



SURVIVOR BENEFITS UNIT

ACTIVE DEATH BENEFITS for TIER 1 AND TIER 3 MEMBERS

January 12, 2023



Disclaimer

This presentation is intended to provide a summary of the benefits established by the Los Angeles City Charter, Los Angeles Administrative Code, and LACERS Board of Administration Rules (collectively referred to as the Plan). In the event of discrepancies in this presentation and the provisions of the Plan, the Plan provisions will govern at all times.

Representatives of LACERS cannot offer financial, legal or tax advice. Please consult with your financial planner, attorney and or tax advisor as needed.

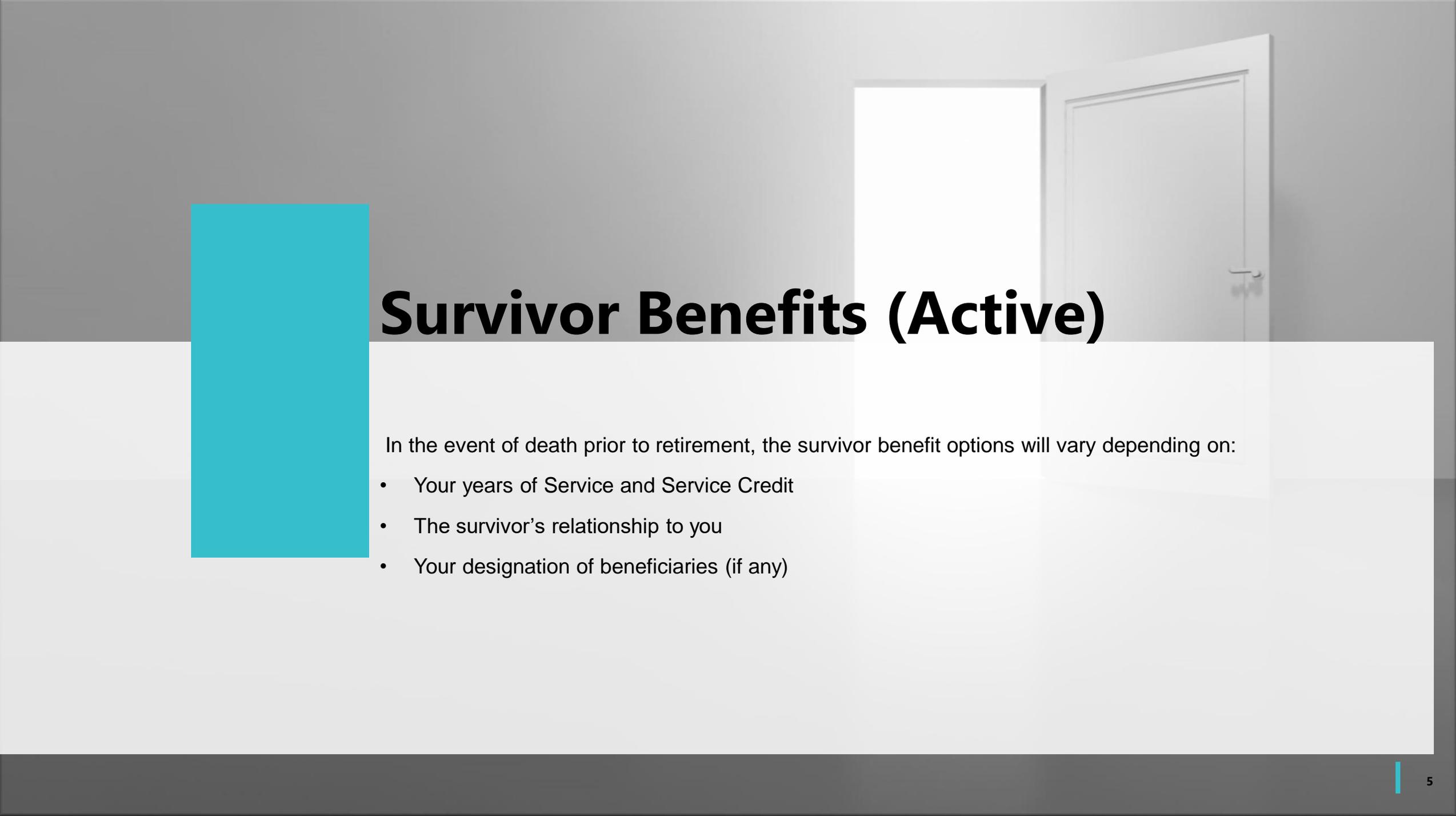
Terms to Know

- Beneficiary – Any person or legal entity entitled to receive a benefit provided by the Plan.
- Continuous Service – City Service with no more than a three-year break in Service.
- Eligible Survivor – A person who was married to the member or the domestic partner of the member at the time of the member's death.
- Member – An employee of the City of Los Angeles who meets the membership requirements of the Plan for either Tier 1 or Tier 3.
- Service – The years you've been a City employee contributing to LACERS.
- Service Credit – The hours you've worked as a City employee. Generally expressed in years.
- Survivorship – A lifetime monthly benefit provided to a qualified beneficiary as the result of the death of a Member prior to retiring.

Active Members

Who is an Active Member?

An Active Member is a Member who has not retired and whose member contributions remain on deposit.



Survivor Benefits (Active)

In the event of death prior to retirement, the survivor benefit options will vary depending on:

- Your years of Service and Service Credit
- The survivor's relationship to you
- Your designation of beneficiaries (if any)

Benefit Eligibility

Years of Service/Service Credit	Survivor Benefit Options
Less than one year of Service Credit (non-duty-related death)	Refund of contributions
At least one year of Service Credit, but less than five years of Continuous Service (non-duty-related death)	Refund of contributions and possible Limited Pension
Less than five years of Continuous Service (duty-related death)	Possible Disability Retirement Survivorship or Refund of contributions and possible Limited Pension
Five years or more of Continuous Service	Possible Deferred or Service Retirement Survivorship or possible Disability Retirement Survivorship or Refund of contributions and possible Limited Pension

Survivor Benefit Options

Refund of Contributions

A refund of your contributions and interest only.

Limited Pension Benefit

A monthly benefit equal to one-half of your average monthly salary in the year before your death. (Max. 12 months)

Survivorships

A lifetime monthly allowance calculated as if you retired the day before death and selected a 100% Continuance benefit.

A Survivorship cannot be elected if a refund of contributions or Limited Pension is paid to anyone.

Limited Pension

- Must have at least one (1) year of Service Credit.
- Benefit is equal to one-half of your average monthly salary in the year before your death.
- Your Survivor receives two payments for each whole year you worked, not to exceed twelve (12) payments.

Example:

Jane worked for three years with an average salary of \$4,000 in her last year.

3 years worked X 2 payments = 6 monthly payments

$\frac{1}{2}$ X \$4,000 average monthly salary = \$2,000 monthly benefit

Jane's survivor would be eligible to receive a limited pension of \$2,000 for 6 months.

Survivorships

Spouse or Domestic Partner must be eligible to receive ALL contributions to be eligible for this benefit.
Domestic Partnerships must be Plan-registered and/or state-registered.

Service Retirement Survivorship



Survivor receives benefit based on your retirement eligibility.

Deferred Service Retirement Survivorship



Survivor waits to receive benefit when you would have become eligible for retirement.

Disability Retirement Survivorship



Survivor receives benefit as if you took a Disability Retirement (generally one-third of Final Compensation).



Beneficiary Designation

- Designating a beneficiary allows LACERS to pay your benefits the way you intended.
- Beneficiary forms should be updated throughout your City Career.
- Beneficiary designations remain in effect until you change them.
- Designation of beneficiaries with Employee Benefits or Deferred Compensation are not applicable for LACERS benefits.

Designating a Beneficiary

As a Member of the Plan, you may designate a beneficiary to receive your Member contributions if you die before retiring.

- You can designate any person or legal entity (such as a living trust) as a beneficiary.
- You may designate primary and secondary beneficiaries.
- Beneficiaries may be updated at any time.
- Designation of Beneficiary For Active Members Tier 1 form can be downloaded at lacers.org/forms.

LACERS
LA CITY EMPLOYEES'
RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Mailing Address: PO Box 512218, Los Angeles, CA 90051-0218
Visit LACERS at 202 W. First Street, Suite 500, Los Angeles, CA 90012
www.lacers.org | lacers.services@lacers.org | Mail Stop 175
(800) 779-8328 | Fax (213) 473-7297 | RTT (888) 349-3996

**DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARY FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS
TIER 1**

In the event of your death, your accumulated contributions will be paid to any person(s) or entity you nominate by written designation which is filed with LACERS. If no such designation is filed, the accumulated contributions will be paid to your surviving spouse, children, or parents, in that order, otherwise to your estate.

DESIGNATION OF ANYONE OTHER THAN YOUR SPOUSE OR DOMESTIC PARTNER WILL RENDER YOUR SPOUSE OR DOMESTIC PARTNER INELIGIBLE FOR LIFETIME MONTHLY BENEFITS IF YOU DIE BEFORE RETIRING.

NOTE: Any benefit overpayment that LACERS cannot collect will be deducted from benefits payable to your beneficiary(ies).

I, _____ Social Security Number _____
(Print your name)

in the event of my death, hereby designate the following person(s) or legal entity to receive my accumulated contributions in the event of my death:

Name _____	Date of Birth _____	
Relationship _____	Social Security Number (Optional) _____	Telephone Number _____
Street Address _____	City _____	State _____ Zip _____

Name _____	Date of Birth _____	
Relationship _____	Social Security Number (Optional) _____	Telephone Number _____
Street Address _____	City _____	State _____ Zip _____

(Unless you indicate otherwise above, your accumulated contributions will be paid in equal shares to any beneficiaries who survive you. Please contact LACERS if you would like to designate more than three beneficiaries.)

I have read and understand the information on Page 3 of this form ____ (Member's initial here)

Member's Signature _____	Contact Telephone Number _____	Date _____
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Once this form is filed with LACERS, it will remain in effect until replaced with a new designation form. If your marital/domestic partnership status changes in the future, you will need to file a new designation form with LACERS in order to change your beneficiary.

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01/09/2023

Secondary Beneficiary(ies)
If the primary beneficiary(ies) named on the first page of this form are deceased, I then designate the following secondary beneficiary(ies):

Name _____	Date of Birth _____	
Relationship _____	Social Security Number (Optional) _____	Telephone Number _____
Street Address _____	City _____	State _____ Zip _____

Name _____	Date of Birth _____	
Relationship _____	Social Security Number (Optional) _____	Telephone Number _____
Street Address _____	City _____	State _____ Zip _____

Name _____	Date of Birth _____	
Relationship _____	Social Security Number (Optional) _____	Telephone Number _____
Street Address _____	City _____	State _____ Zip _____

Name _____	Date of Birth _____	
Relationship _____	Social Security Number (Optional) _____	Telephone Number _____
Street Address _____	City _____	State _____ Zip _____

Member's Signature _____	Date _____	
Print Name _____	Contact Telephone Number _____	

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Frequently Asked Questions

Can I designate a Trust or a Will?

Yes.

When designating a Trust, please submit the pages from your Trust document that provides:

- 1) Establishments of the Trust,
- 2) Designation of Trustees and Successor Trustees,
- 3) Signatures and Notarizations, and
- 4) Amendments.

If you are designating a Will, please submit a copy of your Will with your Beneficiary Form.

Can I designate a minor child(ren)?

Yes, a minor child(ren) may be designated as your beneficiary. Depending on the benefit amount, a Guardianship of the Minor's Estate may be required before LACERS can pay the benefit.

If you designate a Trust, Will or anyone other than your spouse/domestic partner, a Survivorship cannot be elected.

Order of Succession

If you do not designate a beneficiary, the Plan provides that your contributions be paid in the following order:

- Spouse or Plan/state-registered Domestic Partner
- Children
- Parents
- Estate

If you have no one in the order, the courts will identify to whom your benefits should be paid.

Consider completing and submitting a LACERS beneficiary form to have your contributions paid the way you intend.

Update Your Beneficiary Designation

Keeping your beneficiary designation up to date ensures LACERS pays your benefits the way you planned. Submit new beneficiary designations when there is a:

- Life event – i.e, birth, adoption, marriage, divorce or death
 - Change in name or location for your beneficiary(ies)
- or-
- If you want to change a previous designation

Include complete and detailed information for each beneficiary such as names, phone numbers, addresses, and social security numbers.

Survivor Benefits (Retired)

Survivor benefits after retirement, differ from the benefits options if you were to die before retirement.

- Beneficiary forms submitted as an Active employee are no longer valid once you retire.
- You will complete new beneficiary forms when you go through the retirement process.

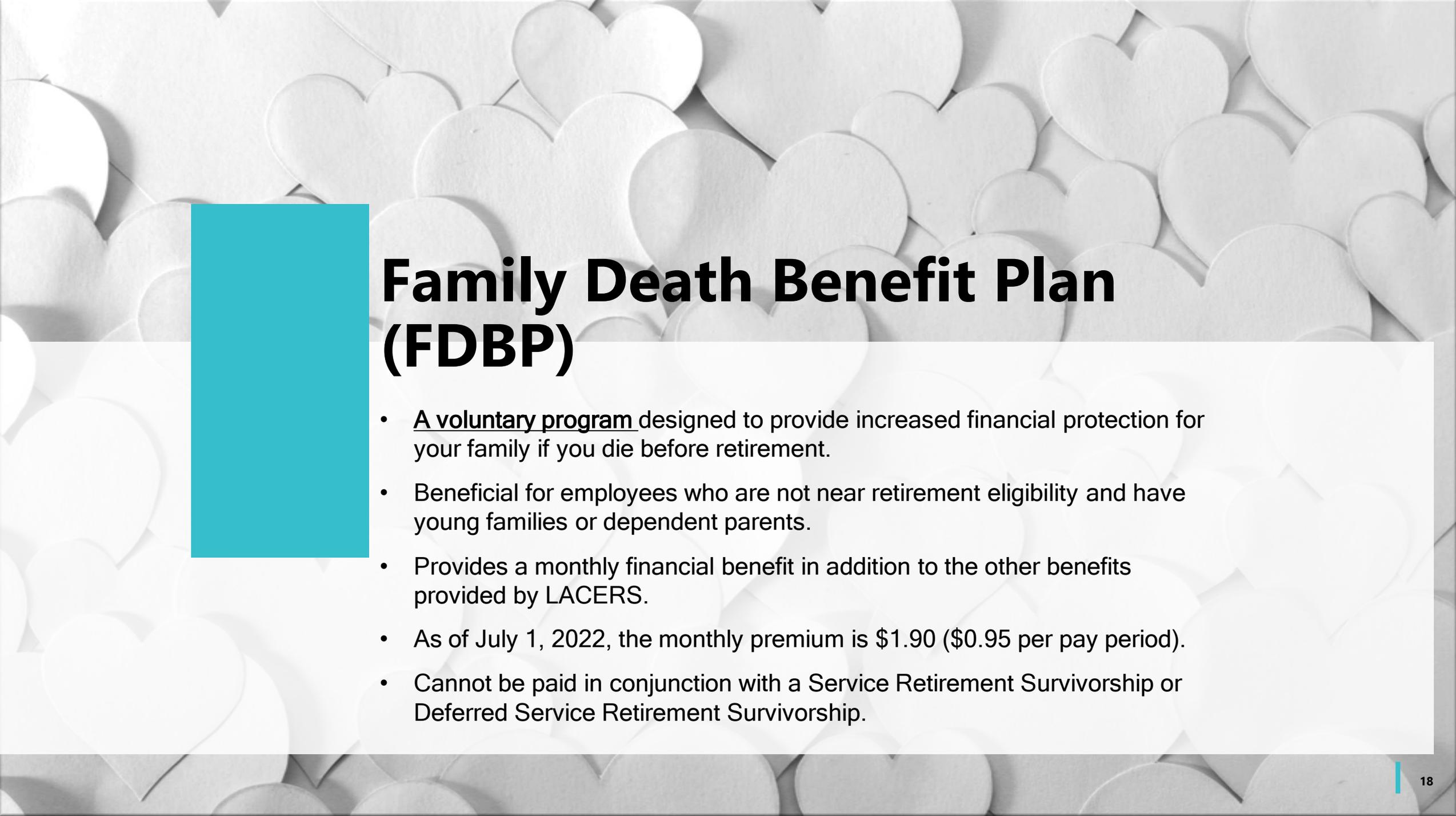
Survivor Benefits after Retirement

In the event of your death after retirement, your beneficiary(ies) may be entitled to the following survivor benefits:

- **Continuance** – A lifetime monthly benefit provided to a qualified beneficiary as the result of the death of a Retired Member.
- **Unused Contributions** (if applicable) – Any unused retirement contributions after the deduction of the retirement benefit and continuance benefit.
- **Accrued Payments** – Any accrued but unpaid Retirement Allowance for the month of your death, up to and including the date of your death.
- **Funeral Expense Allowance** – The sum of \$2,500 payable upon the death of every Retired Member.

Things to Remember

- Your Spouse or Domestic Partner must be designated as the sole primary beneficiary to be eligible for a Survivorship
- Domestic Partnerships must be Plan-registered or state registered.
- Beneficiary designations should be updated throughout your City Career and after retirement.
- Beneficiaries can be changed at any time.
- Beneficiary designations submitted as Active employee are no longer valid once you retire.
- If you do not designate a beneficiary, the benefits will be paid per order of succession.
- Designation of beneficiaries with Employee Benefits or Deferred Compensation are not applicable for LACERS benefits.



Family Death Benefit Plan (FDBP)

- A voluntary program designed to provide increased financial protection for your family if you die before retirement.
- Beneficial for employees who are not near retirement eligibility and have young families or dependent parents.
- Provides a monthly financial benefit in addition to the other benefits provided by LACERS.
- As of July 1, 2022, the monthly premium is \$1.90 (\$0.95 per pay period).
- Cannot be paid in conjunction with a Service Retirement Survivorship or Deferred Service Retirement Survivorship.

Enrollment and Benefit Eligibility

- Members must have 18 months of City Service as a contributing LACERS Member to participate in FDBP.
- If you have 18 or more months of prior City Service (including service at the Department of Water & Power) you may be qualified for immediate FDBP coverage.
- You can pay back up to 10 years of premiums, but not your first 18 months of City Service.
- An **Election to Participate in Family Death Benefit Plan** form must be completed and submitted to enroll in the Plan.
- Once enrolled, 18 months of premiums must be paid for basic Plan coverage.
- FDBP benefits are payable if a Member passes away while still an active City employee and is a participating contributor to FDBP.
- Premiums are non-refundable.

Basic Coverage

Conditions	Monthly Payment
<i>Surviving spouse/domestic partner with 1 child</i>	\$1,875.00
<i>Surviving spouse/domestic partner with 2 or more children</i>	\$2,186.90
<i>No surviving spouse/domestic partner, 1 child (paid to legal guardian)</i>	\$937.50
<i>No surviving spouse/domestic partner, 2 children (paid to legal guardian)</i>	\$1,875.00
<i>More than 2 children (paid to legal guardian)</i>	\$2,186.90 (maximum benefit)

Additional FDBP Benefits

After paying premiums for 120 months (10 years) or more additional benefits are available for:

- An unmarried Spouse or Domestic Partner at age 60.

If you have no surviving Spouse/Domestic Partner or minor children, benefits are available for:

- Dependent parents at age 62 who received at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of their necessary living expenses from you during the last year of your City service.

Things to Know

- Your survivors will only receive FDBP benefits if you remain a participant in the plan.
- If you cancel participation, retire, or otherwise leave City employment, your coverage ends.
- Premiums are non-refundable.
- Minor child(ren) must be in the custody of the Spouse/Domestic Partner or legal Guardian. to receive the benefit.
- FDBP payments do not have a cost-of-living adjustment.
- An FDBP Information Sheet is available on the LACERS website.

LACERS CONTACT INFORMATION



CALL

(800) 779-8328

Real Time Text (RTT): (888) 349-3996



MAIL

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Los Angeles, CA 90051-0218



EMAIL

lacers.services@lacers.org

lacers.health@lacers.org



WEBSITE

LACERS.org



VISIT

In-Person appointments will resume in late Winter 2023 at our new location on 977 N Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90012



YOUTUBE

YouTube.com/lacersyoutube