can interact with guest speakers and financial advisors, learn more about your options and get answers to all your questions.~~

### Options for FRS DROP Benefits Upon Ending Participation Period

What should you do with your DROP benefits once your participation period ends? Should you keep them with FRS, or move them to another financial institution? It's essential to compare the fees, benefits, and restrictions between FRS and other financial institutions. Carefully review your options to ensure you're not paying unnecessary fees and that you maintain flexibility in accessing your funds.

Consider the advantages of [keeping your DROP](#) benefits in the Florida Retirement System (FRS), as well as the potential benefits of [rolling over your DROP](#) account into the FRS Investment Plan.

**Get free, personalized guidance before making a decision!** Contact the **MyFRS Financial Guidance Line at 1-866-446-9377** (Option 2) or schedule an [appointment online](#) to speak with an EY financial planner. These planners are not salespeople, and they don't earn commissions. They are committed to putting your interests first.

Questions? Contact Benefits Administration at [benefits@fiu.edu](mailto:benefits@fiu.edu).