

2009 Open Enrollment

Benefit Access Fee



King County

Benefits and Retirement
Operations

If you cover a spouse/domestic partner under your medical plan, it is important that you take steps online to ensure the correct deductions are taken from your paycheck.

Every January, the online benefits system resets the benefit access fee to charge \$35/month to all employees who cover a spouse/domestic partner under their medical benefits. To ensure the correct deductions are taken from your paycheck, follow the guidelines below:

You pay the benefit access fee to cover your spouse/domestic partner when he/she has access to medical coverage through:

- his/her own employer;
- a union trust paid by an employer; or
- the military while in active duty status.

If you already pay the \$35/month benefit access fee, you do **not** have to go online to elect a benefit access fee option. Your monthly payment will automatically carry over into 2009.

You do not have to pay the benefit access fee if you do not have or do not cover a spouse/domestic partner, or if your covered spouse/domestic partner is:

- Unemployed
- A King County employee
- A part-time transit operator in the Partial Benefits Plan, or
- Covered under Medicare, Medicaid, retiree medical, COBRA or disability.

To ensure the benefit access fee is not deducted from your paycheck, go online and deactivate the benefit access fee.