
ARC Monthly Bulletin October 2017
Valuable information for ARC's customers

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1. 2017 Federal Benefits Open Season

The 2017 Federal Benefits Open Season is November 13 through December 12, 2017. 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 2018 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). Our 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 (toll free).

2. FEGLI Open Season Elections – Effective October 1, 2017

In September 2016, a Federal Employees Group Life insurance (FEGLI) Open Season offered eligible Federal employees a rare opportunity to elect or increase their life insurance coverage. The newly elected coverage became effective for employees who took advantage of the opportunity if they were in a pay and duty status on or after October 1, 2017. Employees are encouraged to review their pay period 20 paycheck to ensure there is a corresponding increase in the premium amount withheld for the new level of coverage.

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

3. 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 2017 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 tsp.gov/PDF/formspubs/oc91-13.pdf.

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 (toll free).

4. ConcurGov Real Time Interface Implementation

Our Travel Services is pleased to announce the development of a Real Time interface with Oracle and ConcurGov for travel transactions utilizing service-oriented architecture (SOA) technology. Our pilot of Fiscal Service in 2017 was successful. The Real Time interface allows for real time funds checking with the financial system, special error handling, and the automation of travel amendments. TSD plans to roll out the Real Time interface for customers with a phased approach beginning November 2017 with completion in March 2018. We will be reaching out to your agency's travel contact with a communication plan, timeline, and information on the impact of the Real Time interface for ConcurGov users.

For additional information, contact Travel Services at 304-480-8000 (Option 1) or Travel@Fiscal.Treasury.Gov.

5. 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 23, 2017 – October 26, 2017 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.

6. FY18 BOC Listing

The 2017 OMB Circular A-11 has been released, and Our Budget group has made the appropriate updates for the 2018 Budget Object Class (BOC) listing. The FY18 BOC listing has now been published on the customer web pages.

For additional information, contact our Budget group at BudgetARC@Fiscal.Treasury.Gov or HUDBudgetARC@Fiscal.Treasury.Gov.

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