



# State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

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Division of Purchasing

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## **FAQ - BROOME COUNTY PURCHASING ALLIANCE MAPD**

### **Does the Broome County Purchasing Alliance comply with all New York State Shared Service Guidelines?**

The BCPA will qualify for the Shared Services Matching Grant as we have coordinated directly with the New York Shared Services Division to comply with all requirements.

### **Will each governmental entity maintain their current MAPD Program?**

Each entity maintains their respective MAPD program, individual group number and billing. Each entity will apply for and receive matching funds directly to their entity.

### **What portion of the project matching funds will Broome County qualify for?**

Broome County will only receive matching funds for the county's retiree population and does not share or receive matching funds for any other entities' retiree population.

### **What does Broome County's MAPD Program look like?**

Broome County currently has a Medicare Advantage program combined with a self-funded EGWP plan for pharmacy. Broome's current per retiree per month combined costs after rebates and subsidies is \$247. The MA monthly premium is \$51 (currently in second year of our two-year rate guarantee) and \$196 in net pharmacy costs.

### **Does Broome County offer multiple benefit structures?**

Broome County currently offers five benefit structures for retiree pharmacy coverage. The majority or about 90% of our retirees are covered under the benefit summary.

### **Will our current plan design be changed?**

Your current Medicare retiree plan and carrier may change depending on your choice of program and the successful carrier(s) chosen by the plan selection committee. There are many different plan designs.

### **What savings does the project have for Broome and other entities?**

The joint alliance was based on the Onondaga County Purchasing Alliance with the City of Syracuse and Syracuse City School District. Onondaga County chose a comprehensive MAPD program with \$128 per member per month premium with multiple-year rate guarantee. That would represent \$119 per-member-per-month savings to Broome County should we achieve modest participation; or, approximately \$4.6 million in savings over two years with \$ 2.3 million in savings that would be eligible for the Shared Services Matching Grant. Retirees that contribute to the program will also see a reduction in costs.

### **Will the opportunity to decide not to participate impact the savings for other entities?**

A small amount of savings will be lost, due to participation uncertainty, by allowing entities to opt out of the program. This is the first time this type of purchasing initiative has been done in Broome County. Our intent was to offer a risk-free, commitment-free opportunity with no down side to our local governments.

### **What other areas of uncertainty are there at this point in time?**

Because we are pioneering this project, there are some unknowns such as how many will participate in the BCPA RFP. Once BCPA has a more accurate retiree count, the alliance will then decide how and when to set up a local customer services support team for our groups and retirees especially during the transition.

We have reviewed many MAPD plans locally and have seen premium costs range from \$230 to \$1,350 monthly. Many retirees have already dealt with moving to a new carrier and some form of formulary management. The top performing PBM's formulary management systems are constantly evolving, typically updated or modified quarterly, especially now with hundreds of new specialty drugs in the pipeline currently awaiting FDA approvals. Retirees are the highest pharmacy utilizers and there will be some form of standard formulary management in the

form of step therapies, safety edits and physician outreach programs etc. that will help ensure the safety and efficiency for all.

**What type of customer service can be expected by the participants?**

We will be requesting a dedicated customer service team to be assigned to the BCPA as a condition of the RFP. Medicare insurance carriers rely heavily on their Star Ratings and quality of customer service as their federal subsidy level is dependent on it.

**Does the size of a municipality matter for participation?**

BCPA offers municipalities and school districts the opportunity to participate in this RFP regardless of size, utilizing the pooled purchasing power of the alliance to receive lower premiums, multi-year rate guarantees, custom designed contracts and eligibility for Shared Services matching funds.

**Will there be provider disruption?**

The RFP will require either a National Network or an open network where providers who accept Medicare are in-network. Thus, expanding any existing network and lowering potential out of network exposure as compared to the entity's current plan.