

ADOPTION/FOSTER CARE LEAVE

Frequently Asked Questions

When you are growing your family through adoption or foster care, your Heritage employer provides you with up to four weeks of paid time off to bond with your child(ren).

Do I qualify for the adoption/foster care benefit?

If you are a regular, full-time, benefits-eligible employee scheduled to work 30+ hours per week, you are eligible for the adoption or foster care benefit the first of the month following your date of hire.

If both you and your spouse/partner are Heritage employees, you are both eligible for this benefit.

Note: Union employees please contact your HR team or reference your collective bargaining agreement regarding eligibility.

When am I eligible to take this leave?

If approved, the leave must be taken within the first 12 months after adoption or foster placement. For foster parents, the approved leave will be the shorter of 4 weeks or the time the foster child resides with the foster parent.

A total of up to four weeks in any 52-week rolling period can be taken for either Bonding (newborn, adoption, or foster) or Family Leave or some combination of the two leave types.

Note: Eligible unpaid time off under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) will run concurrently with paid time-off benefits under this benefit policy.

When do I need to notify Employee Hub of my adoption/foster care leave of absence?

Please notify Employee Hub as soon as possible so they and your manager can plan for your absence.

What information do I need to provide regarding my leave of absence?

The following documentation is required to be considered for leave approval:

- Parental & Family Leave Request Form
- For adoption, provide one of these documents:
 - Court order or filed petition; **OR**
 - Official documentation from adoption agency; **OR**
 - Consent to Adoption document; **OR**
 - Other legal documentation demonstrating adoption
- For foster placement, provide:
 - Proof of foster parent license **AND**
 - Placement documentation from Dept of Child Services

What is my adoption benefit and how is it paid?

Your Heritage employer provides you with a paid 4-week leave of absence to care and bond with your child(ren). You will receive 100% of your current weekly base earnings (excluding overtime and shift differential) from the date of placement through week 4 of your approved leave.



The benefit is paid through payroll. Your normal taxes and benefits deductions, including 401(k) contributions and loans, apply to your payment. You will receive your payment using the same method as your regular paycheck.

What is my foster care benefit and how is it paid?

Your Heritage employer provides you with up to a 4-week leave of absence to care and bond with your child(ren). You will receive 100% of your current weekly base earnings (excluding overtime and shift differential) from the date of placement through the lesser of week 4 or the time the foster child resides with you.

The benefit is paid through payroll. Your normal taxes and benefits deductions, including 401(k) contributions and loans, apply to your payment. You will receive your payment using the same method as your regular paycheck.

Note: This benefit has a lifetime maximum of 12 weeks of paid time off.

May I take the time off intermittently?

Any intermittent bonding leave must be taken in minimum of 2-week increments and must be fully used within 12 months of adoption or foster placement.

Once my 4-week benefit ends, I plan to take additional time off. Will I get paid?

With approval, you may use any accrued and unused paid time off (PTO) or vacation benefits available to you to bridge the gap in pay until you return to work. You can also apply for an *unpaid* leave of absence under the *Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)*. Contact Employee Hub for more information.

Will my current benefit elections remain active while I'm on leave?

Yes, your benefits are active while you are on leave of absence. Your benefits deductions, including 401(k), will continue to be deducted from your pay.

I would like to add my adoptive child(ren) to my health plan. What do I do?

The legal adoption of your child(ren) is a qualifying life event which allows you to make changes to your current benefit elections during the calendar year (outside of the Open Enrollment period). **You have 31 days from the official court approved adoption date to initiate, change, and complete your benefit elections in Workday.**

Log in to Workday, click the *Personal* icon on the left sidebar menu and click **Benefits and Pay**. In the *Tasks and Reports* section at the top of the page, click the **Change Benefits** button to begin the process. You are required to provide the official court adoption documents, including the child(ren)'s birth certificates and Social Security Number(s). You will upload these documents during this online enrollment process.

For online assistance, click the *Personal* icon on the left sidebar menu, click **Help** and search for *Change Benefits – Qualifying Life Events* article. It provides step-by-step instructions on how to complete the benefits election process.

I would like to add my foster child(ren) to my health plan. What do I do?

If you are awarded legal custody/guardianship of the child(ren) by a court, this is a qualifying life event which allows you to make changes to your current benefit elections (outside of the Open Enrollment period). **You have 31 days from the official court approved legal custody/guardianship date to initiate, change, and complete your benefit elections in Workday.**

Log in to Workday, click the *Personal* icon on the left sidebar menu and click **Benefits and Pay**. In the *Tasks and Reports* section at the top of the page, click the **Change Benefits** button to begin the process. You are required to provide the Medical Support Order, including the child(ren)'s birth certificates and Social Security Number(s). You will upload these documents during this online enrollment process.

For online assistance, click the *Personal* icon on the left sidebar menu, click **Help** and search for *Change Benefits – Qualifying Life Events* article. It provides step-by-step instructions on how to complete the benefits election process.



BENEFITS + WELLNESS

Questions? If you need more help or have questions, you may always contact Employee Hub for further assistance via [email](#) or call 1-800-303-0408 (Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm EST).



BENEFITS + WELLNESS