

# SUFFOLK COUNTY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BENEFIT FUND

## TRUSTEES

DANIEL C. LEVLER  
CHAIRPERSON

MICHELE A. O'CONNELL  
CHRISTINA A. MAHER  
STANLEY J. HUMIN III  
THOMAS P. MORAN

30 ORVILLE DRIVE  
SUITE D

BOHEMIA, NY 11716-2513



SCOTT MIRABELLA, ADMINISTRATOR

PHONE (631) 319-4099

FAX (631) 218-7970

[www.scmebf.org](http://www.scmebf.org)

## COUNTY OBSERVER

JENNIFER K. MCNAMARA, ESQ.  
DIRECTOR OF LABOR RELATIONS

## UNION OBSERVER

LOUIS R. VISCUSI, PRESIDENT  
SCCOA

A message from Chairman Levler on the current status of your Fund:

The AME Contract ratified in 2019 made some exciting changes at your Suffolk County Municipal Employees Benefit Fund. The Fund went from a joint Labor/Management Board of Trustees, to a unilaterally Union Trusteed Fund. Along with this came an increase in contributions from Suffolk County, the first increase in contributions since 2012. As a result of both these actions, the Union Trustees diligently reviewed the finances and benefits structure of the Fund in an effort to not only deliver the current benefits, but to enhance them as well.

We are proud to share what the Union Board of Trustees unanimously adopted as Fund benefit improvements and additions:

### Dental Benefits

We have returned to Healthplex (1-866-935-9047) as our dental plan provider and while we worked hard to ensure that no-cost basic retirees saw no reduction in their current benefits, we were able to greatly enhance dental benefits for retirees in one of our low contribution SPERP\* plans. This will allow the Fund to increase the size of our dental provider network greatly, with over 3000 new dentists added in Suffolk and Nassau Counties alone. It also includes one of our most requested items in dental; implants. Starting January 1, 2021 implants will be available at no cost to the member or dependents and will allow for up to 2 implants a year with no lifetime maximum on implant procedures. We have attached an overview sheet on dental enhancement and will provide you a **complete** list of all changes before 2021. Remember, however, under the No Cost Basic plan, your dental benefits are limited to \$500 per person, up to a \$750 per year family maximum.

**At this time, the Fund wants to announce a one-time open enrollment option for No Cost Basic Plan Retirees to move from the “Basic” No-Cost Retiree Plan and enroll into the New Platinum Dental Program Available Under the Premium Plus Plans.**

The Fund is giving the “no-cost basic” retiree plan members the option to enroll in its new Platinum Dental Program which will be offered to you under the Premium Plus Plans. For years, you have asked for a superior dental plan, and on January 1, 2021, the Fund is launching the new dental Platinum Dental Program in partnership with Healthplex. If you are interested in opting into this program, please act swiftly and contact the Fund at (631) 319-

4099 to switch from the “basic” no-cost retiree plan to the new and enhanced Premium Plus Plan. The Fund will send you the necessary forms which will include the cost for upgrading to the new plan.

**As part of this Benefit enhancement there have been upgrades to the Fund’s Optical Benefit**

The Fund’s Optical Benefits program has been increased to cover up to \$100 annually for members or eligible, enrolled dependents receiving an eye exam and purchasing eyeglasses or contact lenses. Participating providers are now offering the following enhancements for members using our Vision Voucher:

- Examination only (with Tonometry) \$20 - increase to \$30
- Any frame in the store with a retail value of up to \$140 - increase to \$155
- Anti-Reflective Coating \$30 - reduce copay to \$25
- Ultra-Thin Hi Index Lenses \$60- reduce copay to \$55
- Transition Bifocal Lenses \$60 - reduce copay to \$50
- Progressive Sun-Sensitive Lenses \$110 - reduce copay to \$80

# S.C.M. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FUND



December 2020

## ATTENTION ACT QUICKLY FOR BETTER DENTAL BENEFITS!

As you know, effective January 1, 2021, the Suffolk County Municipal Employees Benefit Fund was able to increase the Actives' and Enhanced Plan Retiree's dental benefits through Healthplex with no reduction to no cost basic retiree plan.

At this time, the Fund wants to announce a one-time open enrollment option for "No Cost" Basic Retiree Plan members to move from the "No-Cost" Basic Retiree Plan and enroll into the New Platinum Dental Program available under the Premium and Premium Plus Plans.

At this time the Fund is giving the "No-Cost" Basic Retiree Plan members the option to enroll in its new Platinum Dental Program which will be offered to you under the Premium and Premium Plus Plans. For years, you have asked for a better dental plan, and on January 1, 2021, the Fund is launching the new dental Platinum Dental Program in partnership with Healthplex. If you are interested in opting into this program, please act swiftly and contact the Fund at (631) 319-4099 to switch from the "No-Cost" Basic Retiree Plan to the new and enhanced Premium and Premium Plus Plans. The Fund will send you the necessary forms which will include the cost for upgrading to the new plan.

### How the Platinum Dental Plan works for you?

Enhancement	Definition
Annual Maximum	Unlimited
Nationwide Network	The Healthplex National Network has over 570,000 dentists across the country making it so much easier to find care in-network and save money!
Orthodontic Maximum	\$2,000 per adult/child.
Implant Benefit	No more lifetime maximum on implant services! Effective 1/1/2021, covered members and dependents will be allowed two implants per calendar year.
Dependent Coverage	Covered to age 26. Student status not required.
Alternate Benefits	As deemed medically necessary, this plan will also allow the following: porcelain crowns on anterior & posterior teeth, composite (white) fillings on posterior teeth, and fixed bridges in lieu of removable partials.
Mobile App	Coming Soon!

*Continued reverse side*

**Take a look at the number of providers gained in the Nassau and Suffolk areas! And, coverage is available in everystate!**

Specialty	# of New Providers	Specialty	# of New Providers
General Dentist	3,950	Orthodontics	389
Oral Surgery	324	Periodontics	302
Endodontics	208	Pedodontics	61

Enclosed with this letter you will find a **National Plus Panel PPO Dentist Search** flyer to assist you in finding an in-network dentists in your area.

**In December, you will be receiving your new dental ID cards, so please be on the lookout for them. Your Benefit Fund ID number will stay the same. As always you do not need to have your card to receive services.**

This dental plan allows you to choose any dentist you wish; please be advised that non-participating dentists may charge over the out-of-network scheduled reimbursement allowance. Before seeking treatment, verify if your provider is in-network to reduce your out of pocket expenses. Once you receive your ID card, feel free to contact Healthplex's dedicated customer service department, available Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., by calling 1-866-935-9047. with any plan benefit questions that you may have regarding your new dental plan

If it is your intent to opt into this new and enhanced program, please contact the Fund BEFORE December 30th at (631) 319-4099.

Healthplex is honored to work with the Fund's members and we are confident in the choice we have made in working with Healthplex to give you a superior dental plan.

Sincerely,



Daniel C Levler, Chairman,  
Suffolk County Municipal Employees Benefit Fund

# NATIONAL PLUS PANEL PPO DENTIST SEARCH



info@healthplex.com

800 468 0600

healthplex.com

## Go Green!

Get the most accurate information and reduce paper consumption at the same time by accessing dentist information online.

## Network Benefits

The National Plus PPO panel includes general dentists and specialists. Our network dentists have agreed to accept fees that are 50-70% less than their usual fees, so you will almost always save money when you see a participating provider.

## Advantages:

- Over 20,000 access points in New York/New Jersey
- 500,000 nationwide access points

Low negotiated fees saving you money!

## Your Dental Plan

Find out more about your dental plan by checking your summary plan description and/or by logging in to our website at [healthplex.com](http://healthplex.com). If you need assistance registering or logging in to our website, please contact **Web Support** at **888 468 5171** or [websupport@healthplex.com](mailto:websupport@healthplex.com).

## Website Log in

Minimize your time on the phone. Visit our website to easily access the most current dental panel, your dental coverage, and other important and interesting information about your oral health.

In order to locate participating providers in the National Plus Panel, please follow the instructions listed below:

1. Go to **healthplex.com**
2. Click on “**Our Dentists**” to view the most current listing of participating providers available to you.
3. Under the “**Prospective Members**” section in the middle of the page:
  - Click on “**PPO/EPO Panels**”
  - Select “**National Plus**”
  - Choose “**General Practice**” or “**Specialty**”
  - Enter either your Zip Code or City and State

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact **Customer Service** at **800 468 0600**

Administered by



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