

BACK CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS OF THE PENSION SAVINGS PLAN - ALL MEMBERS

- ***What is a Back Contribution Service Credit Purchase for participants of the Pension Savings Plan?***

If you are currently an active LACERS Member who was regularly employed by the City on a full/part-time, seasonal or temporary basis, during which time you were not a LACERS Member, but were contributing to the Pension Savings Plan (PSP), you may be able to increase your LACERS retirement benefits through the purchase of a Back Contribution, subject to certain Internal Revenue Code (IRC) requirements and limitations.

- ***What makes you eligible to purchase Back Contribution for your PSP time?***

You may be eligible to purchase Service Credit with a Back Contribution for your PSP time if you are:

- An **active** member of LACERS;
- You were regularly employed by the City and participating in the PSP;
- During that time, you were not a LACERS Member or making contributions to LACERS; and
- You must have a minimum of five years verified City Service and Contributions on deposit with LACERS, if the purchase is made with funds from any source other than a direct rollover or transfer from another employer retirement plan or an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), excluding Roth IRAs.

For purchases made entirely with a direct rollover or transfer from another employer retirement plan or an IRA, there is no requirement for a minimum five-year LACERS' membership to qualify for the purchase.

An "employer retirement plan" includes a 401(a) plan, a 457(b) governmental plan, or a 403(b) plan.

- ***What makes you ineligible to purchase Back Contribution for your PSP time?***

- If you are **not an active** member of LACERS, you will not be eligible to purchase Service Credit. Only current active City of Los Angeles employees who are also active LACERS Members may purchase Service Credit.
- If you do not have a minimum of five years of verified City Service with contributions on deposit with LACERS (only for purchases made with post-tax funds).

- ***How is the amount of Service Credit that is eligible for purchase determined?***

The amount of Service Credit that can be purchased is determined based on the time served as an employee with the City of Los Angeles when you were participating in the PSP, subject to IRC limitations.

- ***Is there a required minimum period of Back Contribution Service credit that must be purchased for PSP participation?***

No.

- ***Is there a maximum period of Back Contribution Service credit that can be purchased for PSP participation?***

- If the purchase is made with funds from any source other than a direct rollover or transfer from another employer retirement plan or an IRA, excluding Roth IRAs, the limit is five years and you must have your own five years of LACERS Service to qualify for the purchase.
- If the purchase is made entirely through a transfer or rollover from another qualified plan, the entire time served as an employee with the City of Los Angeles may be purchased, without limitations.
- If a combination of a rollover and other sources is used for payment, the total Service Credit that can be purchased will be prorated based on the number of years of Service Credit purchased with the rollover funds.

- ***What can the Service Credit you purchase with a Back Contribution count toward?***

The Service Credit you purchase may count towards:

- Meeting the minimum years of Service to be eligible for a service retirement;
- Increasing your monthly retirement allowance; and
- Qualifying for, or enhancing your retiree medical and dental insurance premium subsidies.

- ***In what ways would your Back Contribution not assist you?***

Because the Back Contribution Service Credit you purchase is retirement related, it will not count toward:

- Increasing your employment seniority or lay-off seniority; and
- Increasing your vacation, sick time, or service pin accrual rates.

- ***What does it cost to purchase Back Contribution Service Credit when you were participating in PSP?***

The cost of a Back Contribution shall be an amount equal to all of the contributions you would have made to LACERS had you been a Member during such period, and all regular interest which would have been credited prior to the date of payment, **and** the full amount of all contributions made to the PSP by the City on your behalf plus all interest credited to those contributions by the PSP.

- ***How can you pay for Back Contribution Service Credit Purchase when you were participating in PSP?***

The following payment options are available for eligible Back Contributions purchases, subject to Internal Revenue Code (IRC):

- **Pre-tax:** Pre-tax installment payments are not available; however, you may transfer or rollover funds from an eligible pre-tax retirement fund.
- **Post-tax:** You can make a lump-sum payment via check, biweekly installments deducted from your pay, or a transfer or rollover from an eligible post-tax retirement fund, subject to annual IRC limitations.

- Roth IRA: Transfers or rollovers from Roth IRAs are prohibited pursuant to IRC regulations and will not be accepted by LACERS.
- **What are the rules for purchasing Back Contributions with a biweekly payroll deduction contract?**
 - Interest rate of 7.75% will be applied to the total cost for the term of the contract;
 - Minimum allowable payroll deduction is \$5.00;
 - Maximum allowable contract length is fifteen years (390 payroll periods);
 - Deductions will appear on your pay stub the pay period following the execution of the contract and will stop one pay period after the last purchase payment;
 - If you plan to retire before your contract has been completed, you may make a lump sum payment sufficient to complete the total payment covered by the contract or receive prorated Service Credit for the period you have paid for, and forfeit the remainder of the Service Credit;
 - Upon initiation of the contract, any payments made to LACERS **will not** be refunded.
- **How can you apply to purchase Back Contribution for your PSP time?**

To apply to make a Back Contribution to purchase Service Credit for times of participation in the PSP, complete a *Certification of Service with the Pension Savings Plan* form and return it to LACERS. This form is available on our website at www.LACERS.org.

- **Questions?**

If you have any questions, or need any assistance in completing the form, please contact us at (800) 779-8328; TDD (888) 349-3996

Note for Tier 2 Members: Making back contributions shall not allow a Member to establish an earlier membership date for purposes of excluding him or her for membership in Tier 2.

LACERS benefits are governed by the Los Angeles Administrative Code, Los Angeles City Charter, the Rules of LACERS Board of Administration, the Internal Revenue Code. These Codes and Rules are subject to change. If there are any discrepancies between those governing authorities and the information in this sheet, the governing authorities have precedence.

In order to comply with the Internal Revenue Code, LACERS will evaluate your request for a PSP Back Contribution purchase to determine whether it complies with federal law limits. A PSP Back Contribution purchase that does not comply may be disallowed in whole or in part by LACERS.

ADA NOTICE

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.