



## HRSD New Employee Benefit Outline

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### **Employee Assistance Program (EAP)**

- This program is designed to assist you and your family in dealing with problems such as stress, family difficulties, financial and legal problems just to name a few. The counselors are employees of Optima and are trained and experienced in dealing with a wide range of problems. This program is absolutely confidential and has offices convenient to most HRSD locations.

### **Health Insurance**

- New employees have 31 days from their date of hire to enroll in the High Deductible Health Insurance Plan sponsored by HRSD and administered by Cigna.
- The effective date of coverage is always the first day of a month. Enrollment applications received by the Human Resources Division on the first day of the month, will have coverage in that same month. Enrollment applications received after the first but anytime during the month of hire (e.g. July 2<sup>nd</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>) will be effective the following month (e.g. August 1<sup>st</sup>).
- New employees who do not enroll in this timeframe are ineligible to enroll until the annual Open Enrollment period, normally in May of each year. Any changes to the application can only be made during the annual Open Enrollment period unless an employee experiences a qualifying change of life event. A change to health insurance can then be made that is consistent with the life change.
- Such qualifying events are: a spouse's open enrollment, divorce or legal separation, marriage, birth, or adoption. A new health insurance application must be submitted within 31 days of the qualifying event, which reflects the change (e.g. adding new spouse within 31 days of a marriage -- attach license). Changes not made within 31 days of the event cannot be made until Open Enrollment.

### **Health Savings Account (HSA)**

- Eligible employees may enroll in an HSA. This allows employees to contribute through payroll deductions with pre-tax dollars. This account is intended to assist with meeting your health insurance deductible and can be used to pay expenses for you, your spouse and tax dependents, medical, dental, vision and prescriptions that are not paid for by any insurance. This account rolls over each year and you can take the funds with you once your employment ends at HRSD.

## **Flexible Spending Account (FSA)**

- Employees that **are enrolled** in an HSA have the option to contribute to a **limited** flexible spending account through payroll deductions with pre-tax dollars. The limited FSA can be used by you, your spouse and dependents to pay for eligible dental and vision expenses that are not paid for by any insurance plan. This account does not roll over each year and the funds must be used by the end of the plan year.
- Employees that **are not enrolled** in an HSA have the option to contribute to a **full** flexible spending account. The full FSA can be used by you, your spouse and dependents (covered on health insurance until age 26) to pay for eligible medical, dental, vision and prescription expenses that are not paid for by any insurance plan. This account does not roll over and the funds must be used by the end of the plan year.
- All employees are eligible to contribute through payroll deduction and pre-tax dollars for Dependent Care. This account is intended for expenses you incur, while working, in order to provide care for dependents residing in your home (dependents are considered children age 13 and under, or dependent adults).
- Employees may only enroll in the FSA and Dependent Care within 31 days of their employment, during the annual Open Enrollment Period, or within 31 days of a change of life event.

## **COBRA**

- Employees who have health insurance coverage qualify to continue it, at their own expense, after their separation from employment, in certain circumstances. In addition, dependents who have been carried can continue coverage, also at their own expense, if they lose their dependent status. COBRA notices are included in the employee new hire packets.

## **Short Term Disability**

- Short-Term Disability (STD) is employer paid and administered by The Standard. It provides comprehensive coverage if you become disabled and unable to work due to an injury, sickness or pregnancy. You will be eligible for this benefit after one year of employment for non-work related disabilities and from date of hire for work related disabilities. The short-term disability benefit begins after a seven-calendar day waiting period from the first day of your disability and continues for up to 125 workdays. If you are still disabled after 125 workdays, you will be eligible for long-term disability benefits as determined by The Standard.

## **Merit Increases**

- Employees may be eligible for a merit increase at one year from their date of hire. Thereafter, employees are eligible for annual merit increases, based on satisfactory performance.

## **Training Increases**

- Employees in certain job classifications can be assigned to training levels in order to meet experience, education, certification, or in some situations a combination of these requirements.

## **Apprenticeship**

- HRSD offers an Apprenticeship Program that is certified through the Department of Labor. We offer programs in the following trades: Plant Operator, Maintenance Operator, Small Communities Systems Operator, Interceptor Technician, Electrical and Instrumentation Specialist, Automotive Technician, Machinist and Carpenter.

## **Service Awards**

- Service awards are given out beginning at 5 years of service and continue in 5-year increments. 10 years of service and up provide employees with monetary compensation, which is taxed at the employee's tax rate. The monetary compensation is paid out at a rate of \$12 per year of service.

Ten years - \$120

Twenty years - \$240

Thirty years - \$360

Forty years - \$480

Fifteen years - \$180

Twenty-five years - \$300

Thirty-five years - \$420

## **Retirement**

- VRS Hybrid Retirement Plan-Employees hired on or after January 1, 2014, current Plan 1 & 2 members that opt-in during the special election period and members that took a refund.
- The VRS Hybrid Retirement Plan has both a defined benefit and defined contribution portion that determines the amount of your lifetime monthly benefit in retirement based on your age, total service credit, average final compensation, voluntary contributions and investments. The plan is administered through the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). This plan also has a Short-Term and Long-Term Disability benefit.
- Hybrid employees, contribute 5% of their monthly salary on a pre-tax basis to their VRS retirement account.
- Hybrid Plan Members- are eligible to receive full benefits at Normal Social Security Retirement Age with at least 5 years of service or when age and service equal 90.
- Early service retirement can be taken at age 60 with at least five years of service.

## Refunds

- Hybrid Plan Members-Are eligible for a refund of any contributions they have made to their defined benefit and defined contribution retirement accounts, plus accrued interest upon separation from HRSD.
- Hybrid Retirement Plan members who request a refund of their defined benefit member contributions and interest but are not 100 percent vested (four years of service) to the defined contribution component will forfeit all or a percentage of employer-paid contributions in the Hybrid 401(a) Cash Match Plan according to the vesting schedule.
- Taking a refund from the defined benefit plan cancels all service with VRS and if rehired in a VRS covered position they will be a member of the Hybrid Plan. Later, if they rejoin VRS, they often wish to buy back this lost service. There is no limit on the amount of refunded service you may purchase.
- At separation, employees wishing to withdraw retirement funds may do so online on VRS' website at [www.varetire.org](http://www.varetire.org)

## Purchase of Prior Service

- You may be able to purchase service from previous public employment, active duty military service, an eligible period of leave or VRS refunded service as service credit in your plan. Prior service credit counts toward the five years needed to become vested and eligibility for retirement and the health insurance credit.

## Life Insurance (Basic)

- Administered through VRS. Natural death benefits paid at twice the employee's annual salary. Accidental death benefits are four times the employee's annual salary. Premiums are paid by HRSD.

## Life Insurance Additional (Optional)

- Administered through VRS; Minnesota Life is the underwriter. Additional coverage is available for the employee and their dependents (spouse and children). Premiums for additional coverage are paid by the employee. Some levels of coverage may require completion of a health status declaration form.

**Note: During Leave Without Pay, LWOP periods, when coverage is suspended, employees can arrange for life insurance to continue by paying the premium themselves. Contact the Payroll Office to make these arrangements.**

## Supplemental Retirement Plans

- HRSD offers diverse ways for our employees to save for their retirement. We have a regular 457 Deferred Compensation Plan and a Payroll Roth IRA available for all employees. In addition, we have a Hybrid 457 Deferred Compensation Plan available for Hybrid Plan employees only. All plans are administered by ICMA-RC.

The Hybrid 457 Deferred Compensation Plan has a pre-tax contribution option only that allows you to set aside a percentage of your annual salary from .05 increments up to 4% through payroll deduction and offers an employer match.

The regular 457 Deferred Compensation Plan for all employees has a pre-tax and after-tax (Roth) contribution option that allows you to set aside whole dollar amounts through payroll deduction.

Upon separation from employment, contributions and earnings in the pre-tax option are tax-free until the funds are withdrawn.

**Qualified** Contributions and earnings withdrawn from the after-tax (Roth) option are tax free upon withdrawal.

**Note: Regardless of your age, funds withdrawn from 457 plan accounts are not subject to the 10% early withdrawal tax penalty.**

A Payroll Roth IRA is available to all employees that wish to contribute on a voluntary basis. Our Payroll Roth IRA is administered by ICMA and allows employees to save for their retirement on an after-tax basis through payroll deduction.

Contributions to the Payroll Roth IRA can be withdrawn at any time without tax and penalty. Income restrictions and maximum contributions limits set by the IRS apply. See IRA enrollment packet for more information.

To participate in the regular 457 Deferred Compensation Plan for all employees and the Payroll Roth IRA, there is no minimum contribution and deductions can be changed every pay period. The maximum annual contribution limits are set by IRS regulations. Additional contributions are available for employees over age 50, or near retirement.

## Continuing Education

- HRSD supports continuing education for accredited degrees or individual courses related to existing HRSD positions. This is subject to Department budgets and availability of adequate personnel to ensure proper performance of HRSD's mission. Payment for approved tuition, books, and/or non-optional fees can be made by HRSD in the form of advance payment or reimbursement for all expenses incurred from date of hire. Payment for continuing education expenses is contingent upon satisfactory course completion (C or better for undergraduate courses; B or better for graduate courses). Employees must complete a Continuing Education Authorization form prior to enrolling in classes.
- Undergraduate courses are paid up to the highest in-state tuition rate per credit hour and any executive programs will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- **Employees who voluntarily terminate their employment or are terminated for cause, and have received educational reimbursement for undergraduate, master's degree, and doctoral programs will be required to repay all reimbursed costs for courses taken during the 12 months before separation.**
- **Employees who receive funding for executive programs and who leave employment before the end of the five-year commitment period will be required to refund 80%, 60%, 40% and 20% of all program costs reimbursed by HRSD if they discontinue employment in years one through five after completing the program. Forfeited reimbursements may be withheld from the employee's last pay.**

## Professional Development

- HRSD will contribute to the cost of membership in professional societies or organizations for employees in supervisory and managerial positions. The amount is determined annually during the budget process. Requests for participation must be made through the employee's Department Director.

## Direct Deposit

- All employees are required to enroll in direct deposit as a condition of employment. You will need a voided check or deposit slip to set up your direct deposit. In addition, employees may divide their net pay between a maximum of three accounts.

**Uniform/Safety Shoe Allowance**

- For classifications that require foot protection and the use of uniforms, upon hire you are eligible for a uniform and shoe allowance. Order of these articles will be done as soon as practical through your work center and at HRSD's expense.

**Paid Time Off (PTO)**

- PTO is accumulated at a rate of 8 hours per pay period with a carryover limit of 208 hours and a pay out after 5 years of HRSD service at the rate of 50%

**Holidays**

New Year's Day, January 1st  
Lee-Jackson Day, Friday preceding Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, 3rd Monday in January  
President's Day, 3rd Monday in February  
Memorial Day, Last Monday in May  
Independence Day; July 4th  
Labor Day, 1st Monday in September  
Columbus Day, 2nd Monday in October  
Veteran's Day, November 11th  
Thanksgiving Day, 4th Thursday in November  
Friday after Thanksgiving, 4th Friday in November  
Christmas Day, December 25th  
Additional holidays are designated by the General Manager.

- For all except shift personnel: Saturday Holidays are observed on Friday and Sunday Holidays are observed on Monday. Employees working shift observe Holidays on the day they occur.

**Civil Leave (CL)**

- Employees excused, with pay, if subpoenaed to appear on jury duty or as a witness in any case other than their own. Employees testifying on their own behalf use PTO.

**Leave Without Pay (LWOP)**

- LWOP may be granted in accordance with HRSD Policy.
- Non Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) events, requires the employee to submit written requests through their supervisor. Benefits may be affected depending on the duration of the leave. Denials of this leave may result in administrative separation.  
**HRSD will follow all ADA requirements for reasonable accommodations.**

**Note: Employees covered by the Family Medical Leave Act are not required to request LWOP**

## **Disability Leave (OJI)**

- All Worker's Compensation incidents must be immediately reported to your supervisor. Several forms will need to be completed. HRSD will only pay for medical treatment obtained from certain designated doctors' and/or medical facilities. Lists are available at each workcenter.
- Health Insurance plans will not pay for worker's compensation injuries. Therefore, do not present your Health Insurance Card at the time medical treatment is received. Bills should be sent to HRSD's Human Resources Office: P.O. Box 5914 Virginia Beach, VA 23471-0914. Frequently, the medical facility will want to confirm that the injury is work related. They may call the Human Resources Office at 460-7303.
- Supervisors need to be advised of your status after every doctor's visit, and contacted at least weekly in serious cases. After any medical treatment is received, employees must provide a written release from the doctor allowing them to return to their regular duties.
- HRSD supplements Worker's Compensation payments for the first seven calendar days when an employee is disabled as the result of an On-the-Job Injury. PTO is available to supplement worker's compensation wage payments thereafter. STD will run concurrently with Worker's Comp.

## **Military Leave (ML)**

- Any employee receiving duty orders shall be excused. Employees who's Military Duty is federally funded are eligible to receive up to 120 hours of paid Military Leave, per Federal Fiscal Year (October-September). Hours in excess of this amount can be taken as PTO or Leave Without Pay. Supervisors need to be advised immediately of the need to take military leave. Orders must be submitted upon receipt.