Your Dependent Daycare Flexible Spending Account Can Save You Hundreds of Dollars

Are you paying for the care of dependent children under the age of 13 or dependents of any age who are unable to care for themselves? Now you can pay for your dependents' daycare while you are at work or school and save 25-40% in taxes on every dollar.

Just enroll in the plan during your benefits open enrollment period and choose the amount you want to put aside for daycare. The annual maximum a household may set aside is $5,000. Married couples filing singly may each set aside up to $2,500. Divorced couples should check the FAQs on our website for special rules.

Tax-free money from your paycheck will be added to your dependent daycare account balance. You pay your daycare provider and then submit a claim for reimbursement. The plan works like a checking account in that you may only be reimbursed for the amount you have in your account at the time of your claim. If your claim is for more than the balance in your account, the rest of your claim will be paid when more money is added.

Important Points

You save 25-40% because you don't pay federal, social security or most states' taxes on the money you spend for daycare.

Choose your amount carefully. Once you are enrolled you cannot change it unless you change daycare providers, you have or adopt a child, or your child turns 13.

Services must be provided while you and your spouse are at work, seeking employment or attending classes as a full-time student.

Services must be provided during the current plan year. Your plan year is explained in your enrollment materials.

You should contact your tax advisor to discuss how you might use this benefit with the child care tax credit.

Examples of Eligible Dependent Daycare Expenses

Choose the care that best suits your situation:

In-home babysitter	Nursery school
Daycare center	Summer day camp
Outside babysitter	Elder custodial care
Latchkey program	Elder daycare

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