
ARC Monthly Bulletin October 2016
Valuable information for ARC's customers

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1. 2016 Federal Benefits Open Season

The 2016 Federal Benefits Open Season is November 14 through December 12, 2016. The annual Open Season allows eligible federal employees to elect or make changes to Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) coverage, Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) coverage, and Flexible Spending Account (FSA) contributions. The 2017 brochures, plan comparison tools, and other Open Season resource materials will be available on the Office of Personnel Management's website (www.opm.gov/insure). The ARC Employee Benefits Branch will prepare notices for all customers to send to their employees as we get closer to Open Season.

For additional information, contact the Benefits Service Center at Benefits@Fiscal.Treasury.Gov, 304-480-8275, or 1-866-868-4357.

2. TSP Contribution Limit Reminder

Employees covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) who reach the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) annual contribution limit before the end of the tax year will miss out on agency matching contributions. The contribution limit for the 2016 tax year is \$18,000.

TSP contributions—including agency matching contributions—for FERS-covered employees will stop when the annual limit is reached. To maximize receipt of agency contributions, FERS employees should continue investing at least five percent of salary—the amount that produces the maximum agency contribution—during every pay period of the tax year. (Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System receive no agency contributions to TSP and are not affected by this issue).

The TSP ["How Much Can I Contribute" calculator](#) can assist employees in calculating the remaining TSP biweekly contributions needed to maximize agency contributions. Employees can also read more about the TSP annual contribution limit at <https://www.tsp.gov/making-contributions/contribution-limits/>.

Employees can access the Employee Personal Page (<https://www.nfc.usda.gov/epps>) to make TSP contribution changes. For additional information, contact the Benefits Service Center at Benefits@Fiscal.Treasury.Gov, 304-480-8275 or 1-866-868-4357.

3. Reservation Optimization Initiative (ROI)

General Services Administration (GSA) has been working with government agencies and Concur Technologies on search default display settings that will make it simpler for travelers to identify the lowest cost option(s) for online booking of reservations in ConcurGov. The purpose of the ROI is to implement Government-wide standards for Air and Lodging that optimize spend and drive utilization of the government managed programs.

Air default settings will display the lowest discounted airfares to assist agencies in driving cost savings. Lodging default settings will display first consideration of FedRooms® properties which are required to be at or below per diem. Both settings support compliance to OMB Memo M-12-12, Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations.

Implementation of the first phase will occur in November 2016. We will share more information to customer agency contacts during the month of October. For additional information, contact ARC Travel Services at 304-480-8000, option 1 or Travel@Fiscal.Treasury.Gov.

4. PRISM Requisition and Buyer Refresher Training

We provide PRISM Requisition and Buyer refresher training to assist our customers in their efforts to effectively transition newly hired staff and meet other potential training needs. This training is provided to our customers at no additional charge. We will conduct PRISM refresher training sessions October 18 through October 20, 2016 in Washington, DC. All current PRISM users will receive information, via email, about how to sign up for the classes.

For additional information, contact PRISM Support at 304-480-8000 (Option#2) or PrismSupportTeam@Fiscal.Treasury.Gov.

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