

2018—Par. (8). Pub. L. 115-232, § 713(a), which substituted “1076a or 1076c” for “1076c”, was repealed by Pub. L. 116-283, § 711(c).

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

Par. (8). Pub. L. 114-328, § 715(a)(1)(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.

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VII, § 713(c), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1812, which provided that the amendments made by this section (amending this section and section 1076a of Title 10, Armed Forces) applied with respect to the first contract year for chapter 89A of title 5, United States Code, that began on or after January 1, 2022, was repealed by Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title VII, § 711(c), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3691.

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2016 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title VII, § 715(c), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2223, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section, sections 8958, 8981, and 8988 of this title and section 1076c of Title 10, Armed Forces] shall apply with respect to the first contract year for chapter 89A or 89B of title 5, United States Code, as applicable, that begins on or after January 1, 2018.”

##### EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 108-496, § 7, Dec. 23, 2004, 118 Stat. 4011, provided that: “The amendments made by this Act [enacting this chapter and chapter 89B of this title, amending section 1005 of Title 39, Postal Service, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 101 of this title] shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 23, 2004] and shall apply to contracts that take effect with respect to the calendar year 2006.”

#### § 8952. Availability of dental benefits

(a) The Office shall establish and administer a program through which an eligible individual may obtain dental 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 dental benefits provided by health benefits plans under chapter 89.

(Added Pub. L. 108-496, § 2, Dec. 23, 2004, 118 Stat. 4002.)

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### 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.

#### § 8953. 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 8954 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 dental 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

(B) with respect to disputes regarding claims for payments or benefits under the terms of the contract—

(i) to establish internal procedures designed to expeditiously resolve such disputes; and

(ii) to establish, for disputes not resolved through procedures under clause (i), procedures for 1 or more alternative means of dispute resolution involving independent third-party review under appropriate circumstances by entities mutually acceptable to the Office and the qualified company.

(2) A determination by a qualified company as to whether or not a particular individual is eligible to obtain coverage under this chapter shall be subject to review only to the extent and in the manner provided in the applicable contract.

(3) For purposes of applying the Contract Disputes Act of 1978<sup>1</sup> to disputes arising under this chapter between a qualified company and the Office—

(A) the agency board having jurisdiction to decide an appeal relative to such a dispute shall be such board of contract appeals as the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall specify in writing (after appropriate arrangements, as described in section 8(c)<sup>1</sup> of such Act); and

(B) the district courts of the United States shall have original jurisdiction, concurrent with the United States Court of Federal Claims, of any action described in section 10(a)(1)<sup>1</sup> of such Act relative to such a dispute.

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.