

FEDERAL ETC UPDATES

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION GOES PAPERLESS



The Federal Election Commission (FEC) is an independent regulatory agency which administers and enforces federal law, covering financing, restriction, and public disclosure of funds raised and spent to influence presidential, vice presidential, and congressional campaigns.

In March, FEC completed a relocation of their entire agency, consisting of 350 employees, from Metro Center to NoMa (North of Massachusetts Avenue) in Washington, DC. In light of the move, FEC transitioned its commuter benefits program registration from a paper-based process, to an electronic system. Two-thirds (66%) of FEC employees are now actively using the commuter benefits program.

“With the adoption of the available technology provided by our inter-agency partners at the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), and support of FEC senior leadership, we implemented a lot of change here in a short period of time, which will have substantial long-lasting impact on both the environment and our overall operating budget”, said Derrick Allen, Director Office of Human Resources.

USDOT was impressed at the expeditious fashion in which FEC took their transit benefits program online from when they began. With the new program implementation, FEC saved more

than \$100,000 in overall costs between October 2017 and March 2018. “Our new process has created a faster turnaround time for transit benefit subsidy transactions, and has given our office the ability to track the use of fare media issues more efficiently and cost effectively; and the ease of use is noticeable”, said Fran Sanes, Human Resources Specialist.



At the heart of the success is communication, training, and assistance. FEC's Human Resources and Information Technology departments offered employees both group based, and individualized hands-on training. Partnering with the Administrative Services Division, FEC hosted multiple Commuter Expos with area transportation partners such as the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Commuter Connections program, Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro), Virginia Railway Express (VRE), District Department of Transportation (goDCgo), and more. Skype

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Continued from front

sessions were offered for employees unable to attend the various events in person.

The various training sessions and events allowed the Transit Subsidy Program team to share the benefits and structure of the program, as well as, allow employees to ask questions, and express any concerns. Additionally, FEC invited USDOT trainers to assist with the larger initial sessions. Finally, FEC made the Transit Subsidy training available through their online learning system, so that staff could login, either onsite or remotely, and conveniently complete the mandatory training.

“Our new employees are very impressed with the program, and receive support during their first week of employment, after which they are entered in the system and can quickly start

taking advantage of their Transit Subsidy benefits”, said Tiffany Carson Canady Smoot, Lead IT Trainer. “Being available to support existing staff and new employees, as well as, follow up when necessary, has made a huge difference. FEC staff seems to appreciate the quick turnaround time, and knowing they have our full support to meet their specific needs”, said Smoot.

FEC has realized faster turnaround times for transit benefits transfers onto newly registered cards and other transactions, and the ability to track the use of fare media issues more efficiently and effectively. In addition, unused funds are returned to the agency at the end of the month, to ensure compliance with the Office of Management and Budget’s fraud waste and abuse policy.