

2017 UUP Productivity Enhancement Program (PEP) Description

OVERVIEW

The Productivity Enhancement Program (PEP) allows eligible UUP-represented employees to exchange previously accrued annual leave (vacation) in return for a credit to be applied toward their employee share NYSHIP premiums on a biweekly basis. In no case can the credit available under the program be applied to the employer share of NYSHIP premiums. As detailed below, the program will be administered on a NYSHIP plan year (hereafter "plan year") basis.

Eligible full-time employees with an annual salary of \$62,998 and below and eligible part-time employees whose salary is within this range at the time of enrollment who enroll in PEP for the 2017 plan year will forfeit a total of 3 days of annual leave at the time of enrollment in return for a credit of up to \$500 to be applied toward the employee share of NYSHIP premiums. Additionally, eligible full-time employees earning more than \$62,998 and below \$90,022 and eligible part-time employees whose salary is within this range at the time of enrollment who enroll in PEP for the 2017 plan year will forfeit a total of two days of annual leave at the time of enrollment in return for a credit of up to \$500 to be applied toward the employee share of NYSHIP premiums.

The credit will be divided evenly among the pay periods in the 2017 plan year to offset the cost of the enrollee's employee share of the NYSHIP premium, up to the total biweekly employee premium cost. The biweekly value of the credit will NOT be adjusted for enrollees who do not pay all biweekly employee share deductions during the plan year. Therefore, employees who do not expect to make all employee share premium payments during a plan year may not wish to participate in that plan year.

During any plan year in which an employee participates, the credit established upon enrollment in the program will be adjusted only if the employee moves between individual and family coverage under NYSHIP during that plan year.

Once enrolled for a given plan year, employees continue to participate for the duration of that plan year unless they separate from State service or cease to be NYSHIP contract holders. Leave forfeited in association with this program will not be returned, in whole or in part, to employees who cease to be eligible for participation in the program.

Disputes arising from this program are not subject to the grievance procedures contained in the 2011-16 State/UUP collective bargaining agreement.

ENROLLMENT

The enrollment period for the 2017 plan year will be from **November 1, 2016** through **December 2, 2016**. Employees are required to submit a separate enrollment form for each year in which they wish to participate.

ELIGIBILITY

At the time of enrollment employees must:

1. Be employed on a Calendar Year or College Year basis;
2. Be a full-time employee with an annual salary below \$90,022 OR part-time employee whose biweekly salary is within this salary range at the time of enrollment;
3. Be an employee covered by the 2011-16 New York State/UUP Collective Bargaining Agreement;
4. Be a NYSHIP enrollee (contract holder) in either the Empire Plan or an HMO;
5. Be eligible to receive an employer contribution toward NYSHIP premiums (or be on leave without pay from a position in which the employee is normally eligible for an employer share contribution toward NYSHIP premiums); and
6. Have a sufficient annual leave balance to make the full leave forfeiture without bringing their annual leave balance below 8 days or a prorated balance for part-time employees respectively

To enroll in the program for the 2017 plan year, employees must meet all eligibility criteria at the time of enrollment.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Participants who go on sick leave at half-pay during a program year in which they are PEP enrollees will continue to have the health insurance premium credit applied to the employee share of health insurance premiums deducted from biweekly paychecks.

PEP enrollees who go on leave without pay (LWOP) and do not receive a waiver of premium continue to participate in the program, paying the employee share of the NYSHIP health insurance premium at the reduced rate. Additionally, they pay the employer share of the health insurance premium where required. No portion of the health insurance premium credit available under the program can be applied toward the employer share of the health insurance premium. Leave forfeited in association with the program will not be returned, in whole or in part, to employees who receive a waiver of premium.

INSURANCE ISSUES

An employee enrolled in PEP who moves between individual and family coverage under NYSHIP will have his/her health insurance contribution credit adjusted upward or downward as appropriate.

If both spouses are State employees covered under a single family contract, only the contract holder who carries the family coverage can participate in PEP. If both spouses are enrolled contract holders, both may participate in PEP if otherwise eligible.

The Employee Benefits Division of the Department of Civil Service will issue guidelines for agency Health Benefits Administrators concerning the processing of enrollment and status changes for PEP participants.

TAXABILITY

By electing to participate in PEP, an employee reduces the amount deducted from biweekly paychecks to pay the employee share of NYSHIP premiums. If the employee currently has that amount deducted on a pretax basis, the PEP health insurance premium credit reduces that pretax deduction. The net effect is that the amount of income the employee pays taxes on increases by the amount of the health insurance premium credit. While employees will realize net savings because of the PEP credit, the amount of that savings will be less than the full amount of the PEP credit for anyone currently paying NYSHIP premiums on a pretax basis. Furthermore, for each program year of participation in PEP, employees who participate in the pre-tax premium contribution program may only make changes to health insurance in accordance with pre-tax premium contribution program rules regarding qualifying events, even though the PEP credit eliminates all or part of the health insurance premium deduction.

Employees should be referred to their income tax preparer for questions regarding the tax implications of participation in the PEP.

UUP Productivity Enhancement Program for 2017 – Enrollment Form

Name _____ Last 4 digits of SS# _____

Health Insurance Plan _____

Individual [] or Family Coverage [] (CHECK ONE)

By signing this document, I elect to participate in the 2017 portion of the Productivity Enhancement Program (PEP) and agree to the provisions contained in the Productivity Enhancement Program Description (hereafter Program Description) that is available in my campus Human Resources Office. I understand that I must meet the eligibility criteria explained in the Program Description in order to participate.

I understand that employees will surrender either 2 or 3 days of Annual leave as a result of participation in the program. I understand that ALL of these leave credits will be deducted from my leave balances at the time my enrollment is processed. Furthermore, I understand that no portion of this leave will be returned to me under any circumstances.

In exchange for forfeiting this accrued leave I will receive a health insurance contribution credit (hereafter “credit”) to be applied against the employee share cost of NYSHIP health insurance premiums paid in the 2017 NYSHIP plan year. The maximum possible amount of this credit is \$500. Pursuant to the program description, the amount of this credit will be established at the time of enrollment and will be adjusted only upon movement between individual and family coverage. I understand that I will not receive any amount of credit that exceeds the cost of the employee share of my NYSHIP health insurance premiums paid during that period.

I understand that this enrollment form only applies to the 2017 NYSHIP plan year. I understand that in order to participate, this completed election form must be filed with my campus Human Resources Office by the close of business on **December 2, 2016**.

Signature _____ Date _____

PERSONAL PRIVACY PROTECTION LAW NOTIFICATION

This information is being requested pursuant to New York State Civil Service Law section 161-a for the principal purpose of determining eligibility for the Productivity Enhancement Program for 2017. This information will be used in accordance with Public Officers Law section 96(1). Failure to provide this information may result in a denial of eligibility to participate in the Productivity Enhancement Program for 2017. This information will be maintained by the employee’s Agency Personnel Office. For further information relating only to the Personal Privacy Protection Law, contact pio@cs.state.ny.us.

For Agency Human Resources Office Only:

Full-time _____ Part-time _____ (check one)

Days of annual leave deducted from employee’s balance: _____ Date _____

Verification of eligibility. I certify that this applicant meets the eligibility criteria necessary for participation in this program.

Name _____ Title _____

Signature _____ Date _____

For Health Benefits Administrators Only:

Date Processed _____

Biweekly Health Insurance Contribution Credit _____

Name _____ Title _____

Signature _____ Date _____