

Category: 300

Number: 353

Subject: **WELLNESS ACTIVITY REIMBURSEMENT**

1. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures to reimburse eligible employees and retirees for participation in certain wellness activities and in accordance with the specific provisions enumerated herein.
2. **AUTHORITY:** The Saginaw County Board of Commissioners.
3. **APPLICATION:** This policy shall apply to all eligible non-union employees who are currently eligible to receive health insurance benefits from Saginaw County and retirees under the age of 65 years old who participate in programs or activities that further personal wellness.
4. **RESPONSIBILITY:** The Controller/CAO shall be responsible for the implementation and administration of this policy.
5. **DEFINITIONS:**
 - 5.1 Participation or membership/subscription in groups such as weight watchers, fitness facilities/gym's, live and/or on demand classes such as Peloton/Mirror, mental health mobile applications such as Headspace/Moodfit, yoga/meditation studios, or entry fees for wellness activities such as organized walking/running events. Sporting leagues for entertainment such as bowling, golf or softball leagues etc. are not included. The Controller's office shall have final say on what constitutes an eligible program, facility, or activity.
 - 5.2 **Eligible Employees.** Employees or retirees under the age of 65 years old who receive or are eligible to receive health insurance benefits from Saginaw County, as defined in Policy #343. This policy does not include employees' families and/or dependents.
6. **POLICY:**
 - 6.1 It is the policy of Saginaw County to encourage its employees to live as healthy a lifestyle as possible. To support employees to that end, the County has joined with certain local wellness organizations to offer discounted rates to employees for participation in those programs. To further encourage a wider number of employees and retirees to participate in wellness activities, the County will reimburse each eligible non-union only employee or retiree under the age of 65 up to \$200.00 for the cost of participation or membership in such activities. Employees covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) will receive up to \$200 per calendar year for the cost of participation or membership in such activities unless the applicable CBA states otherwise. Proper documentation and verification must be provided as outlined in 7.1.

6.2 Eligibility and Restrictions. Programs, facilities, or activities must contribute to the employee's or retiree's mental and/or physical wellness or self-improvement, as solely determined by the Controller's Office. The following rules shall specifically apply:

6.2.1 Employee or retiree must be enrolled in a program, activity, mental health application, belong to a fitness facility, or be registered in an organized wellness event on or before December 1 of each year in order to be eligible for reimbursement.

6.2.2 An employee or retiree shall not be reimbursed for any amount over \$200.00 in one calendar year. If an employee's or retiree's actual costs are less than \$200.00, the employee or retiree will be reimbursed for the lesser amount.

6.2.3 The cost of participation and fitness equipment used in a program, activity, or facility may be reimbursed. Manuals, food, supplements, or other costs are not eligible for reimbursement.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES:

7.1 The employee or retiree must apply to the Controller's Office for reimbursement of fees on or before December 15 of each year using the appropriate County form and attaching proper documentation and verification. If December 15 falls on a weekend all paperwork must be received by the Controller's office by 5PM on the business day prior; paperwork received via interoffice mail after December 15 will not be accepted. The Controller's Office shall approve or deny the employee's or retiree's application requesting reimbursement for participation in a specific program, facility, or activity and certify that the employee or retiree meets the eligibility criteria. The Controller's Office shall decide what constitutes an eligible program, facility, or activity.

7.1.1 Proper documentation includes an original confirmation of payment (i.e. an emailed proof of purchase with detailed information), signed letter from the facility on its letterhead containing detailed membership information, or an original, itemized receipt from the program or facility for the period in which reimbursement is sought. The name of the eligible employee or retiree must be printed on the documentation and include the date payments were made and the cost of fees to belong to or attend wellness activities. If the eligible employee or retiree has a family membership, each member who is covered must be listed; particularly the name of the eligible employee. Bank statements, undetailed receipts, and altered documents are not deemed proper documentation. Submitting documentation of this kind will result in a denial. The Controller's Office reserves the right to contact the programs, facilities and activities for which employees belong to confirm membership and status.

Examples of unacceptable documentation include, but are not limited to, the following: documentation containing whiteout or censored information; bank statements; billing statements, agreements; contracts; invoices; handwritten notes; receipts/letters that do not contain (1) itemized details, (2) the name of the person the membership will cover or who will use the services, (3) purchase dates, or (4) the amount of money paid; etc.

8. RETIREE ELIGIBILITY:

8.1 Retirees who are 65 years of age and older or are Medicare eligible are not eligible for Wellness Activity Reimbursement.

8.2 Any retiree who turns 65 or becomes Medicare eligible during the reimbursement year will be reimbursed for Wellness Activity, on a 1/12 prorated basis, from the start of the reimbursement year to the first day of the month they are ineligible to receive Wellness Activity Reimbursement.

9. CONTROLLER/CAO LEGAL COUNSEL REVIEW: The Controller/CAO has determined that this policy as submitted to the Board of Commissioners contains the necessary substance in order to carry out the purpose of the policy. County Civil Counsel has determined that this policy as submitted contains content that appears to be legal activities of the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners.

Approved as to Substance:
Saginaw County Controller/CAO

Approved as to Legal Content:
Saginaw County Civil Counsel

ADOPTED: December 12, 2006

AMENDED: September 22, 2009; December 19, 2017; November 22, 2022