



# 2026 BENEFITS OPEN ENROLLMENT

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Rakuten**

### What's new or changing for 2026?

Rakuten is committed to providing benefits designed to support your needs, no matter your stage in life. In 2026, we will continue to offer market-leading comprehensive coverage. Read on to learn more about new benefits and changes coming in 2026.

- **Your monthly contributions for medical plans will increase** – Healthcare costs continue to rise nationwide, and our health plan has experienced the impact of the inflationary environment the broader economy is dealing with. While we remain committed to covering a significant portion of your total cost of care, your monthly contributions are increasing.
- **Aetna HDHP plan changes**
  - In-network individual deductible will increase to \$2,500 (up from \$2,000 in 2025)
  - In-network individual within a family deductible will increase to \$3,400 (up from \$3,300) due to IRS-mandated regulations
  - In-network family deductible will increase to \$5,000 (up from \$4,000 in 2025)
- **Aetna PPO plan changes**
  - In-network individual deductible will increase to \$500 (from \$250 in 2025)
  - In-network family deductible will increase to \$1,000 (up from \$750 in 2025)
  - Office visit copays will increase to:
    - \$30 primary care provider (PCP) visits (up from \$20)
    - \$50 specialist visit (up from \$25)
  - Urgent care copay will increase to \$35 (up from \$25)
  - Emergency Room visit copay will increase to \$150 (up from \$100)
- **New Aetna Programs**
  - **Hinge Health Musculoskeletal Pain Support.** Aetna members now have access to Hinge Health, a digital program designed to help you prevent and manage joint and muscle pain. Hinge Health provides personalized, virtual care plans that combine exercise therapy, education, and one-on-one coaching from physical therapists and health coaches.
  - **Maven Services.** As part of your Aetna benefits, you will have access to Maven - a digital platform designed to support you and your family through every stage of life. Maven offers personalized resources and 24/7 virtual care in areas of family building (including fertility and adoption), maternity and postpartum support, parenting guidance and menopause care. With Maven, you can connect with experts, access helpful tools, and get ongoing support tailored to your unique needs.



- **The HSA contribution limits are increasing** – You can contribute \$4,400 for individual coverage (up from \$4,300 in 2025) or \$8,750 for family coverage (up from \$8,550 in 2025) into an HSA. Team members who will be 55 or older by the end of the 2026 calendar year can contribute an additional \$1,000 a year. These limits include the employer contribution.
- **Dependent Care FSA limits are increasing**. You can contribute up to \$7,500 (up from \$5,000 in 2025) for individuals and married couples filing jointly and to \$3,750 (up from \$2,500) for married couples filing separately.
- **Lifestyle Spending Accounts will be administered by Espresa**. The well-being reimbursement benefit will remain the same, but claims will be submitted, reviewed, and paid through Espresa instead of HealthEquity.

## How does Rakuten's plan stack up with our competitors?

Each year, Rakuten International benchmarks our plans and rates against other tech employers to ensure you are covered with comprehensive benefits at a competitive price point. The result is our market-leading programs, including our well-being point solutions, to help you live happy and healthy.

## What is Open Enrollment?

Open Enrollment is your annual opportunity to make changes to your benefits. During Open Enrollment you can switch to a different medical plan, enroll in a new plan, add or drop dependents and beneficiaries, and re-enroll in the Healthcare, Dependent Care, and Limited Purpose FSA plans. If you're in the High Deductible Health Plan, this is also a good time to review your Health Savings Account and make sure your contributions are set to the right level for the coming year.

Once Open Enrollment is over, you are not allowed to make changes to your benefits unless you have a qualifying life event such as getting married or adding a new child to your family.

## When is Open Enrollment?

Open Enrollment begins on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> and will run through Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to get your elections in during this time!

## For which time period do Open Enrollment elections apply?

Any changes you make during Open Enrollment are for the 2026 calendar year and will take effect on January 1, 2026. Your new premiums will begin on your first paycheck received in January.

## What if I miss the Open Enrollment period for benefits?

If you miss the Open Enrollment period, you will not be able to enroll or make changes until the next annual Open Enrollment period — unless you experience a qualifying life event that permits you to make benefits changes under IRS rules at the time the event occurs.



## **How do I enroll in benefits?**

Log into your Workday portal and click on the Open Enrollment task located in **My Tasks** to get started. A step-by-step walkthrough on how to complete your Open Enrollment task in Workday is available on the [MyBenefits.Life](#) Benefits Portal.

## **Can I complete Open Enrollment on my mobile device?**

YES! The new Open Enrollment layout easily allows you to complete the Open Enrollment process from a mobile device. Download the Workday app and use Organization ID: rakuten.

## **I don't plan on making changes to my benefits for 2026, do I have to do anything?**

If you're currently enrolled in the Aetna EPO medical plan, you will automatically be enrolled in the Aetna PPO plan for 2026. If you wish to enroll in another medical plan, you must actively enroll in that plan during Open Enrollment. Additionally, health care, limited purpose, and dependent care flexible spending accounts require you to make an active election each year.

If none of these apply and you don't plan to make changes to your benefits, your current benefits and covered dependents will automatically roll over for 2026. **However, you are strongly encouraged to review and submit your Open Enrollment elections. Any changes to your Open Enrollment elections will not be allowed after November 7.**

## **My elections have an effective date that is not 1/1/2026. Instead, I see 1/1/2019, 1/1/2020, etc. What does that mean?**

If you re-elected a plan from the prior year meaning you did not make any changes to the plan, coverage level, or enrolled dependents from the previous year, then your plan will retain the original effective date. This simply means there is no break in coverage across plan years.

## **I am finished with my elections, but I would like to make a change, how can I do that?**

You can make changes to your completed Open Enrollment elections by clicking on the Benefits, Pay and Compensation app located on your Workday homepage. Click Edit on the submitted Open Enrollment event to make any changes. **Any changes to your Open Enrollment elections will not be allowed after November 7<sup>th</sup>.**



## **I was just hired and recently completed my new hire benefits enrollment event. Do I need to complete the Open Enrollment task?**

Yes, your new hire enrollment covers your elections for the 2025 calendar year. However, recently hired employees still need to complete the Open Enrollment task to elect benefits for the 2026 calendar year.

## **Is there a recording of the 2026 changes that I can watch?**

YES! An informational video will be available on your [MyBenefits.Life](#) Benefits Portal.

## **Who can help me pick a plan that is best for me?**

If you have questions about your benefit plans or need assistance with enrollment, you can contact an Alliant Benefit Advocate. These advocates are benefit experts familiar with your plans. They can answer questions about your coverage, help determine family member eligibility, assist with coverage changes, direct you to network providers, and, in certain situations, help resolve claim or billing issues. You can reach Benefit Advocates by email at [rakutenbenefits@alliant.com](mailto:rakutenbenefits@alliant.com) or by phone at (877) 408-6430.

## **Where can I find information about the benefits (deductible, coinsurance, copays, etc.)?**

You may visit your [MyBenefits.Life](#) Benefits Portal to view the Benefits Guide, additional plan documents, forms, and required notices.

## **Will I automatically be enrolled in the Accident plan if I am enrolled in the Aetna HDHP medical plan?**

No, you will not automatically be enrolled due to Workday limitations. While making your plan elections in Workday, please elect the employer paid voluntary Accident plan with the same coverage tier and enrolled dependents as you have on the HDHP medical plan.



## **Can I add my domestic partner to my insurance plans?**

YES! A domestic partner is an eligible dependent. You may add your domestic partner, and his/her children, to your insurance plans if you complete and notarize the Domestic Partner Affidavit and provide two proofs of dependency. If you add a domestic partner to your insurance, you will receive the affidavit form from the Benefits team shortly following Open Enrollment.

## **Why are there different tiers for domestic partners versus spouses?**

Domestic partners do not qualify for tax-favored benefits under section 106 of the federal tax code; therefore, the Company's contribution towards an employee's domestic partner coverage will be taxable to the employee as imputed income. The imputed income is the total premium rate for domestic partner coverage, paid for by both the Company and the employee.

## **Can I drop my spouse from coverage if they get a new job mid-year?**

Yes. A spouse obtaining new coverage from their employer would be considered a qualifying event which would allow you to drop them provided you notified Rakuten's HRS team within 30-days of their new offer of coverage.

## **What is the new HSA annual limits for the 2026 plan year?**

The HSA contribution limits for the 2026 plan year have increased. You can contribute \$4,400 for individual coverage, up from \$4,300 for 2025, or \$8,750 for family coverage, up from \$8,550 for 2025 into an HSA. If you're 55 or older, you can contribute an additional \$1,000 a year. These limits include the employer contribution.

## **Why is my Flexible Spending Account (FSA) plan showing as waived for 2026?**

Every year, per IRS regulations, employees are required to re-elect the FSA plans for the upcoming plan year. This includes the Healthcare, Dependent Care, and Limited Purpose FSA plans. You will need to actively enroll in the FSA plans with the annual amount you want for the 2026 calendar year.

## **What is the new FSA annual limits for the 2026 plan year?**

The FSA contribution limits have increased for the Healthcare FSA and Limited Purpose FSA for the 2026 plan year. You can contribute \$3,400 into a Healthcare FSA or Limited Purpose FSA (up from \$3,300 in 2025). The Dependent Care FSA contribution has increased to \$7,500 (up from \$5,000 in 2025).

During Open Enrollment, you will elect the annual amount you want to contribute to your Flexible Spending Account. It is very important that you make this election carefully based on what you expect to spend during the plan year. Any money left in the account at the end of the annual grace period will be forfeited. For the Healthcare and Limited Purpose FSA, the amount you elect for the year is available to use on January 1<sup>st</sup> and you will be issued a debit card for use in paying for covered expenses at most pharmacies and physician's offices.



## **Where can I find a list of qualified FSA medical expenses?**

The Healthcare FSA is an FSA account for out-of-pocket medical, dental, and vision expenses for yourself and your eligible dependents. Visit [IRS Publication 502](#) for a list of eligible Healthcare FSA expenses.

Used in conjunction with a Health Savings Account (HSA), the Limited Purpose FSA is an FSA account for out-of-pocket dental and vision expenses for yourself and your eligible dependents.

## **Can I participate in the Limited Purpose FSA if I am enrolled in the HSA in 2026?**

YES! Used in conjunction with a Health Savings Account (HSA), the Limited Purpose FSA is an FSA account for out-of-pocket dental and vision expenses for yourself and your eligible dependents.

## **What is the Dependent Care FSA, and can I use it to cover the health care needs of my dependents?**

The Dependent Care FSA is an FSA account for daycare, preschool, or elderly care expenses. Qualified dependents include children under 13 and/or physically or mentally handicapped dependents. You cannot use the Dependent Care FSA to pay for health care related expenses. Visit [IRS Publication 503](#) for a list of eligible Dependent Care FSA expenses.

## **Can I participate in the Dependent Care FSA if I am enrolled in the HSA in 2026?**

YES! You may participate in the Dependent Care FSA if you are participating in the Health Savings Account in 2026. However, you cannot participate in the Healthcare FSA.

## **Does the Dependent Care FSA include K-12 Private School as well?**

Standard private school tuition is not a qualifying dependent care expense; however, fees paid for before/after school care are considered a qualifying expense. Proof of payment should itemize the costs between tuition and before/after school care.

## **Dependent Care FSA contributions were reduced for some employees in mid-year in 2025. Will this happen again in 2026?**

Rakuten complies with annual non-discrimination testing. If you are a highly compensated employee, you may be impacted in 2026 once our non-discrimination testing has been completed for the 2026 plan year. Please take this into consideration when electing your plans for 2026. We recommend that you consult with a tax advisor as there may be other dependent care options for you via your tax filing outside of Rakuten's FSA dependent care plan.

## **Where can I find what drugs are covered on Aetna's Formulary?**

You can review Aetna's formulary by clicking [here](#).



## **If you switch from HDHP with an HSA to the PPO, do you still have access to previous funds in the HSA?**

Yes. You are still eligible to spend your existing HSA funds even if you've switched to the PPO.

## **Can I use HSA funds to pay for eligible expenses for my spouse or dependent(s) not enrolled on my Rakuten HDHP medical plan?**

Yes, you can spend your HSA dollars on your spouse or dependent(s) not covered by a Rakuten medical plan.

## **Can HSA funds be used to cover mental health services?**

Yes! You can use your HSA funds to pay for any eligible medical, dental or vision services.

## **Does California tax Employer HSA contributions?**

Yes. Contributions made to your HSA are required to be treated as taxable income in California at the state level.

## **Does New Jersey tax Employer HSA contributions?**

Yes. Contributions made to your HSA are required to be treated as taxable income in New Jersey at the state level.

## **When does Rakuten's contributions hit my HSA account?**

If you enroll in the HSA during Open Enrollment, your contributions will be added to your account in January

## **Does the HSA allow for daycare reimbursement?**

No, daycare reimbursements are not allowed on the HSA. For a pre-tax daycare benefit, we offer the FSA Dependent Care plan which you can enroll in, in addition to the HSA plan.

## **Does Rakuten's contributions to my HSA count towards my annual limit?**

Yes. The amount that Rakuten contributes to your HSA does count toward the annual IRS limit. If you would like to elect that maximum contribution for 2026, please reduce your annual election by the amount that Rakuten will contribute to your account.

## **Is there time limit to submit health claims against HSA?**

There is no time limit in which you must submit claims against your HSA account. Please note this differs from the FSA plan which required all claims be submitted by March of the following plan year (i.e. March 2026 for the 2026 plan year)



## **Does Rakuten offer fertility benefits?**

Yes! We would encourage employees who are interested in our fertility benefits to review the “Family Planning” section of the benefits guide for more details. If you have additional questions about what fertility benefits are available to you and your family, please reach out to your benefit advocate at [rakutenbenefits@alliant.com](mailto:rakutenbenefits@alliant.com).

## **What's difference between annual deductible and annual out-of-pocket?**

### **What are examples of costs that are not deductible but ARE out-of-pocket costs?**

A deductible is what you pay first for your health care. For each calendar year, you'll pay the full cost of doctors and treatments until your total spending reaches the deductible amount. Then you'll pay a portion of your health care costs as defined by your plan (copay or coinsurance) until you reach your out-of-pocket maximum. The out-of-pocket maximum is the most that you will pay in a calendar year, and after your spending reaches this amount, the insurance company will pay all costs for covered health care services. The amount you pay in premiums each month does not count towards the deductible or out-of-pocket maximum.

## **Is the dental orthodontia lifetime maximum per family or person?**

The limit is per person.

## **Is LASIK covered under vision insurance?**

LASIK is not covered under our vision plan. However, the VSP plan does offer discounts for LASIK to members.

## **How does privacy work with Modern Health? Do they let Rakuten know if someone schedules therapy through them?**

No, Rakuten is not privy to who uses Modern Health and/or why.

## **What's the difference between Modern Health Coaching and Therapy?**

Great question! [Click here](#) for an overview of Coaching vs Therapy services with Modern Health.

## **What happens if we use all 12 therapy visits before the end of the year and we want to meet again?**

Members can continue to receive therapy services through Modern Health after using the 12 visits however employees will pay the full cost of each visit. Please reach out to your benefit advocate at [rakutenbenefits@alliant.com](mailto:rakutenbenefits@alliant.com) if you would like more information on the cost of the additional services, and how to set those additional sessions up. If you are enrolled in a medical plan with out of network benefits (Aetna HDHP or PPO) you can submit Modern Health expenses to be covered under your health plan.



## **Does the Well-being Reimbursement cover athletic apparel?**

Yes!

## **Is the Well-being Reimbursement Program a total of up to \$350 for each category (i.e. \$350 for fitness and \$350 for financial planning)? Or is \$350 in total?**

You can expense up to \$350 in total for the calendar year.

## **What is the cost of the tutoring through Care.com?**

The on-demand tutoring benefit that was announced is a virtual tutoring service that is free of charge to employees (max of 3 hours per month). If you are looking for an in-person tutor you can also source that support through the Care.com membership, but you would be required for paying the tutor directly. Tutoring costs through the Care.com marketplace vary by tutor.

## **The benefits brochure shows there are 24 payroll deductions. There are 26 pay periods each year, so is this accurate?**

Yes, 24 payroll deductions is accurate. Although we have 26 pay periods, we only deduct premiums over 24 pay periods. There are two months with a third paycheck where no benefit premiums or contributions are deducted.

## **What are all eligible expenses the pre-tax commuter benefits can be used for?**

Eligible Commuter expenses can be found [here](#).

## **I did not see an option to enroll in the 401(k) plan.**

The 401(k) plan is open to monthly enrollments and is not part of the Open Enrollment process. Employees can enroll in the 401(k) plan at any time during the year via their Fidelity account at [www.401k.com](http://www.401k.com). More information about the 401(k) plan is available on the [HR pages of R-Space](#).

## **Where do I confirm or update my beneficiary information?**

- For Life and AD&D insurance, visit your Workday portal and navigate to the Benefits, Pay and Compensation app > Benefits > Beneficiaries.
- For your HSA account, visit your HealthEquity portal and navigate to Manage Account > Beneficiaries.
- For your 401(k) account, visit your Fidelity portal and navigate to Profile & Settings > Beneficiaries.



## **Who should I contact if I still have questions about Open Enrollment?**

If you have questions about your benefit plans, or need help enrolling, you can get help from an Alliant Benefit Advocate. Advocates are benefits experts who are familiar with your benefit plans. They can answer questions about how your coverage works; assist you with determining if family members are eligible; help you make coverage changes; direct you to network providers; and in certain circumstances, help resolve claim or billing issues. Benefit Advocates are available by email at [rakutenbenefits@alliant.com](mailto:rakutenbenefits@alliant.com) or by phone at (877) 408-6430.

Don't forget, you can always find benefits-related information on the [HR pages of R-Space](#).