



Got a health savings account?
Get your money's worth.

3 Tips to boost your HSA saving strategy

If you elected MIIP's new high-deductible health plan (HDHP Value) for health insurance coverage, you probably know you are eligible for an HSA, or health savings account.

However, you may not know that there is so much more you can do with an HSA beyond paying for the occasional office visit: You can actually use it to grow your long-term savings. Read on to learn more about the unique features of an HSA and to learn tips on building a saving strategy that's right for you.

1. Understand how your account grows with tax advantages and contributions.

HSAs have several built-in features that help you save and grow your money. For example, HSAs are triple-tax-advantaged accounts. They allow you to:

- Set aside pre-tax or tax-deductible dollars
- Grow interest tax-free
- Use the money tax-free to pay for medical costs

Also, your HSA belongs to you. The funds in your account are yours to keep, even if you change jobs or retire.

2. Consider your current needs and future goals.

There are three main ways you can use your HSA dollars. Thinking about your current and future health care needs, as well as your long-term savings goals, can help you decide how much to set aside and how best to allot the funds in your account. You can:

- **Pay for health care now.** Do you or your covered family members make frequent office or urgent care visits? (Keep small children in mind, especially ones who get frequent bumps, bruises or infections.) Do you take a maintenance medication? If so, it's good to have money in your account to pay for regular or recurring expenses — and the occasional surprise.
- **Save for health care later.** Do you or a family member have a planned procedure coming up? You can use myWellmark® —

your secure member portal — to find cost estimates for your treatment. Then you can set aside your own funds, and use your HSA's triple-tax savings features, to grow your account so you are prepared to cover the costs. You can register and log in to myWellmark at [myWellmark.com](https://mywellmark.com).

- **Invest and grow your money for the future.** Just like a traditional savings account, your HSA earns interest. Once your account meets a certain threshold, you may be able to invest in mutual funds to maximize your HSA earning potential.

3. Learn to support your retirement with long-term investment options.

Because interest on investments grows tax-free, HSAs are commonly used to boost retirement savings. You can contribute to your HSA until age 65, at which point you can use the money (tax free!) for qualified medical expenses. Withdrawals for other purposes after age 65 are subject to ordinary income tax only.

Want to know more?

You've got lots of resources available to you! To open your HSA and begin making contributions through payroll, contact your HR/benefits administrator. To confirm your HSA contribution eligibility, contact a tax advisor.