



# Employer *Bulletin*

Employer Communication Center 608-266-3285

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etf.wi.gov

## It's Your Choice Open Enrollment Period, Kick-Off Meeting Dates Set

### It's Your Choice Open Enrollment Period Set: October 5 – October 30, 2015

The Group Insurance Board (GIB) established the 2016 It's Your Choice Open Enrollment period, October 5 – October 30, 2015, at its May board meeting

### Attend the It's Your Choice Kick-Off Meeting: September 24, 2015

The Thursday, September 24, 2015 kick-off meeting date was finalized upon GIB approval of the October 5 – October 30, 2015 It's Your Choice Open Enrollment period. ETF hosts this annual It's Your Choice meeting for state agencies and local health employers' payroll and personnel representatives, health plans and pharmacy benefit representatives. ETF staff members share information and discuss procedures regarding the It's Your Choice open enrollment period.

If you cannot attend this meeting, ETF is again planning to livestream the event using 'Go To Webinar.' Please watch for future *Employer Bulletins* or emails from ETF on plan changes for next year, and webinar and meeting location updates.

ETF will also be conducting a series of employer- and employee-focused webinars during this year's It's Your Choice open enrollment period. These webinars will be designed to answer any questions employers or employees may have related to this year's open enrollment period.

### New this Year: Separate State & Local It's Your Choice Kick-off Meetings

Details for this year's It's Your Choice kick-off meetings are as follows:

**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2015

**Time: State Employer Representatives:** morning session 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Local Government Employer Representatives:** afternoon session 1 - 4:00 p.m.

**Place:** Alliant Energy Center

Exhibition Hall

1919 Alliant Energy Center Way

Madison WI 53713

The Alliant Energy Center is located at the gateway to downtown Madison, WI, just off the Beltline Highway (Hwy 12 and 18), on John Nolen Drive. With such a great location, the campus is five minutes from interstate 90/94 via Hwy 12 and 18, minutes from the Wisconsin State Capitol, Madison's State Street area and the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus and only 15 minutes from the Dane County Regional Airport. The Alliant Energy Center is a prime site, situated near three major metro areas – 250 miles from Minneapolis, MN, 145 miles from Chicago, IL and 75 miles from Milwaukee, WI.

- From **Chicago** (South): I-90 to exit 142A, west on Hwy. 12/18, 5 miles to Rimrock Rd. exit 262
- From **Green Bay** (North): I-90 to exit 142A, west on Hwy. 12/18, 5 miles to Rimrock Rd. exit 262
- From **Milwaukee** (East): I-94 West, I-90 South to exit 142A, west on Hwy. 12/18 to Rimrock Rd. exit 262
- From **Minneapolis** (West): I-90 South to exist 142A, west on Hwy. 12/18 to Rimrock Rd. exit 262
- From **Des Moines** (South): I-80 East to I-380 North, north on Hwy. 151 to Hwy. 12/18E, exit at Rimrock Rd. exit 262

For more detailed directions, maps and information, visit [www.alliantenergycenter.com/directions/location-maps](http://www.alliantenergycenter.com/directions/location-maps)

## Entrances and Parking

The kick-off meeting will be held in Exhibition Hall. Access to Exhibition Hall is via the Main Gate from Rimrock Road on the Southeast side of the campus. Parking is free and is directly in front of the Exhibition Hall building. As you walk up to the building, entry to the building and meeting rooms will be the doors on the far right end of the building.

## GIB-Approved Health Insurance Changes for 2016

The GIB has approved benefit changes and increased member cost sharing for the state's group health insurance program in 2016. The changes will provide a projected cost savings of \$85 million over the next two years, which meets requirements proposed in the 2015-2017 State Budget.

The GIB also approved shifting current dental benefits to a stand-alone, self-insured dental plan. Delta Dental of Wisconsin has been selected as the plan administrator, pending contract negotiations. Read more in the [What's New update](#).

You can also find more information in the [frequently asked questions related to the 2016 health insurance benefit changes on our website](#).

## Optional Insurance Plans

The GIB has directed that all state agencies must offer all optional insurance plans approved for payroll deduction by the GIB to standardize insurance options for all state employees. This directive will be phased in, beginning in 2016 with employers that are part of the STAR payroll and benefits system.

This means that all agencies in Central Payroll or the Legislature, must prepare to offer each of these benefits to eligible employees during the It's Your Choice open enrollment period in October: Aflac accident insurance, Anthem DentalBlue, EPIC Benefits+, EPIC Dental Wisconsin, Hartford Accidental Death and Dismemberment, and VSP vision service plan. The insurer may contact you to set up a meeting, or you may contact the insurers directly to get acquainted with their enrollment system (2015 fall enrollment will use the existing methods, but new employees after January 1, 2016 will use STAR to enroll.) Contact information and brief plan descriptions are contained on Page 78 of the [2015 IYC Decision Guide](#).

Non-STAR agencies (including Courts, UWS, UWHC, WHEDA, WEDC and WisCraft) are expected to offer the full array of optional insurance plans in future years.

## Income Continuation Insurance

The GIB has approved an Income Continuation Insurance (ICI) premium rate increase of 20% for 2016. The rate increase will be effective as of February 1, 2016. The new premium rates will be available this fall.

## Arrange Health Fairs Early

You are responsible for arranging your own health fairs. Contact the health plans and Navitus Health Solutions directly to invite their representatives to your health fair. The GIB has approved a stand-alone dental vendor for 2016, however, the contract is in negotiation at this time. ETF will release more information related to the dental vendor attending benefit fairs as it becomes available. Please select a date for your health fair that allows plenty of time for 2016 It's Your Choice materials to arrive.

**State Agencies Only:** Please fill out and return the [Benefit/Health Fair Request Form \(ET-7117\)](#) by July 17, 2015, to have your health fairs published on the ETF website.

Contact ETF Outreach by email at [ETFOutreach@etf.wi.gov](mailto:ETFOutreach@etf.wi.gov) with any additional questions.

## Updated Plan Contact List

The recently-revised [Health Insurance Plan Contacts \(ET-1728, Rev. 4/2015\)](#) can be found online at [etf.wi.gov](http://etf.wi.gov). This document contains each health plan's contacts for membership and coverage, claims, supplies, employee assistance programs and complaints/grievances. The form is for employer use only; please do not provide your employees with these contacts. Employees should contact the Insurance plan using the contact information in the It's Your Choice materials.

## Questions

Employer questions may be directed to ETF at 608-266-3285 or toll free at 1-877-533-5020. Employers may also direct questions to ETF's Employer Communication Center by sending an email to [ETFHealthandIns@etf.wi.gov](mailto:ETFHealthandIns@etf.wi.gov).

The Department of Employee Trust Funds does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services or employment. If you are speech or hearing impaired and need assistance, call the Wisconsin Relay Service toll free at 7-1-1 or 1-800-947-3529 (English) 1-800-833-7813 (Español). If you are visually or cognitively impaired, call 1-877-533-5020 or 608-266-3285 locally. We will try to find another way to get the information to you in a usable form.

This *Employer Bulletin* is published by the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds. Questions should be directed to contact persons listed in the bulletin. Employer agents may copy this bulletin for further distribution to other payroll offices, subunits or individuals who may need the information. Copies of the most recent *Employer Bulletins* are available on our Internet site at [etf.wi.gov/employers.htm](http://etf.wi.gov/employers.htm).

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