

BENEFITS BULLETIN

March 1, 2013

BULLETIN NO: 13-1

SUBJECT: New SAMBA Life Insurance; Mar 1 – Apr 30 Enrollment Period

TO: All Employees

FROM: Kathy Shearman, Benefits Officer

The Department of the Interior has announced a partnership that enables Interior employees to enroll in SAMBA's Employee Benevolent Fund (EBF). A special enrollment period begins **03/01/2013** and runs through **04/30/2013**. The EBF offers two plan options: 1) a \$17,500 death benefit (\$26 annual premium) and 2) a \$35,000 death benefit (\$52 annual premium). Employees pay the full share of the premium.

Enrollment: Must be submitted through SAMBA's secure website at <https://www.sambaplans.com/benevolent/frmselectagency.aspx>. For enrollment assistance and any questions about EBF coverage, please contact a SAMBA representative at **1-800-638-6589** (TDD 301-984-1455).

EBF Overview: SAMBA's EBF was created to provide immediate financial support to family members of Federal employees following the employee's death. EBF payments are made to beneficiaries within 48 hours of being notified of a death. The EBF provides a financial cushion that helps beneficiaries cover expenses that may occur in the days and weeks following a death, while awaiting payments from other survivor benefit programs.

The EBF is insured and underwritten by ReliaStar/ING. Originally offered only to employees of law enforcement, homeland security, and intelligence community agencies, SAMBA broadened the EBF eligibility rules recently to include employees of certain other Federal agencies. Over 95,000 Federal employees are currently enrolled in the EBF.

All full and part-time permanent employees of the Department of the Interior are eligible to enroll. No proof of medical insurability is required. Enrollees will not be asked questions about their health.

The EBF plan year runs 09/01 through 08/31 of the following year. Enrollments will take effect on the first day of the month after they are submitted. SAMBA will prorate premiums for the current plan year. Premiums may be paid via a debit/credit card or direct debit from a bank account.

Beneficiary information will be captured as part of the enrollment process. Enrollees may update this information through SAMBA's website at anytime.

EBF enrollments **do not** automatically carry over from year to year. Enrollees will need to renew their coverage at the beginning of each plan year. Subsequent open enrollment periods for the EBF may be held at the Commission on a semi-annual basis.

Conversion Privilege: EBF coverage does not extend into retirement. Coverage will also terminate for Interior employees who resign or transfer to another non-participating agency. Employees in these situations will be given the opportunity to convert their EBF policy to an individual ReliaStar/ING life insurance policy.

Go to the SAMBA website at <https://www.sambaplans.com/benevolent/frmselectagency.aspx> for additional information.

Questions? Go to the AskHRO page at <http://www.usgs.gov/humancapital/hr/askhro.html> and click on the “Benefits & Retirement Servicing Assignments” pdf document link. A complete listing by organization is provided with name, phone, email and mailing address of your assigned Benefits Specialist.

All current & previous Benefits Bulletins are available on the Pay & Benefits webpage at <http://www.usgs.gov/humancapital/pb/benefitsbulletin.html>.