

Subject: All CPF E-Mail - Delay in FSA Enrollment

Sent: Thursday, 22 May 03

On 15 May 03 we forwarded an All CPF E-Mail providing information about the Flexible Spending Account (FSA) initial open season. The purpose of this E-mail is to provide information on the delay in FSA enrollments.

On Monday, 19 May 03, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) advised that although SHPS web site (www.fsafeds.com) and toll-free phone line are operational and SHPS Benefits Counselors are ready to accept calls, OPM has decided not to take actual enrollments at this time. Instead, employees who access the FSAFEDS Web site or toll-free phone number will provide their name and E-mail address. SHPS will notify these employees by E-mail when SHPS is ready to begin accepting FSA enrollments.

OPM provided the following reason for the delay in accepting FSA enrollments: "In response to Agency-level inquiries and in anticipation of possible Congressional action, we've accelerated our review of agency options regarding administrative fees associated with the FSAFEDS program, as well as necessary changes to billing structures in place for the 2003 Plan Year. We expect this review to be completed shortly, at which time we will begin to accept FSA enrollments." OPM Benefits Administration Letter 03-802 on 19 May 03 explains the delay and is available at <http://www.opm.gov/asd/HTM/2003/03-802.htm>.

Unofficially, we've been advised that employees will be able to enroll in FSAs "in the very near future," possibly as early as next Monday, although our source stated OPM couldn't guarantee that date. We were also advised OPM does not intend to extend the FSA open season.

If you have electronic capability, please forward this E-mail to all directorates/organizations at your base and ask that they forward it to all levels within their organization. As always, thank you for your support.

**Chief, Special Operations Division
Air Force Personnel Center**