

Letter 3 with Response

**From:** Esther Ancel <[eancel@uwm.edu](mailto:eancel@uwm.edu)>

**Sent:** Friday, December 6, 2019 3:39 PM

**To:** ETF SMB Member Call Center <[ETFSMBMemberCallCenter@etf.wi.gov](mailto:ETFSMBMemberCallCenter@etf.wi.gov)>; Conlin, Bob - ETF <[Bob.Conlin@etf.wi.gov](mailto:Bob.Conlin@etf.wi.gov)>

**Cc:** Esther Ancel <[eancel@uwm.edu](mailto:eancel@uwm.edu)>

**Subject:** WEA Retiree Benefit - Silver Sneakers

To ETF:

Presently, retirees can choose IYC Medicare Plus managed by WEA as their Medicare Supplement. WEA offers Silver Sneakers which covers free fitness programs at selected gyms.

Recently, WPS, a previous provider of ETF's Medicare Supplement Plan, began offering Silver&Fit. For this area of Wisconsin, Silver&Fit provides a greater choice of fitness programs and facilities than does Silver Sneakers. Both programs offer many of the same gyms but only Silver&Fit offers the popular Wisconsin Athletic Club (WAC) with many locations and a "home fitness kit" for retirees who are not able to go to a gym.

Perhaps ETF would consider negotiating for the Silver&Fit benefit for retirees in the near future.

Sincerely,  
Esther Ancel

Teacher Retirement Board, Member  
SWIB, Trustee

**From:** [Gurley, Lisa - ETF](#)  
**To:** [Esther Ancel](#)  
**Cc:** [Stamm, Brian - ETF](#); [Larson, Arlene - ETF](#); [Conlin, Bob - ETF](#)  
**Subject:** RE: CC19-049: WEA Retiree Benefit - Silver Sneakers  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 17, 2019 3:37:00 PM

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Dear Ms. Ancel,

Thank you for your email suggestion that the It's Your Choice (IYC) Medicare Plus plan offer the Silver & Fit fitness program, rather than Silver Sneakers. We asked WEA Trust (WEA), the administrator of the program, about this program and usage of Silver Sneakers. They replied that they are having conversations with American Specialty Health, the organization behind Silver & Fit.

WEA is looking at American Specialty Health as part of their overall evaluation of population health programs, including the potential to offer Silver & Fit to Medicare primary members. As they get deeper into the analysis and compare this program to Silver Sneakers, they will keep the Department of Employee Trust Funds informed. If such a change is made, it would likely be no sooner than January 1, 2021.

As for Silver Sneakers participation, WEA reports that there about 500 IYC Medicare Plus members engaged with Silver Sneakers every month. That is about 7% of the overall plan membership.

If you have further questions, please contact me or Arlene Larson of my staff at (608) 264-6624 or [arlene.larson@etf.wi.gov](mailto:arlene.larson@etf.wi.gov).

Sincerely,

Brian Stamm  
Deputy Director  
Office of Strategic Health Policy  
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[brian.stamm@etf.wi.gov](mailto:brian.stamm@etf.wi.gov)