

TIER 1 RETIREMENT BENEFITS SEMINAR



Attention

- 1. 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 Rules (referred to as the Plan provisions). In the event of discrepancies in this presentation the Plan provisions will govern at all times.
- 2. Representatives of LACERS cannot offer financial, legal, or tax advice. Please consult with your financial planner, attorney and/or tax advisor as needed.
- 3. This presentation is for Tier 1 Members. Tier 1 Members are LACERS Members hired prior to February 21, 2016.

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 accommodations to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

Topics to be Discussed

First Half

- LACERS Overview
- Service Explained
- Retirement Eligibility and Allowance Calculation
- Your Retirement Option Selections
- Taxes, SS, and COLAs
- When You're Ready to Retire
- The Retirement Process

Second Half

- Leaving City Service Prior to Retirement
- Survivor Benefits
- Health & Dental Benefits
- Health & Dental Enrollment
- Medicare
- Legal Planning

LACERS Board of Administration

7 Members LACERS is a Commission-Controlled Department

- (4) Members Appointed by the Mayor
 (1) must be a Retired City Employee*
- (2) Members elected by Active City Employees*
- (1) Member is elected by Retired City Employees*

* Must be a LACERS Member



Summary Plan Description

Your user's manual for your LACERS Retirement Plan

Topics covered:

- ✓ Retirement Eligibility
- ✓ Retirement Allowance Calculation
- ✓ Survivor benefits and more

Available 24/7 at lacers.org

SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION

A Guide to LACERS Tier 1 Benefits





LACERS: A Defined Benefit Plan (401a)

Defined Benefit Plans, like LACERS, are professionally managed trust funds that provide specific benefits at retirement based on a formula

- Offers lifetime benefits to it's Members who are vested (5 or more years of continuous service)
- The LACERS plan also may include cost of living adjustments



LACERS Membership

LACERS has Two Tiers

Tier 1 Members were hired on or before February 20, 2016

Tier 3 Members were hired on or after February 21, 2016



LACERS Members are:

Non-sworn, non-DWP City of Los Angeles Employees



Membership is Automatic

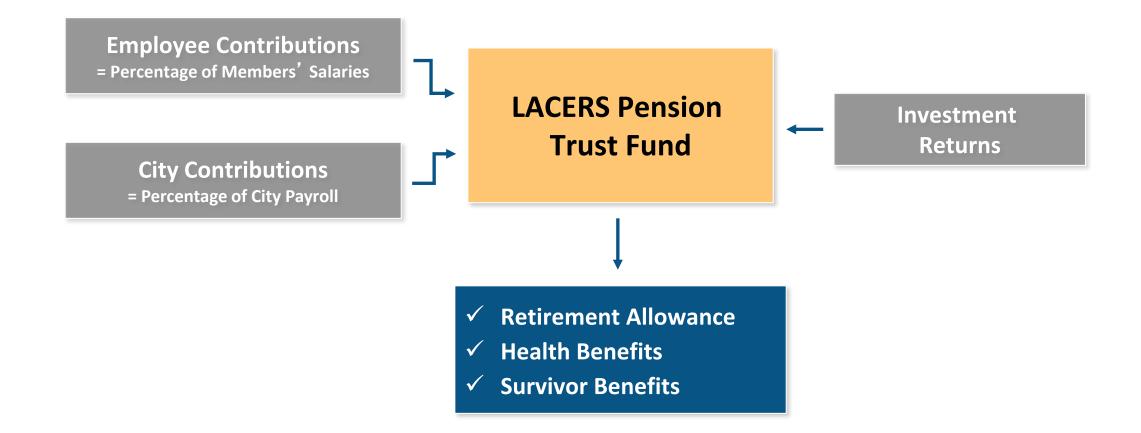
Once hired by the City and your employing department certifies you to the LACERS plan

Mandatory Contributions

All Members contribute **11%** of their gross salary bi-weekly, towards their retirement



LACERS PENSION TRUST FUND



Service, Service Credit, & Continuous Service

Service vs. Service Credit

Service

Accounts for the years you've been a City employee contributing to LACERS

Service Credit

Accounts for the hours you've worked as an Active LACERS Member



- Full-time employees receive
 0.03835 years of Service Credit
 per pay period
- Part-time employees will be prorated based on the actual hours worked divided by 80 hours

Service vs. Service Credit Example

Liz works full-time (40-hour week) for 6 years. Dan works half-time (20-hour week) for 6 years.

What is Liz's total Service?	6 years
What is Liz's total Service Credit?	6 years
What is Dan's total Service?	6 years
What is Dan's total Service Credit?	3 years



What Each Term Helps Determine

Service

Service helps determine your **retirement** eligibility:

- ✓ When you can retire
- ✓ If you can receive a health subsidy

Service Credit

Service Credit helps determine **the amount** of your retirement allowance:

- ✓ How much you will receive on your monthly allowance
- How much health subsidy you receive towards your health plan premiums

Continuous Service

What is it?

- This is the sum of your uninterrupted City Service (with no break in service of more than 3 years).
- The service may be a combination of City employment service and governmental service purchased.



Continuous Service Example



4 Years Service

Break of 2 Years

5 Years Service

9 Years Continuous Service

7 Years 5 Years Continuous Service

5 Years Service

Break of 4 Years

2 Years Service

* Continuous Service is used to determine *retirement eligibility* ONLY.



Member Statement via MyLACERS

1		ERS				inst Street, Sulle 50 eles, CA 90012-440 Mail Stop 17 (S00) 779-832 TDD (888) 349-399 Fax: (213) 687-4141 www.lacers.org
	h	Member State	ment for John Lacer W	/ell		
			Period: 05/15/2017 - 05/			
		Statem	ent Run Date: 05/14/20	18		
	MOGRAPHIC INFO	RMATION				
SSN:"	XXX-XX-1234			Marital Status: 1	Married	
DOB:"	01/01/1970			Spouse Name:		
Address:1	123 Main Street			Spouse DOB:		
	Los Angeles, CA	90012		Marriage Date:		
Phone:' Email:	(213) 111-1111		Domestic	Relations Order:	Not on file	
Corrections	for Active Members m	ust be made thro	ough your employing depa	irtment.		
	PINFORMATION abor Status: Activ		ough your employing depa	Reciprocity: DWP Service:		
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Your Online Gateway to Your LACERS Information : <u>https://MyLACERS.lacers.org</u>

- access real-time details about your retirement such as your service credit, beneficiaries on file, and more.
- ✓ send a confidential message
- ✓ schedule an appointment
- find out about and register for upcoming webinars and events.

VL

Service Credit Purchases & Reciprocity



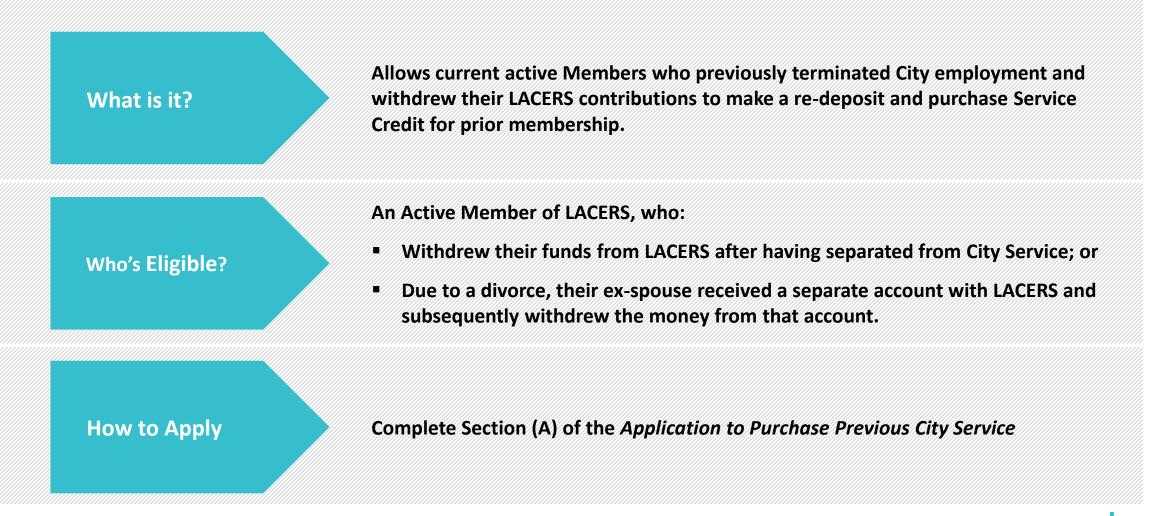
The Benefits of Service Credit Purchases



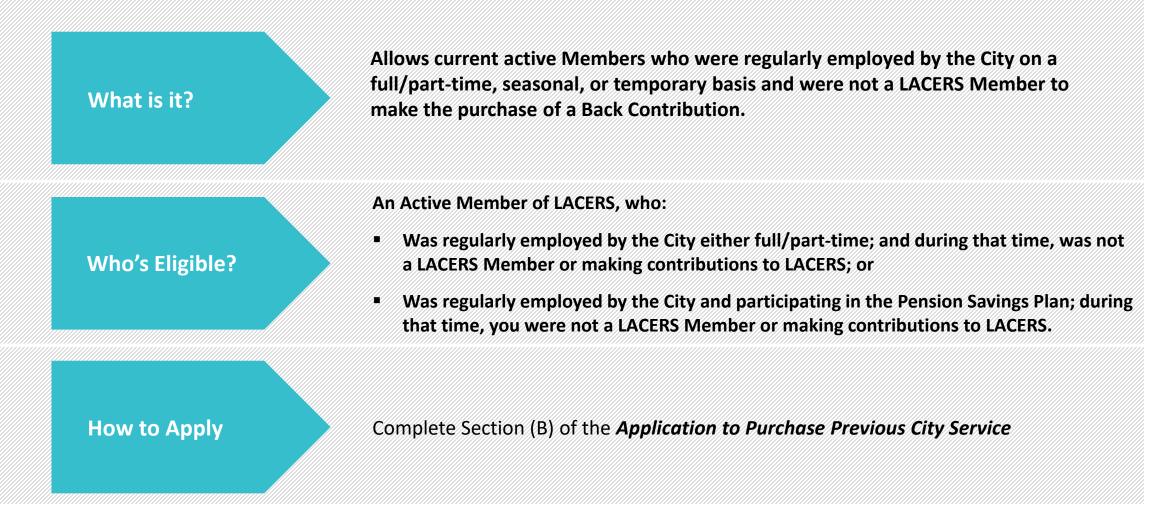
Purchasing service credit may:

- count toward your retirement eligibility
- increase your Retirement Allowance

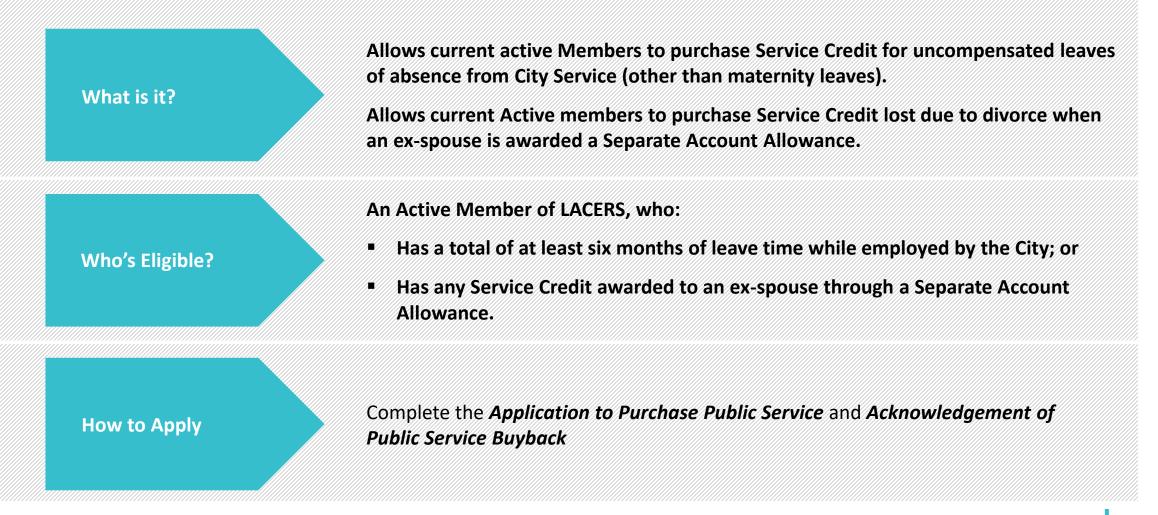
Service Credit Purchases: Re-Deposits



Service Credit Purchases: Back Contributions



Service Credit Purchases: Public Service Buyback



Service Credit Purchases: Government Service Buyback



Service Credit Purchases: Reminders



- ✓ **Explore Service Credit Purchases early** to allow for the processing time
- ✓ Contracts must be completed prior to your retirement effective date
- ✓ Only Active City employees can purchase Service Credit

For additional information, please speak to a Buyback Representative at LACERS

Reciprocity 🗘



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Types of Reciprocity

Full Reciprocity

Reciprocal Service is considered for vesting and your years of Service are combined from all reciprocal agencies for eligibility purposes.

Transfer between the two agencies occurred on or after July 14, 1997.

Limited Reciprocity

You must vest on your own with each reciprocal agency to qualify for a benefit.

Transfer between the two agencies occurred **prior** to July 14, 1997.



Rules of Reciprocity 🗘

To establish reciprocity you must:

- 1. Terminate from one reciprocal government entity and move to another within a six month period.
- 2. Leave your contributions and interest on deposit with each retirement system.
- 3. Apply for reciprocity and both retirement systems agree reciprocity exists.
- 4. Retire from both systems on the same date.

To apply: Fill out *Certification of Service* form, located at <u>lacers.org/forms</u>

Retirement Eligibility & Allowance Calculation



Normal Service Retirement



Eligibility Requirements for FULL Allowance

 Age 55 or older with at least 30 years of City Service *

 Age 60 or older with at least 10 years of Continuous Service *

or



Age 70 or older



Early Service Retirement



Eligibility Requirements for REDUCED Allowance

 Age 55 or older with at least 10 years of Continuous Service*

or

 Younger than age 55 with at least 30 years of City Service**

*At least five years of Continuous Service must come from City employment and/or service recognized under full reciprocity. **No health subsidy until age 55

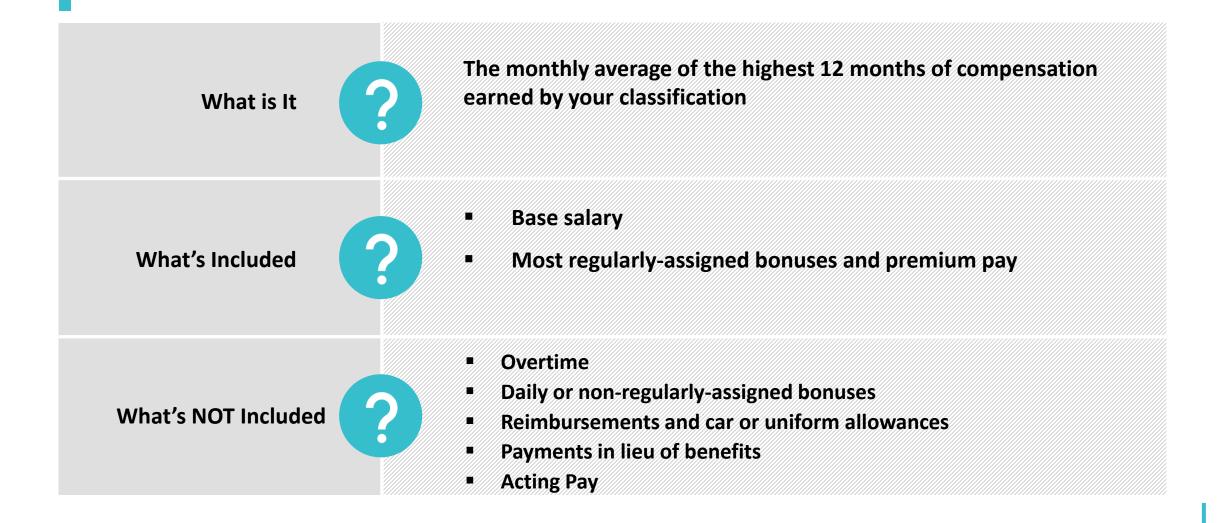
Calculating Your Allowance

To calculate your Retirement Allowance, you will need:

- Your Final Compensation
- Your Total Service Credit
- LACERS Tier 1 Retirement Factor of 2.16%
- * Early Retirement Reduction Factor for your age (if applicable)



Understanding Final Compensation



Retirement Allowance Formula



Retirement Allowance



Early Retirement Reduction Factors

AGE	FACTOR	AGE	FACTOR	AGE	FACTOR
51	.8050	55	.9250	59	.98500
51¼	.8125	55¼	.92875	59¼	.98875
51½	.8200	55½	.93250	59½	.99250
51¾	.8275	55¾	.93625	59¾	.99625
52	.8350	56	.9400	60	1.00

Sample Calculations

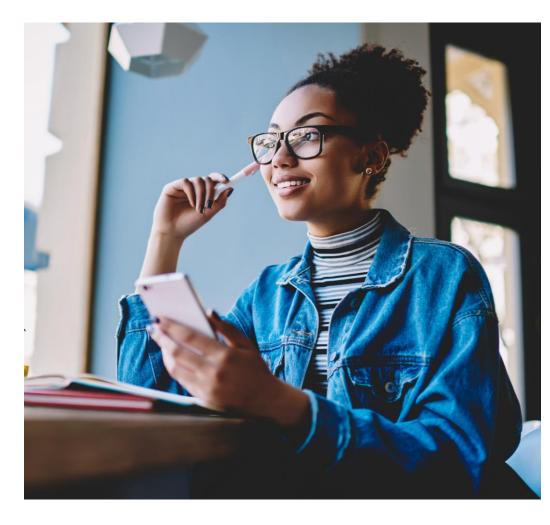
Normal Service Retirement (Age 65)	Early Service Retirement (Age 55)
\$4,500	\$4,500
X	X
20.25	20.25
X	X
2.16%	2.16%
	X
	.9250
= \$1,968.30	= \$1,820.68

Percent of Final Compensation

For each full year of Service Credit, you earn 2.16% of your salary.

Service Credit	30 years
Retirement Factor (2.16%)	x .0216

Percent of Final Compensation = 64.8%



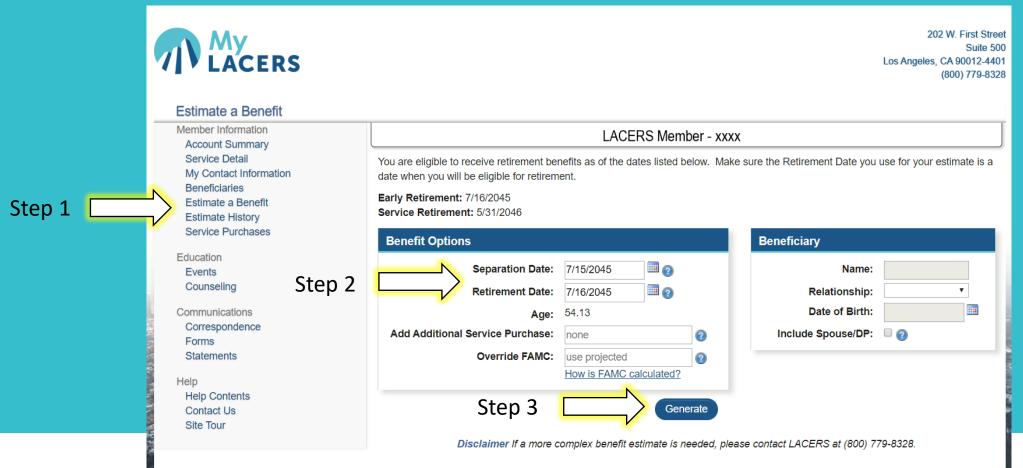
Increasing Your Allowance

The three variables that impact your monthly Retirement Allowance are:

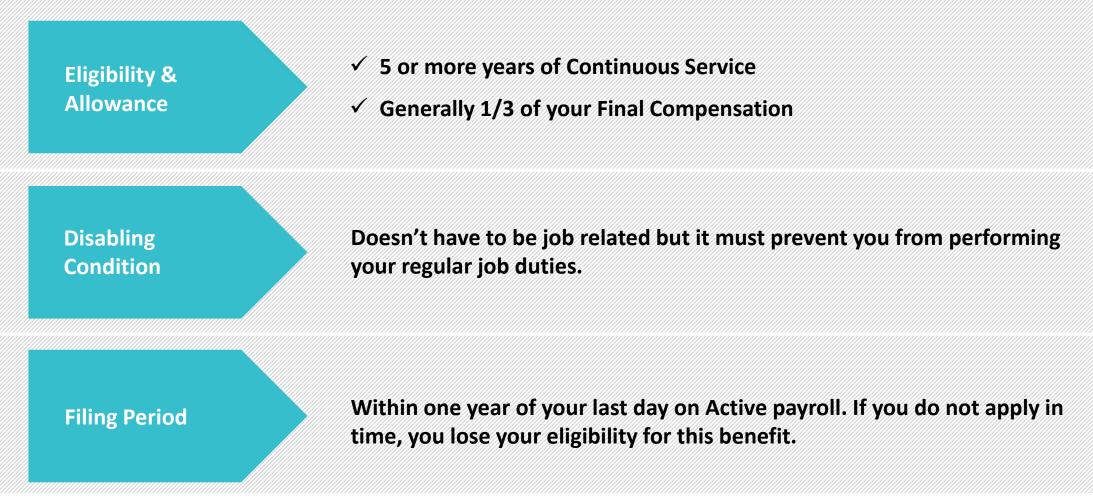
- 1. Timing of your retirement (Normal vs. Early)
- 2. Service Credit
- 3. Final Compensation

Benefit Estimate: MyLACERS

1. Click on: Estimate a Benefit 2. Enter your: Separation and Retirement date 3. Click on: Generate

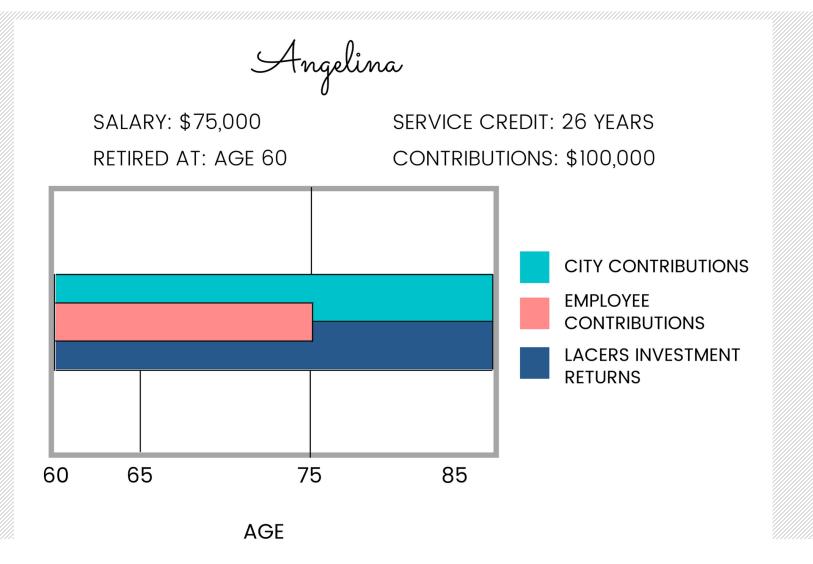


Disability Retirement

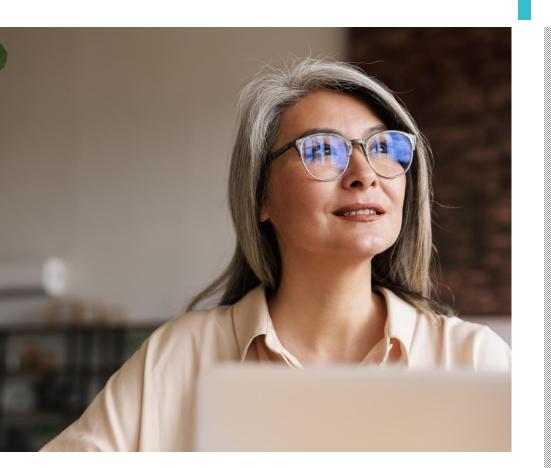


*If you have more than 15.4 years of Service Credit and are eligible for Normal Service Retirement Allowance, it may be larger than a Disability Retirement Allowance.

Your Retirement Contributions



Your Retirement Selection Options



Allowance Options for Unused Contributions

Cash Refund

After your death and the death of your spouse /domestic partner (receiving a continuance), your designated beneficiaries will receive what's left of YOUR unused contributions.

Life Annuity

After your death and the death of your spouse/domestic partner (receiving a continuance), what's left of YOUR unused contributions will NOT go to a beneficiary. The increase you received when selecting this option does not provide you the right to leave any unused contributions to a beneficiary.

Your selection becomes <u>irrevocable</u> once your retirement date passes.

Continuance Benefit

- A Continuance is a lifetime monthly benefit provided to a qualified beneficiary as the result of the death of a Retired Member.
- A portion of your retirement contributions (Survivor Contributions) is set aside to provide a 50% lifetime monthly Continuance benefit to your eligible Spouse/Domestic Partner.
- You may provide a larger Continuance, but a lifetime actuarial reduction will be applied.



Eligible Spouse or Domestic Partner* Requirements

You are legally married or in a LACERS/State registered domestic partnership at least one year before retiring; AND



You are legally married or in a LACERS/State registered domestic partnership when you retire; AND 3

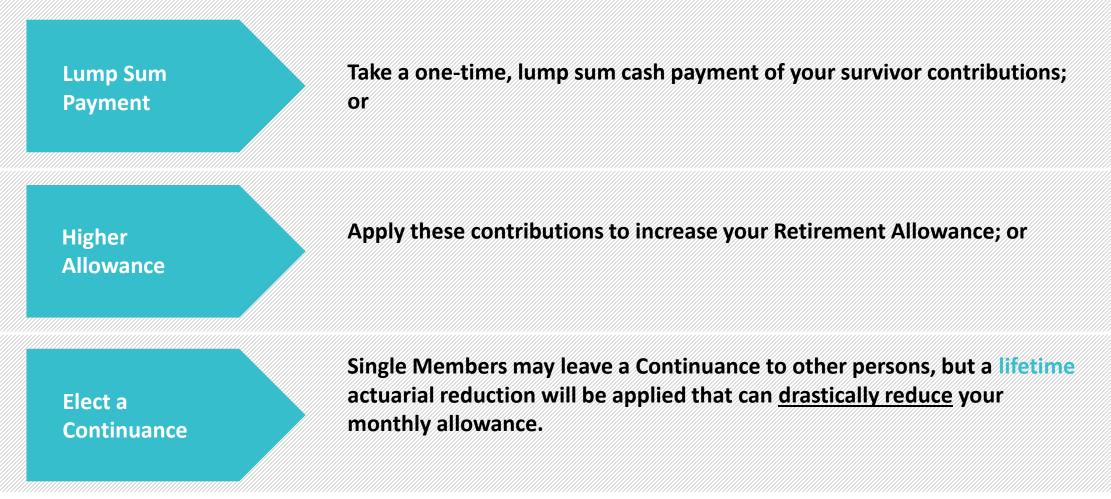
You are legally married or in a LACERS/State registered domestic partnership on the date of your death

*Domestic Partnership must be filed with LACERS or State Registered



Options for Single Members

If you are single when you retire, you will have the following options:



Continuance Elections

Continuance elections are irrevocable once you retire.

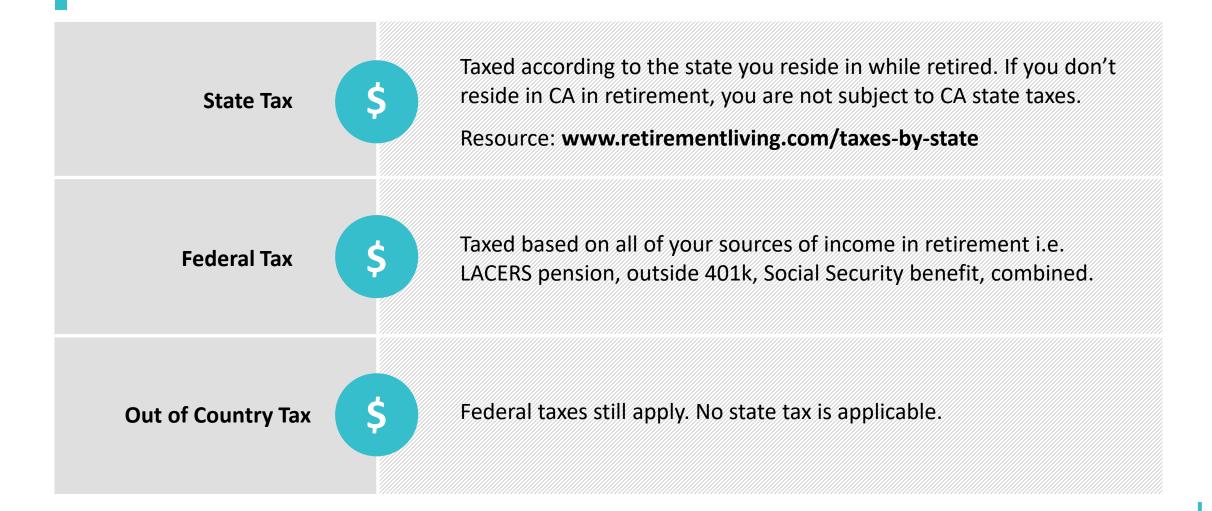
If the individual, you designate for a Continuance, dies before you:

- 1. You <u>cannot</u> name a new person to receive a Continuance;
- 2. No Continuance payment will be made upon your death; and
- 3. Your retirement allowance will not be increased.

Taxes, COLAs, Social Security



Your Allowance is Taxable





Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs)

- ✓ Based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Los Angeles area
- ✓ May increase your Retirement
 Allowance a maximum of 3% per year
- ✓ Excess CPI (over 3%) banked for future years



Historical COLAs & Banking

COLA Effective Date	СРІ	Approved COLA	Max COLA	Difference	Impact on Your Banked Benefits (COLA Bank %)
07/01/23	7.4%	7.4%	3.0%	+4.4%	4.4% banked
07/01/22	3.8%	3.8%	3.0%	+0.8%	0.8% banked
07/01/21	1.6%	1.6%	3.0%	-1.4%	Up to 1.4% used
07/01/20	3.1%	3.1%	3.0%	+0.1%	0.1% banked
07/01/19	3.8%	3.8%	3.0%	+0.8%	0.8% banked
07/01/18	2.8%	2.8%	3.0%	-0.2%	Up to 0.2% used
07/01/17	1.9%	1.9%	3.0%	-1.1%	Up to 1.1% used
07/01/16	0.9%	0.9%	3.0%	-2.1%	Up to 2.1% used
07/01/15	1.3%	1.3%	3.0%	-1.7%	Up to 1.7% used







Social Security

If you receive a Social Security retirement benefit, the Federal government may reduce it because of your LACERS Retirement Allowance that may trigger one of the following:

Windfall Elimination Provision

- ✓ Impacts you, the Member
- ✓ www.ssa.gov/benefits/retireme nt/planner/wep.html

Government Pension Offset

- ✓ Impacts your Surviving Spouse
- ✓ www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/pr ogramexplainers/governmentpension-offset.html

Supplementing Your LACERS Allowance

Supplementing Your Income

Your LACERS Retirement Allowance:

- Should be considered the foundation of your retirement financial planning but,
- It may or may not cover all your expected retirement expenses

Make sure to put things in perspective and understand the real difference between your current take-home pay and your projected retirement income.



Understanding Your Current Income

EARNINGS AND OTHER COMPENSATIONTAXES AND RETIREMENT/PENSIONEARNINGS AND OTHER COMPENSATIONHoursCDDescriptionCurrentYTDCDDescriptionCurrentYTD8.00HOHoliday Hours259.4402FD WHLDING TX208.704.453.0436CITY PARKING25.30455.4071.00HWHours Worked2302.5501ST WHLDING TX40.63903.9054UNION DUES14.11249.431.00VCVacation32.4304RETIREMENT155.662.904.4881CITY CR UNION280.005.040.0004CRet. Health Defraval103.76518.06FDFD ENDENTAL7.25510.6604DERIP Recovery25.94494.04FHFB HEALTH26.37513.8011.0%1.5%4.0%1.0%5.5%10.061.960.001.960.00	CITY OF LOS ANGELI 200 N. MAIN STREET, SU LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 JOHN DOE Employee ID: 51111	JITE 300 Sa 2 Va Depa Divis Job (Pay Period Ending Date: 09/16/20 Salary Anniversary Date: 12/06/20 Vacation Anniversary Date: 08/08/20 Department: 000 Job Class: 9184-0 MANAGEMENT ANALYST I MOU: 01 ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT		Advice Date	al State
Gross Pay 2,594.42 Total Taxes & Ret/Pen 681.39 11,951.33 Total Taxes & Ret/Pen 353.03 6,779.29	HoursCDDescription8.00HOHoliday Hours71.00HWHours Worked1.00VCVacation11.0%1.5%	Current CD 259.44 02 2302.55 01 32.43 04 04D 04D 07 86	Description 0 FD WHLDING TX 7 ST WHLDING TX 7 RETIREMENT 7 Ret. Health Defrayal 7 FICA Medicare 7 DEF COMP 7	Current YTD 208.70 4,453.04 40.63 903.90 155.66 2,904.48 103.78 518.90 25.94 484.04 36.68 706.97 110.00 1,980.00 1.0% 100	CDDescription36CITY PARKING54UNION DUES81CITY CR UNIONFDFB DENTALFHFB HEALTH	Current YTD 25.30 455.40 14.11 249.43 280.00 5,040.00 7.25 510.66 26.37 523.80

Understanding Your Income Cont'd

Consider that if you retire with:

Service Credit Years	Percentage of Final Compensation
15	32.4%
20	43.2%
25	54.0%
30	64.8%
35	75.6%
46.3	100%

Compare your current percent of pay to your projected retirement pay, i.e.

82% while working

VS.

65% while retired

LACERS Larger Annuity Program

What is it?	An optional retirement or investment account that allows you to invest more money toward your retirement.		
How does it work?	 Contribute post-tax monies: Lump-sum contribution; or Biweekly contribution; or Rollover from other qualified retirement fund (Roth IRA rollovers are not permitted). Invest based on: The average five-year Treasury Note; or The LACERS rate of return for publicly traded portion of the LACERS investment portfolio. At time of retirement: Convert funds into a lifetime monthly annuity that would be in addition to your retirement allowance. 		
How to participate?	Complete the Larger Annuity Initiation or Change of Contribution Amount.		

Deferred Compensation





- Voluntary tax-advantaged governmental 457(b) plan that allows you to save pre-tax and/or post-tax portions of your salary now so you can enjoy it later in retirement.
- You decide how much to save, how to invest, and how to manage your taxes in retirement.

Visit <u>www.la457.com</u> for more information



When You're Ready to Retire



Retirement: Meaning & Perception



Definition of Retirement:

Your choice to leave your occupation, business or office.

Common Perceptions:

- The reward for a lifetime of hard work
- The end of regular employment or salary
- Isolation, loss

Retirement today is seen as positive:

 Freedom – do what you want to do instead of what you have to do



Three Phases of Retirement



The Go-Go Years

The Settling-In Years





The Caregiving Years

What's Your Retirement Plan?



Retire "to" something instead of "away" from something



Have plans, goals, hobbies



Plan for the changes that come with retirement

Retirement Lifestyle Changes

What Work Provides

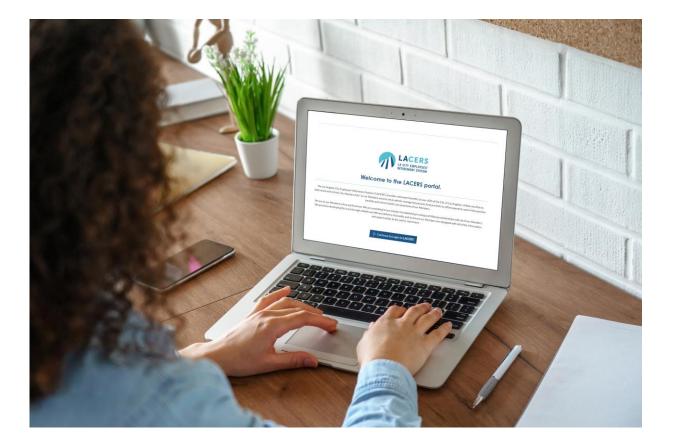
- ✓ Structures our time
- ✓ Stimulates intellect
- ✓ Provides social contacts
- ✓ Builds self-esteem
- ✓ Gives an Identity

Retirement Substitutes

- ✓ Join a club or volunteer
- Take free courses online or a local community college
- ✓ Participate in LACERS Well
- ✓ Set goals and complete them
- Maintain and cultivate friendships

The Retirement Process

Retirement Application Portal (RAP)





This new, easy to use portal allows you to apply for retirement online!

- Upload and submit your required documents securely via the portal
- Sign application electronically
- Check your application status

...and more from the comfort of your home.

Steps to Take Prior to Accessing RAP

- 90 days prior to your anticipated retirement date call LACERS to notify us of your intent to retire, request an official retirement benefit estimate and to register for Retirement Counseling and Health Counseling sessions.
- Gather your required documents, scan them and save them to your computer for easy uploading. The required documents list can be found at <u>lacers.org/submit-your-required-documents</u>.
- **3.** Use the LACERS Decision Sheet found at <u>lacers.org/forms-info-sheets</u>, to assist you in writing down your selections to important decisions you will need to make in the RAP.
- **4. Review** Retirement Application Portal (RAP) FAQs at <u>lacers.org/frequently-asked-questions</u>.

Only after completing the steps above should you access the RAP.

Selecting a Retirement Date

- Your application must be submitted within the appropriated filing period of 30 - 60 days prior to your selected retirement date
- Your last day on payroll will be the day before your retirement effective date
- If you want your last active check to be a full check, retire at the end of the pay period
- To shorten the time between your last active check and your first retirement check, retire in the last pay period of the month



Required Documents



- Marriage License or State Registered Domestic Partnership
- Birth Certificate or Passport*
- Dissolution documents *for any and all* prior marriages or domestic partnerships
- Medicare card, if applicable*
- State or Federal issued photo identification*

*Spouse/domestic partner must also provide these documents

LACERS will also require a W-9 form and an Affidavit of Identity form be completed. IMPORTANT! Failure to upload these document will prevent you from submitting your application through the RAP and therefore delay your retirement date.

Required Documents Cont'd

- If you or your spouse/domestic partner have birth date or name discrepancies on documents, you may be required to provide additional documentation.
- If your divorce is not finalized, you will retire married unless the divorce is finalized prior to your retirement date.
- Documents in a foreign language must be translated or transcribed by a certified translator.
 Notarized copies are not acceptable.

Specialized Counseling is Available

Speak to a retirement counselor at LACERS to make informed decisions if:

- You have a life threatening condition
- Have an urgent need to retire or need to resign for a refund of your contributions



Leaving City Service Prior to Retirement Eligibility

Transferring / Promoting to DWP

If you are planning to transfer or promote to DWP, explore how your retirement benefits may be impacted

Contact WPERP to determine what your benefits with them will be:

Phone: (213) 367-1712

E-mail: <u>Retire@ladwp.com</u>



Leaving City Service Less Than 5 Years of Continuous Service

Option 1

Leave your contributions on deposit with the Plan. Funds can remain on deposit until you reach age 73

Option 2

Take a refund of your contributions and/or roll funds over into another qualified retirement plan

Leaving City Service More Than 5 Years of Continuous Service

Option 1

Take a refund of your contributions* and/or roll funds over into another qualified retirement plan

*If you take a refund of your contributions, you will be required to complete a Waiver of Benefits

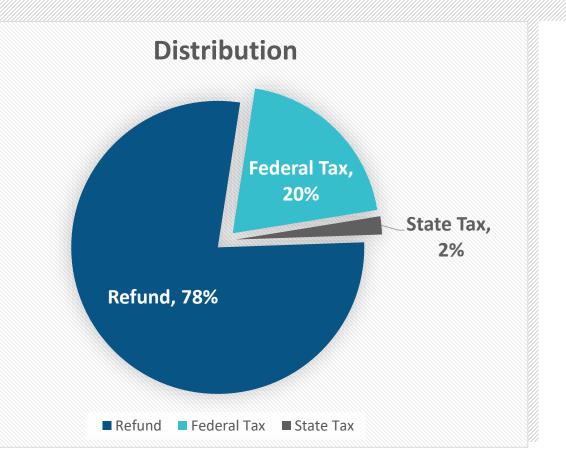
Option 2

Leave your contributions on deposit with the Plan until you are eligible for a Deferred Service Retirement

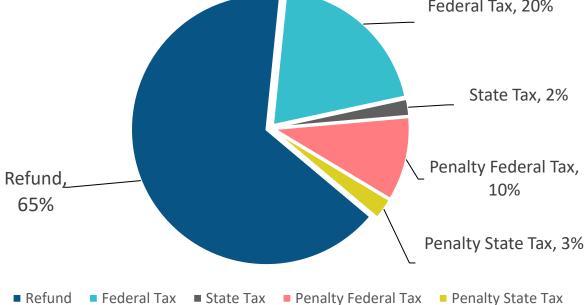


Refund of Contributions

Example Member Contributions: \$100,000



Early Withdrawal Penalties Separation from City Service under Age 55 Federal Tax, 20%





Deferred Normal Retirement

Eligibility Requirements for Full Allowance:

- ✓ Age 55 or older and you have 30 or more years of Service
- ✓ Age 60 or older, your first date of membership was at least 10 years prior to your effective retirement date and you have at least five years of Continuous Service*
- ✓ Age 70 or older and have five or more years of Continuous Service^{*}

*At least five years of Continuous Service must come from City employment and/or service recognized under full reciprocity

Deferred Early Retirement

Eligibility Requirements for Reduced Allowance

 Age 55 or older and your first date of membership was at least 10 years prior to your retirement effective date *and* you have at least five years of Continuous Service*

*At least five years of Continuous Service must come from City employment and/or service recognized under full reciprocity



Survivor Benefits: Active & Retired

Survivor Benefits – Active Member



If you die while working for the City, there may be benefit options available to your survivors, depending on your:

- Years of Service & Service Credit
- Age
- Survivor's relationship to you
- Your designation of beneficiary(ies), if any

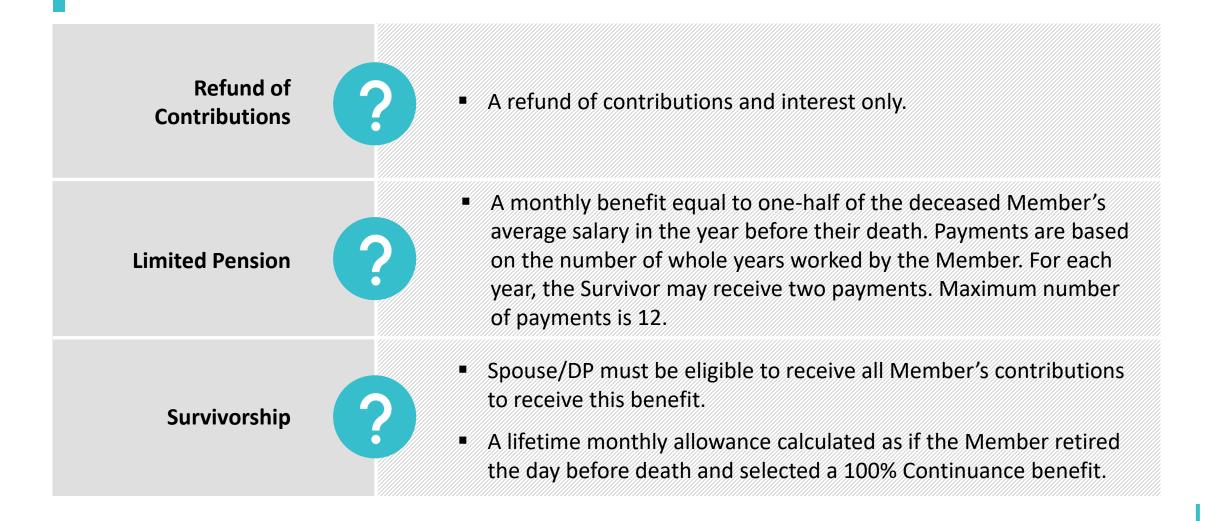
Survivor Benefits : Retired Members

Upon your death after retirement, your designated beneficiary may be entitled to:

- A Continuance Benefit (if applicable)
- Health benefits for an eligible Survivor
- Any Unused Contributions (if applicable)
- \$2,500 Burial Allowance
- The accrued amount of your Retirement Allowance for the month of your death



Survivor Benefit Options: Active Members



Survivor Benefit Options – Active Members

Years of Service/Service Credit

Less than one year of Service Credit (non-duty-related death)

At least 1 year of Service Credit, but less than 5 years of Continuous Service (nonduty-related death)

Less than 5 years of Continuous Service (duty-related death)

5 Years or more of Continuous Service

Survivor Benefit Options

- Refund of Contributions
- Refund of Contributions and possible Limited Pension
- Disability Retirement Survivorship, or
- Refund of Contributions and possible Limited
 Pension
- Deferred or Service Retirement Survivorship, or
- Disability Retirement Survivorship, or
- Refund of Contributions and possible Limited Pension

Domestic Partners Eligibility

For your Domestic Partner to be eligible for survivor benefits, your Domestic Partnership must be:

□ Filed with LACERS by submitting a Declaration of Domestic Partnership form available on LACERS.org;

- or -

Registered with the State of California



 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) 779-5328 | Fax (213) 473-7297 | RTT (888) 349-3996

DECLARATION OF DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP - TIER 1

PRINT

RESET

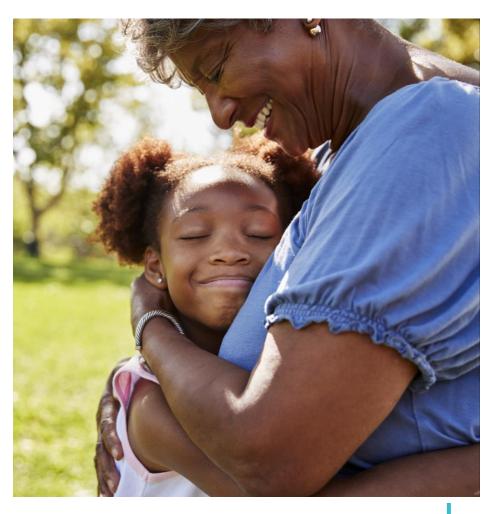
We, (Name) and (Name) declare: 1. We are each at least eighteen (18) years of age, or have met the requirements of Family Code Section 297.1: and 2. We have chosen to share one another's lives in an intimate and committed relationship of mutual caring; and We are not related by blood to any degree that would bar marriage in the State of California; and 4. Neither of us is married to or legally separated from another person; and 5. Neither of us is currently in a domestic partnership with another person; and 6. We both have the capacity to freely and voluntarily enter into a domestic partnership. We understand that our domestic partnership will terminate if any of the following occurs and that it is our responsibility to promptly file a Notice of Termination of Domestic Partnership with LACERS in the event: One of us gives, or sends by certified mail, to the other, a written notice terminating the partnership. One of us dies. One of us marries or enters into another domestic partnership with someone else. We each declare that these representations are true, correct, and contain no material omissions of fact to the best of our knowledge. We understand and comply with Page 2 of this document Executed this day of California 20 at Member's Signature and Information: Domestic Partner's Signature and Information: Signature Signature Print Name Print Name Social Security Number Social Security Number Contact Telephone Number Contact Telephone Number I'm also a Member of LACERS Do you have a State Registered Domestic Partnership? Yes No

Beneficiary Assignments: Important Reminders

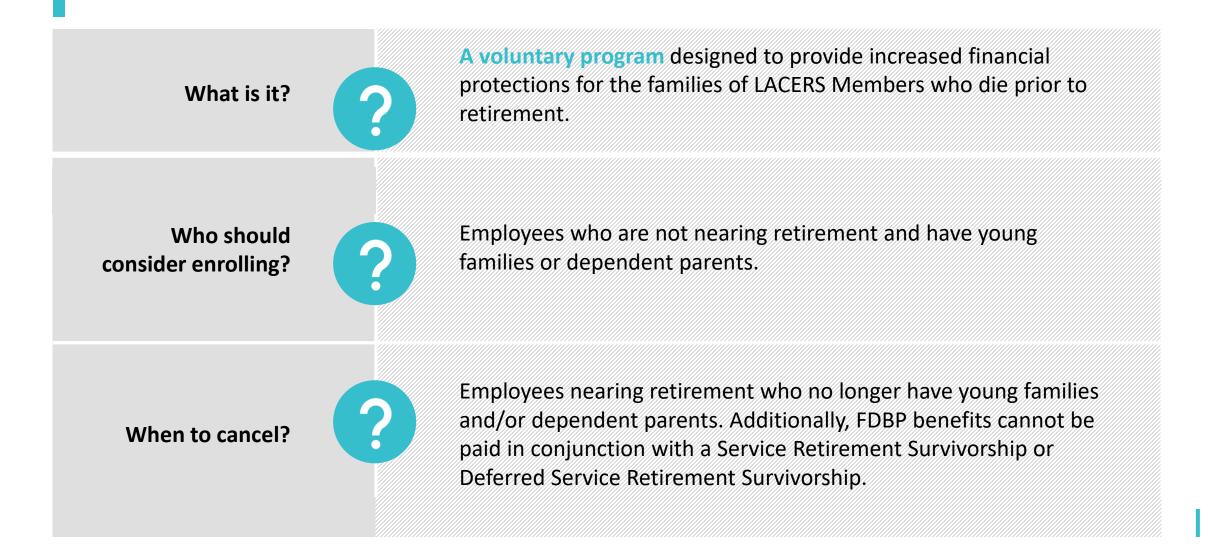
- Keep your beneficiary information up to date so that, in the event of your death, benefits will be paid as you intended
- Designated beneficiaries remain in effect until you change them

If you do not choose a beneficiary or they predecease you or waive benefits, benefits will be paid in order of Succession:

- **1.** Spouse or Registered Domestic Partner
- 2. Children
- 3. Parents
- 4. Your Estate



Family Death Benefit Plan (FDBP)



FDBP: How to Cancel



lacers.org/family-death-benefit-plan

Members

Secure Document Upload Understanding Your Retirement

Eligibility

Mentally Preparing for Retirement

Health Benefits

Summary Plan Description Separating from City

Service

Family Death Benefit Plan

Designating Beneficiaries

Family Death Benefit Plan

The Family Death Benefit Plan (FDBP) is a voluntary program that provides a monthly financial benefit that may give your family increased financial protection should you die before retiring. An employee becomes eligible for membership for the FDBP after 18 months of City Service. The cost is only \$.95 per pay period.

- 塔 FDBP Information Sheet
- Election to Participate in Family Death Benefit Plan
- Lancellation of Election to Participate in FDBP Form



Medical and Dental Benefits





2025 Health Benefits Guide



Health Benefits Guide

• Your user's manual for your LACERS Health Benefits

 May be mailed to Retired Members annually during Open Enrollment period

 Soft copy posted on Retired Members page of LACERS website: lacers.org/health-benefits-guide



Medical and Dental: Enrollment Eligibility

Who is eligible to enroll in LACERS Medical and Dental plans?

- ✓ You, as a Retired LACERS Member
- ✓ Your eligible dependent(s)
- ✓ An eligible survivor who receives a Continuance or Survivorship Allowance (e.g., qualified surviving spouse/domestic partner) and their dependent.

Eligible Dependents

- ✓ Legal Spouse/Domestic Partner (Plan or state-registered)
- ✓ Dependent Child under age 26
 - ✓ Unless eligible for medical coverage by their employer
- Disabled child with a disability that occurred prior to age 26 and is unable to engage in gainful employment
- ✓ Grandchild under age 26 if Member is the legal guardian, has legal custody, or is the child of a dependent child





Health Plan Subsidies

To be eligible for a subsidy, you must:

- ✓ Be at least age 55
- ✓ Be receiving a service or disability retirement benefit from LACERS
- ✓ Have a minimum of 10 whole years of Service
- Be enrolled in a LACERS-sponsored medical plan or be a participant in the Medical Premium Reimbursement Program (MPRP)

Service/ Service Credit	% of Maximum Subsidy	2025 Subsidy Amount	
10	40%	\$927.43	
11	44% \$1,020.18		
12	48% \$1,112.92		
13	52% \$1,205.66		
14	56%	\$1,298.40	
15	60%	\$1,391.15	
16	64%	\$1,483.89	
17	68% \$1,576.63		
17	00/0	φ1,070.00	
Service/ Service Credit	% of Maximum Subsidy	2025 Subsidy Amount	
Service/ Service	% of Maximum	2025 Subsidy	
Service/ Service Credit	% of Maximum Subsidy	2025 Subsidy Amount	
Service/ Service Credit 18	% of Maximum Subsidy 72%	2025 Subsidy Amount \$1,669.38	
Service/ Service Credit 18 19	% of Maximum Subsidy 72% 76%	2025 Subsidy Amount \$1,669.38 \$1,762.12	
Service/ Service Credit 18 19 20	% of Maximum Subsidy 72% 76% 80%	2025 Subsidy Amount \$1,669.38 \$1,762.12 \$1,854.86	
Service/ Service Credit 18 19 20 21	% of Maximum Subsidy 72% 76% 80% 84%	2025 Subsidy Amount \$1,669.38 \$1,762.12 \$1,854.86 \$1,947.61	
Service/ Service Credit 18 19 20 21 21 22	% of Maximum Subsidy 72% 76% 80% 84% 88%	2025 Subsidy Amount \$1,669.38 \$1,762.12 \$1,854.86 \$1,947.61 \$2,040.35	

Medical Subsidy

- Retired Members are eligible to receive 40% of the maximum subsidy with 10 years of Service
- For each additional <u>whole</u> year of Service Credit, members receive an additional 4%
- With 25 years of Service Credit, you are eligible to receive 100% of the maximum subsidy

Service/ Service Credit*	% of Maximum	Delta Dental PPO Subsidy Amount	DeltaCare USA DHMO Subsidy Amount
10	40%	\$17.17	\$6.28
11	44%	\$18.89	\$6.91
12	48%	\$20.61	\$7.54
13	52%	\$22.32	\$8.16
14	56%	\$24.04	\$8.79
15	60%	\$25.76	\$9.42
16	64%	\$27.48	\$10.05
17	68%	\$29.19	\$10.68
Service/ Service Credit*	% of Maximum	Delta Dental PPO Subsidy Amount	DeltaCare USA DHMO Subsidy Amount
Service		Dental PPO Subsidy	USA DHMO Subsidy
Service Credit*	Maximum	Dental PPO Subsidy Amount	USA DHMO Subsidy Amount
Service Credit* 18	Maximum 72%	Dental PPO Subsidy Amount \$30.91	USA DHMO Subsidy Amount \$11.30
Service Credit* 18 19	Maximum 72% 76%	Dental PPO Subsidy Amount \$30.91 \$32.63	USA DHMO Subsidy Amount \$11.30 \$11.93
Service Credit* 18 19 20	Maximum 72% 76% 80%	Dental PPO Subsidy Amount \$30.91 \$32.63 \$34.34	USA DHMO Subsidy Amount \$11.30 \$11.93 \$12.56
Service Credit* 18 19 20 21	Maximum 72% 76% 80% 84%	Dental PPO Subsidy Amount \$30.91 \$32.63 \$34.34 \$36.06	USA DHMO Subsidy Amount \$11.30 \$11.93 \$12.56 \$13.19
Service Credit* 18 19 20 21 21 22	Maximum 72% 76% 80% 84% 88%	Dental PPO Subsidy Amount \$30.91 \$32.63 \$34.34 \$36.06 \$37.78	USA DHMO Subsidy Amount \$11.30 \$11.93 \$12.56 \$13.19 \$13.82

Dental Subsidy

To be eligible for a Dental subsidy, you must:

- ✓ Be at least age 55
- ✓ Have a minimum of 10 whole years of Service

Note: LACERS *does not* provide dental subsidies to dependents or eligible Survivors. But they may be enrolled and have their premiums deducted from your retirement allowance or their Continuance/Survivorship allowance, if an eligible survivor.



Understanding Your Health Plan Deductions

Your monthly LACERS health plan deductions (out-of-pocket costs) depend on:

01

The monthly premium(s) of the plan(s) you choose

02

The number of dependents you enroll in your health plan(s) and your and your dependent's Medicare status* 03

Your LACERS subsidies based on your service credit



Medical Plan Options

Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO)

- Kaiser Permanente
- Anthem Blue Cross

Preferred Provider Organization (PPO)

Anthem Blue Cross

Medicare Advantage HMO Plans

- Kaiser Senior Advantage
- UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage
- Senior Care Action Network (SCAN Health Plan)

Medicare Supplemental Plan

- Anthem Blue Cross Medicare Preferred PPO
- Anthem Blue Cross Life & Health Medicare Plan (Medicare Supp.)





UnitedHealthcare



Medical Plans: Where You Live Matters

California*	Nevada and Arizona*	United States and Its Territories	Worldwide
 Anthem Blue Cross HMO & PPO Kaiser Permanente HMO & Kaiser Senior Advantage HMO United Healthcare Medicare Advantage HMO SCAN Health Plan (Medicare Advantage HMO) Anthem Blue Cross Medicare Preferred PPO Anthem Blue Cross Life & Health Medicare Supp.) 	 ✓ United Healthcare Medicare Advantage HMO ✓ Anthem Blue Cross PPO ✓ Anthem Blue Cross Medicare Preferred PPO ✓ Anthem Blue Cross Life & Health Medicare Plan (Medicare Supp.) 	 ✓ Anthem Blue Cross PPO ✓ Anthem Blue Cross Medicare Preferred PPO ✓ Anthem Blue Cross Life & Health Medicare Plan (Medicare Supp.) 	Anthem Blue Cross PPO Out-of- Country Plan

*Not all areas of the state. Plans in **italics** are senior plans for Medicare-eligible retirees.

Dental and Vision Plans

Dental

DeltaCare[®] USA (HMO)

Available in California and select areas of Nevada

Delta Dental (PPO)

Available Nationwide; Includes California and Out of Country

Vision

Anthem Blue View Vision

- For Anthem Blue Cross members
- For UnitedHealthcare members
- For SCAN Health Plan members
- For Anthem Blue Cross Life & Health Medicare
 Plan (Medicare Supp.)

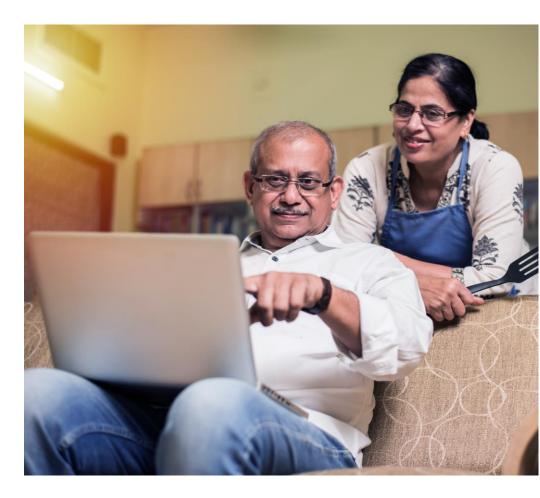
Kaiser Permanente

• For Kaiser members

When to Enroll in Medical & Dental Plans

- If you choose LACERS Retiree health coverage, you will enroll as part of the retirement process. Coverage begins the first of the month after your retirement date.
- Your Active City employee health benefits continue to the end of the month you retire.

LACERS health plans are available to you if you need them but you are not required to enroll. If you do not enroll at the time of retirement, you may enroll during Open Enrollment or if you experience a Qualifying Event.



Health Enrollment at Retirement

- Enrollment in a LACERS retiree health plan is not automatic
- You may enroll in a LACERS health plan within 60 days of your retirement effective date and coverage will begin on the first of the month following your retirement effective date
- If you do not enroll in a LACERS health plan at the time of retirement, you may enroll during Open Enrollment or if you experience a Qualifying Event

Medical & Dental Enrollment: Qualifying Events

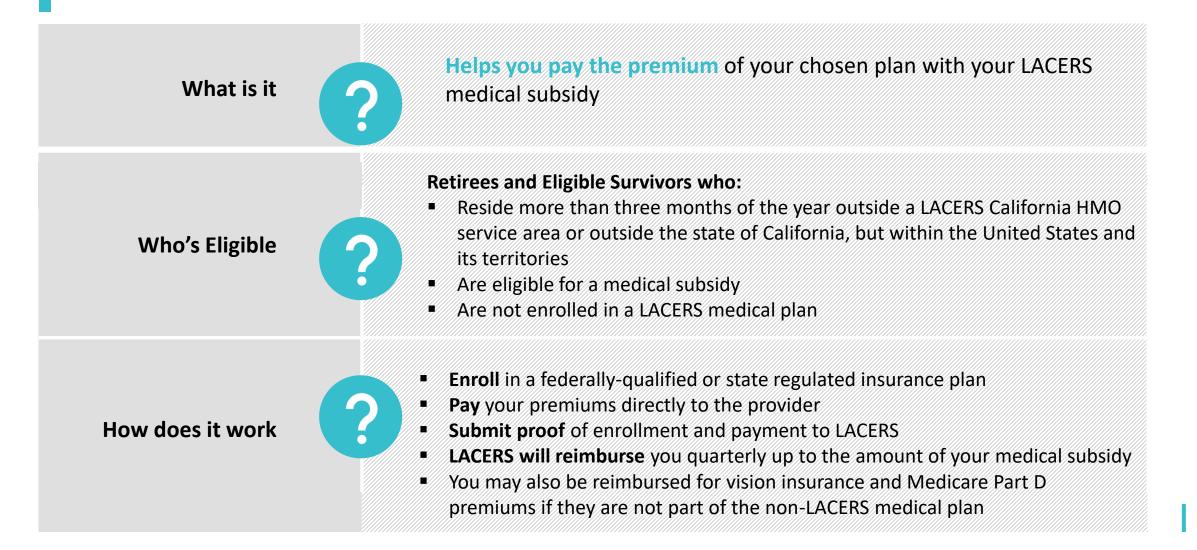
You may enroll or change plans within:

- LACERS' Annual Open Enrollment period: Oct. 15th Nov. 18th
- 60 days of turning age 55
- 90 days of turning age 65 (based on your Medicare eligibility)
- 30 days of:
- Moving (zip code/outside of service area)
- Family status change (marriage, domestic partnership, birth/adoption of child)
- Being involuntarily terminated from a non-LACERS medical plan
- LACERS HMO plan zip code service area becoming available or unavailable

Medical Premium Reimbursement Plan (MPRP)



Medical Premium Reimbursement Program (MPRP)



MPRP Example You plan to reside in Washington State in retirement and want to enroll in Kaiser Permanente Washington which is <u>not</u> part of the LACERS Kaiser Permanente Group Plan. KAISER You contact LACERS Health staff to verify that your new zip code is outside of LACERS coverage area. You contact Kaiser Permanente in Washington state to enroll in plan. Fill out required MPRP enrollment paperwork provided by LACERS. Send proof of premium payments to LACERS quarterly to receive reimbursement up to your maximum health subsidy amount.

How to Enroll in the MPRP

Enrolling At Retirement

- Inform the LACERS Health staff that you will be residing outside of the covered zip codes for the LACERS Medical plans
- Provide your zip code to LACERS staff to determine if eligible to participate in MPRP
- LACERS Health staff will provide you a packet with the necessary forms to enroll, including a reimbursement schedule

Enrolling After Retirement

- Contact LACERS Health staff within 30 days of your move outside of a service area zip code
- Provide your zip code to LACERS staff to determine if eligible to participate in MPRP
- Submit a signed Change of Address form to update your address
- LACERS Health staff will provide you a packet with the necessary forms to enroll, including a reimbursement schedule

Medicare Requirements



Aging into Medicare



What is Medicare?



Medicare is the federal insurance program for people who:

- ✓ Are age 65 or older; or
- ✓ Are disabled; or
- ✓ Have specific medical conditions.



What is the LACERS Medicare Requirement?

At age 65 (or sooner if eligible for Medicare insurance), anyone enrolled in a LACERS medical plan **must enroll** in all parts of Medicare in which they are qualified

Medical Subsidy Scale for Medicare Participants

- Your subsidy amount is calculated differently once you age into Medicare
- The maximum monthly subsidy amount will be based on your years of Service Credit and the one-party premium of the LACERS Senior plan in which you are enrolled

Service Credit	% of Maximum Subsidy
10*-14	75% of one-party monthly premium
15-19	90% of one-party monthly premium
20+	100% of one-party monthly premium



All LACERS Retired Members & dependents, upon turning age 65, must enroll in Medicare Part B, which covers doctor visits, and provide proof of enrollment to LACERS

- Failure to enroll in Medicare Part B or pay your Part B monthly premiums on time will result in termination of your LACERS coverage and subsidy
- The basic Medicare Part B premium in 2024 is \$174.70 per month
- Consider enrolling in the Medicare Easy Pay Program: https://www.medicare.gov/yourmedicare-costs/ways-to-pay-part-a-part-b-premiums/medicare-easy-pay

Medicare Part A: Required if Free

If you are eligible for Medicare Part A *premium-free*, retired members and dependents *must* enroll in Medicare Part A

You may receive premium-free Part A:

- ✓ If you have 10 years of earnings history with Social Security outside of City employment, or
- ✓ If you started with the City after April 1, 1986, by paying FICA Medicare payroll taxes, or
- ✓ Through your spouse when they reach age 62 if they are eligible for Part A premium-free

Not Eligible for Part A Premium-Free

If you do not qualify for Medicare Part A premium-free:

- ✓ Your LACERS medical plan will cover your hospitalization costs
- \checkmark There is no change in the subsidy formula at age 65
- ✓ LACERS <u>will not</u> provide you a Part B premium reimbursement (will be discussed on an upcoming slide)

Medicare A + B

LACERS will reimburse you, the Member, for the basic Medicare Part B premium if you are:

- ✓ Enrolled in Medicare Parts A & B ; and
- ✓ Enrolled in a LACERS Senior Plan or MPRP; and
- ✓ Receive a medical subsidy.

*LACERS does not reimburse dependents or Survivors for their Medicare Part B premium







 DO NOT enroll in a non-LACERS Medicare Part D plan separate from your LACERS Senior Plan

(Part D covers prescription drugs and LACERS plans <u>include</u> Medicare Part D)

- Enrolling in a Medicare plan outside of LACERS will result in the *termination* of your LACERS medical coverage.
- You can only assign one medical plan to your Medicare.



Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA)

You may be charged additional premiums for Medicare Parts B and D called IRMAAs.

You are responsible for paying these additional amounts to remain eligible for your LACERS Health benefits.

IRMAAs are determined annually by the income you reported to the Internal Revenue Service from your filing two years prior.

Examples:

- Your 2021 Tax Return determines 2023 IRMAA
- Your 2022 Tax Return determines 2024 IRMAA

2024 IRMAA Brackets:

- If you are single and your Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) is more than \$103,000 per year, or
- If you are married and file taxes jointly, and your MAGI is more than \$206,000

IRMAA brackets can be found on the Social Security website at ssa.gov.

LACERS does not reimburse these additional premiums.

When to Enroll into Medicare

If you retire before age 65

- LACERS requests that you enroll three months prior to turning age 65
- LACERS will mail you an Age-In packet letting you know what you need to do

If you are retiring after you've turned 65

 LACERS will assist you in enrolling during the retirement process with a Special Enrollment Form to give to Social Security to avoid late-enrollment penalties

Important: If you are continuing to work for the City past age 65 <u>and</u> have medical coverage through Employee Benefits, you do not need to apply for Medicare until you retire





LACERS Well is a free program that provides resources and activities for retirees that promotes optimal health and wellness to enhance the quality of life and retirement

What's offered:

- Health and Wellness seminars and workshops
- Participation incentives and rewards
- Group activities such as hikes, book clubs, museum trips

Visit lacers.org/lacerswell to find out more and to view a calendar of upcoming events



Legal Planning for Your Future

15

Things to Consider

During Life

- LACERS Special Durable Power of Attorney
- Living Trust
- California Uniform Statutory Power of Attorney
- Living Will
- Long-term Care Insurance

After Death

- Estate Taxes
- Probate
- Will
- Trust





Durable Power of Attorney

LACERS Special Durable Power of Attorney

- A legal document designating an agent of your choosing to act on your behalf regarding your LACERS benefits
- This form is available at lacers.org/forms

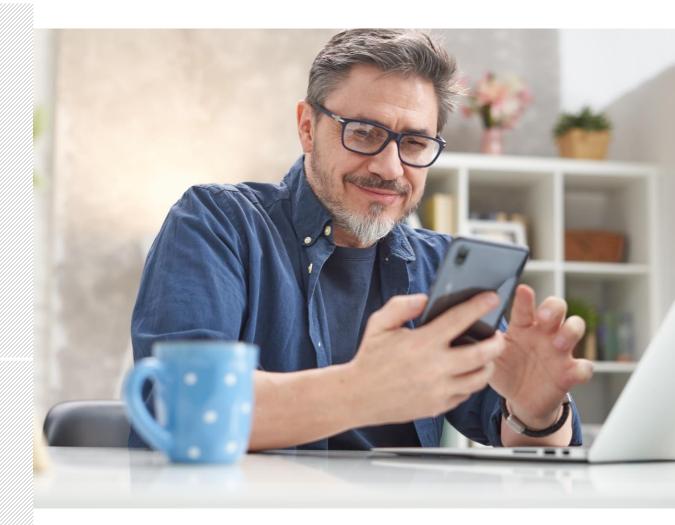
California Uniform Statutory Power of Attorney

 A legal document appointing an agent of your choosing to act for you in any lawful way regarding property, financial, retirement plan transactions and other legal decisions

After Retirement: When to Contact LACERS

- If you move or change your contact information*
- ✓ If you want to make beneficiary changes
- ✓ If you have a change in family status
- ✓ If you have issues with your Health Plans

*If your contact information is out of date and we are unable to reach you, LACERS may withhold your retirement allowance until the information is updated



After Retirement: How LACERS Communicates with You

- LACERS Retiree Newsletters \checkmark
- LACERS Retiree Paycheck Flyers \checkmark
- Health Plan Open Enrollment Meetings/Mailings \checkmark
- LACERS.org \checkmark
- LACERS YouTube Channel \checkmark
- **MyLACERS** online account access \checkmark
- LACERS Well Newsletters \checkmark



A MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT,

CYNTHIA M. RUIZ

IN THIS ISSUE

IF I GET A JOB, WILL IT AFFECT MY LACERS RETIREMENT PAYMENT? - p.3

CYBERSECURITY BEST PRACTICES-0.4



RECLAIM ADVENTURING THIS SEASON - p.6

JOIN THE FUN! LACERS WELL & CHAMPION EVENTS- p.6

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE FOR A CHANCE TO BE PUBLISHED- 0.7

UPDATE ON NEW LACERS IEADQUARTERS - p.7



from the pandemic, it is how vital both our health and our relationships are, so please take advantage of better weather and relaxed restrictions to explore somewhere new or get in touch with old friends.

The past few years have been marked by changes, and we are now facing another change due to rising costs. The spike in inflation from gas and groceries to services and rent affects us all, and I share your concerns about this increased cost of living. To that end, I am pleased to announce that your LACERS Board has approved the maximum allowed COLA increase for 2022. The Los Angeles area consumer price index was set at 3.8%, and as such, our Tier 1 and Tier 1 Enhanced Members who have been retired a full year before July 1, 2022, will receive the maximum 3% COLA, with a .8% held in their COLA bank. Increases will be included in the July retirement allowance payments. We are aware that this increase does not match the staggering rate of inflation but we do hope it provides some relief to you and your families.

Earlier in the year, the switch to a new health plan might have caused frustration. Some of our Members transitioned to the Anthem Medicare

On Demand Benefit Information on LACERS YouTube

Make sure to subscribe to the official LACERS YouTube channel to view other informational videos and be notified when new content is available before anyone else!







How to Contact LACERS

