# veba

# **HRA Basics**



# **Health Reimbursement Arrangement**

An HRA is a tax-free account that puts you in control of your family's healthcare spending<sup>1</sup>. It's easy to use, and it's a smart way to save up for medical bills, including retiree insurance premiums. Plus, you never pay any taxes on the money going in or coming out. That's the **best tax advantage** there is—even better than tax-deferred 457, 403(b), and 401(k) plans!

- Pay no income or FICA taxes
- Choose your investments
- Get your money fast
- No use-or-lose or carryover limits



I didn't have enough money to purchase my contact lenses and my prescription medication. I was able to use my HRA money. What a relief!



**HRA Participant** 



#### MORE INFO? veba.org

QUESTIONS? 1-888-828-4953 customercare@veba.org

## **How It Works**

- 1. Your employer **sends tax-free money** to your HRA<sup>2</sup>. Often, these funds would have otherwise been paid to you as taxable income. Your employer might also contribute funds in place of some other tax-free employee benefit.
- 2. You choose how you want to invest your HRA funds using the available fund lineup.
- 3. Depending on your plan<sup>3</sup>, you can use your money right away or save it up for later, such as during retirement.
- 4. If you pass away, your HRA can transfer to your surviving spouse, children, or other survivors. Most other HRA plans can't offer this.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Your HRA covers you, your spouse, and dependents, including your adult children through the end of the calendar year in which they turn age 26.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> IRS rules require all eligible employees to participate (no individual elections).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Your HRA may be subject to post-separation benefits only or other limitations depending on your employer's plan design or any limited HRA coverage elections you may make.





## **How It Helps**

Are you struggling to cope with the cost of doctor visits, prescriptions, new glasses or contacts, or braces for the kids? Will you and your spouse be able to afford medical



**HRA Participant** 



premiums up to \$1,000 or more per month if you want to retire before age 65?

Many participants use their HRAs to reimburse **retiree insurance premiums** and the cost of medical items and services they wouldn't be able to afford otherwise, like **power chairs, hearing aids, expensive vision and dental care, and emergency medical bills.** 



# **Using Your HRA**

Managing and using your HRA is now easier than ever!

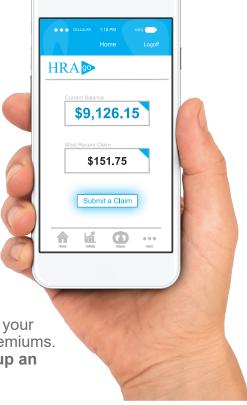
- Fast online and mobile claims
- Handy mobile app (HRAgo<sup>®</sup>)
- Free debit card (upon request)
- Secure e-statements

Ready to file a claim? Log in online and click Claims, or use HRAgo® and do it "on the go." With HRAgo®, you can quickly snap pics of supporting documentation and submit claims right from your mobile device. We'll process your claim in about five to seven business days.

Are you a retiree? We can automatically reimburse your monthly insurance premiums, including Medicare premiums. Log in online and, click Claims. Then, click the Set up an Automatic Premium Reimbursement button.

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### **HRA Enrollment**





#### **Congratulations!**

Your employer is enrolling you in the **VEBA Plan**. This valuable benefit is easy to use, and it's a smart way to save up for future medical bills, including retiree insurance premiums.

A health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) is a tax-free account for your family's medical, dental, and vision expenses<sup>1</sup>. Money goes in tax free, accumulates tax free, and comes out tax free! That's the best tax advantage there is. Depending on your HRA plan design<sup>2</sup>, you can use your money right away or save it up for later, such as during retirement.

Check with your employer if you need to know more about your plan design or how your HRA will be funded.



#### **What Happens Next**

**FIRST**, we'll send you an **enrollment confirmation** email if your employer gives us your email address. Don't worry if you miss the email or don't have an email address.

**SECOND**, we'll mail a paper **welcome packet** to you as soon as we receive a contribution or transfer of funds from your employer. The packet will contain your account number, account balance, investment allocation, and other details.

**THIRD**, after receiving your enrollment confirmation email or welcome packet, just **follow the instructions**. You'll want to:

- 1. Register online and create a password;
- 2. Check and update your investment allocation;
- 3. Add your **spouse and dependent** information;
- 4. Set up direct deposit (if claims-eligible); and
- 5. Elect e-statements.

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#### **Using Your HRA**

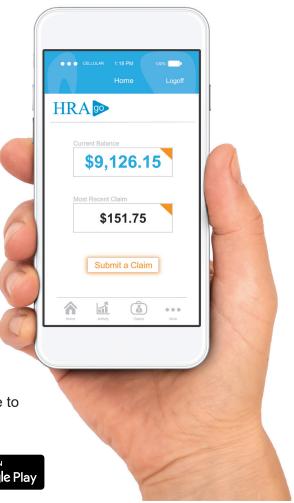
With the **VEBA Plan**, managing and using your HRA is now easier than ever!

- · Fast online and mobile claims
- Handy mobile app (HRAgo<sup>®</sup>)
- Free debit card (upon request)
- Direct deposit
- Automatic premium reimbursement
- Secure e-statements

When you're ready to file a claim, log in online and click **Claims**, or use our mobile app, **HRAgo**®, and do it "on the go." With **HRAgo**®, you can take pics of supporting documentation and submit claims right from your mobile device. We'll process your claim in about five to seven business days.







**Are you a retiree?** We can automatically reimburse your monthly insurance premiums, including Medicare premiums. Just log in online and click **Claims**. Then, click the **Set up an Automatic Premium Reimbursement** button.



## We're Here to Help

Our friendly customer care team in Spokane is ready to help if you get stuck or have a question. We'll take good care of you and your family.

#### **MORE INFO?**

veba.org

#### **QUESTIONS?**

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