

## Why should we consider establishing Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) for our employees?

### HSAs Offer an Impressive List of Features:

- Funding Flexibility: employer contributions, pre-tax employee salary reduction contributions and tax-deductible contributions are all permissible. Family members, employers and any other third parties may make contributions to an HSA on behalf of the eligible individual.
- No “Use-It-or-Lose-It” rule. Participants may accumulate funds and self-direct investments in a tax-exempt trust or custodial account.
- The ability to use funds for non-medical purposes without any effect on the tax-free character of amounts remaining in the individual’s HSA.
- Account portability for participants - monies can be transferred to another HSA at any time without limitation.
- Expenses are self-substantiated by the participant.
- The tandem high-deductible health plan (HDHP) that is required is a mainstream design.


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### Q&A

#### Which employees are eligible to participate in an HSA?

For any month, an eligible individual is defined as any individual who:

- is covered only by a high-deductible health plan (“HDHP”)
  - is not also covered by any other health plan that is not an HDHP
  - is not enrolled in benefits under Medicare; and
  - may not be claimed as a dependent on another person’s tax return.
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- ✓ HSAs are generally exempt from ERISA reporting
    - and documentation
  - ✓ HSAs are not subject to COBRA coverage
  - ✓ HIPAA does not apply to employer-funded self-administered HSA or to HSAs receiving no employer contributions (*would apply to HDHP component and HSAs that are not self-administered.*)



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