

# Benefits Liaison Update - March 2019

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## Welcome to Our Monthly Update

- ★ To keep you better informed we will be sending a monthly update with news you can use in the upcoming month.
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## FSA Reminder for March 31 Filing Deadline

- ★ We sent sending a targeted email message to employees who show a balance in their healthcare and/or dependent care flexible spending account (FSA). Since the funds don't roll over, eligible expenses from 2018 must be claimed or they will be forfeited per IRS rules. The filing deadline is March 31, 2019, for expenses incurred between January 1 - December 31, 2018. The email was sent on March 1 - see the [email](#).
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## 2018 Forms Still Being Used - Will Not Be Accepted

- ★ Member Services reports that employees are still using 2018 enrollment forms. Since rates change each year, we cannot accept old forms. Please be sure you have 2019 forms by visiting [benefitoptions.az.gov](http://benefitoptions.az.gov) > [Forms Tab](#).
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## Retirement Seminars - Spread the Word

- ★ The monthly retirement seminar schedule is set for 2019. The Phoenix and Tucson sessions fill up quickly and must be registered for in advance, so spread the word. Please post the flyer from [benefitoptions.az.gov](http://benefitoptions.az.gov) > Retiree Tab > [Pre-Retirement Seminars](#).
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## Non-Emergency Use of ER Campaign

- ★ Members and their families are using the emergency room for non-emergency needs which costs our self-funded plan \$10 million a year. As benefit liaisons, we are asking you to help us educate our members about the wide variety of services that are quicker, more effective, lower-cost alternatives to the emergency room. In the coming months, we will be sharing information you can share with your agencies.
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## HIP Incentive Payout Coming

- ★ The verification process for 2018 HIP incentives is almost complete. Employees who will receive the incentive have been informed by email and the \$200 payout will be in the last paycheck of March. Questions? Please contact [wellness@azdoa.gov](mailto:wellness@azdoa.gov).
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## Higher Education Opportunities

- ★ Did you know ADOA has partnered with local and national higher education institutions to offer an exciting benefit for active employees who want to advance their education? Our negotiated tuition discounts range from 10% to 15% and in some instances, dependents may also be eligible. Each month, we will feature one of our partners who offer online, flexible and affordable degrees. For a full list of schools, visit [benefitoptions.az.gov](http://benefitoptions.az.gov) > Employee Tab > [Education Discounts](#).
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## Employee Discounts

- ★ We get many questions about employee discounts and we wanted to make sure everyone knows that our new discount platform is PerksConnect. It allows its members to access everyday deals from local and national merchants. Find it on [benefitoptions.az.gov](http://benefitoptions.az.gov) > Employee Tab > [Employee Discounts](#). Please post the main [PerksConnect Flyer](#).
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**Questions?** Please contact [benefitsnews@azdoa.gov](mailto:benefitsnews@azdoa.gov) and we will be happy to assist you.

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