

**WAC 182-12-111 Which entities and individuals are eligible for public employees benefits board (PEBB) benefits?** The following entities and individuals shall be eligible for public employees benefits board (PEBB) benefits subject to the terms and conditions set forth below:

(1) **State agencies.** State agencies, as defined in WAC 182-12-109, are required to participate in all PEBB benefits. Insurance and health care contributions for ferry employees shall be governed by RCW 47.64.270.

(2) **Employer groups.** Employer groups may apply to participate in PEBB insurance coverage for groups of employees described in (a)(i) of this subsection and for members of the group's governing authority as described in (a)(i), (ii), and (iii) of this subsection at the option of each employer group:

(a) All eligible employees of the entity must transfer as a unit with the following exceptions:

(i) Bargaining units may elect to participate separately from the whole group;

(ii) Nonrepresented employees may elect to participate separately from the whole group provided all nonrepresented employees join as a group; and

(iii) Members of the employer group's governing authority may participate as described in the employer group's governing statutes and RCW 41.04.205.

(b) Employer groups must apply through the process described in WAC 182-08-235. Applications from employees of employee organizations representing state civil service employees, the Washington health benefit exchange, and employer groups with five thousand or more employees, except for educational service districts are subject to review and approval by the health care authority (HCA) based on the employer group evaluation criteria described in WAC 182-08-240.

(c) Employer groups participate through a contract with the authority as described in WAC 182-08-245.

(3) **Washington state educational service districts.** In addition to subsection (2) of this section, the following applies to Washington state educational service districts enrolling in PEBB insurance coverage for its nonrepresented employees until December 31, 2023:

(a) The HCA will collect an amount equal to the composite rate charged to state agencies, plus an amount equal to the employee premium by health plan and family size and an amount equal to any applicable premium surcharge as would be charged to state employees for each participating educational service district.

(b) The HCA may collect these amounts in accordance with the district fiscal year, as described in RCW 28A.505.030.

(4) **The Washington health benefit exchange.** In addition to subsection (2) of this section, the following provisions apply:

(a) The Washington health benefit exchange is subject to the same rules as an employing agency in chapters 182-08, 182-12, and 182-16 WAC.

(b) Employees of the Washington health benefit exchange are subject to the same rules as employees of an employing agency in chapters 182-08, 182-12 and 182-16 WAC.

(5) **Eligible nonemployees.**

(a) Blind vendors actively operating a business enterprise program facility in the state of Washington and deemed eligible by the department of services for the blind (DSB) may voluntarily participate in PEBB medical. Dependents of blind vendors are eligible as described

in WAC 182-12-260. Eligible blind vendors and their dependents may enroll during the following times:

(i) When newly eligible: The DSB will notify eligible blind vendors of their eligibility in advance of the date they are eligible for enrollment in PEBB medical.

To enroll, blind vendors must submit the required forms to the DSB. The forms must be received by the DSB no later than thirty-one days after the blind vendor becomes eligible for PEBB medical.

(ii) During the annual open enrollment: Blind vendors may enroll during the annual open enrollment. The required form must be received by the DSB before the end of the annual open enrollment. Enrollment will begin January 1st of the following year.

(iii) Following loss of other medical insurance coverage: Blind vendors may enroll following loss of other medical insurance coverage under a group health plan or through health insurance coverage, as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). To enroll, blind vendors must submit the required forms to the DSB. The forms must be received by the DSB no later than sixty days after the loss of other medical insurance coverage. In addition to the required forms, the DSB will require blind vendors to provide evidence of loss of other medical insurance coverage.

(iv) Blind vendors who cease to actively operate a facility become ineligible to participate in PEBB medical as described in (a) of this subsection. Enrollees who lose eligibility for coverage may continue enrollment in PEBB medical on a self-pay basis under COBRA coverage as described in WAC 182-12-146(5).

(v) Blind vendors are not eligible for PEBB retiree insurance coverage.

(b) Dislocated forest products workers enrolled in the employment and career orientation program pursuant to chapter 50.70 RCW shall be eligible for PEBB health plans while enrolled in that program.

(c) School board members or students eligible to participate under RCW 28A.400.350 may participate in PEBB insurance coverage as long as they remain eligible under that section.

(6) **Individuals and entities not eligible as employees include:**

(a) Adult family home providers as defined in RCW 70.128.010;

(b) Unpaid volunteers;

(c) Patients of state hospitals;

(d) Inmates in work programs offered by the Washington state department of corrections as described in RCW 72.09.100 or an equivalent program administered by a local government;

(e) Employees of the Washington state convention and trade center as provided in RCW 41.05.110;

(f) Students of institutions of higher education as determined by their institutions; and

(g) Any others not expressly defined as an employee.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, and PEBB policy resolutions. WSR 19-17-073 (Admin #2019-01), § 182-12-111, filed 8/20/19, effective 1/1/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, 2016 c 67, and PEBB policy resolutions. WSR 16-20-080, § 182-12-111, filed 10/4/16, effective 1/1/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160, 2015 c 116, and PEBB policy resolutions. WSR 15-22-099 (PEBB Admin # 2015-01 Rev 1), § 182-12-111, filed 11/4/15, effective 1/1/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4. WSR 14-20-058 (PEBB Admin 2014-02), § 182-12-111, filed 9/25/14, effective 1/1/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160 and 2012 2nd sp.s. c 3. WSR 13-22-019 (Admin.

2013-01), § 182-12-111, filed 10/28/13, effective 1/1/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160. WSR 12-20-022 (Order 2012-01), § 182-12-111, filed 9/25/12, effective 11/1/12; WSR 10-20-147 (Order 10-02), § 182-12-111, filed 10/6/10, effective 1/1/11; WSR 09-23-102 (Order 09-02), § 182-12-111, filed 11/17/09, effective 1/1/10; WSR 08-20-128 (Order 08-03), § 182-12-111, filed 10/1/08, effective 1/1/09; WSR 07-20-129 (Order 07-01), § 182-12-111, filed 10/3/07, effective 11/3/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160 and 41.05.165. WSR 04-18-039, § 182-12-111, filed 8/26/04, effective 1/1/05; WSR 03-17-031 (Order 02-07), § 182-12-111, filed 8/14/03, effective 9/14/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160. WSR 02-18-087 (Order 02-02), § 182-12-111, filed 9/3/02, effective 10/4/02; WSR 99-19-028 (Order 99-04), § 182-12-111, filed 9/8/99, effective 10/9/99; WSR 97-21-127, § 182-12-111, filed 10/21/97, effective 11/21/97. Statutory Authority: Chapter 41.05 RCW. WSR 96-08-043, § 182-12-111, filed 3/29/96, effective 4/29/96. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.04.205, 41.05.065, 41.05.011, 41.05.080 and chapter 41.05 RCW. WSR 92-03-040, § 182-12-111, filed 1/10/92, effective 1/10/92. Statutory Authority: Chapter 41.05 RCW. WSR 78-02-015 (Order 2-78), § 182-12-111, filed 1/10/78.]