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### § 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; Pub. L. 114–328, div. A, title VII, § 715(a)(2), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2221.)

#### AMENDMENT OF SECTION

*Pub. L. 114–328, div. A, title VII, § 715(a)(2), (c), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2221, 2223, provided that, applicable with respect to the first contract year for chapter 89A or 89B of this title, as applicable, that begins on or after Jan. 1, 2018, this section is amended:*

*(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “paragraph (1) or (2)” and inserting “paragraph (1), (2), or (8)”;* and

*(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

*“(8)(A) The term ‘covered TRICARE-eligible individual’—*

*“(i) means an individual entitled to medical care under chapter 55 of title 10, pursuant to section 1076d, 1076e, 1079(a), 1086(c), or 1086(d) of such title, who the Secretary of Defense determines in accordance with an agreement entered into under subparagraph (B) should be an eligible individual for purposes of this chapter; and*

*“(ii) does not include an individual covered under section 1110b of title 10.*

*“(B) The Secretary of Defense shall enter into an agreement with the Director of the Office relating to classes of individuals described in subparagraph (A)(i) who should be eligible individuals for purposes of this chapter.”*

*See 2016 Amendment notes below.*

#### AMENDMENTS

2016—Par. (3). Pub. L. 114–328, § 715(a)(2)(A), substituted “paragraph (1), (2), or (8)” for “paragraph (1) or (2)”.

Par. (8). Pub. L. 114–328, § 715(a)(2)(B), added par. (8). 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 OF 2016 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 114–328 applicable with respect to the first contract year for chapter 89A or 89B of this title, as applicable, that begins on or after Jan. 1, 2018, see section 715(c) of Pub. L. 114–328, set out as a note under section 8951 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 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.)

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 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.

### § 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