Transportation Reimbursement Account

A tax-free way to plan, save and pay for eligible work-related mass transit and parking expenses

Did you know?

Money remaining in your TRA at the end of the year is automatically rolled over to the next year.

To help you pay for expenses related to your regular commute to and from work, your employer has established an OptumHealth Financial Services transportation reimbursement account – or TRA. The TRA allows you to set aside a regular deduction using pre-tax dollars to pay for eligible mass transit and parking expenses.

You can use the money you have set aside to pay for bus, commuter train, light rail or other eligible mass transit options such as a qualified vanpool. You can also use the funds to pay for eligible parking expenses. Mileage, tolls, fuel, carpooling and business travel are not eligible expenses as designated by Federal law.

You choose how much to set aside

You decide how much to set aside, based on your transit preferences and how frequently you use mass transit or qualified parking. The IRS allows you to set aside up to $230 a month into a transit/vanpool account and $230 a month into a parking account.

If you want to set aside funds for both transit and parking expenses, you will need to set up two separate accounts. However, you can shift funds from one account to cover expenses in the other as long as there are adequate funds in the account.

And, TRA plans are not subject to the "use it or lose it" regulations that the IRS requires flexible spending accounts to follow. This means that if there are funds in your TRA at the end of the year, they will simply rollover to the next year.

Change your deduction as needed

Unlike other types of reimbursement accounts, you're not locked into a pre-determined deduction for the entire year. There's no need to wait for the next annual enrollment period to adjust the amount you want to set aside.

In some cases, you also may be able to automate deductions from your account, making it even more convenient to pay for your eligible transit expenses. For example, your local transit authority may allow you to have mass transit expenses paid directly from your TRA so you don't have to worry about forgetting to purchase a current transit pass or waiting several weeks for your reimbursement.

OptumHealth
Financial Services℠

Online access 24/7

You can access current information about your account online, view your claims, payments and account balance.

Funds are immediately available

You can begin to use the funds you have set aside in your transit reimbursement account as soon as they are deposited in your account through automatic pre-tax salary deductions.

If your employment changes during the plan year, you may continue to submit claims through the remainder of the plan year to use up any remaining funds.

Reimbursements made easy

You can submit claims for reimbursement by online, email, fax or mail. You choose the claims submission method that works for you. Be sure to provide a copy of your receipt or other documentation so a reimbursement from your account can be authorized.

Questions? Consider them answered.

If you have questions about your account or a specific reimbursement claim, you can find the information you need fast! Simply go to the participant Web site to check the status of a claim, review your account or revise your personal information. Or, if you prefer, talk directly with a highly trained account representative who knows your employer's plan inside and out.

Contact your Benefits Representative for more information

If you have any questions about your transportation reimbursement account benefit, contact your Benefits Representative for more information.

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