



Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association
BOARD OF RETIREMENT

**RETIREES COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING
NOTICE and AGENDA**

ACERA MISSION:

To provide ACERA members and employers with flexible, cost-effective, participant-oriented benefits through prudent investment management and superior member services.

**Wednesday, October 2, 2024
9:30 a.m.**

LOCATION AND TELECONFERENCE	COMMITTEE MEMBERS	
<p>ACERA C.G. "BUD" QUIST BOARD ROOM 475 14TH STREET, 10TH FLOOR OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612-1900 MAIN LINE: 510.628.3000 FAX: 510.268.9574</p> <p>The public can observe the meeting and offer public comment by using the below Webinar ID and Passcode after clicking on the below link or calling the below call-in number.</p> <p>Link: https://zoom.us/join Call-In: 1 (669) 900-6833 US Webinar ID: 879 6337 8479 Passcode: 699406 For help joining a Zoom meeting, see: https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193</p>	ELIZABETH ROGERS, CHAIR	ELECTED RETIRED
	KELLIE SIMON, VICE CHAIR	ELECTED GENERAL
	KEITH CARSON	APPOINTED
	ROSS CLIPPINGER	ELECTED SAFETY
	HENRY LEVY	TREASURER

The Alternate Retired Member votes in the absence of the Elected Retired Member, or, if the Elected Retired Member is present, then votes if both Elected General members, or the Safety Member and an Elected General member, are absent.

The Alternate Safety Member votes in the absence of the Elected Safety Member, either of the two Elected General Members, or both the Retired and Alternate Retired members.

This is a meeting of the Retirees Committee if a quorum of the Retirees Committee attends, and it is a meeting of the Board if a quorum of the Board attends. This is a joint meeting of the Retirees Committee and the Board if a quorum of each attends.

Note regarding accommodations: If you require a reasonable modification or accommodation for a disability, please contact ACERA between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at least 72 hours before the meeting at accommodation@acera.org or at 510-628-3000.

Public comments are limited to four (4) minutes per person in total. The order of items on the agenda is subject to change without notice. Board and Committee agendas and minutes and all documents distributed to the Board or a Committee in connection with a public meeting (unless exempt from disclosure) are posted online at www.acera.org and also may be inspected at 475 14th Street, 10th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612-1900.

RETIREES COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING

NOTICE and AGENDA, Page 2 of 3 – Wednesday, October 2, 2024

Call to Order: 9:30 a.m.

Roll Call

Public Input (Time Limit: 4 minutes per speaker)

Action Items: Matters for discussion and possible motion by the Committee

1. Presentation and Acceptance of Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve Funding Report/Valuation

Discussion and possible motion to recommend that the Board of Retirement accept Segal's Actuarial Valuation of the OPEB and Non-OPEB Benefits Provided by the Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve, Including Sufficiency of Funds, as of December 31, 2023.

- Carlos Barrios
- Andy Yeung, Segal
- Eva Yum, Segal

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Retirees Committee recommend to the Board of Retirement a motion to accept the December 31, 2023 Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve Actuarial Valuation prepared by Segal.

Information Items: These items are not presented for Committee action but consist of status updates and cyclical reports

1. Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve Financial Status

Statement of additions and deductions to the Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve for the period ending June 30, 2024.

- Erica Haywood

2. Final Report on Open Enrollment Preparation and Communications Materials, and Retiree Health and Wellness Fair Arrangements

Report on the final stages of preparing the communications pieces for ACERA's annual Open Enrollment for the Plan Year 2025 as well as the hybrid Retiree Health and Wellness Fair.

- Mike Fara
- Jessica Huffman

3. Report on Medicare Part D Certificate of Creditable Coverage and Updates for 2025

Staff will update the Committee on the annual Medicare Part D Certificate of Coverage Notice mailing and posting to ACERA'S website.

- Jessica Huffman

RETIREES COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING

NOTICE and AGENDA, Page 3 of 3 – Wednesday, October 2, 2024

4. Via Benefits Updates

Staff will update the Committee on Via Benefits' mailing of the newsletters and balance reminder statements for the Health Reimbursement Accounts.

- Jessica Huffman

Trustee Remarks

Future Discussion Items

- Adoption of Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan Benefit for 2025
- Adoption of Updates to Appendix A of 401(h) Account Resolutions

Establishment of Next Meeting Date

December 4, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment



MEMORANDUM TO THE RETIREES COMMITTEE

DATE: October 2, 2024

TO: Members of the Retirees Committee

FROM: Carlos Barrios, Assistant Chief Executive Officer 

SUBJECT: **Actuarial Valuation of the OPEB and Non-OPEB Benefits Provided by the Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve, Including Sufficiency of Funds, as of December 31, 2023**

Attached is the Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve (SRBR) Valuation prepared by Segal, ACERA's actuary. This valuation is based on projections using substantive plan and medical inflation trends, as well as other assumptions consistent with our pension valuation. It conforms to the disclosure requirements of Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 74, which establishes accounting standards for "Other Post-Employment Benefit" (OPEB) plans of state and local governments.

Last year it was reported that the SRBR fund for OPEB benefits would exhaust in 2050 and Non-OPEB benefits in 2038. The results of this December 31, 2023 valuation indicate that the terminal year of OPEB benefits is projected to be 2048, with full benefits paid through 2047 for a total of 24 full years and one partial year. The terminal year of Non-OPEB benefits is projected to be 2047, with full benefits paid through 2046 for a total of 23 full years and one partial year.

Segal reported during their preliminary presentation in June that the terminal year of OPEB benefits was projected to be 2047, one year earlier than the final valuation. The reason for the change is that Segal's preliminary report was based on estimated medical plan premiums and subsidies for 2025 and future years using its trend assumptions. The final valuation report used the actual 2025 premiums and subsidies. The terminal year for the non-OPEB benefits was projected to be 2047, which is the same as this final valuation.

Andy Yeung and Eva Yum, with Segal, will present this information in detail at the meeting.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Retirees Committee recommend to the Board of Retirement a motion to accept the December 31, 2023 Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve Actuarial Valuation prepared by Segal.

Attachment

Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association

**Actuarial Valuation of the OPEB and Non-OPEB
Benefits Provided by the Supplemental Retiree
Benefits Reserve Including Sufficiency of Funds
as of December 31, 2023**



This valuation report should only be copied, reproduced or shared with other parties in its entirety as necessary for the proper administration of the Plan.

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Segal



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September 23, 2024

Board of Retirement
Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association
475 14th Street, Suite 1000
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

We are pleased to submit this report on our actuarial valuation of the sufficiency of funds for benefits provided by the Supplemental Retiree Benefits Reserve (SRBR) as of December 31, 2023. ACERA's accounting disclosures required under Statement No. 74 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) for retiree health benefits provided by the SRBR were included in our GASB 74 report dated May 21, 2024. ACERA's accounting disclosures required under GASB Statement No. 67 for non-vested supplemental COLA and retired member death benefits provided by the SRBR were included in our GASB 67 report dated May 21, 2024, together with the statutory pension benefits.

The current year census and financial information used in preparing this report was prepared by ACERA. We gratefully acknowledge that assistance. The actuarial projections were based on the assumptions and methods described in Exhibit 1 and on the plan of benefits as summarized in Exhibit 2.

The actuarial calculations were completed under the supervision of Eva Yum, FSA, MAAA, Enrolled Actuary, Mehdi Riazi, FSA, MAAA, EA, FCA and Mary Kirby, FSA, MAAA, FCA. The undersigned are members of the American Academy of Actuaries and collectively meet the Qualification Standards of the American Academy of Actuaries to render the actuarial opinion herein. To the best of our knowledge, the information supplied in this actuarial valuation is complete and accurate. The assumptions used in this actuarial valuation were selected by the Board of Retirement based upon our analysis and recommendations. In our opinion, the assumptions are reasonable and take into account the experience of the Plan and reasonable expectations. In addition, in our opinion, the combined effect of these assumptions is expected to have no significant bias.

Segal makes no representation or warranty as to the future status of the Plan and does not guarantee any particular result. This document does not constitute legal, tax, accounting or investment advice or create or imply a fiduciary relationship. The Board is

encouraged to discuss any issues raised in this report with the Plan’s legal, tax and other advisors before taking, or refraining from taking, any action.

We look forward to reviewing this report at your next meeting and to answering any questions.

Sincerely,

Segal



Andy Yeung, ASA, MAAA, FCA, EA
Vice President and Actuary



Eva Yum, FSA, MAAA, EA
Vice President and Actuary



Mehdi Riazi, FSA, MAAA, FCA, EA
Vice President and Actuary



Mary Kirby, FSA, MAAA, FCA
Senior Vice President and Chief Health Actuary

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Section 1: Introduction

Purpose

Other postemployment benefits (OPEB)

This report presents the results of our actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2023 of the Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association (ACERA) postretirement medical, dental and vision benefits provided through ACERA's 401(h) account. ACERA has allocated a portion of the Supplemental Retiree Benefits Reserve (SRBR) to be treated as pension contributions if the employers make contributions to the 401(h) account.¹ The results of this report have been prepared with the goal of determining sufficiency of funds. Actuarial calculations for other purposes may differ significantly from the results reported here.

The actuarial calculations used to prepare this report have been made on a basis consistent with our understanding of the "substantive plan designs" of the OPEB Plan provided by ACERA using guidelines provided by the Board. The most important plan design assumption incorporated in our valuation is that the future monthly medical allowance (MMA) will increase at one-half of our anticipated medical trend assumptions for all years after 2025. However, the SRBR OPEB Plan will reimburse the fully indexed premium required for dental, vision, and enrollment in the Medicare Part B program.

In Section 2 of this report, we show the unlimited OPEB liabilities (i.e., the liabilities not limited by the current SRBR assets). The unlimited liabilities in this report will be used as the basis when we roll forward the liabilities for the next GASB 74 valuation report as of December 31, 2024.

Non-OPEB benefits

The SRBR currently provides benefits in addition to those that qualify as OPEB. These "non-OPEB" benefits include supplemental COLAs and death benefits related to the underlying statutory defined benefit pension plan.²

In Section 2 of this report, we show the unlimited non-OPEB liabilities. The unlimited liabilities in this report will be used as the basis when we roll forward the liabilities for the next GASB 67 valuation report as of December 31, 2024.

¹ It is our understanding that GASB requires such benefits to be reported under GASB Statement No. 74 and, accordingly, they have been included in our December 31, 2023 GASB 74 report dated May 21, 2024.

² It is our understanding that GASB requires such benefits to be reported under GASB Statement No. 67 together with the underlying statutory defined benefit pension plan and, accordingly, they have been included in our December 31, 2023 GASB 67 report dated May 21, 2024.

Section 1: Introduction

Special note pertaining to OPEB and non-OPEB benefits

The calculation of benefit obligations pursuant to prescribed accounting requirements included in the above mentioned GASB reports does not, in and of itself, imply that ACERA has any legal liability to provide the benefits valued.

Actuarial valuations involve estimates of benefit amounts and assumptions about the probability of their payment far into the future, and the actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared to past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Section 1: Introduction

Important information about actuarial valuations

An actuarial valuation is a budgeting tool with respect to the financing of future projected obligations of a OPEB and non-OPEB Plan. It is an estimated forecast – the actual long-term cost of the plan will be determined by the actual benefits and expenses paid and the actual investment experience of the plan.

In order to prepare a valuation, Segal relies on a number of input items. These include:

Input Item	Description
Plan provisions	Plan provisions define the rules that will be used to determine benefit payments, and those rules, or the interpretation of them, may change over time. Even where they appear precise, outside factors may change how they operate. It is important to keep Segal informed with respect to plan provisions and administrative procedures, and to review the plan summary in this report (as well as the plan summary included in our funding valuation report) to confirm that Segal has correctly interpreted the plan of benefits.
Member information	An actuarial valuation for a plan is based on data provided to the actuary by the Association. Segal does not audit such data for completeness or accuracy, other than reviewing it for obvious inconsistencies compared to prior data and other information that appears unreasonable. It is important for Segal to receive the best possible data and to be informed about any known incomplete or inaccurate data.
Financial information	The valuation is based on the fair value of assets as of the valuation date, typically reported by the Association. The Association uses an “actuarial value of assets” that differs from fair value to gradually reflect six-month changes in the fair value of assets in determining the sufficiency of funds to pay the benefits provided by the SRBR.
Actuarial assumptions	In preparing an actuarial valuation, Segal starts by developing a forecast of the benefits to be paid to existing plan members for the rest of their lives and the lives of their beneficiaries. This requires actuarial assumptions as to the probability of death, disability, withdrawal, and retirement of members in each year, as well as forecasts of the plan’s benefits for each of those events. In addition, the benefits forecasted for each of those events in each future year reflect actuarial assumptions as to health care trends and member enrollment in retiree health benefits for the OPEB Plan, and actuarial assumptions as to salary increases and cost-of-living adjustments for the non-OPEB Plan. The forecasted benefits are then discounted to a present value, typically based on an estimate of the rate of return that will be achieved on the plan’s assets. All of these factors are uncertain and unknowable. Thus, there will be a range of reasonable assumptions, and the results may vary materially based on which assumptions are selected within that range. That is, there is no right answer (except with hindsight). It is important for any user of an actuarial valuation to understand and accept this constraint. The actuarial model may use approximations and estimates that will have an immaterial impact on our results. In addition, the actuarial assumptions may change over time, and while this can have a significant impact on the reported results, it does not mean that the previous assumptions or results were unreasonable or wrong.

Section 1: Introduction

Input Item	Description
Models	<p>Segal valuation results are based on proprietary actuarial modeling software. The actuarial valuation models generate a comprehensive set of liability and cost calculations that are presented to meet regulatory, legislative and client requirements. Our Actuarial Technology and Systems unit, comprised of both actuaries and programmers, is responsible for the initial development and maintenance of these models. The models have a modular structure that allows for a high degree of accuracy, flexibility and user control. The client team programs the assumptions and the plan provisions, validates the models, and reviews test lives and results, under the supervision of the responsible actuary.</p> <p>Our claims costs assumptions are based on proprietary modeling software as well as models that were developed by others. These models generate per capita claims cost calculations that are used in our valuation software. Our Health Technical Services Unit, comprised of actuaries and programmers, is responsible for the initial development and maintenance of our health models. They are also responsible for testing models that we purchase from other vendors for reasonableness. The client team inputs the paid claims, enrollments, plan provisions and assumptions into these models and reviews the results for reasonableness, under the supervision of the responsible actuary.</p>

The user of Segal's actuarial valuation (or other actuarial calculations) should keep the following in mind:

- The actuarial valuation is prepared at the request of the Association to determine sufficiency of funds related to the payments of OPEB and non-OPEB benefits out of the SRBR. Segal is not responsible for the use or misuse of its report, particularly by any other party.
- An actuarial valuation is a measurement at a specific date — it is not a prediction of a plan's future financial condition. Accordingly, Segal did not perform an analysis of the potential range of financial measurements, except where otherwise noted.
- If the Association is aware of any event or trend that was not considered in this valuation that may materially change the results of the valuation, Segal should be advised, so that we can evaluate it.
- Critical events for a plan include, but are not limited to, decisions about changes in benefits and contributions. The basis for such decisions needs to consider many factors such as the risk of changes in plan enrollment, emerging claims experience, health care trend, and investment losses, not just the current valuation results.
- Segal does not provide investment, legal, accounting or tax advice and is not acting as a fiduciary to the Plan. This valuation is based on Segal's understanding of applicable guidance in these areas and of the Plan's provisions, but they may be subject to alternative interpretations. The Association should look to their other advisors for expertise in these areas.
- While Segal maintains extensive quality assurance procedures, an actuarial valuation involves complex computer models and numerous inputs. In the event that an inaccuracy is discovered after presentation of Segal's valuation, Segal may revise that valuation or make an appropriate adjustment in the next valuation.
- Segal's report shall be deemed to be final and accepted by the Association upon delivery and review. The Association should notify Segal immediately of any questions or concerns about the final content.

Section 2: Valuation Results

Valuation highlights

Assumptions and substantive plan

- The actuarial assumptions used in this study are consistent with those assumptions approved by the Retirement Board for the December 31, 2023 pension valuation, including the use of a 7.00% investment return assumption.
- In the last SRBR valuation, we utilized the following medical trend assumptions:
 - All non-Medicare plans: starting at 7.50%, reduced by 0.25% for each year until it reaches 4.50% after 12 years.
 - All Medicare Advantage plans: starting at 6.25%, reduced by 0.25% for each year until it reaches 4.50% after 7 years.

For this valuation, we recommended to the Board in our letter dated May 8, 2024 that the medical trend assumptions be changed as follows:

- All non-Medicare plans: starting at 8.50% in 2024,¹ then reduced by 1.00% in 2025 and 0.50% in 2026, then reduced by 0.25% each year for 10 years until an ultimate rate of 4.50%.
- All Medicare Advantage plans: starting at 16.47% in 2024,¹ then 7.00% in 2025, then reduced by 0.25% each year for 10 years until it reaches 4.50%.
- The Board approved an increase in the 2025 Monthly Medical Allowance (MMA) on July 18, 2024. The maximum MMA for ACERA sponsored plans and individual (out-of-area) non-Medicare plans has been increased from \$635.37 to \$662.37 and the maximum MMA for individual Medicare plans has been increased from \$486.74 to \$507.43 for 2025.
- For years after 2025 we have assumed that the MMA will increase with 50% of the lowest medical trend.
- These and the other OPEB assumptions are provided in Exhibit 1.
- The determination of the “substantive plan” underlying ACERA’s OPEB was based upon prior directions provided by ACERA, its auditors, as well as the administrative staff, auditors and consultants representing the County of Alameda, along with changes to the plan adopted by the Board on July 19, 2012 to allow retirees to select medical benefits available through the Medicare Exchange. These directions are provided in Exhibit 3.

¹ After we released our preliminary high-level summary letter dated May 24, 2024, the Association approved premiums for 2025. We have used those actual 2025 premiums in this study in lieu of estimating those premiums by using the 8.50% assumption for non-Medicare plans and the 16.47% assumption for Medicare plans.

Section 2: Valuation Results

- Based on action taken by the Board in February 2014, we continue to exclude the non-OPEB lump sum retiree death benefit from the pension valuation and have included this death benefit in the results presented herein.

Assets

- For this valuation, the Association has continued to provide to us the breakdown of the OPEB and non-OPEB assets as of December 31, 2023. As proposed by Segal, the Board approved a one-time asset transfer equal to \$54,206,000 as of December 31, 2023 from the funds earmarked for OPEB SRBR to funds earmarked for non-OPEB SRBR to equalize the sufficiency period to pay OPEB and non-OPEB benefits. That transfer is reflected in the OPEB and non-OPEB assets provided for this valuation.

Sufficiency period

- The terminal year of the SRBR was determined by projecting how long the SRBR can provide for all OPEB and non-OPEB benefits under the substantive plan outlined in Exhibit 3. OPEB benefits can be paid through 2048,¹ while non-OPEB benefits can be paid through 2047.¹ Last year, it was projected that OPEB benefits could be paid through 2050 and non-OPEB benefits could be paid through 2038.
- Note that the OPEB sufficiency period included in this report of through 2048 is one year longer than the 2047 result provided in our May 24, 2024 preview letter. Our preview letter estimated medical plan premiums and subsidies for 2025 and future years using our trend assumption. Subsequent to our issuing the preview letter, ACERA reported the 2025 medical plan premium renewals and subsidies and we have used the actual 2025 premiums and subsidies in our updated projection shown herein.

There is an approximate two-year decrease in the sufficiency period to pay OPEB benefits between the last study and current study mainly due to the following factors:

- As proposed by Segal, the Board made an asset transfer equal to \$54.2 million as of December 31, 2023 from the funds earmarked for OPEB SRBR to the funds earmarked for non-OPEB SRBR to equalize the sufficiency period and that transfer decreased the sufficiency period for the OPEB SRBR by 26 months.
- Incorporating the new trend assumptions described in the May 8, 2024 trend assumptions letter decreased the sufficiency period by 31 months. The anticipated impact of the Inflation Reduction Act and new health trend data were the main drivers behind trend assumption increases. The updates to the implicit subsidy projections increased the sufficiency period by 16 months and reflecting the actual 2025 premium renewals increased the sufficiency period by another 12 months. The combined impact of these three updates decreased the sufficiency period by a net 3 months.

¹ Assets would only be sufficient to pay benefits for a part of the year indicated.

Section 2: Valuation Results

- The assumption changes described in the May 15, 2024 non-trend assumptions letter, including the changes resulting from the Retirement Association's recent experience study, produced savings which increased the sufficiency period by 5 months.
- The demographic experience produced actuarial gains which increased the sufficiency period by 2 months.
- There is an approximate nine-year increase in the sufficiency period to pay the non-OPEB benefits between the last study and the current study mainly due to the one-time transfer of \$54.2 million in assets as of December 31, 2023 from the OPEB SRBR to the non-OPEB SRBR to equalize the sufficiency periods to pay OPEB and non-OPEB benefits.
- The funded ratio of the OPEB liabilities is 91.2% and the funded ratio of the non-OPEB liabilities is 56.7% as of December 31, 2023. The comparable funded ratios were 96.1% and 29.0% for the OPEB and non-OPEB liabilities, respectively, as of December 31, 2022.
- The funded ratio for the non-OPEB benefits is lower than for OPEB benefits because the Actuarial Value of Assets was initially allocated based on the benefit outflows for the OPEB and non-OPEB benefits. The benefit outflows for non-OPEB (in particular, the supplemental COLA) are “back loaded”, i.e., they are expected to be larger in later years than in earlier years. This results in a smaller asset allocation relative to liabilities for the non-OPEB benefits. That difference in funded ratio is somewhat reduced after the asset transfer from OPEB SRBR assets to non-OPEB SRBR assets as of December 31, 2023 to equalize the sufficiency period.

Future expectation

- The terminal years the SRBR can be paid as well as the funded ratios have been developed to reflect only the actuarial value of assets allocated to the SRBR through December 31, 2023. As we indicated on page 24 of our December 31, 2023 actuarial valuation report for the Pension Plan, the Association had a deferred investment loss of \$292.8 million that was not yet recognized in determining the combined actuarial value of assets for the Pension Plan and the SRBR Plan as of that date. The deferred loss of \$292.8 million represents 2.6% of the market value of assets as of December 31, 2023. After offsetting this loss by the balance in the Contingency Reserve, the residual loss is \$256.1 million. If a proportion of the net deferred loss that is commensurate with the size of the SRBR reserves were recognized immediately in the valuation value of assets, there would be a decrease in the SRBR Reserve of approximately \$20.8 million to pay OPEB benefits and \$2.1 million to pay non-OPEB benefits.¹

¹ It is important to note that this actuarial valuation is based on plan assets as of December 31, 2023. The Plan's actuarial status does not reflect short-term fluctuations of the market, but rather is based on the market values on the last day of the Plan Year. Segal is available to prepare projections of potential outcomes of market conditions and other demographic experience upon request.

Section 2: Valuation Results

Administrative expense

- Note that in preparing the 401(h) contribution letter for 2024/2025, we had included an additional allocation for expense related to the administration of the health benefits for retirees. However, as we previously demonstrated to the Association during our discussion with the Board on SB 1479, the values in both the employer reserves and the SRBR would remain unchanged relative to the values prior to that allocation, through the operation of SB 1479. For that reason, we have not included the explicit payment of administrative expense out of the 401(h) in preparing the cash flow requirements of the SRBR.

GASB

- As stated earlier in this report, it is our understanding that GASB requires the OPEB benefits to be reported under GASB Statement No. 74 and accordingly they have been included in our GASB 74 report dated May 21, 2024. Similarly, we understand that GASB requires the non-OPEB benefits to be reported under GASB Statement No. 67 together with the underlying statutory defined benefit pension plan and accordingly they have been included in our GASB 67 report dated May 21, 2024.

Section 2: Valuation Results

Summary of OPEB valuation results

Without Limiting Liabilities to Current Assets	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022
Actuarial present value of projected benefits		
• Medical	\$1,328,877,000	\$1,289,873,000
• Dental and vision	143,987,000	138,523,000
– Total	\$1,472,864,000	\$1,428,396,000
Actuarial accrued liability¹		
• Medical ²	\$1,070,582,000	\$1,046,564,000
• Dental and vision ³	115,053,000	112,883,000
– Total	\$1,185,635,000	\$1,159,447,000
Actuarial value of assets (Exhibit B)	\$1,081,108,000	\$1,114,705,000
Unfunded actuarial accrued liability	104,527,000	44,742,000
Funded ratio	91.2%	96.1%
Year current assets will be exhausted⁴	2048	2050

Note: The above results have been calculated using our understanding of the “substantive plan” as described in Exhibits 2 and 3. The liabilities provided in this report will have to be revised if our understanding of the “substantive plan” is inaccurate.

¹ These results will be used as the basis for the next GASB 74 valuation report based on a measurement date of December 31, 2024.

² Of the amount shown, \$614.2 million is attributable to members currently receiving the benefit as of December 31, 2023 and \$576.1 million is attributable to members receiving the benefit as of December 31, 2022. For treatment of implicit subsidy, see page 34.

³ Of the amount shown, \$68.3 million is attributable to members currently receiving the benefit as of December 31, 2023 and \$65.6 million is attributable to members receiving the benefit as of December 31, 2022.

⁴ Full benefits will be paid through the year prior to the year shown in the table. Full benefits will be paid for part of the year indicated.

Section 2: Valuation Results

Summary of non-OPEB valuation results

Without Limiting Liabilities to Current Assets	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022
Actuarial present value of projected benefits		
• Supplemental COLA	\$211,852,000	\$205,679,000
• Retiree death benefit	5,034,000	4,909,000
– Total	\$216,886,000	\$210,588,000
Actuarial accrued liability¹		
• Supplemental COLA ²	\$191,796,000	\$184,796,000
• Retiree death benefit	4,617,000	4,518,000
– Total	\$196,413,000	\$189,314,000
Actuarial value of assets (Exhibit B)	\$111,280,000	\$54,901,000
Unfunded actuarial accrued liability	85,133,000	134,413,000
Funded ratio	56.7%	29.0%
Year current assets will be exhausted³	2047	2038

¹ These results will be used as the basis for the next GASB 67 valuation report based on a measurement date of December 31, 2024.

² Of the amount shown, \$13.7 million is attributable to members currently receiving the benefit as of December 31, 2023 and \$14.1 million is attributable to members receiving the benefit as of December 31, 2022.

³ Full benefits will be paid through the year prior to the year shown in the table. Full benefits will be paid for part of the year indicated.

Section 2: Valuation Results

Projected cash flow

Provided by the Supplemental Retiree Benefits Reserve as of December 31, 2023

Year Ending December 31	Medical ¹ Annual Benefit Cash Flows	Dental and Vision Annual Benefit Cash Flows	Non-OPEB ² Annual Benefit Cash Flows
2024	\$47,257,155	\$5,943,699	\$1,468,161
2025	51,268,353	6,047,752	1,633,214
2026	55,316,759	6,387,913	2,033,836
2027	59,377,360	6,734,358	2,632,986
2028	63,478,705	7,084,297	3,484,521
2029	67,652,287	7,437,635	4,502,481
2030	71,885,185	7,804,161	5,601,858
2031	76,254,231	8,180,129	6,724,658
2032	80,557,358	8,569,342	7,920,241
2033	85,004,049	8,964,731	9,190,767
2034	89,248,613	9,360,944	10,536,726
2035	93,407,823	9,755,689	11,822,284
2036	97,186,805	10,138,545	13,030,866
2037	100,959,753	10,524,676	14,488,795
2038	104,667,516	10,902,719	16,131,573
2039	108,337,317	11,288,057	17,658,437
2040	111,860,336	11,653,257	19,206,718
2041	115,305,675	12,022,641	20,683,078
2042	118,698,772	12,386,955	22,000,394
2043	121,992,602	12,734,272	23,145,253
2044	125,224,250	13,080,332	24,151,421
2045	128,308,162	13,415,664	25,251,005
2046	131,230,900	13,737,291	26,357,322
2047	133,957,131	14,059,966	24,231,336 ³
2048	65,663,845 ³	6,917,030 ³	-

¹ Includes Medicare Part B and Implicit Subsidy Reimbursement made to the County. For treatment of implicit subsidy, see page 34.

² Includes Supplemental COLA and \$1,000 Lump Sum Death Benefit.

³ Benefits will be paid through the year prior to the year shown in the table. Full benefits will be paid for part of the year indicated.

Section 2: Valuation Results

Present value of projected benefits

Provided by the Supplemental Retiree Benefits Reserve as of December 31, 2023

Year Ending December 31	OPEB ¹ Present Value as of December 31, 2023 of Projected Benefits through Year End	Non-OPEB Present Value as of December 31, 2023 of Projected Benefits through Year End	Total Present Value as of December 31, 2023 of Projected Benefits through Year End
2024	\$51,431,207	\$1,419,325	\$52,850,532
2025	103,215,852	2,894,921	106,110,773
2026	155,318,357	4,612,261	159,930,618
2027	207,490,085	6,690,069	214,180,154
2028	259,531,614	9,259,968	268,791,582
2029	311,288,826	12,363,392	323,652,218
2030	362,622,897	15,971,982	378,594,879
2031	413,455,329	20,020,461	433,475,790
2032	463,602,416	24,476,780	488,079,196
2033	513,015,016	29,309,659	542,324,675
2034	561,475,678	34,487,825	595,963,503
2035	608,857,600	39,917,677	648,775,277
2036	654,926,208	45,511,079	700,437,287
2037	699,649,444	51,323,422	750,972,866
2038	742,978,698	57,371,425	800,350,123
2039	784,894,208	63,558,761	848,452,969
2040	825,340,846	69,848,329	895,189,175
2041	864,308,915	76,178,261	940,487,176
2042	901,802,375	82,470,867	984,273,242
2043	937,816,309	88,657,841	1,026,474,150
2044	972,367,986	94,691,424	1,067,059,410
2045	1,005,457,596	100,587,016	1,106,044,612
2046	1,037,090,402	106,338,319	1,143,428,721
2047	1,067,275,536	111,279,817	1,178,555,353
2048	1,081,108,640	111,279,817	1,192,388,457

¹ Includes Medical, Dental and Vision.

Section 2: Valuation Results

Actuarial certification

September 23, 2024

This is to certify that Segal has conducted an actuarial valuation of certain benefit obligations of the Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association provided by the Supplemental Retiree Benefits Reserve for the year ending December 31, 2023, in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles and practices. The actuarial valuation is based on the plan of benefits verified by the ACERA and on participant, claims and expense data provided by ACERA.

The actuarial computations made are for purposes of determining sufficiency of funds. Determinations for other purposes may be significantly different from the results reported here. Accordingly, additional determinations may be needed for other purposes such as judging benefit security at plan termination.

To the best of our knowledge, this report is complete and accurate and in our opinion presents the information necessary to determine the sufficiency of funds with respect to the benefit obligations addressed. The undersigned are members of the American Academy of Actuaries and meet the qualification standards of the American Academy of Actuaries to render the actuarial opinion herein.



Eva Yum, FSA, MAAA, EA
Vice President and Actuary



Mehdi Riazi, FSA, MAAA, FCA, EA
Vice President and Actuary



Mary Kirby, FSA, MAAA, FCA
Senior Vice President and Chief Health Actuary

Section 3: Valuation Details

Exhibit A: Table of plan coverage — members receiving SRBR benefits as of December 31, 2023

Category	Current Retirees
Category 1 — Medical	
• Number	6,869
• Average in force monthly medical reimbursements for 2024 (excluding Medicare Part B)	\$445
• Average maximum (based on service at retirement) monthly medical reimbursements for 2024 (excluding Medicare Part B)	\$548
• Monthly Medicare Part B premium reimbursements for 2024	\$175
Category 1 — Supplemental COLA	
• Number	501
• Average monthly supplemental COLA for 2024 ¹	\$195
Category 2 — Dental and vision	
• Number	8,416
• Average monthly medical reimbursements for 2024	\$56
Category 2 — Retiree death benefit	
• Number ²	Not Available
• Average lump sum benefits for 2024	\$1,000

¹ Estimate of supplemental COLA payable as of December 31, 2023. The average benefit does not take into account any adjustments to the members' COLA banks as of April 2024.

² Beneficiaries who received the \$1,000 lump sum retiree death benefit were not separately identified in the data provided for the pension valuation.

Section 3: Valuation Details

Exhibit B: Determination of actuarial value of assets

Reserves Supporting SRBR Benefits

Reserve	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022
401(h) account (allocated to OPEB)	\$10,117,000	\$8,979,000
Supplemental Retiree Benefits Reserve		
• OPEB	\$1,070,991,000 ¹	\$1,105,726,000 ²
• Non-OPEB	111,280,000	54,901,000
– SRBR total	\$1,182,271,000	\$1,160,627,000
Total	\$1,192,388,000	\$1,169,606,000

Total Present Value of Projected SRBR Benefits Payable Through Terminal Year of the SRBR

Category	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022
Present value of projected OPEB payable through terminal year of the SRBR		
• Medical	\$975,628,000	\$1,006,774,000
• Dental and vision	105,480,000	107,931,000
– OPEB total	\$1,081,108,000	\$1,114,705,000
Present value of projected non-OPEB payable through terminal year of the SRBR		
• Supplemental COLA	\$107,234,000	\$51,920,000
• Retiree death benefit	4,046,000	2,981,000
– Non-OPEB total	\$111,280,000	\$54,901,000
Grand total	\$1,192,388,000	\$1,169,606,000

¹ Adjusted to reflect estimated transfer of \$4,116,000 (provided by ACERA) from SRBR to employer advance reserve for reimbursement of implicit retiree health benefit subsidy for calendar year 2023.

² Adjusted to reflect estimated transfer of \$7,981,476 (provided by ACERA) from SRBR to employer advance reserve for reimbursement of implicit retiree health benefit subsidy for calendar year 2022.

Section 4: Supporting Information

Exhibit 1: Actuarial assumptions and actuarial cost method

Data

Detailed census data and summary plan descriptions for postretirement benefits were provided by ACERA.

Rationale for assumptions

The information and analysis used in selecting each assumption that has a significant effect on this actuarial valuation is shown in the December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2022 Actuarial Experience Study report dated January 8, 2024, the non-trend retiree health assumption letter dated May 15, 2024, and the health trend assumptions letter dated May 8, 2024. Unless otherwise noted, all actuarial assumptions and methods shown below apply to all tiers. These assumptions were adopted by the Board.

Measurement date

December 31, 2023

Discount rate

7.00%

Consumer price index (CPI or inflation)

Increase of 2.50% per year.

Section 4: Supporting Information

Retiree cost of living increases

The actual COLA granted by ACERA on April 1, 2024 has been reflected in the December 31, 2023 valuation for nonactive members.

General Tier 1, General Tier 3, and Safety Tier 1

For tiers with a 3.00% maximum COLA, retiree COLA increases of 2.75% per year.

For members with a sufficient COLA bank, withdrawals from the bank can be made to increase the retiree COLA up to 3% per year.

General Tier 2, General Tier 4, Safety Tier 2, Safety Tier 2C, Safety Tier 2D, and Safety Tier 4

For tiers with a 2.00% maximum COLA, retiree COLA increases of 2.00% per year.

Increase in Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(17) compensation limit

Increase of 2.50% per year from the valuation date.

Increase in California Government Code Section 7522.10 compensation limit

Increase of 2.50% per year from the valuation date.

Section 4: Supporting Information

Salary increases

The annual rate of compensation increase includes:

- Inflation at 2.50%, plus
- “Across-the-board” real salary increases of 0.50% per year, plus
- The following merit and promotion increases:

Years of Service	General	Safety
Less than 1	5.00%	8.40%
1–2	5.00%	8.40%
2–3	4.40%	8.40%
3–4	3.00%	5.40%
4–5	2.10%	4.00%
5–6	1.60%	2.50%
6–7	1.50%	1.80%
7–8	1.50%	1.60%
8–9	1.20%	1.20%
9–10	1.00%	1.20%
10–11	0.85%	1.00%
11 and over	0.45%	1.00%

Section 4: Supporting Information

Additional cashout assumptions

Additional pay elements are expected to be received during a member's final average earnings period. The percentages, added to the final average salary, used in this valuation are:

Tier	Service Retirement	Disability Retirement
General Tier 1	5.0%	4.0%
General Tier 2	2.7%	1.0%
General Tier 3	5.0%	4.0%
General Tier 4	N/A	N/A
Safety Tier 1	6.0%	5.0%
Safety Tier 2	2.3%	2.2%
Safety Tier 2C	2.3%	2.2%
Safety Tier 2D	2.3%	2.2%
Safety Tier 4	N/A	N/A

Post-retirement mortality rates

The Pub-2010 mortality tables and adjustments as shown below reasonably reflect the mortality experience as of the measurement date. These mortality tables were adjusted to future years using the generational projection to reflect future mortality improvement between the measurement date and those years.

Healthy

- **General members:** Pub-2010 General Healthy Retiree Amount-Weighted Above-Median Mortality Tables (separate tables for males and females), projected generationally with the two-dimensional mortality improvement scale MP-2021.
- **Safety members:** Pub-2010 Safety Healthy Retiree Amount-Weighted Above-Median Mortality Tables (separate tables for males and females), with rates increased by 5% for males and unadjusted for females, projected generationally with the two-dimensional mortality improvement scale MP-2021.

Section 4: Supporting Information

Disabled

- **General members:** Pub-2010 Non-Safety Disabled Retiree Amount-Weighted Mortality Tables (separate tables for males and females) with rates unadjusted for males and decreased by 10% for females, projected generationally with the two-dimensional mortality improvement scale MP-2021.
- **Safety members:** Pub-2010 Safety Disabled Retiree Amount-Weighted Mortality Tables (separate tables for males and females) with rates increased by 5% for males and unadjusted for females, projected generationally with the two-dimensional mortality improvement scale MP-2021.

Beneficiaries

- **Beneficiaries not currently in pay status:** Pub-2010 General Healthy Retiree Amount-Weighted Above-Median Mortality Tables (separate tables for males and females), projected generationally with the two-dimensional mortality improvement scale MP-2021.
- **Beneficiaries currently in pay status:** Pub-2010 General Contingent Survivor Amount-Weighted Above-Median Mortality Tables (separate tables for males and females) with rates increased by 5% for males and unadjusted for females, projected generationally with the two-dimensional mortality improvement scale MP-2021.

The above tables are used for the projection of non-OPEB benefits. The headcount weighted instead of the benefit (or amount) weighted mortality tables were used in the projections of OPEB benefits.

Section 4: Supporting Information

Pre-retirement mortality rates

- **General members:** Pub-2010 General Employee Amount-Weighted Above-Median Mortality Tables (separate tables for males and females), projected generationally with the two-dimensional mortality improvement scale MP-2021.
- **Safety members:** Pub-2010 Safety Employee Amount-Weighted Above-Median Mortality Tables (separate tables for males and females), projected generationally with the two-dimensional mortality improvement scale MP-2021.

Age	General Male	General Female	Safety Male	Safety Female
20	0.04%	0.01%	0.04%	0.01%
25	0.02%	0.01%	0.03%	0.02%
30	0.03%	0.01%	0.04%	0.02%
35	0.04%	0.02%	0.04%	0.03%
40	0.06%	0.03%	0.05%	0.04%
45	0.09%	0.05%	0.07%	0.06%
50	0.13%	0.08%	0.10%	0.08%
55	0.19%	0.11%	0.15%	0.11%
60	0.28%	0.17%	0.23%	0.14%
65	0.41%	0.27%	0.35%	0.20%

Note that generational projections beyond the base year (2010) are not reflected in the above mortality rates.

All pre-retirement deaths are assumed to be non-service connected.

The above tables are used for the projection of non-OPEB benefits. The headcount weighted instead of the benefit (or amount) weighted mortality tables were used in the projections of OPEB benefits.

Section 4: Supporting Information

Disability incidence rates

Age	General	Safety
20	0.00%	0.00%
25	0.01%	0.03%
30	0.02%	0.38%
35	0.05%	0.96%
40	0.08%	1.50%
45	0.13%	1.70%
50	0.21%	2.33%
55	0.31%	3.62%
60	0.35%	4.44%
65	0.44%	0.00%
70	0.62%	0.00%

70% of General disabilities are assumed to be service-connected disabilities. The other 30% are assumed to be non-service-connected disabilities.

100% of Safety disabilities are assumed to be service-connected disabilities.

Section 4: Supporting Information

Termination rates

Years of Service	General	Safety
Less than 1	12.25%	5.20%
1–2	9.25%	4.20%
2–3	8.00%	4.20%
3–4	6.25%	4.00%
4–5	6.25%	4.00%
5–6	6.25%	4.00%
6–7	5.75%	4.00%
7–8	5.00%	2.40%
8–12	4.00%	2.00%
12–15	3.25%	2.00%
15–16	3.25%	1.50%
16–17	3.00%	1.40%
17–18	3.00%	1.30%
18–19	3.00%	1.20%
19–20	2.75%	1.10%
20 or more	2.75%	1.00%

For members with less than five years of service, 55% of all terminated members are assumed to choose a refund of contributions and the other 45% are assumed to choose a deferred vested benefit.

For members with five or more years of service, 25% of all terminated members are assumed to choose a refund of contributions and the other 75% are assumed to choose a deferred vested benefit.

No termination is assumed after a member is eligible for retirement.

Section 4: Supporting Information

Retirement rates

General Retirement Rates

Age	Tier 1	Tier 2 Less than 30 Years of Service	Tier 2 30 or More Years of Service	Tier 3	Tier 4 Less than 30 Years of Service	Tier 4 30 or More Years of Service
50	2.0%	1.5%	3.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%
51	4.0%	1.5%	3.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%
52	4.0%	2.0%	3.0%	10.0%	3.0%	3.0%
53	5.0%	2.0%	3.0%	10.0%	2.0%	2.0%
54	5.0%	2.5%	3.0%	10.0%	2.0%	2.0%
55	6.0%	3.0%	5.0%	12.0%	2.0%	5.0%
56	10.0%	3.5%	5.0%	14.0%	2.0%	2.5%
57	14.0%	4.0%	5.0%	16.0%	2.0%	3.5%
58	14.0%	4.5%	7.0%	18.0%	4.0%	4.0%
59	14.0%	5.0%	10.0%	20.0%	4.0%	4.5%
60	25.0%	7.5%	12.0%	20.0%	4.0%	5.0%
61	25.0%	9.5%	12.0%	20.0%	4.0%	5.0%
62	30.0%	15.0%	23.0%	30.0%	12.0%	18.0%
63	26.0%	15.0%	25.0%	25.0%	12.0%	15.0%
64	26.0%	17.0%	28.0%	25.0%	12.0%	17.0%
65	26.0%	27.0%	35.0%	50.0%	23.0%	25.0%
66	26.0%	27.0%	35.0%	50.0%	23.0%	30.0%
67	26.0%	27.0%	35.0%	50.0%	23.0%	30.0%
68	26.0%	30.0%	35.0%	50.0%	23.0%	30.0%
69	31.0%	30.0%	35.0%	50.0%	20.0%	30.0%
70	36.0%	30.0%	30.0%	60.0%	20.0%	25.0%
71	36.0%	30.0%	30.0%	60.0%	20.0%	25.0%
72	36.0%	30.0%	30.0%	60.0%	20.0%	25.0%
73	36.0%	30.0%	30.0%	60.0%	20.0%	25.0%
74	36.0%	30.0%	30.0%	60.0%	20.0%	25.0%
75 and over	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The retirement rates only apply to members that are eligible to retire at the age shown.

Section 4: Supporting Information

Safety Retirement Rates

Age	Tier 1	Tier 2, 2D Less than 30 Years of Service	Tier 2, 2D 30 or More Years of Service	Tier 2C	Tier 4 Less than 30 Years of Service	Tier 4 30 or More Years of Service
45	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
46	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
47	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
48	0.0%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
49	0.0%	10.0%	18.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
50	35.0%	14.0%	18.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
51	30.0%	10.0%	24.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
52	25.0%	10.0%	24.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
53	35.0%	10.0%	25.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
54	45.0%	11.0%	27.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%
55	45.0%	11.0%	29.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
56	45.0%	12.0%	32.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%
57	45.0%	12.0%	32.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%
58	45.0%	14.0%	37.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
59	45.0%	14.0%	37.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%
60	45.0%	30.0%	37.0%	40.0%	40.0%	60.0%
61	45.0%	30.0%	37.0%	40.0%	40.0%	60.0%
62	45.0%	30.0%	37.0%	40.0%	40.0%	60.0%
63	45.0%	30.0%	37.0%	40.0%	40.0%	60.0%
64	45.0%	30.0%	37.0%	40.0%	40.0%	60.0%
65 and over	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The retirement rates only apply to members that are eligible to retire at the age shown.

For Safety Tiers 1 and 2C, the retirement rate is 100% after a member accrues a benefit of 100% of final average earnings.

Section 4: Supporting Information

Retirement age and benefit for deferred vested members

General Non-Reciprocal Retirement Age	62
General Reciprocal Retirement Age	61
Safety Non-Reciprocal Retirement Age	56
Safety Reciprocal Retirement Age	55

Current and future deferred vested non-reciprocal members who terminate with less than five years of service and are not vested are assumed to retire at age 70 for both General and Safety if they decide to leave their contributions on deposit. For OPEB purposes, only the reciprocal retirement age assumptions are used.

20% of future General and 45% of future Safety deferred vested members are assumed to continue to work for a reciprocal employer. For reciprocal members, 3.45% and 4.00% compensation increases are assumed per annum for General and Safety members, respectively.

Future benefit accruals

1.0 year of service per year of employment, plus 0.003 years of additional service for General members and 0.006 years of additional service for Safety members, to anticipate conversion of unused sick leave for each year of employment.

Unknown data for members

Same as those exhibited by members with similar known characteristics. If not specified, members are assumed to be male. If not provided, salary is assumed to be equal to the average salary of the membership group.

Inclusion of deferred vested members

All deferred vested members to the extent they are reported by ACERA for this particular valuation are included.

Data adjustment

Data as of November 30 has been adjusted to December 31 by adding one month of age and, for active members, one month of service.

Section 4: Supporting Information

Form of pension payment

All active and inactive vested members are assumed to elect the unmodified option at retirement.

Percent married for pension

For all active and inactive members, 70% of male members and 50% of female members are assumed to be married at pre-retirement death or retirement.

Age and gender of spouse for pension

For all active and inactive members, male members are assumed to have a female spouse who is 3 years younger than the member and female members are assumed to have a male spouse who is 2 years older than the member.

Pre-retirement death optional form election

All active members with five or more years of service are assumed to elect the optional settlement 2 allowance that leaves a 100% continuance to their beneficiary upon the member's non-service-connected pre-retirement death.

Beneficiary Type	Percentage	Age Difference with Active Member
Child	50%	30 years younger
Sibling	25%	Same age
Parent	25%	30 years older

Note: We made the simplifying assumption that the beneficiary is of the opposite sex of the member.

Actuarial cost method

Entry Age Actuarial Cost Method.

Section 4: Supporting Information

Per capita health costs

The combined monthly per capita dental and vision claims cost for plan year 2024 was assumed to be \$55.68. The monthly Medicare Part B premium reimbursement for 2024 is \$174.70. For calendar year 2024, medical costs and health plan election rates for retirees are assumed as follows:

Medical Plan ¹	Election Assumption	Monthly Premium	Maximum Monthly Medical Allowance ²
Under age 65³			
Kaiser HMO	72%	\$1,037.76	\$635.37
Via Benefits Individual Insurance Exchange ⁴	15%	N/A	635.37
United Healthcare HMO Current Network	6%	1,464.90	635.37
United Healthcare HMO SVA Network	7%	957.68	635.37
Age 65 and older			
Kaiser Senior Advantage	72%	\$354.31	\$635.37
Via Benefits Individual Insurance Exchange	28%	335.17 ⁵	486.74

¹ There are other plans available to retirees under age 65 and age 65 and older that have a range of premiums. We have assumed the same costs as Kaiser HMO and Kaiser Senior Advantage for current non-Medicare and Medicare retirees, respectively.

² The Maximum Monthly Medical Allowance of \$635.37 (\$486.74 for retirees purchasing individual insurance from the Medicare exchange) is subject to the following subsidy schedule:

Completed Years of Service	Percentage Subsidized
10–14	50%
15–19	75%
20+	100%

³ Current retirees under age 65 as well as future retirees are assumed to elect medical plans in the same proportion upon age 65 as current retirees who are age 65 and over.

⁴ Via Benefits individual insurance coverage is available to retirees under age 65 residing outside of ACERA medical plans' coverage area. We have assumed that these current retirees under 65 will draw the Maximum Monthly Subsidy (\$635.37).

⁵ Derivation of the amount expected to be paid in 2024 from the Health Reimbursement Account for members with 20 plus years of service is shown in the table on the following page. We have also derived the amount expected to be paid for members with 10-14 and 15-19 years of service.

Section 4: Supporting Information

Derivation of Via Benefits monthly per capita costs

Line Description	10–14 Years of Service	15–19 Years of Service	20+ Years of Service
1. Maximum MMA for 2023	\$236.00	\$353.99	\$471.99
2. Total of Maximum MMA (From Jan. 2023 to Dec. 2023)	\$542,800	\$834,944	\$5,265,048
3. Total of Actual Reimbursement (From Jan. 2023 to Dec. 2023)	\$399,942	\$584,242	\$3,198,924
4. Ratio of Actual Reimbursement to Maximum 2023 MMA: (3) ÷ (2)	73.68%	69.97%	60.76%
5. Average Monthly Per Capita Cost for 2023: (1) × (4)	\$173.88	\$247.69	\$286.78
6. Maximum MMA for 2024	\$243.37	\$365.06	\$486.74
7. Increase for Expected Medical Trend (6.25%) from 2023 to 2024: (5) × 1.0625	\$184.75	\$263.17	\$304.70
8. Increase for Additional 10% Margin for 2023 Expenses Incurred in 2023 but Reimbursed after December 2023: (7) × 1.10	\$203.23	\$289.49	\$335.17

Section 4: Supporting Information

Implicit subsidy — retirees under age 65

We have estimated the average per capita premium for retirees under age 65 to be \$12,736 per year. Because premiums for retirees under age 65 include active participants for purposes of underwriting, the retirees receive an implicit subsidy from the actives. Had the retirees under age 65 been underwritten as a separate group, their age-based premiums would be higher for most individuals. The excess of the age-based premium over the per capita premium charged makes up the implicit subsidy. Below is a sample of the average 2024 annual medical and prescription age-based claims costs¹ for retirees and spouses under age 65.

Average Medical and Rx Costs

Age	Male	Female
50	\$11,725	\$12,380
55	13,231	13,440
60	15,233	14,569
64	18,513	15,816

¹ Not all ACERA employers are receiving an implicit subsidy reimbursement from the Association. For SRBR sufficiency purposes, we have applied an adjustment of 0.87 (13% reduction of the costs shown above) for our projected implicit subsidy payments to account for this fact, based on data provided by the County of Alameda's health consultant. For calculating the Actuarial Present Value of Projected Benefits and Actuarial Accrued Liability, we have not applied the adjustment.

Section 4: Supporting Information

Age-based claims costs for retirees age 65 and over

2024 medical and prescription drug age-based claims costs for retirees age 65 and over are shown below at selected ages. Spouses are only eligible for the implicit subsidy while under age 65.

Kaiser Senior Advantage

Age	Male	Female
65	\$4,025	\$3,343
70	4,521	3,740
75	4,994	3,932
80+	5,229	4,197

Via Benefits

Age	Male	Female
65	\$3,752	\$3,116
70	4,214	3,486
75	4,655	3,665
80+	4,874	3,912

Participation and coverage election — retired members and beneficiaries

MMA

MMA Status	Under Age 65	Upon Attaining Age 65
MMA on Record		
Current retirees under 65 on valuation date	100%	100% and assumed to choose carrier in same proportion as future retirees
Current retirees 65 and over on valuation date	N/A	100%

Section 4: Supporting Information

MMA Status	Under Age 65	Upon Attaining Age 65
No MMA on Record		
Less than 10 years of service	0%	0%
10+ years of service		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current retirees under 65 on valuation date 	0%	60%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current retirees 65 and over on valuation date 	N/A	0%

Medicare Part B Premium Subsidy

MMA Status	Under Age 65	Upon Attaining Age 65
MMA on Record		
Current retirees under 65 on valuation date	N/A	100%
Current retirees 65 and over on valuation date	N/A	100% if Part B reimbursement on record or purchasing individual insurance from the Medicare exchange
No MMA on Record		
Less than 10 years of service	N/A	0%
10+ years of service		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current retirees under 65 on valuation date 	N/A	60%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current retirees 65 and over on valuation date 	N/A	0%

Implicit subsidy

Current retirees, married dependents and surviving beneficiaries under age 65 and enrolled in an ACERA non-Medicare plan are assumed to have an implicit subsidy liability.

Section 4: Supporting Information

Dental and vision subsidy

Current retirees not self-paying ("Voluntary" or "Under 10 YOS" dental or vision code) are assumed to receive the dental and vision subsidy.

Participation and coverage election — active and inactive vested members

Medical plan subsidy (i.e., MMA)

Under Age 65	Upon Attaining Age 65
75% of eligible members	90% of eligible members

Medicare Part B Premium Subsidy

Under Age 65	Upon Attaining Age 65
75% of eligible members (disabled only)	90% of eligible members

Implicit subsidy

63.75% of eligible members under age 65 are assumed to have an implicit subsidy liability. In other words, 85% of the non-Medicare retirees who receive a Medical Plan Subsidy were assumed to enroll in an ACERA sponsored health plan.

Dental and vision subsidy

100% of eligible members are assumed to receive the dental and vision subsidy.

Health care cost trend rates (%)

Health care trend measures the anticipated overall rate at which health plan costs are expected to increase in future years. The rates shown below are "net" and are applied to the net per capita costs shown above. The trend shown for a particular plan year is the rate that is to be applied to that year's cost to yield the next year's projected cost. For example, the projected 2025 calendar year premium for Kaiser (under age 65) is \$1,096.40 per month (\$1,037.76 increased by 5.65%).

Section 4: Supporting Information

Calendar Year	United Healthcare HMO & Kaiser HMO Early Retiree ¹	Via Benefits & Kaiser Senior Advantage ²	Dental ³	Vision ⁴	Medicare Part B
2024	8.50% ⁵	16.47% ⁵	0.00% ⁵	0.00%	4.50%
2025	7.50	7.00	4.00	4.00	4.50
2026	7.00	6.75	4.00	4.00	4.50
2027	6.75	6.50	4.00	4.00	4.50
2028	6.50	6.25	4.00	4.00	4.50
2029	6.25	6.00	4.00	4.00	4.50
2030	6.00	5.75	4.00	4.00	4.50
2031	5.75	5.50	4.00	4.00	4.50
2032	5.50	5.25	4.00	4.00	4.50
2033	5.25	5.00	4.00	4.00	4.50
2034	5.00	4.75	4.00	4.00	4.50
2035	4.75	4.50	4.00	4.00	4.50
2036 and later	4.50	4.50	4.00	4.00	4.50

The IRA includes material benefit cost-sharing changes for 2025, most notably implementing a \$2,000 member out-of-pocket maximum, as well as various funding changes for Medicare prescription drug plans. Both changes are expected to significantly increase premiums for the Via Benefits plan. Our trend assumptions include an estimated impact of the IRA on the Fund's Medicare plan premiums in calendar year 2025 based on the Final CY 2025 Part D Redesign Program. As noted below, the 2024 trend rate for the Kaiser Senior Advantage plan was based on the 2025 premium renewal.

¹ Non-Medicare plans.

² Medicare plans.

³ 2024 reflects two-year rate guarantee, premiums fixed at 2024 level.

⁴ Reflects five-year rate guarantee, premiums fixed at 2021 level.

⁵ The actual trends are shown below for ACERA-sponsored plans, based on preliminary premium renewals for 2025 as reported by ACERA.

Kaiser HMO Early Retiree	UHC HMO Signature Value Early Retiree	UHC HMO Signature Value Advantage Early Retiree	Kaiser Senior Advantage	Dental	Vision
5.65%	8.84%	8.85%	5.50%	0.00%	0.00%

Section 4: Supporting Information

Assumed increase in annual maximum benefits

For the “substantive plan design” shown in this report, we have assumed:

1. Maximum medical allowance for ACERA sponsored plans and individual out-of-area non-Medicare plans for 2025 will increase to \$662.37 per month (\$507.43 for individual Medicare plans), then increase with 50% of trend for medical plans, or 3.50%, graded down to the ultimate rate of 2.25% over 10 years. If different types of medical plans have different initial trend rates, we assume that the future increase in MMA will be linked to the plan with the lowest projected medical trend.
2. Dental and vision premium reimbursement will increase with full trend.
3. Medicare B premium reimbursement will increase with full trend.

Dependents

Demographic data was available for spouses of current retirees. For future retirees, male members are assumed to have a female spouse who is 3 years younger than the member and female members are assumed to have a male spouse who is 1 year older than the member. Of the future retirees who elect to continue their medical coverage at retirement, 35% males and 15% females were assumed to have an eligible spouse who also opts for health coverage at that time.

Please note that these assumptions are only used to determine the cost of the implicit subsidy.

Plan design

An administrative expense load was not added to projected incurred claim costs in developing per capita health costs.

Administrative expenses

An administrative expense load was not added to projected incurred claim costs in developing per capita health costs.

Section 4: Supporting Information

Exhibit 2: Summary of benefits

This exhibit summarizes the major benefit provisions as included in the valuation. To the best of our knowledge, the summary represents the substantive plan provisions as of the measurement date. It is not intended to be, nor should it be interpreted as, a complete statement of all benefit provisions.

Eligibility

Service retirees

Retired with at least 10 years of service (including deferred vested members who terminate employment and receive a retirement benefit from ACERA).

Disabled retirees

A minimum of 10 years of service is required for non-duty disability. The 10 years of service requirement is only used for determining eligibility for health benefits. For pension benefits, the eligibility requirement is 5 years of service. There is no minimum service requirement for duty disability.

Other postemployment benefits (OPEB)

Monthly Medical Allowance

Service retirees

For retirees not purchasing individual insurance through the Medicare exchange, a Maximum Monthly Medical Allowance of \$635.37 per month is provided, effective January 1, 2024 and through December 31, 2024. For the period January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, the maximum allowance will increase to \$662.37 per month.

For those purchasing individual insurance through the Medicare exchange, the Monthly Medical Allowance is \$486.74 per month for 2024 and will increase to \$507.43 per month in 2025. These Allowances are subject to the following subsidy schedule:

Completed Years of Service	Percentage Subsidized
10–14	50%
15–19	75%
20+	100%

Section 4: Supporting Information

Disabled retirees

Non-duty disabled retirees receive the same Monthly Medical Allowance as service retirees. Duty disabled retirees receive the same Monthly Medical Allowance as those service retirees with 20 or more years of service.

Medicare Benefit Reimbursement Plan

The SRBR reimburses the full Medicare Part B premium to qualified retired members.

To qualify for reimbursement, a retiree must:

- Have at least 10 years of ACERA service,
- Be eligible for Monthly Medical Allowance,
- Provide proof of enrollment in Medicare Part B.

Dental and vision plans

The SRBR provides dental and vision benefits for retirees only. The maximum combined monthly dental and vision premiums are \$55.68 in 2024 and 2025. The eligibility for these premiums is as follows.

Service retirees

Retired with at least 10 years of service.

Disabled retirees

For non-duty disabled retirees, 10 years of service is required. For grandfathered non-duty disabled retirees (with effective retirement dates on or before January 31, 2014), there is no minimum service requirement.

For duty disabled retirees, there is no minimum service requirement.

Note about Monthly Medical Allowance

The maximum levels of subsidy are reviewed by the Board annually and are not indexed to increase automatically.

In addition, the Monthly Medical Allowance can only be used to pay for retiree medical benefits. There is no benefit payable to beneficiaries, current spouses, former spouses, or dependents.

Section 4: Supporting Information

If the actual cost of coverage is less than the Monthly Medical Allowance, the difference is not paid in cash or applied towards the coverage for beneficiaries, current spouses, former spouses, or dependents.

Deferred benefit

Members who terminate employment with 10 or more years of service before reaching Pension eligibility commencement age may elect deferred MMA and/or dental/vision benefits.

Death benefit

Surviving spouses/domestic partners of members who die before the member commences retiree health benefits may enroll in an ACERA group medical plan on the date that the member would have been eligible to commence benefits. The surviving spouse/domestic partner must pay 100% of the premium. Because premiums for surviving spouses/domestic partners under age 65 include active participants for purposes of underwriting, the surviving spouses/domestic partners receive an implicit subsidy from the actives, which creates a liability for the SRBR.

Non-OPEB benefits

Supplemental COLA

When inflation is higher than the ACERA cost of living allowance for a year, the excess of inflation over the cost of living allowance (3% for Tier 1 and Tier 3, and 2% for Tier 2, Tier 2C, Tier 2D, and Tier 4) is banked for future years when inflation may be less than the cost of living allowance. In 1998, the Board of Retirement approved a supplemental COLA payable through the SRBR for members whose COLA banks exceeded 15%. The supplemental COLA for a year is equal to the percentage of excess of the member's COLA bank over 15% times the member's current annual retirement allowance.

The cost of living adjustment and any supplemental COLA must be approved yearly by the ACERA Board of Retirement. For this valuation, we have assumed the Board will maintain its current level of supplemental COLA (i.e., COLA banks will not exceed 15%) during the projection period.

Retired member death benefit

A one-time \$1,000 lump sum retiree death benefit is payable to the beneficiary of a retiree. This benefit is only paid upon the death of a retiree; it is not paid upon the death of a beneficiary.

Section 4: Supporting Information

Exhibit 3: Assumptions about the “substantive plan”

The determination of the “substantive plan” underlying ACERA’s OPEB was based upon prior directions provided by ACERA, its auditors, as well as the administrative staff, auditors and consultants representing the County of Alameda. Those directions are provided below.

1. Commitment to provide benefits currently paid out of the SRBR

We understand that health and other supplemental benefits currently paid out of the SRBR will continue to be paid as long as there are assets available in the SRBR. However, when the assets in the SRBR are fully depleted, no additional health and other supplemental benefits will be paid by the Association and the employer. To our knowledge, the employer has not made any implicit or explicit commitment to continue those benefits.

2. Continuation of coverage in the employer’s active employee medical plans for the Association’s retirees

Currently, the Association’s retirees are enrolled in the same medical plans as the employer’s active employees. The retiree experience is pooled and used in setting the medical plan premium rates for active employee. The Association has begun in 2007 to reimburse the County for the adverse premium experience created by the retirees.

In this study, for purposes of determining sufficiency of funds we have included the liability associated with reimbursing the County for the adverse premium experience but only through the period up to the exhaustion of assets in the SRBR. In other words, there may be a residual liability to the employer if the Association’s retirees continue to participate and are rated together in the employer’s active employee medical plans.

3. Fully indexed subsidies for dental, vision and Medicare Part B premium and increase at one-half of the rate of increase for monthly medical allowance (MMA)

Following guidelines provided by the Board and ACERA, we have assumed in this study that the OPEB Plan will reimburse the fully indexed premium required for dental, vision and for a retiree to enroll in Medicare Part B. In addition, we have assumed in this study that future MMA will increase at one-half of the rate of our anticipated medical inflation assumptions.

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MEMORANDUM TO THE RETIREES COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF RETIREMENT

DATE: October 2, 2024

TO: Members of the Retirees Committee and Board of Retirement

FROM: Erica Haywood, Fiscal Services Officer EH

SUBJECT: Statement of Reserves and Supplemental Retiree Benefits Reserve (SRBR) Status as of June 30, 2024

The Statement of Reserves as of June 30, 2024, is attached for your review. The semi-annual interest crediting as of June 30, 2024, was completed on August 29, 2024.

For the six-month period ended June 30, 2024, approximately \$394.8 million of total interest (\$394.8 million in regular earnings and \$0.0 million in excess earnings) was credited to all the valuation reserve accounts, including the 401(h) account, the advanced UAAL contribution reserve and the SRBR.

- Regular earnings of \$394.8 million were credited to the valuation reserve accounts, the 401(h) account, and the SRBR at crediting rate of 3.5000% and the advance UAAL contribution reserve was credited at rate of 2.3723%; a lower rate compared to all other reserves due to the exclusion of \$126.1 million in available earnings deferred prior to June 30, 2021.
- There was no crediting of earnings above the assumed rate of return (excess earnings).

The total interest crediting rates were 3.5000% to the valuation reserve accounts and the 401(h) account, as well as the SRBR and 2.3723% to the advance UAAL contribution reserve (see table below).

Earnings Classification	Valuation Reserve & 401(h) Accounts		SRBR		Advance UAAL Contribution Reserve	
	Amount	Rate	Amount	Rate	Amount	Rate
Regular Earnings	\$336,564,516	3.5000%	\$ 41,523,574	3.5000%	\$ 16,753,412	2.3723%
Excess Earnings	-	0.0000%	-	0.0000%	-	0.0000%
Total Interest Credited	\$336,564,516	3.5000%	\$ 41,523,574	3.5000%	\$ 16,753,412	2.3723%

The process for crediting interest as of June 30, 2024, is presented in the table below. Note that for this semi-annual interest crediting period, the Contingency Reserve Account (CRA) was adjusted to 1% of total assets, \$120.2 million as of June 30, 2024, and \$79.2 million was subsequently withdrawn from the CRA to meet the interest crediting shortfall. Without the use of the CRA funds, the interest crediting rates would have been 2.7665% for all other reserves and SRBR, and 2.3723% for the advance UAAL contribution reserve. None of the funds made available from CRA were applied to the advance UAAL contribution reserve, as the full equitable share of the CRA balance was used in the June 30, 2022, crediting cycle.

Interest Crediting Methodology as of June 30, 2024	
Expected Actuarial Earnings for the period	\$ 392,712,159.29
10 % Amortization of deferred amounts – (Sum of the last 10 periods)	6,405,637.21
Actuarial earnings on a smoothed basis	399,117,796.50
CRA adjustment to 1% of total assets as of 6/30/2024	(83,511,371.16)
Actuarial earnings available for interest crediting @ 2.7665% & 2.3723%	315,606,425.34
CRA usage to cover the interest crediting shortfall	79,235,077.02
Total amount available for interest crediting @ 3.5000% & 2.3723%	\$ 394,841,502.36
Interest credited at a rate of 3.5000% to Valuation Reserves and 401(h) Account	336,564,516.44
Interest credited at a rate of 3.5000% to SRBR	41,523,573.75
Interest credited at the rate of 2.3723% to the advance UAAL Contribution Reserve (\$0.0 funds made available from CRA were applied)	16,753,412.17

There was a market *gain* of approximately \$625.4 million for the six-month period ended June 30, 2024, which was higher than the expected actuarial earnings of approximately \$392.7 million. As a result, \$232.7 million in *gains* were added to the market stabilization reserve (the difference of the actual market gain/loss and the expected actuarial earnings). In addition, \$6.4 million of net *gains* from the previous ten (10) interest crediting cycles were recognized in the current interest crediting period. Thus, the market stabilization reserve improved from net deferred *losses* of \$292.8 million as of December 31, 2023, to \$66.5 million in deferred *losses* as of June 30, 2024.

Supplemental Retiree Benefits Reserve (SRBR)

The interest credited to the SRBR for the six-month period ended June 30, 2024, was approximately \$41.5 million of regular earning and \$0.0 million of excess earnings.

- For the six-month period ended June 30, 2024, the net deductions from SRBR were approximately \$29.0 million. These deductions include the net transfer to/from the employer advance reserve for 401(h) contributions of \$24.3 million, transfer to the employer advance reserve for implicit subsidy of \$4.0 million, and payments of supplemental COLA and retired death benefits of \$0.7 million.

Attachments:

- Statement of Reserves as of June 30, 2024
- SRBR Status as of June 30, 2024

ALAMEDA COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF RESERVES
For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2024

	Beginning Balances 1/1/2024	Net Contributions Benefits, Refunds & Transfers 1/1 - 6/30/2024	Transfer Employers UAAL Adv Rsrv	Interest Crediting Process 1/1 - 6/30/2024 (3.5000%)	Allocation of Excess Earnings 1/1 - 6/30/2024 (0.0000%)	Ending Balances 6/30/2024
Member Reserves:						
Active Member Reserves	\$ 1,894,640,607	\$ (19,463,812)	\$ -	\$ 62,529,260 ¹	- ¹	\$ 1,937,706,055
Employer Advance Reserve	1,835,763,161	11,546,668	31,400,902	60,280,247	-	1,938,990,978
401(h) Account - OPEB	10,116,636	(691,388)	-	354,082	-	9,779,330
Total Employer Reserves	1,845,879,797	10,855,280	31,400,902	60,634,329 ¹	- ¹	1,948,770,308
Retired Member Reserves	5,901,822,048	(82,160,560)	9,876,138	213,400,927 ¹	- ¹	6,042,938,553
Supplemental Retiree Benefits Reserve	1,186,387,821	(29,049,245)		41,523,574 ¹	- ¹	1,198,862,150
Contingency Reserve	36,669,849			4,276,294 ²		40,946,143
Market Stabilization Reserve	(292,793,129)				226,322,066	(66,471,063)
Total All Other Reserves and SRBR	10,572,606,993	(119,818,337)	41,277,040	382,364,384	226,322,066	11,102,752,146
Advance UAAL Contribution Reserve						
County-Safety UAAL Advance Reserve	694,561,086	-	(40,781,822)	16,476,976 ¹	- ¹	670,256,240
LARPD-General UAAL Advance Reserve	11,652,716	-	(495,218)	276,436 ¹	- ¹	11,433,934
Total Reserves at Fair Value / Fiduciary Net Position	\$ 11,278,820,795	\$ (119,818,337)	\$ -	\$ 399,117,796	\$ 226,322,066	\$ 11,784,442,320

Notes: 1. Interest credited as of 6/30/24 includes \$394,841,502 of regular earnings allocation at crediting rates of 3.500% to the SRBR and all other non-SRBR reserves; and at 2.3723% to the UAAL advance reserves. There was no allocation of excess earnings.

2. Amount includes an increase of the CRA by \$83,511,371 to adjust the balance at 1% total assets as of 6/30/24. After CRA was restored to 1% total assets, there was a subsequent withdrawal of \$79,235,077 from the CRA to fund the semi-annual interest crediting shortfall. As a result, the CRA balance at 6/30/24 was \$40.9 million, or 0.34% of total assets.

**ALAMEDA COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREE BENEFITS RESERVE (SRBR)
For the Ten Years Ended December 31, 2014 - December 31, 2023 and Six Months Ended June 30, 2024**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>6/30/2024</u>
Beginning Balance	\$ 643,056,500	\$ 789,826,877	\$ 853,842,371	\$ 874,385,246	\$ 893,770,614	\$ 919,488,617	\$ 924,709,823	\$ 931,754,157	\$ 1,131,048,474	\$ 1,168,608,503	\$ 1,186,387,821
Deductions:											
Transferred to Employers Advance Reserve	34,039,593	36,528,264	33,818,832	38,327,914	43,777,409	44,858,371	45,456,100	46,772,130	47,476,858	49,339,096	25,176,576
Employers Implicit Subsidy	6,992,822	5,320,953	6,021,451	8,787,596	5,800,563	6,899,139	6,446,702	7,484,411	5,593,922	7,842,215	4,037,312
Supplemental Cost of Living	1,849,140	1,555,924	1,350,784	1,231,500	1,134,613	1,181,244	1,116,523	932,177	943,290	1,134,334	612,102
Death Benefit - Burial - SRBR	223,529	213,909	187,081	187,060	196,576	216,834	230,747	256,683	240,383	228,463	125,755
ADEB (Active Death)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Deductions	<u>43,105,084</u>	<u>43,619,050</u>	<u>41,378,148</u>	<u>48,534,070</u>	<u>50,909,161</u>	<u>53,155,588</u>	<u>53,250,072</u>	<u>55,445,401</u>	<u>54,254,453</u>	<u>58,544,108</u>	<u>29,951,745</u>
Additions:											
Interest Credited to SRBR	54,031,947	62,722,797	60,730,023	66,715,938	64,827,682	57,022,294	58,878,406	69,152,162	79,407,948	74,612,926	41,523,574
Excess Earnings Allocation	132,455,002	43,770,247	-	-	10,574,982	-	-	184,050,056	10,749,534	-	-
Transferred from Employers Advance Reserve	3,388,512 (1)	1,141,500	1,191,000	1,203,500	1,224,500	1,354,500	1,416,000	1,537,500	1,657,000	1,710,500	902,500
Total Additions	<u>189,875,461</u>	<u>107,634,544</u>	<u>61,921,023</u>	<u>67,919,438</u>	<u>76,627,164</u>	<u>58,376,794</u>	<u>60,294,406</u>	<u>254,739,718</u>	<u>91,814,482</u>	<u>76,323,426</u>	<u>42,426,074</u>
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 789,826,877</u>	<u>\$ 853,842,371</u>	<u>\$ 874,385,246</u>	<u>\$ 893,770,614</u>	<u>\$ 919,488,617</u>	<u>\$ 924,709,823</u>	<u>\$ 931,754,157</u>	<u>\$ 1,131,048,474</u>	<u>\$ 1,168,608,503</u>	<u>\$ 1,186,387,821</u>	<u>\$ 1,198,862,150</u>

Notes

(1) These amounts include reclassification of OPEB Administrative Expense contribution reimbursement activities and interest from January 2012 through June 2014; and normal activities for the six month period of July 2014 through December 2014. The SB 1479 reimbursements from the Employer Advance Reserve were inadvertently booked to the 401(h) account instead of SRBR. A total misclassified balance of \$2,649,500 and regular credited interest of \$182,511.54 were transferred from the 401(h) account to SRBR.

Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar and include <\$1 rounding differences.



MEMORANDUM TO THE RETIREES COMMITTEE

DATE: October 2, 2024

TO: Members of the Retirees Committee

FROM: Jessica Huffman, Retirement Benefits Manager *JH*
Mike Fara, Communications Manager *MF*

SUBJECT: **Final Report on Open Enrollment Preparation and Communications Materials, and Retiree Health and Wellness Fair Arrangements**

ACERA's Open Enrollment period is approaching for our group plans. The attached presentation will be reviewed at the Retirees Committee meeting.

Attachment

Open Enrollment Preparations

STATUS REPORT

Retirees Committee Meeting
October 2, 2024



Open Enrollment Details

- Sept. 27 - Open enrollment packet materials finalized and sent to printer
- Oct. 2 - Health Fair postcard mailing date
- Oct. 4 - Health Fair email blast/web news release targeted date
- Oct. 14 - Open enrollment packets targeted mailing date
 - Visit www.acera.org/OE for e-copies of full packet
 - DocuSign and PDF versions of Enrollment forms (medical, dental, vision) available at www.acera.org/enroll

Open Enrollment Details (continued)

- Oct. 15 to Dec. 15 – Via Benefits open enrollment period
 - Oct. 15 to Dec. 7 – Medicare O/E
 - Nov. 1 to Dec. 15 – Non-Medicare O/E
- Oct. 24 – Hybrid Retiree Health and Wellness Fair
- Nov. 1 to Nov. 30 – Group plan open enrollment period
- Jan. 1 – Via Benefits plans effective date
- Feb. 1 – ACERA group plans effective date

Open Enrollment Packet

- Envelope
- Intro letter
- Retiree Enrollment Guide
- “Making your Via Benefits Reimbursements Easier” pamphlet
- “Getting Your Affairs in Order” end-of-life planning flyer
- Health Fair flyer
- 3 Carrier flyers (Kaiser, Delta Dental, VSP)

ACERA Hybrid Retiree Health and Wellness Fair

Thursday, October 24, 2024

In-Person Event: 9:00 AM
Hilton Garden Inn Emeryville

Virtual Event: 10:00 AM
Livestream on Zoom

Presentation videos will be
available for later On-Demand
viewing

www.acera.org/healthfair

ACERA Hybrid Retiree Health and Wellness Fair

- **In-person:** Visit the Expo Hall and attend presentations live.
- **Virtual:** Watch live-streamed presentations from home. View event from any internet-connected device anywhere.
- **“Brain Fitness”** presentation from Kaiser.
- **Throughout Open Enrollment:** Access vendor virtual resources and learn about services and benefits offered at Health Fair Website.



475 14th Street, Suite 1000
Oakland, CA 94612
ATTN: Open Enrollment

Presorted Standard
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2025 Healthcare Enrollment Packet

Example Name Here
12354 Street Lane
San Francisco, CA 12345

Open Immediately to:

- Make healthcare enrollment changes
 - Learn about changes to plans
 - Explore 2025 hearing aid enhancements to Kaiser plans
 - Learn about Silver&Fit transition to One Pass
 - Get your invitation to our Hybrid Health Fair
-



ALAMEDA COUNTY EMPLOYEES'
RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

475 14th Street, Suite 1000
Oakland, CA | 94612

Dear ACERA Member,

This is your annual opportunity to review your healthcare options provided by ACERA. In this packet, you'll find the ACERA 2025 Retiree Enrollment Guide containing information about the ACERA-sponsored healthcare plans. Review the new monthly healthcare premiums for the next year starting on page 3. The Monthly Medical Allowance will increase for the 2025 plan year.

Timeline to Make Changes

Annual benefit enrollment decisions can only be made during the Open Enrollment period outlined on the back of this letter unless you experience a qualifying event. For qualifying events, you must notify ACERA in writing within 30 days of the event. To find out more about qualifying events, visit www.acera.org/enrollment.

Check out the back of this letter for a quick start guide. Detailed instructions on how to make changes are contained in the enclosed Enrollment Guide. We hope you find this packet of information useful and a resource throughout 2025.



(800) 838-1932
(510) 628-3000
fax: (510) 268-9574
www.acera.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Nelsen".

Dave Nelsen

Chief Executive Officer
October 2024



2025 Retiree Enrollment Guide

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Credit: FreshSplash

Quick Start Guide

Who **DOES** need to take action?

ACERA members who want to make changes to their medical, dental, and/or vision plan(s)

Who **MAY WANT** to take action?

- Kaiser Permanente HMO and UnitedHealthcare SignatureValue HMO members: the UnitedHealthcare SignatureValue Advantage network plan, which is a select group of high-quality and cost-effective providers, is 35% cheaper than the regular UHC SignatureValue plan and 5% cheaper than the Kaiser Permanente HMO. If you want to consider changing to this plan—see [page 3](#).
- Newly Medicare-eligible members with 10+ years ACERA service credit: you will probably want to enroll in the Medicare Part B Reimbursement Plan for help with your Medicare costs—see [page 24](#).
- Medicare-eligible members in a Via Benefits plan may want to review whether their drug plan is still the best option based on changes in cost and their current needs—see [page 14](#).

Who **DOES NOT** need to take action?

Members who don't want to make changes to their medical, dental, and/or vision plan(s).

Open Enrollment Periods and Plan Years

ACERA Healthcare Plans	Open Enrollment Period	Plan Year
Kaiser Permanente HMO California (non-Medicare)	November 1, 2024 - November 30, 2024	February 1, 2025 - January 31, 2026
Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage California (Medicare)		
UnitedHealthcare SV HMO and SVA HMO (non-Medicare)		
Delta Dental		
Vision Service Plan (VSP)		
Via Benefits Non-Medicare Plans	November 1, 2024 - December 15, 2024	January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025
Kaiser Permanente Individual Non-Medicare Plans (outside California)		
Via Benefits Medicare Plans	October 15, 2024 - December 7, 2024	
Kaiser Permanente Individual Medicare Plans (outside California)		



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Introduction

Health Plan Information You Need to Know

This annual guide provides information about the ACERA-sponsored health plans available to retired members, non-member payees (e.g., surviving spouses/domestic partners), and their eligible dependents. It includes details about medical, dental, and vision plan premiums and subsidies, changes to coverage options, dependent documentation requirements, as well as information about the 2025 plan year Open Enrollment period, process, and deadlines.

Review Your Materials— It's Up to You

We encourage you to take the time to carefully review this guide and share it with your family as you consider your benefit needs for the coming year. It's up to you to understand your benefits, how they work, and how to take action. Keep it for ongoing reference about your health plan benefits should you have questions or need information. Also, be sure to refer to the [back page](#) of this guide—it lists ACERA's and our health plan providers' contact information.

Open Enrollment for Plan Year 2025

ACERA's Open Enrollment period provides retirees, eligible dependents, and COBRA participants the annual opportunity to enroll in a health plan or change coverage for medical, prescription drug (with Medicare), dental, and/or vision plans for the upcoming plan year. Review the inside cover of the guide to see what the Open Enrollment period dates are for each healthcare plan.

Additionally, review the inside cover of the guide to see if you need to take action. If you're enrolled in an individual Medicare plan through Via Benefits, you may want to take this time to review how well your Medicare Part D plan covers your prescription drugs and review any changes in coverage or cost for 2025. You may also take the opportunity to change Medicare supplement plans.

Instructions on how to take action and whether you need to submit enrollment forms are on [page 5](#).

What's New For 2025

Dental and Vision Premium Changes

Dental and Vision Monthly Premiums (Retiree Only)						
Dental & Vision Plans	0-9 Yrs. of ACERA Service (Voluntary Enrollment)			10+ Yrs. of ACERA Service (Mandatory Enrollment)		
	2024	2025	% Change	2024	2025	% Change
Delta Dental PPO	\$74.60	\$74.60	0.0%	\$51.05	\$51.05	0.0%
DeltaCare USA	\$31.05	\$31.05	0.0%	\$22.18	\$22.18	0.0%
VSP Standard	\$ 6.69	\$ 6.69	0.0%	\$ 4.63	\$ 4.63	0.0%
VSP Premium (Buy-Up)	\$18.43	\$18.43	0.0%	\$16.63	\$16.63	0.0%

Medical Monthly Premium Changes

Between 2020 and 2023, the County negotiated three rate decreases to the Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage (KPSA) plan, making the 2024 premium 13.9% lower than the \$411.54 premium in 2020. Prices can't drop indefinitely; the KPSA plan experienced an 11.8% increase in 2024 and will experience a 5.5% increase for 2025. However, the new \$373.78 premium will still be 9.2% cheaper than the \$411.54 premium in 2020.

Medical Monthly Premiums (Retiree Only)			
Plans	2024	2025	% Change
Kaiser HMO	\$ 1,037.76	\$ 1,097.88	5.8%
Kaiser Senior Advantage	\$ 354.31	\$ 375.22	5.9%
UHC SV HMO	\$ 1,464.90	\$ 1,594.36	8.8%
UHC SVA HMO	\$ 957.68	\$ 1,042.48	8.9%
Via Benefits plans	Premiums for individual plans through Via Benefits depend on which plan you select.		

The new premiums for group plans will be withheld from your January 2025 retirement check. See [page 26-28](#) for more premium information.

Monthly Medical Allowance Will Increase

The Monthly Medical Allowance (MMA) will increase by 4.25% for 2025. See [pages 22-23](#) for the MMA amounts.

Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage Plan: Silver&Fit Transitions to One Pass in 2025

Starting in 2025, ACERA members enrolled in the Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage Plan (Medicare members) will see an exciting upgrade as the Silver&Fit program transitions to the new One Pass fitness benefit. This enhanced program offers even more options to support your health and wellness—at no cost to you.

With One Pass, you'll have access to over 26,000 participating fitness centers across the country, including all YMCAs, Orangetheory, senior centers, community centers, Pure Barre, Club Pilates, and many more. This is a significant increase from the 15,000 gyms previously available through Silver&Fit, giving you greater flexibility to stay active.

If you've been using Silver&Fit and have visited a gym in 2024, your membership will automatically transfer to One Pass starting January 1, 2025. If you haven't used the program in 2024, you'll need to enroll in One Pass in January when the transition occurs.

One Pass also offers new digital tools for your convenience, including electronic progress tracking and access to a digital workout library with more than 23,000 on-demand and live streaming classes. Plus, you can enjoy free access to virtual and in-person social activities and events, along with CogniFit's cognitive brain health training programs.

For those who prefer working out from home, Home Fitness Kits will still be available at no cost, just like in the Silver&Fit program.

To learn more about this expanded benefit and how to get started, visit www.acera.org/onepass.

Hearing Aid Benefit Increases to \$2000 Per Ear for Kaiser Members

ACERA doubled the hearing aid benefit for both the non-Medicare Kaiser Permanente HMO plan and the Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage Plan from a \$1,000 benefit per ear every 36 months to a \$2,000 benefit per ear every 36 months. This benefit takes effect for the 2025 plan year on February 1, 2025.

UHC Advantage Plan Remains Our Lowest-Priced Early-Retiree Plan

The UnitedHealthcare (UHC) SignatureValue Advantage Plan for non-Medicare-eligible members—a plan with a narrower network of high-performing healthcare providers—remains our lowest-priced early-retiree plan, making it 35% cheaper for the 2025 plan year than the regular UnitedHealthcare SignatureValue Plan and 5% cheaper than the Kaiser Permanente HMO.

The SignatureValue Advantage Plan includes the Canopy Health alliance of over 5,500+ doctors, dozens of care centers, and 30 hospitals, spanning 10 Bay Area counties.

Visit www.canopyhealth.com to search for doctors and services. (The higher-priced UHC plan does not include Canopy Health.) If you are currently enrolled in the higher-priced UHC plan, you may find that you can keep your same doctors and providers under the much cheaper

SignatureValue Advantage Plan; the county has found this to be true for most participants.

See [page 12](#) for plan coverage details and follow the directions on [pages 5-6](#) if you'd like to switch to the UHC SignatureValue Advantage Plan. To confirm available providers, contact UnitedHealthcare; see the back cover of this guide for contact information.

Delta Dental Continues SmileWay Wellness Benefits

Gum disease is associated with a number of systemic conditions, and people with certain chronic diseases may benefit from additional periodontal (gum) cleanings. Your dental plan offers the SmileWay benefit which provides additional cleaning benefits if you have been diagnosed with diabetes, heart disease, HIV/AIDS, rheumatoid arthritis, or stroke.

Electing Your Healthcare Coverage

When Can I Enroll or Make Changes?

Open Enrollment is your annual opportunity to consider your benefit needs and options, and to make changes if needed. ACERA's Open Enrollment period for group plans is **November 1 – November 30, 2024**; you can change your Kaiser Permanente or UnitedHealthcare medical plan, you can change your Delta Dental plan, you can change your vision plan, and you can add or drop medical, dental, and vision coverage for your eligible dependents. Open Enrollment for an individual medical plan through Via Benefits is depicted in the chart below.

Outside of Open Enrollment, you may enroll in coverage or make changes to your coverage if you inform ACERA in writing within 30 days after retirement or within 30 days after experiencing one of the qualifying events discussed on the webpage www.acera.org/enrollment.

Requests for changes must be made in writing to ACERA.

When Will My Enrollment or Changes Be Effective?

Enrolling During Open Enrollment

If you enroll in a plan during the Open Enrollment period, your plan is effective on the first day of the plan year, as depicted in the chart below—either January 1 or February 1.

Enrolling Outside of Open Enrollment/Qualifying Events

For the effective date of your new coverage if you enroll in or change your plan outside of Open Enrollment due to a qualifying event, ask an ACERA staff member at your Ready-to-Retire counseling session or by contacting us at www.acera.org/contact or by phone (see [back page](#)).

ACERA Healthcare Plans	Open Enrollment Period	Plan Year
Kaiser Permanente HMO California (non-Medicare) Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage California (Medicare) UnitedHealthcare SV HMO and SVA HMO (non-Medicare) Delta Dental Vision Service Plan (VSP)	November 1 – 30, 2024	February 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026
Via Benefits Non-Medicare Plans Kaiser Permanente Individual Non-Medicare Plans (outside California)	November 1 – December 15, 2024	January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025
Via Benefits Medicare Plans Kaiser Permanente Individual Medicare Plans (outside California)	October 15 – December 7, 2024	

Hybrid Health Fair: In Person & Online

Health & Harmony

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Credit: Drazen Zigic

Register Now

www.acera.org/healthfair

Thursday, October 24, 2024

In-Person at Hilton Garden Inn, Emeryville • 9 AM
Virtual on Zoom • 10 AM

Join us in person to explore the Expo Hall and presentations, or tune in virtually over Zoom for a simulcast of live presentations.

Visit Later!

Visit the virtual health fair space anytime during open enrollment for recordings of the live presentations and other great resources.

Access valuable resources for your health and well-being!



Getting Your Affairs in Order



iStock™

Although nobody ever really wants to think about their own death, preparing for your death in advance will ease your burdens at the end of your life and will help your loved ones make decisions during a time of emotional upheaval and loss.

Review Beneficiaries

Ensure your beneficiary information is up to date by reviewing your ACERA account at acera.org/login.

Start a Conversation

Talk about your wishes for your end of life care with your loved ones. This conversation can provide a shared understanding of what matters most to you and your loved ones. It can make decisions easier when the time comes. These conversations can seem daunting. Visit The Conversation Project at acera.org/conversation for a Conversation Starter Kit and tons more resources.

Review Finances

Review your finances (debts and assets) with your loved ones. Make sure they are aware of where your assets and documents are kept. Include your children in this review if any of the money matters involve them. Give them the combination to your safe.

Discuss Burial Wishes

Discuss different funeral and burial options, and let your family know what you prefer or what arrangements you have already made.

Make a Will

Every adult should have a will. It's a good idea to see an estate-planning attorney to have your will done according to your wishes, especially if you have a more complicated estate. However, if expense is an issue or you believe your situation is fairly simple, you can make your own will for free: try www.doyourownwill.com.

Complete an Advance Healthcare Directive

Download and complete an Advance Healthcare Directive. It helps your loved ones make decisions about your health if you are incapacitated and can't make them. AARP has provided fillable directives for each U.S. state, and they include a designation of your agent or power of attorney for healthcare: acera.org/advance.

Make a Life Planning File

Get a folder, manilla envelope, or other container and put the following items in:

1. **Personal documents** — birth certificates, passports, Social Security information, marriage certificate, divorce decree, military discharge papers, naturalization papers, your and your loved one's wills, advanced healthcare directives, adoption papers, power of attorney, trust agreements, and burial instructions.
2. **Retirement and death benefit information** — ACERA's phone number and website, contact information for other pensions you have, and contact information for organizations for which are eligible for death benefits.
3. **Income tax information** — copies of both state and federal income tax returns for the last two years.
4. **Property information** — titles and deeds to your house and other property, copies of property tax bills, mortgage documents, house and burial plot deeds, liens, and other related information.
5. **Insurance policies** — life, auto, homeowners, property, accident, liability, and hospitalization policies.
6. **Bank and financial accounts** — include locations of all checking and savings accounts, CDs, brokerage accounts, deferred compensation accounts, safe deposit boxes, savings bonds, stocks, bonds and any other securities owned.
7. **Credit cards** — account numbers, phone numbers, and addresses.
8. **Associations and organizations of which you are a member** — some of them could be helpful to your loved ones.
9. **Friends and business associates** who could be helpful. Also include names and numbers of your attorney, accountant, stockbroker, financial planner, insurance agent, and executor/ executrix of your will.
10. **Survivor Checklist** — A copy of ACERA's Survivor Checklist. acera.org/survivor-checklist

Review ACERA's Survivor Checklist

We've prepared a checklist for your survivors. Review the checklist with your beneficiaries to get an idea of what your survivors will need to do after your death. The checklist includes documents you can provide ACERA in advance to ensure efficient payment of death benefits to your beneficiaries. acera.org/survivor-checklist





Making Your Via Benefits Reimbursements Easier

IF YOU'RE ENROLLED in a medical insurance plan—and often a prescription drug coverage plan—through Via Benefits, you pay a monthly premium for each plan to each insurance company. If you use your coverage to go to the doctor or get a prescription, you may have to pay deductibles or copays to the doctor or pharmacy.

If you're eligible for ACERA's Monthly Medical Allowance (MMA)*, you can get reimbursed for some or all of those premiums, deductibles, and copays, depending on how much MMA you're eligible for. Instructions and reimbursement forms are available from Via Benefits, but here are some helpful hints from ACERA, as well as some frequently asked questions.

How do I know if I am eligible for the Monthly Medical Allowance (MMA)?

Eligibility for the Monthly Medical Allowance is based on how many years of ACERA service credit you earned before you retired:

Years ACERA Service	Portion of MMA	Non-Medicare Plans		Medicare Plans	
		2025 MMA Amount	Annual Total for 2025	2025 MMA Amount	Annual Total for 2025
0-9 yrs.	No MMA	-	-	-	-
10-14 yrs.	1/2	\$331.19	\$3,974.22	\$253.72	\$3,044.58
15-19 yrs.	3/4	\$496.78	\$5,961.33	\$380.57	\$4,566.87
20+ yrs.	Full	\$662.37	\$7,948.44	\$507.43	\$6,089.16

* Just a reminder, the MMA is a non-guaranteed (non-vested) benefit that may be adjusted or eliminated at any time by the Board of Retirement to ensure sustainability of non-vested benefits.

The dollar amount you're eligible for every month can be used for premiums, deductibles, and copays for both your medical insurance plan and prescription drug plan (if you're in a separate prescription drug plan). Dependents such as your spouse or domestic partner are not eligible for the MMA.

How do I pay my monthly premiums?

There are two ways to pay your monthly premiums:

- 1. DIRECT PAY** Pay it directly from your bank account automatically each month. You probably set this up already when you called Via Benefits to enroll. If you didn't, but want to set it up now, there's a "coupon" in the "coupon book" your insurance carrier sent you that is called something similar to "Auto Pay Form." You simply mail the completed form with a voided check to your insurance carrier.
- 2. MAIL A CHECK TO YOUR INSURANCE CARRIER EACH MONTH.** If you didn't set up direct pay from your bank account, you received a "coupon book" from your insurance carrier; the "coupons" are monthly reminders of the premium amount you owe that you need to mail to your insurance carrier each month to continue your insurance coverage. Some carriers don't provide coupon books, but simply provide a statement every month. Don't forget to mail your payment in each month to your carrier, or they may drop your coverage.



MEMORANDUM TO THE RETIREES COMMITTEE

DATE: October 2, 2024

TO: Members of the Retirees Committee

FROM: Jessica Huffman, Retirement Benefits Manager 

SUBJECT: **Annual Medicare Part D Certificate of Coverage Notice**

The Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) requires entities to annually notify Medicare eligible policyholders whether their prescription drug coverage is “creditable coverage”, which means the coverage is expected to pay on average as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) require all plan sponsors, such as ACERA, of health plans that provide prescription drug benefits to provide a Certificate of Creditable Coverage Notice to all plan participants prior to the Part D enrollment period.

Due to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), the open enrollment period for Medicare Part D is from October 15th through December 7th. This Notice will be mailed and received prior to the October 15th deadline. A PDF copy of the Certificate of Creditable Coverage Notice will also be available for download from ACERA’s website prior to the October 15th deadline. Retirees enrolled in individual medical plans through Via Benefits will also receive this Notice directly from their individual medical carriers.



MEMORANDUM TO THE RETIREES COMMITTEE

DATE: October 2, 2024

TO: Members of the Retirees Committee

FROM: Jessica Huffman, Retirement Benefits Manager 

SUBJECT: **Via Benefits Updates**

This memo is to provide the Retirees Committee with information on the Via Benefits updates.

- The Via Benefits Medicare Fall Newsletters were mailed out starting September 23rd as well as email blasts to the Medicare enrollees.
- Balance Reminder Statements for Health Reimbursement Account holders will be mailed out on October 25th.
- The Pre-65 Fall Newsletters will be mailed in phases starting on October 25th.