

**§ 8962. Administrative functions**

(a) The Office shall prescribe regulations to carry out this chapter. The regulations may exclude an employee on the basis of the nature and type of employment or conditions pertaining to it.

(b) The Office shall, as appropriate, provide for coordinated enrollment, promotion, and education efforts as appropriate in consultation with each qualified company. The information under this subsection shall include information relating to the dental benefits available under chapter 89, including the advantages and disadvantages of obtaining additional coverage under this chapter.

(Added Pub. L. 108-496, § 2, Dec. 23, 2004, 118 Stat. 4006.)

**CHAPTER 89B—ENHANCED VISION BENEFITS**

Sec.	
8981.	Definitions.
8982.	Availability of vision benefits.
8983.	Contracting authority.
8984.	Benefits.
8985.	Information to individuals eligible to enroll.
8986.	Election of coverage.
8987.	Coverage of restored survivor or disability annuitants.
8988.	Premiums.
8989.	Preemption.
8990.	Studies, reports, and audits.
8991.	Jurisdiction of courts.
8992.	Administrative functions.

**§ 8981. Definitions**

In this chapter:

(1) The term “employee” means an employee defined under section 8901(1) and an employee of the District of Columbia courts.

(2) The terms “annuitant”, “member of family”, and “dependent” have the meanings as such terms are defined under paragraphs (3), (5), and (9), respectively, of section 8901.

(3) The term “eligible individual” refers to an individual described in paragraph (1) or (2), without regard to whether the individual is enrolled in a health benefits plan under chapter 89.

(4) The term “Office” means the Office of Personnel Management.

(5) The term “qualified company” means a company (or consortium of companies or an employee organization defined under section 8901(8)) that offers indemnity, preferred provider organization, health maintenance organization, or discount vision programs and if required is licensed to issue applicable coverage in any number of States, taking any subsidiaries of such a company into account (and, in the case of a consortium, considering the member companies and any subsidiaries thereof, collectively).

(6) The term “employee organization” means an association or other organization of employees which is national in scope, or in which membership is open to all employees of a Government agency who are eligible to enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 89.

(7) The term “State” includes the District of Columbia.

(Added Pub. L. 108-496, § 3, Dec. 23, 2004, 118 Stat. 4006; amended Pub. L. 109-356, title I, § 117(a)(2), Oct. 16, 2006, 120 Stat. 2027.)

**AMENDMENTS**

2006—Par. (1). Pub. L. 109-356, which directed insertion of “and an employee of the District of Columbia courts” at end of par. (1), was executed by making the insertion before the period, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Chapter effective Dec. 23, 2004, and applicable to contracts that take effect with respect to the calendar year 2006, see section 7 of Pub. L. 108-496, set out as a note under section 8951 of this title.

**§ 8982. Availability of vision benefits**

(a) The Office shall establish and administer a program through which an eligible individual may obtain vision coverage to supplement coverage available through chapter 89.

(b) The Office shall determine, in the exercise of its reasonable discretion, the financial requirements for qualified companies to participate in the program.

(c) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the availability of vision benefits provided by health benefits plans under chapter 89.

(Added Pub. L. 108-496, § 3, Dec. 23, 2004, 118 Stat. 4007.)

**§ 8983. Contracting authority**

(a)(1) The Office shall contract with a reasonable number of qualified companies for a policy or policies of benefits described under section 8984 without regard to section 6101(b) to (d) of title 41 or any other statute requiring competitive bidding. An employee organization may contract with a qualified company for the purpose of participating with that qualified company in any contract between the Office and that qualified company.

(2) The Office shall ensure that each resulting contract is awarded on the basis of contractor qualifications, price, and reasonable competition.

(b) Each contract under this section shall contain—

(1) the requirements under section 8902(d), (f), and (i) made applicable to contracts under this section by regulations prescribed by the Office;

(2) the terms of the enrollment period; and

(3) such other terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed to by the Office and the qualified company involved, consistent with the requirements of this chapter and regulations prescribed by the Office.

(c) Nothing in this chapter shall, in the case of an individual electing vision supplemental benefit coverage under this chapter after the expiration of such individual’s first opportunity to enroll, preclude the application of waiting periods more stringent than those that would have applied if that opportunity had not yet expired.

(d)(1) Each contract under this chapter shall require the qualified company to agree—

(A) to provide payments or benefits to an eligible individual if such individual is entitled thereto under the terms of the contract; and