

PEF Actions to Improve the Dental Benefit and to Address EmblemHealth Deficiencies

- PEF achieved an agreement requiring the State to put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for its dental insurance contract and to work with PEF and other unions in issuing the RFP.
Note: The State has not put the dental contract out to bid in over two decades.
- PEF will be meeting with the State and the Civil Service Department and other unions regarding the RFP later this month. We will be providing detailed suggestions about how to assure a better network and benefit through the RFP.
- PEF put out its own RFP to explore the feasibility of bringing the dental benefit in-house. Six national carriers enthusiastically responded to the RFP and seem very eager for the business.
- PEF acquired valuable information from its RFP. PEF confirmed that the administrative costs that the State pays to EmblemHealth are inordinately high and that significant savings could be achieved by bringing the administrative fees in line with common industry practice.
- PEF has been a leader in getting other State unions involved and creating a coalition to work on the dental issue.
- PEF shared information with other unions and coordinated a multi-union letter to the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) requesting that an audit be conducted of the State dental contract with EmblemHealth.
- Through PEF's efforts, OSC is now conducting an audit of the State's contract with EmblemHealth. PEF participated in a meeting with OSC and shared information and concerns about the dental benefit provided by EmblemHealth.
- The PEF Contract Team understands that the dental benefit is a priority and is prepared to address this issue in our upcoming negotiations with the State.