



Benefits Checklist

Retirement is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with family and friends, enjoy leisure activities or even find new work. The New York State Department of Civil Service (DCS) and the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) want to make sure that you don't have to worry about your health insurance coverage as you enter this new phase of your life.

We have resources for you to use before you talk with your agency Health Benefits Administrator (HBA) such as a web site, <https://www.cs.ny.gov>, a *Planning for Retirement* booklet, DVD or VHS, forms packet, and the Benefits Checklist that you are reading right now.

These materials will help you make decisions and prepare your personal questions for your visit with your agency HBA. So, let's begin to plan your retirement!

Before You Retire

- ✓ Attend a pre-retirement seminar (preregistration required)
 - Dates and locations of seminars are available at <https://www.cs.ny.gov>. Click on Benefit Programs and follow the prompts to access NYSHIP Online. Click on Calendar, then select Pre-Retirement Mtg. (NY Only) from the Type of Event drop-down menu; select a timeframe.
 - Tell your agency HBA you would like to attend a meeting in your area. **Note:** Confirmation of registration is required.
- ✓ View the *Planning for Retirement* video in a group or individually. The video is available from your agency HBA in DVD or VHS formats.
- ✓ Review pre-retirement materials available from your agency HBA and online including:
 - **Planning for Retirement** booklet
 - **Retiree Health Insurance Choices** (Summary of health insurance plans available to retirees under NYSHIP)
 - **Health Insurance Rates and Information for NY Retirees**
 - **Welcome to EBD** (The Employee Benefits Division becomes your HBA when you retire.)
- ✓ Meet with your agency HBA to discuss:
 - Eligibility requirements for continuing health insurance coverage as a retiree, and whether you meet them
 - How sick leave credit may reduce the cost of your health insurance coverage
 - Dual annuitant sick leave credit
 - Deferred health insurance coverage after you leave the payroll
 - Your dental, vision and life insurance benefits after you retire
 - Whether your current health insurance option, The Empire Plan or Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), will meet your needs in retirement
 - Medicare and your health insurance benefits, especially when you must enroll in Medicare
 - *If you have more questions after meeting with your agency HBA, contact the Employee Benefits Division at the New York State Department of Civil Service (see enclosed materials for contact information).*
- ✓ **Before your retirement date, meet with your HBA to:**
 - Recalculate the value of your sick leave credit.
 - If you are a dependent on a spouse's NYSHIP coverage, make sure to keep Form PS-410, State Service and Sick Leave Credit Preservation, for your permanent records.
 - Tell your HBA if you want dual annuitant sick leave credit. Request a copy of your signed Form PS-405, Dual Annuitant Sick Leave Credit Election, for your records.
 - You must decide no later than your last day on the payroll and if you choose it, you may not discontinue it later. Dual annuitant sick leave credit does not affect your dependents' eligibility for coverage if you die before them.

- Tell your agency HBA if you want to defer the start of your health insurance coverage. If you choose this option, request a copy of your signed Form PS-406, Enrollment Form for Employees Eligible to Defer Health Insurance Coverage and Sick Leave Credit Calculation Indefinitely in Retirement.
- Tell your agency HBA if you want to change your health insurance option when you retire.
 - If you do, this will be the one change permitted to you as a retiree at any time during the 12-month period following retirement, unless you move into or out of an HMO's service area.
- Collect your own copies of the benefit materials you will need as a retiree, including the current retiree version of your benefits book.
- Once you are retired, information will be mailed to your home. Your agency HBA will have copies of these materials for you.

After You Retire

- ✓ Watch your mail for your *Dear Retiree Letter* from the New York State Department of Civil Service, Employee Benefits Division (EBD).
- ✓ Watch your mail for your bill for health insurance (and other coverage, if applicable) from EBD.
 - Keep your payments up to date until your pension deductions begin. If you do not wish to have pension deductions, notify EBD.
 - Once pension deductions to pay for your health insurance begin, you will no longer be billed directly.
- ✓ The Employee Benefits Division (EBD) is your Health Benefits Administrator in retirement. Contact EBD if:
 - Your address has changed. (Change of address must be signed and in writing; no telephone changes accepted.) *Welcome to EBD* provides a convenient form. Or, you can make address changes by going to MyNYSHIP Enrollee Self-Service at <https://www.cs.ny.gov/mynyship>, a secure portion of NYSHIP Online.
 - You need to add or delete a dependent. (Must be in writing; no telephone changes accepted.)
 - You or a dependent becomes eligible for Medicare *before* age 65 due to disability.
 - Send EBD a copy of your Medicare card.
- You want to change your health insurance option.
 - As a retiree, you can change your NYSHIP option once at any time during a 12-month period. Go to MyNYSHIP at <https://www.cs.ny.gov/mynyship> or send a written request to EBD.
- You have questions about your enrollment or benefits.
 - For claims questions, call:
 - ◆ The Empire Plan at 1-877-7-NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447) and choose the appropriate options to reach a representative.
 - ◆ Your HMO.

Resources

- ✓ **Your Agency Health Benefits Administrator (HBA)**
Most HBAs are located in the agency personnel office. Contact your personnel office for the name and phone number of your HBA.
- ✓ **DCS Web Site at <https://www.cs.ny.gov>**
You have online access to NYSHIP benefit materials, links to The Empire Plan and links to the HMOs.
- ✓ **EBD Print and Video Information about Retirement**
 - *Planning for Retirement* DVD and VHS
 - *Planning for Retirement* video packet with forms
 - *Planning for Retirement* booklet
 - *Medicare & NYSHIP* DVD and VHS

Department of Civil Service Employee Benefits Division

After you retire, EBD serves as your agency HBA. You can call, write or visit the Employee Benefits Division of the New York State Department of Civil Service in person, link to EBD at <https://www.cs.ny.gov> or ask questions at retiree meetings held throughout New York State.

Call EBD

518-457-5754
1-800-833-4344 (U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands)

Write to EBD

New York State Department of Civil Service
Employee Benefits Division
Alfred E. Smith State Office Building
Albany, NY 12239

Visit EBD

After you retire, you may call EBD for a personal consultation, if needed, at the Department of Civil Service weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Walk-ins are possible as time permits.