

CITY OF CHICAGO
RETIREMENT PLANNING
Police Officers Who Retire on or after
Age 55 and before Age 60

This is a question and answer sheet relating to the City of Chicago sworn police officers who retire on or after age 55 and before age 60. It does not obligate the City to continue Annuitant benefit plans for any period, at any particular level or cost, in whole or in part.

THE CITY CAN DISCONTINUE OR AMEND THESE BENEFITS AT ANY TIME, SUBJECT TO AND ACCORDING TO LAW AND APPLICABLE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.

You are eligible to continue the medical and dental coverage in the plans provided to active employees, if you are a sworn police officer and if you retire on or after age 55 and before the age 60.

If you obtain coverage under the 55-60 benefit provision, you cannot also enroll for coverage as a dependent under an active plan for City of Chicago employees.

This benefit will continue pursuant to the current contracts covering sworn police officers unless it is modified or terminated in subsequent negotiations. Therefore, information contained in this handout can change in the future depending upon future negotiations.

Question #1. How much money will be deducted from my annuity check if I retire at age 55 and before age 60 and apply for this benefit?

- A. There will be no money deducted from your monthly pension check to cover premium contributions between the ages of 55-60 as long as the contractual provision for 55-60 for your bargaining unit is in existence.

- B. All deductibles, co-payments and other related expenses must still be paid as required by plan guidelines.

Question #2. Will I still be covered for medical and dental benefits after my retirement at age 55?

- A. Yes. You will be able to enroll in coverage for active employees until the age of Medicare eligibility (currently age 65). These plans may change if active employee plans change.

Question #3 When can I make a plan change?

- A. You may change your medical or dental plan coverage only during the Open Enrollment held each year for active employees and for Police officers covered by the 55-60 provision.

Reminder: Vision coverage is provided through your medical plan.

Question #4 Can I cover my eligible dependents under the 55-60 benefit provision?

- A. Yes. All dependents who are enrolled in your plans on the day before you retire are eligible to continue coverage while you are covered under the 55-60 provision, unless you take them off the plan(s) or they reach the plans' limiting age.

Family status rules will apply in regards to addition or deletion of dependents.

- B. Unmarried dependent children are covered until age 25, if they are dependents. Eligibility guidelines are subject to contract provisions changes and/or changes in State or Federal law.

Reminder: If you divorce your spouse you must take him or her off within 30 days of the event, or risk financial consequences.

Question #5 My spouse and I are both sworn members of the Chicago Police Department. If I retire and enroll under the 55-60 provision and my spouse continues to work, can I cover my spouse as my dependent under the 55-60 provision?

- A. You may cover your spouse who works for the City of Chicago if your spouse is enrolled as your dependent on the day before your retire.
- B. You may also enroll your spouse as your dependent during the Open Enrollment held each year for active employees and Police officers covered by the 55-60 provision.

Question #6 If I die before reaching the age of Medicare eligibility, will my dependents continue to be covered under the 55-60 provision?

- A. No. Your surviving spouse and/or eligible dependents must apply for the Annuitant Healthcare Plan for retirees.
- B. If your surviving spouse is actively working as a City of Chicago employee and does not meet the Annuitant plan eligibility guidelines, your surviving spouse must enroll for active employee benefits.

Question #7 Does my coverage change when I reach age 65 or the age of Medicare eligibility?

- A. Yes. When you reach the age of Medicare eligibility (currently 65), you and your eligible dependents are no longer eligible to continue coverage under the 55-60 provision.
- B. When you are no longer eligible for the 55-60 provision or the 60-65 provision, you may be eligible to obtain coverage as an annuitant, if an Annuitant Medical Care Plan is being offered by the City of Chicago at that time.

- C. Dental and vision coverage can only be continued for 18 months beyond retirement through the Public Health Service Act (PHSA) program.

If you receive more than 18 months of coverage for dental under the 55-60 provision, coverage cannot be continued under the PHSA program.

Question #8 **If I retire prior to age 55 and decide to enroll for coverage at a later date, am I still eligible for the 55-60 benefit provision?**

- A. No. The age 55-60 benefits provision only applies if you retire on or after becoming age 55 and apply within 30 days of your retirement for the 55-60 benefits.

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