



TEXAS ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES HEALTH AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS POOL

February 2, 2026

Affordable Care Act Reporting and Tracking Service (ARTS) Renewal Information

The Texas Association of Counties Health and Employee Benefits Pool (TAC HEBP) has begun the renewal process for those counties and districts participating in the Affordable Care Act Reporting and Tracking Service (ARTS). Renewal will enable your entity to produce the forms required by IRS Sections 6055/6056 for calendar year 2026, assuming this reporting continues to be a requirement. Reporting will consist of Form 1095C in electronic format, which must be made available to employees and filed with the IRS (plus transmittal Form 1094C, filed with IRS). Current law requires all employers with 50 or more full-time equivalent employees to file these forms. ARTS will provide measurement period tracking for 2026 and beyond (to determine whether an employee must be offered health coverage), as well as affordability testing for groups that require employee contributions toward the cost of their own health coverage.

As your county or district provides health benefits through TAC HEBP, ARTS will continue to be available at NO COST in 2026, assuming program deadlines are met.

Your entity will need to continue sending employee, payroll, and unpaid leave of absence files to TAC HEBP in order to utilize this service for the 2026 reports. **Payroll data must be provided for each payroll cycle. Employee files must be provided, at a minimum, once per quarter. LOA files may be provided if and when applicable.** The information provided will be used to determine:

- 1) whether individuals are eligible for a federal premium subsidy or tax credit; and
- 2) whether your entity is subject to penalties under the ACA employer mandate.

Some payroll vendors have worked with TAC to produce these files for you. You will be responsible for the completion of required information in your payroll system and submission to TAC, but this eliminates the need for manually producing additional spreadsheets.

If you use a payroll system that will produce the required IRS forms, and you determine that your entity does not need measurement period tracking or affordability monitoring, you may not need ARTS. It is a service offered by TAC and is completely optional.

Enclosed is the **2026 ARTS Renewal Confirmation Program Agreement** on page 1. Please return a signed copy (initials on pages 1 and 2, signature on page 3) to your Employee Benefits Consultant or email to ARTS@county.org no later than **3/31/2026** if your entity wishes to continue its participation in the program. If you have any questions, please contact your Employee Benefits Consultant at (800) 456-5974.



TEXAS ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES HEBP AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS POOL

ACA Reporting and Tracking Service (ARTS) 2026 ARTS Renewal Confirmation Program Agreement HEBP Member: (Pooled Group or ASO)

Program Services

The ARTS program includes the following services:

- *Measurement, Administrative, and Stability Period tracking for 2026 and notification of eligibility for part-time / variable / seasonal employees (can provide tracking back to beginning of Measurement Period if 2025 data was provided by county/district).*
- *Reporting for your county/district regarding the status of potential benefits-eligible employees.*
- *Production of your county/district's 1095C forms, provided electronically* in PDF format*
- *Transmission of your county/district's 1094C and 1095C forms to the IRS.*

*optional: printed forms to employer or direct mail service to employees for additional fee(s)

Program Requirements

- 1) Participants agree to provide employer, payroll, employee and unpaid leave of absence (LOA) files related to the group's Health Benefits Plan in the file format designated by TAC HEBP (ARTS Data File Guide attached):
 - **Payroll data files must be provided for each payroll cycle and should be submitted at least once per calendar month.**
 - **Employee data files must be provided, at a minimum, once per quarter.**
 - **LOA data files may be provided if and when applicable.**

NOTE: *It is critical that we receive the files in the proper format and the correct naming convention. Failure to do so may result in our inability to provide this service to your county or district.*
- 2) Group agrees to pay program fees as described in the **2026 ARTS Fee Schedule** on page 2.

Enrollment and Data Submission Deadlines

- Please refer to the enclosed "2026 Deadlines for ARTS Files" document for details.
- Groups who wish to participate in the ARTS program must return the signed documents to TAC HEBP no later than **March 31, 2026** in order to participate.
- Data file transmission to TAC HEBP must begin no later than August 7, 2026, to avoid late fees, however, **we recommend that you continue sending your files after each payroll or at least monthly** to avoid getting backlogged.

_____ **Initials**



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ACA Reporting and Tracking Service (ARTS) HEBP Member (Fully Insured or ASO) 2026 Fee Schedule for Renewing Participant

1	<input type="checkbox"/>	ARTS Annual Subscription Fee	*\$4.75 / form	Waived
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Late fee for service election form <i>(after 3/31/2026)</i>	\$1,500	
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Late fee for data submission <i>(after 8/7/2026 and/or 1/8/2027)</i>	\$3,000	If applicable, will be billed in 2027 after forms are produced
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional Printed Forms** <i>(group chooses to have TAC print forms and mail to group contact listed on page 3)</i>	\$3 / form	If applicable, will be billed in 2027 after forms are produced
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional Forms Distribution Postage <i>(group chooses to have TAC mail printed forms directly to employees)</i>	\$1.50 / form	If applicable, will be billed in 2027 after forms are produced
		Total Amount Due: <i>(if zero, enter 0.00)</i>	\$ _____	

**Per 1095C form*

**** You are not required to provide printed forms. If you do not, the requirements for making forms available to your employees are:**

- Provide a written notification to your full-time / benefits-eligible employees to let them know that printed forms will not be automatically provided to them.
- Provide a place on your County/District website where employees can request a copy of their 1095-C form.
- Upon receipt of a request, you have 30 days to respond and provide the requested form.

Note: Fees subject to change annually

_____ Initials



TEXAS ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES HEALTH AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS POOL

ACA Reporting and Tracking Service (ARTS) Contact Designation Form

Contracting Authority: _____ (Group Name) hereby designates and appoints, as indicated in the space provided below, a Contracting Authority of department head rank or above and agrees that any notice to, or agreement by, a Group's Contracting Authority, with respect to service or claims hereunder, shall be binding on the Group. Each Group reserves the right to change its Contracting Authority from time to time by giving written notice to HEBP.

Name: _____ **Title:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Email: _____

Primary Contact: Main contact for data file and reporting matters pertaining to the ARTS program.

Name: _____ **Title:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

Delivery Address (no PO Boxes): _____

Phone: _____ **HIPAA Secured Fax#:** _____

Email: _____

Other Contact Emails for ARTS correspondence regarding data files, if any:

Signature of County Judge or Contracting Authority

Date

Print Name and Title

Payroll Software provider: _____

Software Version #: _____