



# Don't lose the chance to put up to \$1,500 back into your pocket this year!

Participating in a dependent care flexible spending account (FSA) is like receiving a 30% discount from your care provider.

## How does a dependent care FSA work?

A dependent care FSA is a flexible spending account that allows you to set aside pre-tax dollars for dependent care expenses, such as daycare, that allow you to work or look for work.

You choose an annual election amount, up to \$5,000 per family. The money is placed in your account via payroll deduction, in equal installments, and then used to pay for eligible dependent care expenses incurred during the plan year.

## Why should I enroll in a dependent care FSA?

Child and dependent care is a large expense for many families. Millions of people rely on child care to be able to work, while others are responsible for older parents or disabled family members.

If you pay for care of dependents in order to work, you'll want to take advantage of the savings this plan offers. Money contributed to a dependent care account is free from federal and state taxes and remains tax-free when it is spent on eligible expenses. On average, participants enjoy a 30% tax savings on their annual contribution. This means you could be saving up to \$1,500 per year on dependent care expenses!



## How do I use my FSA to pay for dependent care expenses?

You can use your BCC debit card to pay your provider for eligible dependent care expenses, or pay with your personal funds and submit a claim for reimbursement.

## Qualifying expenses

### What qualifies?

Dependent care FSA funds can cover costs for:

- Before school or after school care for children 12 and younger
- Custodial care for dependent adults
- Licensed day care centers
- Nanny / Au Pair
- Nursery schools or preschools
- Late pick-up fees
- Summer or holiday day camps

*A comprehensive list of eligible expenses can be found at the IRS website.*

### What doesn't qualify?

Certain expenses are not eligible, for instance:

- Expenses incurred in a prior plan year
- Expenses for non-disabled children 13 and older
- Educational expenses including kindergarten or private school tuition fees
- Food, clothing, sports lessons, field trips, and entertainment
- Overnight camp expenses
- Late payment fees for child care

## Online & mobile access

Get instant access to your account with the **My SmartCare Portal** and **My SmartCare mobile app**.

- View your account balance and transaction history
- Submit and view claims
- Upload and store receipts
- View important alerts and communications
- Sign up for direct deposit
- Sign up for text message alerts



Register for the My SmartCare Portal at <https://benefitcc.wealthcareportal.com/Page/Home>



Download the My SmartCare mobile app at the App Store or Google Play.

## Helpful hints

- You must have funds in your dependent care FSA before you can spend them.
- You can't change your election amount during the plan year, unless you experience a change in status or qualifying event.
- Keep your receipts, you will need an itemized invoice for all reimbursement requests.
- The easiest way to manage your account is online at <https://benefitcc.wealthcareportal.com/Page/Home> or through the My SmartCare mobile app.
- There is a 2.5-month grace period for any unused funds at the end of the plan year. You have until March 15, 2025, to incur expenses for the 2024 plan year.