

MEDICARE, SOCIAL SECURITY, & INSURANCE

Medicare

As a LASERS member and future retiree, you may be entitled to Medicare coverage if you have paid a Medicare tax, or you are the spouse or former spouse of an individual who has paid Medicare taxes.

Counselors with the Louisiana Department of Insurance Senior Health Information Program (SHIP) are available to answer questions concerning Medicare eligibility, preventative services, and Medicare cost-savings programs.

Visit www.lidi.la.gov/SHIP or call 1.800.259.5300 for more information.

Social Security

If you have earned a LASERS benefit, and are entitled to receive a Social Security benefit prior to January 2024, based on your earnings or the earnings of a spouse, your Social Security benefit may have been reduced.

The reduction was because of federal laws known as the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset, which were designed to offset the amount of Social Security benefits paid to those eligible to receive some other type of public pension.

For details, visit the Social Security website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Insurance

If you have questions regarding your health and/or life insurance coverage, please contact your employing agency.

In the event that you cannot obtain the necessary information from your agency, please contact:

Office of Group Benefits

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 66678,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70896

Website: info.groupbenefits.org

Telephone: Toll-free 800.272.8451 or
225.925.6625

Street Address: 1201 N. 3rd Street, Ste G-159,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

LASERS will make the deduction of your insurance premium in accordance with information received from the Office of Group Benefits.

It may be a few months after you retire before your insurance premium is deducted from your LASERS retirement check.

Please contact the Office of Group Benefits to determine if you must pay your initial insurance premiums directly to them.

Your premium will be subject to possible increases or decreases each fiscal year.

LASERS does not have access to your insurance records.

Health Insurance Premiums

The premiums for health insurance coverage paid by any retiree participating in the Office of Group Benefits program, who has transferred service credit to the HAZ PLAN and retires with 12 years of service at age 55 or 25 years of service at any age, will be increased by an amount sufficient to pay for any increase in the employer's premiums resulting from his retirement pursuant to such sections.

There is no increase for those who retire with 20 years of service at any age.

NOTE: The health insurance increase is unique to the HAZ PLAN and is not impacted by the Office of Group Benefits Retiree Participation Schedule. ■