



Benefits Administration Committee Agenda

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020

TIME: 9:15 A.M.

MEETING LOCATION:

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to the concerns over COVID-19, the LACERS Benefits Administration Committee's August 11, 2020, meeting will be conducted via telephone and/or videoconferencing.

Important Message to the Public

Information to call-in to participate:

Dial: (669) 900-6833 or (346) 248-7799

Meeting ID# 973 2040 6145

Instructions for call-in participants:

- 1- Dial in and enter Meeting ID
- 2- Automatically enter virtual "Waiting Room"
- 3- Automatically enter Meeting
- 4- During Public Comment, **press *9** to raise hand
- 5- Staff will call out the last 3-digits of your phone number to make your comment

Information to listen only: Live Committee Meetings can be heard at: (213) 621-CITY (Metro), (818) 904-9450 (Valley), (310) 471-CITY (Westside), and (310) 547-CITY (San Pedro Area).

Chair: Michael R. Wilkinson

Committee Members: Sandra Lee
Nilza R. Serrano

Manager-Secretary: Neil M. Guglielmo

Executive Assistant: Ani Ghoukassian

Legal Counselor: City Attorney's Office
Public Pensions General
Counsel Division

Notice to Paid Representatives

If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 *et seq.* More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org.

Request for services

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

Sign Language Interpreters, Communication Access Real-Time Transcription, Assistive Listening Devices, Telecommunication Relay Services (TRS), or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. Due to difficulties in securing Sign Language Interpreters, five or more business days' notice is strongly recommended. For additional information, please contact: Board of Administration Office at **(213) 855-9348** and/or email at ani.ghoukassian@lacers.org.

Disclaimer to participants

Please be advised that all LACERS Board and Committee Meeting proceedings are audio recorded.

[**CLICK HERE TO ACCESS BOARD REPORTS**](#)

- I. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION AND COMMENTS ON ANY SPECIFIC MATTERS ON THE AGENDA – **THIS WILL BE THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT - PRESS *9 TO RAISE HAND DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

- II. RE-INTRODUCTION OF STEPHANIE SMITH, WELLNESS PROGRAM MANAGER – VERBAL REPORT
- III. [2021 MAXIMUM SUBSIDY AND REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNTS AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION](#)
- IV. OPERATIONAL UPDATE
- V. OTHER BUSINESS
- VI. NEXT MEETING: The next Benefits Administration Committee meeting is not scheduled at this time, and will be announced upon scheduling. Please continue to view the LACERS website for updated information on public access to Board/Committee meetings while public health concerns relating to the novel coronavirus continue.
- VII. ADJOURNMENT



LACERS
LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES'
RETIREMENT SYSTEM



Board of Administration Agenda

SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020

TIME: 9:15 A.M.

MEETING LOCATION:

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President: Cynthia M. Ruiz
Vice President: Sung Won Sohn

Commissioners: Annie Chao
Elizabeth Lee
Sandra Lee
Nilza R. Serrano
Michael R. Wilkinson

Manager-Secretary: Neil M. Guglielmo

Executive Assistant: Ani Ghoukassian

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- III. 2021 MAXIMUM SUBSIDY AND REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNTS AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION
- IV. OPERATIONAL UPDATE
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REPORT TO BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
From: Neil M. Guglielmo, General Manager

MEETING: AUGUST 11, 2020
ITEM: III

Neil M. Guglielmo

SUBJECT: 2021 MAXIMUM SUBSIDY AND REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNTS AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION

ACTION: CLOSED: CONSENT: RECEIVE & FILE:

Recommendation

That the Committee recommend the Board approve the following:

- 1) A maximum medical plan premium subsidy of \$1,790.80 for Tier 1 Discretionary and Vested Retired Members under Age 65 or enrolled in a Medicare Part B only;
- 2) A maximum reimbursement of \$1,790.80 for Tier 1 Discretionary and Vested Retired Members under Age 65 or with Medicare Part B only, enrolled in the Medical Premium Reimbursement Program;
- 3) A maximum reimbursement of \$564.92 for Tier 1 Discretionary and Vested, and Tier 3 Retired Members, with Medicare Parts A and B, and enrolled in the Medical Premium Reimbursement Program; and
- 4) A maximum dental subsidy of \$44.60 for Tier 1 and Tier 3 Retired Members.

Executive Summary

LACERS provides a variety of health benefits to Retired Members in the forms of subsidies and reimbursements. The Board's role in setting the maximum retiree health subsidies and the Medical Premium Reimbursement Program (MPRP) reimbursement amounts differs based on the Los Angeles Administrative Code provisions listed in Attachment 1. Limits on increases to subsidies and reimbursements are based on different factors, including rates of increase on certain medical plans and LACERS' performance, compared with the assumed actuarial medical trend rate (Attachment 2).

Discussion

LACERS administers two tiers of retirement and health benefits.

Tier 1 benefits are available to City employees who were hired prior to February 21, 2016. For Tier 1 retiree medical benefits, there are three categories of Retired Members:

- 1) Discretionary – these Members retired on or before June 30, 2011;

- 2) Vested – these Members retired on or after July 1, 2011, and made additional contributions to LACERS; and,
- 3) Capped – these Members retired on or after July 1, 2011, and did not make additional contributions to LACERS.

Tier 3 retiree medical benefits are available to retired City employees who were hired on or after February 21, 2016.

Established by Ordinance and Do Not Require Board Action

Maximum Medical Plan Premium Subsidies and MPRP Reimbursement Amounts for Tier 1 Capped Retired Members and their Survivors

All medical benefit amounts for these Members and their Survivors are capped at 2011 amounts. The medical subsidy that may be used toward premium costs of covering a dependent is also capped.

Maximum Medical Plan Premium Subsidies for Tier 1 Discretionary and Vested, and Tier 3 Retired Members, Enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B

The maximum subsidy is based on the single-party premium of the LACERS plan in which the Retired Member is enrolled.

Maximum Medical Plan Premium Subsidy and MPRP Reimbursement Amount for Tier 3 Retired Members Under Age 65 or Enrolled in Medicare Part B Only

The maximum subsidy and reimbursement amount is based on the Kaiser two-party non-Medicare plan premium.

Survivor Medical Plan Premium Subsidies and MPRP Reimbursement Amounts for Tier 1 and Tier 3 Retired Members

A Survivor's subsidy amount is based on the Retired Member's years of Service Credit.

- *Survivors Under Age 65 or Enrolled in Medicare Part B Only* – The maximum Survivor subsidy is set by Ordinance and is equal to the single-party premium of the lowest-cost non-Medicare plan. The lowest-cost LACERS non-Medicare plan is the Kaiser Permanente HMO.
- *Survivors Enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B* – The maximum subsidy is set at the single-party premium of the LACERS plan in which the Survivor is enrolled.

Established by Board Resolution

Medical Plan Premium Subsidies

The recommended Maximum Medical Plan Premium Subsidy amounts for the following are:

- Tier 1 Vested Retired Members Under Age 65 or Enrolled in Medicare Part B Only
- Tier 1 Discretionary Retired Members Under Age 65 or Enrolled in Medicare Part B Only

For Vested Retired Members, increases to the maximum subsidy are no less than the increase to the Kaiser non-Medicare two-party plan premium. The Board has the option to apply the same subsidy increase to Discretionary Retired Members, as long as the increase remains within the Board's authority, as established in Section 4.1111(b) of the Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC). For 2021, the Kaiser HMO premium will not increase, so staff recommends that the current maximum subsidy of \$1,790.80 be retained for both groups.

Medical Premium Reimbursement Program (MPRP) Reimbursement Maximums

The MPRP is available to Retired Members and Survivors who live outside of California or a LACERS HMO zip code service area. In order to participate, Members enroll in an individual plan and submit proof of premium payment to LACERS. LACERS reimburses premium costs up to the Member's subsidy amount on a quarterly basis.

The recommended Maximum MPRP Reimbursement amounts for the following are:

- Tier 1 Discretionary and Vested Retired Members Under Age 65 or Enrolled in Medicare Part B Only

The maximum MPRP reimbursement amounts are set similar to the medical subsidies. Given the recommendation to retain the maximum medical subsidy at \$1,790.80, it is recommended that the same maximum be applied toward MPRP reimbursements. This will provide Members who are unable to access a LACERS HMO the same amount of subsidy dollars to apply toward non-LACERS medical coverage.

- Tier 1 Discretionary and Vested Retired Members, and Tier 3 Members, Enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B

Pursuant to the Los Angeles Administrative Code, the Board has the authority to increase the maximum reimbursement amount to an amount not to exceed the one-party premium of LACERS' highest cost Medicare plan. In 2021, the monthly premium for LACERS' highest-cost single-party Medicare Parts A and B medical plan, Anthem Blue Cross Life & Health Medicare Plan, will be \$564.92. Staff recommends the maximum reimbursement for MPRP participants enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B be set at \$564.92.

Overall Member Impact

The chart below shows the average subsidy and deduction amounts covered Members realized in 2020 and how they will change based on 2021 subsidy decisions. The results demonstrate minimal impact on Members overall.

Member Status	2021 Estimated Population	2020 Subsidy \$1,790.80		2021 Subsidy \$1,790.80	
		Avg. Monthly Subsidy	Avg. Monthly Deduction	Avg. Monthly Subsidy	Avg. Monthly Deduction
Non-Medicare Retiree	4,715	\$1,132.92	\$70.20	\$1,140.50	\$70.69
Non-Medicare Survivor	249	\$694.00	\$134.77	\$698.65	\$135.67
Medicare Retiree	8,819	\$500.18	\$37.54	\$503.53	\$37.79
Medicare Survivor	1,603	\$338.70	\$14.03	\$340.96	\$15.12
All Covered Members	15,386	\$680.73	\$49.01	\$685.29	\$49.34

Dental Plan Premium Subsidy

Maximum Retiree Dental Plan Premium Subsidy for Tier 1 and Tier 3 Retired Members

The Retired Member maximum dental plan premium subsidy cannot exceed the maximum dental plan premium subsidy for Active Members. The maximum dental plan subsidy for Active Members of LACERS for plan year 2021 will remain unchanged at \$44.60 per month. It is recommended that the maximum dental subsidy for Tier 1 and Tier 3 Retired Members be retained at \$44.60.

Strategic Plan Impact Statement

Timely adoption of health benefits allows staff to: 1) Develop Member communications that provide Members sufficient time to make informed health plan decisions; and, 2) update systems in time for the new plan year so that subsidies and reimbursements can be applied correctly. These align with Strategic Plan Goals II (Benefit Delivery Goal – Accurate and timely delivery of member benefits) and V (Board Governance Goal – Uphold good governance practices which affirm transparency, accountability, and fiduciary duty).

Prepared By: Alex Rabrenovich, Chief Benefits Analyst, and Bruce Bernal, Senior Benefits Analyst, of the Health Benefits and Wellness Division.

NMG/LP/AR:bb

- Attachments:
- 1) How LACERS Health Subsidy and Reimbursement Amounts Are Set – 2021
 - 2) LACERS Medical Plan Premium Subsidy for Tier 1 Discretionary Retired Members
 - 3) LACERS Historical Medical Subsidy Costs

HOW LACERS HEALTH SUBSIDY AND REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNTS ARE SET

Benefit Type	Tier 1 Retired Before July 1, 2011 “Discretionary”	Tier 1 Retired After July 1, 2011, “Vested”	Tier 1 Retired After July 1, 2011, “Capped”	Tier 3
Retiree Medical Subsidy, Under 65 or Medicare Part B Only	Board Resolution	Board Resolution	Ordinance	Ordinance
Retiree Medical Subsidy, Medicare Parts A and B	Ordinance	Ordinance	Ordinance	Ordinance
Retiree Medical Premium Reimbursement Program Reimbursement, Under 65 or Medicare Part B Only	Board Resolution	Board Resolution	Ordinance	Ordinance
Retiree Medical Premium Reimbursement Program Reimbursement, Medicare Parts A and B	Board Resolution	Board Resolution	Ordinance	Board Resolution
Retiree Dental Subsidy	Board Resolution	Board Resolution	Board Resolution	Board Resolution
Survivor Medical Subsidy, Under 65 or Medicare Part B Only	Ordinance	Ordinance	Ordinance	Ordinance
Survivor Medical Subsidy, Medicare Parts A and B	Ordinance	Ordinance	Ordinance	Ordinance
Survivor Medical Premium Reimbursement Program Reimbursement, Under 65 or Medicare Part B Only	Ordinance	Ordinance	Ordinance	Ordinance
Survivor Medical Premium Reimbursement Program Reimbursement, Medicare Parts A and B	Ordinance	Ordinance	Ordinance	Ordinance

LACERS MEDICAL PLAN PREMIUM SUBSIDY FOR TIER 1 DISCRETIONARY RETIRED MEMBERS

The LACERS Board has the authority to increase the maximum medical plan premium subsidy by the amount of the increase in the Kaiser Permanente HMO (non-Medicare) two-party premium. If the three-year average increase in the subsidy is greater than the three-year average assumed actuarial medical trend rate for the same period, the increase must be approved by City Council. City Council may set the increase at any other amount.

The table below shows by how much the Board may increase the 2021 maximum subsidy before hitting the cap imposed by the three-year average assumed actuarial medical trend rate.

	<u>Assumed Actuarial Trend Rate*</u>	<u>% Increase (Cap)</u>	<u>Max. Medical Subsidy Amt. (Cap)</u>
2021	7.00%	0.00% (20.5%)	\$1,790.80 (\$2,157.91)**
2020	7.00%	0.00%	\$1,790.80
2019	6.50%	0.00%	\$1,790.80
3-yr Average	6.83%	6.83%	

*The assumed actuarial medical trend rates for coming years may be adjusted during each valuation and may alter the information contained in these tables.

**For the 2021 plan year, based on the increase in the Kaiser non-Medicare HMO premium, the LACERS Board could approve a two-party Kaiser non-Medicare HMO premium increase of up to 20.50% without requiring City Council approval for the associated subsidy increase.

LACERS HISTORICAL MEDICAL SUBSIDY COSTS

BAC Meeting: 08/11/20
Item III
Attachment 3

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005	2007
Maximum Monthly Medical Subsidy	\$508.00	\$702.00	\$702.00	\$751.00	\$872.00	\$883.00	\$883.00	\$883.00	\$983.00
Dollar Increase - Maximum Subsidy		\$194.00	\$0.00	\$49.00	\$121.00	\$11.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
% Increase - Maximum Subsidy		38.2%	0.0%	7.0%	16.1%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	11.3%
Kaiser 2-Party	\$409.84	\$604.44	\$631.56	\$679.68	\$800.08	\$813.87	\$870.56	\$870.56	\$982.74
Dollar Increase - Kaiser 2-Party		\$194.60	\$27.12	\$48.12	\$120.40	\$13.79	\$56.69	\$0.00	\$112.18
% Increase - Kaiser 2-Party		47.5%	4.5%	7.6%	17.7%	1.7%	7.0%	0.0%	12.9%
Aggregate Medical Premium Increase				17.0%	16.1%	18.2%	-5.2%	-5.2%	12.5%
% Premium Cost Subsidized	88.9%	91.0%	88.4%	90.8%	93.9%	92.0%	92.4%	92.4%	91.1%

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Maximum Monthly Medical Subsidy	\$1,022.00	\$1,120.00	\$1,123.00	\$1,190.00	\$1,190.00	\$1,367.00	\$1,464.00	\$1,580.08	\$1,580.08	\$1,736.88	\$1,790.80	\$1,790.80	\$1,790.80	\$1,790.80
Dollar Increase - Maximum Subsidy	\$39.00	\$98.00	\$3.00	\$67.00	\$0.00	\$177.00	\$97.00	\$116.08	\$0.00	\$156.80	\$53.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
% Increase - Maximum Subsidy	4.0%	9.6%	0.3%	6.0%	0.0%	14.9%	7.1%	7.9%	0.0%	9.9%	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Kaiser 2-Party	\$1,021.54	\$1,119.58	\$1,122.74	\$1,189.22	\$1,187.24	\$1,363.44	\$1,459.66	\$1,575.74	\$1,496.06	\$1,652.86	\$1,706.78	\$1,660.88	\$1,626.28	\$1,706.78
Dollar Increase - Kaiser 2-Party	\$38.80	\$98.04	\$3.16	\$66.48	(\$1.98)	\$176.20	\$96.22	\$116.08	(\$79.68)	\$156.80	\$53.92	(\$107.46)	(\$34.60)	\$80.50
% Increase - Kaiser 2-Party	3.9%	9.6%	0.3%	5.9%	-0.2%	14.8%	7.1%	8.0%	-5.1%	10.5%	3.3%	-2.7%	-2.1%	4.9%
Aggregate Medical Premium Increase	5.7%	7.1%	4.5%	6.2%	0.2%	7.9%	7.4%	4.8%	4.8%	6.5%	5.4%	-1.2%	1.0%	0.7%
% Premium Cost Subsidized	91.6%	92.5%	91.8%	91.3%	90.9%	92.7%	92.5%	94.0%	94.0%	94.3%	93.7%	94.2%	93.8%	93.4%