

**Q. When will I receive my benefit check?**

**A.** Benefit payments will be mailed, or deposited into your bank or credit union account (if your benefit is paid by Electronic Funds Transfer), on the last workday of each month.

**Q. Is my PERA benefit taxable?**

**A.** Yes, your PERA benefit is subject to federal and state income tax. The taxable amount of your benefit will depend on the tax-paid plus the tax-deferred balances in your PERA member contribution account at retirement. If you have tax-paid money, based upon your age (and the age of your cobeneficiary, if applicable), part of your PERA benefit will not be taxable at the federal level for a specified number of months. Depending on your age, a portion of your benefit may not be taxable by the State of Colorado. See the *Taxes on PERA Benefits* booklet for more information.

**Q. May I change my option and cobeneficiary choices?**

**A.** You may change your benefit option or cobeneficiary up to 60 days after the date your first benefit payment is issued. After 60 days have passed, you may not change your option or cobeneficiary except in certain circumstances involving marriage, divorce, or death. See the *Changing Your Cobeneficiary or Benefit Option* brochure for more information.

**Q. How are PERA benefits coordinated with Social Security benefits?**

**A.** Your PERA benefit is not affected by Social Security. However, your Social Security benefit may be reduced if you are receiving a PERA benefit. Contact Social Security for specific information about a reduction to your Social Security benefit by calling 1-800-772-1213 or through their Web site at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

**Q. Will I receive annual increases to my PERA benefit?**

**A.** Yes, your annual benefit increase is based upon the date you began PERA membership.

- **If you began PERA membership on or before June 30, 2005**, you will receive an annual increase of 3.5 percent. You are eligible for your first annual increase in the March that immediately follows the calendar year in which you retire. For example, if you retired on July 1, 2007, you will have received your first annual increase on March 31, 2008. Benefit increases are prorated for those retirees with less than a full year in retirement.
- **If you began PERA membership on or after July 1, 2005, and before January 1, 2007**, you will receive an annual increase of the lower of 3 percent or the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for urban wage earners and clerical workers. You are eligible for your first annual increase in the March that immediately follows the calendar year in which you retire. For example, if you retired on July 1, 2007, you will have received your first annual increase on March 31, 2008. Benefit increases are prorated for those retirees with less than a full year in retirement.
- **If your PERA membership began on or after January 1, 2007**, you are eligible to receive an annual increase of the lower of 3 percent or the CPI for urban wage earners and clerical workers, or a permanent increase for benefit recipients that will exhaust 10 percent of the year-end balance of the market value of the annual increase reserve. You are eligible for the increase if you have been receiving your retirement benefit for the full preceding calendar year and you have retired with a service retirement benefit or with a reduced service retirement benefit and as of January 1 of that year, have reached age 60 or your years of service plus age equals 85. No minimum age or service credit requirement applies to disability retirees. Annual benefit increases are limited to available funds dedicated to this purpose. You are eligible for your first annual increase in the July that follows your first full calendar year of retirement. For example, if you retired on December 1, 2008, you may receive your first annual increase on July 31, 2010.

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**Q. Can I work after retirement?**

**A.** Yes, the following are basic rules on working after retirement. Please read the *Working After Retirement* booklet for detailed information.

- After you retire, you may work for a private company that is not performing services for a PERA employer (or work for a public employer not affiliated with PERA) without limitations.
- If you are a disability retiree, you have different working after retirement rules. See the Disability Retirees section in the *Working After Retirement* booklet for more information.
- If you return to work during the effective month of retirement, you are subject to additional rules. See the Working During the Effective Month of Retirement section in the *Working After Retirement* booklet.
- If you return to work for a PERA-affiliated employer, you are limited to the 110-day/720-hour working after retirement limit per calendar year.
- You are subject to the working after retirement limit if you are providing services to a PERA-affiliated employer as an employee and you cannot be defined as an independent contractor by the Internal Revenue Service Ruling 87-41, 1987-1 C.B. 296 regarding independent contractors.
- If you work for an affiliated employer, in most cases employer contributions must be paid on the salary earned.

**Q. What happens to my PERA life insurance after retirement?**

**A.** If you have PERA life insurance, it will continue when you retire unless you cancel it in writing. Your premium will remain the same and will be paid by a deduction from your monthly benefit. See the PERA Life Insurance Program information on PERA's Web site at [www.copera.org](http://www.copera.org).

**Q. Does PERA offer health insurance?**

**A.** Yes, PERA offers health care, dental, and vision insurance under the PERACare Health Benefits Program to retirees, other benefit recipients, and their eligible dependents. You may enroll at retirement or during the annual open enrollment period. In addition, you may become eligible to enroll, change plans, or add dependents based on certain "life events." See the PERACare information on PERA's Web site at [www.copera.org](http://www.copera.org).

**Q. Will I be eligible for Medicare as a PERA retiree?**

**A.** At age 65, you are eligible to enroll in Medicare, even if you have worked only for a PERA employer and have not paid into Social Security. If you enroll in a PERACare plan, you will be required to enroll in Medicare Part B three months prior to turning age 65. For more information on Medicare, log on to Medicare's Web site at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (633-4227).

For more information on Medicare and PERACare, review the *PERACare Health Benefits Program Medicare Coverage* booklet.

**Q. What happens to my PERA 401(k) account after I retire?**

**A.** When you retire, you may leave your account at PERA and continue to make transfers between investment funds, request a loan or distribution, or continue to make contributions to your PERA 401(k) account from salary earned as an employee working after retirement for a PERA-affiliated employer. More information about the PERA 401(k) Plan is available on PERA's Web site at [www.copera.org](http://www.copera.org)—click on 401(k) Information on the PERA home page.

**For other PERA information resources**

- Visit PERA's Web site at [www.copera.org](http://www.copera.org)
- E-mail PERA through the PERA Web site; click on the "Contact Us" link
- Call PERA at 303-832-9550 or 1-800-759-PERA (7372)

*This fact sheet provides general information about Colorado PERA benefits. Your rights, benefits, and obligations as a PERA member are governed by Title 24, Article 51 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, and the Rules of the Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association, which take precedence over any interpretations in this fact sheet.*