

GOT A HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT? GET YOUR MONEY'S WORTH.

3 Tips to Boost Your HSA Saving Strategy

If you elected either the Washington Plan or the Lincoln Plan for health insurance coverage, you probably know you are eligible for an HSA, or health savings account. However, you may not know that there is so much more you can do with an HSA beyond paying for the occasional office visit: *You can actually use it to grow your long-term savings.* Read on to find out more about the unique features of an HSA – and to learn tips on building a saving strategy that's right for you.

1. UNDERSTAND HOW YOUR ACCOUNT GROWS WITH TAX ADVANTAGES AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

HSAs have several built-in features that help you save and grow your money over time. First and foremost: Your HSA belongs to you. The funds in your account are yours to keep, even if you change jobs or retire. And, HSAs are triple-tax-advantaged accounts. They allow you to:



Set aside pre-tax dollars



Grow interest tax-free



Use the money tax-free to pay for medical costs

2. CONSIDER YOUR CURRENT NEEDS AND FUTURE GOALS.

There are three main ways you can use your HSA dollars. Thinking about your current and future health care needs, as well as your long-term savings goals, can help you decide how much to set aside and how best to use the funds in your account. You can:

Don't miss out on FREE MONEY!

It's easy to grow your HSA with contributions from the State. Eligible employees (and their covered spouses, if applicable) who complete their beneFIT well-being qualifications and activities each year can receive a cash incentive of up to \$900. The funds will be deposited pre-tax into the employee's HSA. [Learn more](#) about what steps you need to take to earn the full incentive.

- ▶ **Pay for health care now.** Do you or your covered family members make frequent office or urgent care visits? Do you take a maintenance medication? If so, it's good to have money in your account to pay for regular or recurring expenses – and the occasional surprise.
- ▶ **Save for health care later.** Do you or a family member have a planned procedure coming up? You can use myWellmark® – your secure member portal – to find cost estimates for your treatment. Then you can set aside your own funds, and use your HSA's triple-tax saving features, to grow your account so you are prepared to cover the costs. You can register and log in to myWellmark at myWellmark.com.
- ▶ **Invest and grow your money for the future.** Just like a traditional savings account, your HSA earns interest – but HSA interest grows tax free. Once your account meets a certain threshold, you may be able to invest in mutual funds to maximize your HSA earning potential.

3. LEARN TO SUPPORT YOUR RETIREMENT WITH A LONG-TERM INVESTMENT STRATEGY.

HSAs are useful vehicles for boosting your retirement savings. Here's what you need to know about saving for the future:

- ▶ Starting at age 55, you can contribute an extra \$1,000 annually to your account.
- ▶ You can continue to contribute to your HSA until you enroll in Medicare Part A or Part B.
- ▶ After you enroll in Medicare, you can make tax-free withdrawals from your HSA for qualified medical expenses. Withdrawals for non-medical expenses are subject to ordinary income tax only.

Ready to get started?

To open your HSA, log in to your [WEX account](#), accept the terms and conditions, and complete the U.S. Patriot Act requirements. To confirm your HSA eligibility, contact your tax advisor.



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