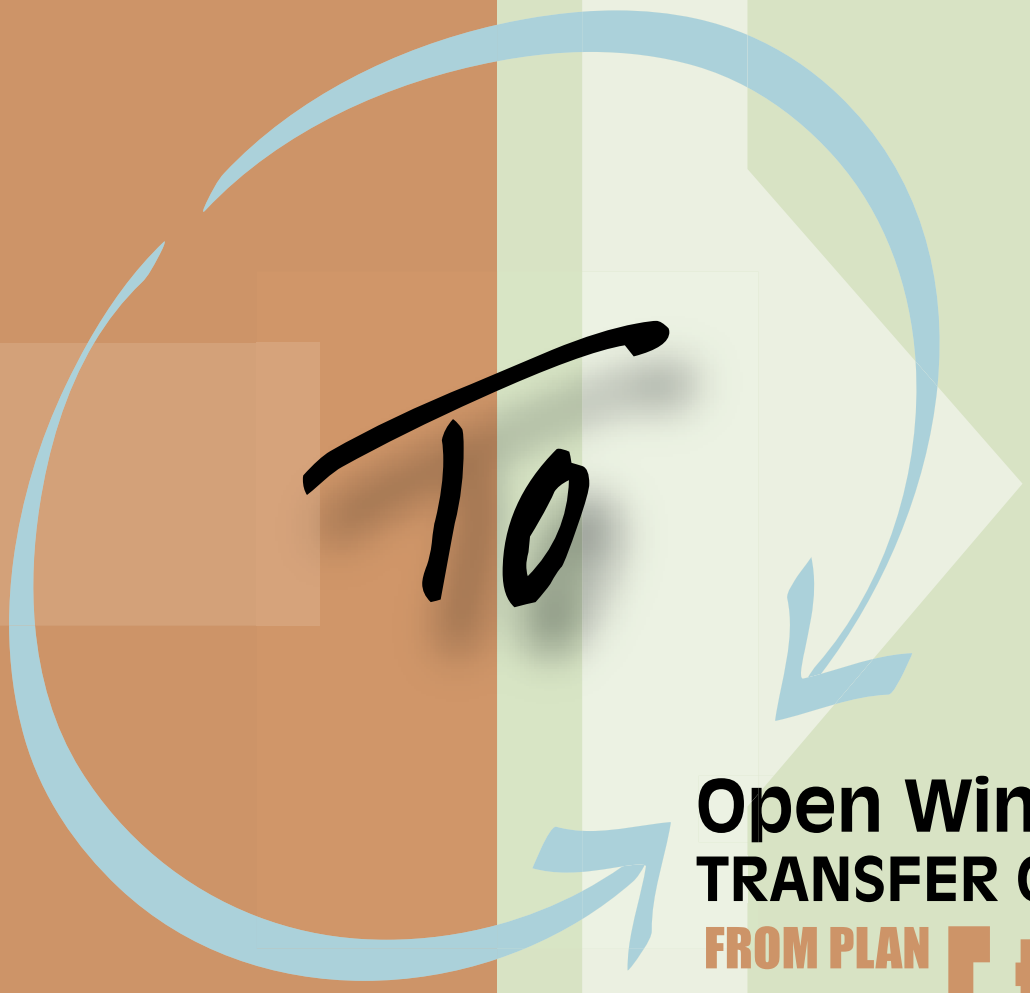


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Open Window
TRANSFER GUIDE
FROM PLAN E to D

Disclaimer

This Open Window Transfer Guide for General Members provides disclosure of the terms and conditions that apply when general members of the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association transfer from Plan E to Plan D. It is designed to give you this information as simply and accurately as possible. Since LACERA (Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association) is governed by the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937, the law prevails if any statement in this informational brochure is in conflict with the law. Official decisions will be made only after reference to the official publication of the statutes and any regulations governing administration of LACERA.

OPEN WINDOW TRANSFER GUIDE FROM PLAN E TO D






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Introduction



PLAN E VS. PLAN D: OVERVIEW AND COMPARISON

If you are a current member of Plan E, you have the option to transfer to Plan D. This book is designed to present you with information to help you decide if an Open Window Transfer to Plan D is right for you. In the succeeding pages, we will explain the following:

- Differences between Plan E and Plan D
- Open Window Transfer vs. Prospective Transfer*
- Comparison of transfer costs
- Payment options
- Purchasing service credit
- How to request an Open Window Transfer to Plan D

BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PLAN E AND PLAN D

The basic differences between the two retirement plans can be summarized as follows:

Plan D: is a contributory plan; both **you and your employer contribute to it.**

Plan E: is a non-contributory plan; only your employer contributes to it. **You do not contribute.**

Plan D: provides a larger scope of benefits through LACERA.

Plan E: provides benefits through the County of Los Angeles.

Plan D: members earn retirement service credit for each month they have earnings and make a contribution.

Plan E: members earn retirement service credit for each month County earnings are reported (*certain exceptions apply: see Comparison of Earning Service Credit chart on page 4*).

COMPARISON OF BASIC DIFFERENCES: PLAN D AND E

PROVISION	PLAN D	PLAN E
Member Contributes to Plan	• Yes	• No
Vested	• 5 yrs. of county service credit	• 10 yrs. of county service credit
Eligible Age to Receive Retirement Allowance	• Age 50, with at least 10 yrs. service credit, or 30 yrs. service credit, regardless of age, or age 70, regardless of service credit	• Vested members at age 55, or age 70, regardless of service credit
Disability Retirement	• Yes	• No**
Pre-Retirement Death Benefit	• Yes	• No**
Survivor Benefits	• Yes	• No**
Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy	• Yes	• Yes

*This guide focuses on Open Window Transfers. For more information on Prospective Transfers, refer to the *Prospective Transfer Election to Contributory Retirement Plan D* brochure.

**Plan E members are covered by the County Long-Term Disability plan. For more information on Long-Term Disability call the Employee Hotline at 213-388-9982.

EARNING RETIREMENT SERVICE CREDIT IN BOTH PLANS

As a Plan D member, you will earn retirement service credit for each month you have earnings and make a contribution. Plan E members can also earn service credit, however, different requirements apply.

COMPARISON OF EARNING SERVICE CREDIT: PLAN D AND E

	SERVICE CREDIT	MEMBER CONTRIBUTION
PLAN D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earned for each month you have earnings and make a contribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Either by payroll deduction <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paid directly to LACERA if your retirement-eligible earnings are not sufficient to cover the amount of your required payroll deduction
PLAN E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members earn retirement service credit for each month county earnings are reported <p>or member must satisfy one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be on a disability plan sponsored by the County, or be within a six-month waiting period for payment of Long-Term Disability Benefits Maintain uninterrupted employment* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No member contributions

*A member on a County-sponsored disability plan continues to earn service credit after termination, as long as the employee continuously remains on the disability plan.

DEATH AND DISABILITY BENEFITS: PLAN D AND E

Plan D members are eligible to receive LACERA's Disability Retirement and Pre-Retirement Death/Survivor Benefits:

Disability Retirement provides benefits in the event of either service-connected permanent disability or permanent disability from nonservice-connected illness or injury.

Pre-Retirement Death/Survivor Benefits are payments to your beneficiary in the event of a service-connected death or a nonservice-connected death.

To qualify for nonservice-connected Disability Retirement and Pre-Retirement Death/Survivor Benefits coverage, Plan D members must have at least five years of County retirement service credit, or combined County and reciprocal retirement system service credit.

There is no minimum service credit requirement for service-connected disability or death benefits.

Plan E Members are not covered by LACERA's Disability Retirement or Pre-Retirement Death/Survivor Benefits.

PRE-RETIREMENT DEATH BENEFITS

BENEFIT	PLAN D	PLAN E
Nonservice-Connected Death	• Yes	• No*
Service-Connected Death	• Yes	• No*
Deferred Member	• Yes	• No*

*Plan E has no LACERA pre-retirement death benefits. Plan E members are covered by the County's Long-Term Disability and Survivor Benefit.

POST-RETIREMENT SURVIVOR BENEFITS

	PLAN D		PLAN E	
TYPE OF RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	SURVIVOR BENEFIT	ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARY	SURVIVOR BENEFIT	ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARY
Unmodified	• 65% of member's allowance (100% if service-connected)	• Eligible spouse, children,* or domestic partner**	• 55% of member's allowance	• Eligible spouse, children,* or domestic partner**
Unmodified+ Plus	• Custom percentage between 66% and 100% of member's reduced allowance (<i>reduced by only enough to cover the difference between 66% and 100%</i>)	• Eligible spouse, children,* or domestic partner**	• Custom percentage between 56% and 100% of member's reduced allowance (<i>reduced by only enough to cover the difference between 56% and 100%</i>)	• Eligible spouse, children,* or domestic partner**
Option 1	• Lump Sum (remaining balance of your contributions)	• Any named beneficiary	• None	• None
Option 2	• 100% of member's reduced allowance (<i>reduction covers the entire cost of survivor's continuing allowance</i>)	• Eligible spouse, children,* domestic partner,** or person with an insurable interest	• 100% of member's reduced allowance (<i>reduction covers the entire cost of survivor's continuing allowance</i>)	• Eligible spouse, children,* domestic partner,** or person with an insurable interest
Option 3	• 50% of member's reduced allowance	• Eligible spouse, children,* domestic partner,** or person with an insurable interest	• 50% of member's reduced allowance	• Eligible spouse, children,* domestic partner,** or person with an insurable interest
Option 4	• Customized allowance for one or more beneficiaries	• Eligible spouse, children,* domestic partner,** or person with an insurable interest	• Customized allowance for one or more beneficiaries	• Eligible spouse, children,* domestic partner,** or person with an insurable interest
Death Benefit	• \$5,000 lump sum	• Any named beneficiary or your estate	• \$5,000 lump sum	• Any named beneficiary or your estate

*Up to age 18, or 22 if child remains a full-time student in an accredited college

**Domestic partner must be registered with the California Secretary of State, with a Certificate of Registered Domestic Partnership one year prior to the member's retirement



YOU CAN COMPARE YOUR PLAN D AND E RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES ONLINE

To assist you in comparing the retirement allowance you would receive as a member of Plan E with that of Plan D, LACERA provides an **online Retirement Calculator at www.lacera.com**. The tool uses current actuarial tables to calculate your estimated monthly retirement allowance based on the information you enter.

You will need the following information:

- Your plan
- Your age at retirement
- Your years and months of service credit at retirement
- Your final monthly compensation

NOTE: The calculations provided by the Retirement Calculator are estimates for planning purposes only, and are not official LACERA estimates.



METHODS OF TRANSFER FROM E TO D: OVERVIEW AND COMPARISON

OPEN WINDOW TRANSFER VS. PROSPECTIVE TRANSFER

LACERA offers two methods of transferring from Plan E to Plan D – **Open Window Transfer** and **Prospective Transfer**.

A **Prospective transfer** is a simple plan change; you switch from Plan E to Plan D and begin making the monthly contributions. Although you are not required to purchase any of your Plan E service credit, you have the option of purchasing some or all of your prior service. You become a Plan D member the first day of the month following 30 days after your application is received by LACERA.

The **Open Window transfer** requires that you purchase all your previous years of Plan E service credit before your transfer becomes effective. It can be purchased in a lump sum or you may make monthly payments over a maximum of ten years. You will remain in Plan E until you have paid the transfer contract in full.

Prospective Transfer

- **Does not require you to purchase any of your Plan E service credit.**
- Contribution rate is based on your current age, and therefore is calculated at a higher rate than an Open Window Transfer.
- You become a Plan D member on your effective date of transfer.
- You become eligible for disability and survivor benefits upon meeting certain service requirements.
- Provides option to convert some or all of your Plan E service credit to Plan D. (Any unconverted Plan E service credit will remain in your Plan E account.)
- Upon completion of payment to convert your Plan E service credit, your Plan D contributions are computed based on a younger age (your age at the birthday nearest the first date of the service period you purchased).
- Once you elect a Prospective Plan Transfer, you may not elect an Open Window transfer.

Open Window Transfer

- **Requires you to purchase and convert all of your Plan E service credit to Plan D in order to be eligible to receive Plan D benefits.**
- Contribution rate is based on your age at entry to LACERA, and therefore is calculated at a lower rate than a Prospective Transfer.
- More cost effective than Prospective Transfer to convert all your Plan E service credit to Plan D.
- You remain a Plan E member until your contract is paid in full. Your membership in Plan D is then retroactive to your most recent date of entry into a LACERA retirement plan.

BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OPEN WINDOW TRANSFER AND PROSPECTIVE TRANSFER WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE PRIOR CREDIT

OPEN WINDOW TRANSFER	PROSPECTIVE TRANSFER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost calculated at a lower rate. Based on age at the beginning of your current uninterrupted membership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost calculated at a higher rate. Based on age nearest the beginning period of service being purchased.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must pay to convert credit for all Plan E service to Plan D. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May pay to convert some or all Plan E service credit to Plan D.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract payment periods from one year up to ten years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract payment periods from one year up to ten years.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earn Plan D service credit beginning effective date of transfer, but <i>not credited or entitled to Plan D benefits until entire transfer contract is paid in full</i>. You remain a Plan E member until your transfer is completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earn Plan D service credit beginning effective date of transfer and become eligible for disability/survivor benefits when Plan D service requirements are met.*

***Certain eligibility applies:** To qualify, you must have either two years of continuous service (after your most recent effective date of transfer) as an active Plan D member, or five years of service (after your most recent effective date of transfer) as an active Plan D member.



YOU CAN COMPARE THE COST ONLINE: OPEN WINDOW VS. PROSPECTIVE TRANSFER

The **Transfer Calculator on www.lacera.com** will estimate the monthly contribution to Plan D that you will be required to pay if you transfer using the Open Window process, as well as an estimate of your monthly contribution using a Prospective Transfer.

You will need the following information:

- Your age at the time you plan to apply for the transfer
- Your current monthly salary (gross)
- Your years of Plan E service credit

NOTE: The calculations provided by the Transfer Calculator are estimates for planning purposes only, and are not official LACERA estimates.



OPEN WINDOW TRANSFER: REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

OPEN WINDOW TRANSFER FROM PLAN E TO PLAN D: THE REQUIREMENTS

If you are currently a Plan E member and have maintained uninterrupted Plan E membership, and now wish to transfer to Plan D, you are required to:

- Purchase and convert all of your Plan E service credit to Plan D
- Pay interest on above service credit
- Make monthly contributions via payroll deductions for the duration of your employment. Your monthly contributions are computed based on your age when you entered Plan E.
- If you choose payroll deductions, two deductions will apply:
 - **Payments on your Transfer Contract**
 - **Regular contributions to Plan D**

When your Transfer Contract is fulfilled, only the regular Plan D contribution deduction will continue.

Your required purchase of your Plan E service credit must be made within the ten-year transfer period. After your transfer is completed, if you so choose, you may purchase credit for any County or non-County service prior to membership.

PURCHASING OPTIONAL SERVICE CREDIT

For members transferring from Plan E to Plan D, eligibility to purchase credit for service prior to membership is based on your employment status prior to joining Plan E.

If You Joined LACERA After January, 1976. For details on your service credit eligibility and purchase options, refer to the chart on page 13 entitled “Eligibility For Purchasing Service Credit If You Joined LACERA After January, 1976.”

If You Were A Member of LACERA Anytime Prior To January, 1976. For details on your service credit eligibility and purchase options, refer to the section on page 13 entitled “If You Joined LACERA Any Time Between January, 1976 and January, 1968.”

Plan E members who joined Plan E *when entering* County service are not eligible to purchase service credit for any work performed prior to LACERA membership until the transfer to Plan D is completed.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING TRANSFER COSTS AND PAYMENT REGULATIONS

The costs of transferring from Plan E to Plan D are based upon the following factors:

- Age when you first entered Plan E
- Years of service in Plan E (plus any other eligible County temporary or part-time service, and/or any eligible non-County service)
- Interest

UNDER THE PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006, SERVICE CREDIT MAY BE PURCHASED WITH THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF FUNDS:

- Payroll deductions (using before- or after-tax dollars)
- Qualified Plans: 401(k)/401(a)/KEOGH*
- 457 Fund Plan Transfers: In-service or after Termination
- IRAs: Non-Roth/Non-After Tax
- 403(b)
- After-Tax Dollars

Note: If you are retired and within 120 days from your effective date of retirement (or if your retirement is for disability, within 120 days from the date of the Board of Retirement letter), or if you terminate your service, or become a deferred member, you may complete your plan transfer using the payment methods provided above.

*Certain restrictions apply, check with the plan administrator for details pertaining to your individual situation.

PLAN D PAYMENT OPTIONS

The maximum payment period to transfer to Plan D is ten years (120 months); the minimum period is one year. You may designate your contract payment period to be any length from 1-10 years.

Before-tax contracts are irrevocable and cannot be changed by you in any way, even in the event of personal or financial hardship. The contract cannot be terminated until you retire, terminate County employment, or die. A monthly payment will be deducted during the term of the contract as long as you are receiving a County paycheck. Contracts constructed exclusively with after-tax dollars may be revised or revoked.

You may pay off your contract through any of the following options:

Lump-Sum Rollover. This method allows you the option of paying off your contract in one lump-sum payment using before-tax or after-tax funds. The amount due on a lump-sum payment is calculated through the expiration date on the contract. You may use funds from a rollover of your 401(k)/401(a)/KEOGH, IRAs: Non-Roth/Non after-tax, 457, 403(b) or other qualified plan for the payment. It is advisable to speak with your accountant or tax advisor before making your decision.

Monthly Payroll Deductions. This method allows you to divide the total amount of your contract into equal monthly payments over the length of the contract. If you select this option, interest will be calculated over the length of the contract; therefore, the total amount you pay will exceed the amount of the lump-sum payment.

Combination Partial Lump-Sum Rollover and Payroll Deductions. You may also opt to begin your contract with a partial lump-sum rollover of your 401(k)/401(a)/KEOGH, 457, IRAs: Non-Roth/Non after-tax, 457, 403(b) or other qualified plan. LACERA will then calculate the outstanding balance of your contract plus interest, and take monthly deductions from your paycheck as payments for that balance.

If the actual amount of your rollover is less than the amount you indicate, interest will be assessed semi-annually on the unpaid amount until it is paid in full. The rate will be determined by the Board of Investment.

NOTE: Regardless of the option you choose, in order to receive service credit, you must initiate a Request for Cost Notification Letter before you retire or terminate County employment.

OWNERSHIP OF CONTRIBUTIONS

As a Plan D member, the money you contribute to your retirement plan is held in your name and paid to you, with interest, in the form of monthly lifetime benefits when you retire. Or upon your death, it is paid to your beneficiary. If you choose, the money is paid to you in a lump sum upon termination of your employment.

Your contributions and the interest credited on them cannot be refunded to you while you are a County employee, or in the event you are granted reciprocity when you transfer to a reciprocal retirement system.

The money your employer contributes and the interest it earns are not available to you until you are eligible to receive them in the form of monthly retirement benefits or a withdrawal after termination.

If You Die Before Completing Your Final Transfer Payment:

- Your surviving spouse, domestic partner, or minor children may qualify for Plan D survivor's benefits by paying off the balance of your contract within 120 days
- If the contract is not satisfied, the transfer will not be granted and any contributions you paid on the contract, plus credited interest will be refunded to your surviving spouse, domestic partner, or minor child

If You Retire or Terminate Before Your Final Transfer Payment:

- You may pay the balance due in a lump-sum payment within 120 days after your effective date of retirement
- If you do not complete the contract, any contributions you paid on the contract, plus credited interest will be refunded to you

If You Become Disabled and Cannot Complete Your Contract:

- Your benefits will remain those of a Plan E member

NOTE: If you terminate County service and defer your retirement allowance, or terminate and withdraw your retirement contributions before completing your Payment Contract, other rules may apply. For additional information, call 1-800-786-6464 and speak with a LACERA Retirement Benefits Specialist.

TAX CONSIDERATIONS

Contributions and the interest credited on your Plan D contributions are not subject to income tax until the money is paid to you when you retire, or terminate County service, or when your beneficiary receives them upon your death.

Consult your professional tax advisor to discuss your personal situation. LACERA cannot offer tax or legal advice.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Since 1982, employees of the County of Los Angeles do not contribute to the Social Security program. Members, who, as County employees, contributed to Social Security prior to January 1983, will receive reduced LACERA benefits at the time of retirement:

Plan D Members: Retirement allowances will be reduced by a **fixed dollar amount** for each year of LACERA service covered by Social Security. Reductions are based on plan coverage and age at retirement.

Plan E Members: A **percentage** of your estimated Social Security benefit will be subtracted from your monthly allowance based on the number of years your LACERA service was covered by Social Security.

PENSION ADVANCE OPTION

Plan D members who retire under age 62 and are fully insured under Social Security (usually 40 quarters of coverage) through L.A. County or other employment, may elect to coordinate their retirement allowance with Social Security benefits. Under this option, the member's basic retirement allowance is increased prior to age 62 by a percentage of the member's estimated Social Security benefit. When the member reaches age 62 and is eligible to collect Social Security, the allowance is decreased by the full amount of the estimated Social Security benefit. This effectively equalizes the member's income from LACERA prior to age 62, with the member's combined income from LACERA and Social Security after age 62.

NOTE: If the actual Social Security benefit is lower than the estimated Social Security benefit, the member's combined retirement income at age 62 will decrease, rather than leveling out as intended. Actuarial tables are used to determine the percentage and estimate benefit.



SERVICE CATEGORIES: DEFINITIONS, CALCULATIONS, AND PURCHASE ELIGIBILITY

SERVICE CATEGORIES

Temporary Time (*Gov. Code Sec. 31640.5*): A nonpermanent position with the County of Los Angeles or outside district (temporary, seasonal, intermittent, or part-time), up to the date you became eligible for LACERA membership.

Permanent Part-Time (*Gov. Code Sec. 31641.5*): A permanent part-time position of less than three-quarter time with the County of Los Angeles.

Withdrawn Contributions (*Gov. Code Sec. 31494.3*): Upon transferring to Plan E, the redeposit of contributions previously withdrawn from Plan A, B, C, or D.

Sick Without Pay (*Gov. Code Sec. 31646*): Absence due to illness for up to 12 consecutive months while you were a member of Plan A, B, C, or D.

United States of America, State of California, or Any Public Agency Located Within the State of California (*Bylaws of the Board of Retirement, Art. V, Sec. 1(c)*): Employment with the United States government (including military service), the State of California, and/or any public entity located within the State of California, provided you are not eligible now or in the future for (a) a pension or retirement allowance for such service, or (b) reciprocity benefits if you redeposit (or are eligible to redeposit) the contributions withdrawn from a reciprocal agency.

Other Public Agency (*Gov. Code Sec. 31641.2(c) – 1968 Board of Supervisors Resolution*): Employment with the State of California, or any county in California, or the City and County of San Francisco, or any city or special district in Los Angeles County, if you were an active or deferred member of LACERA any time between January 1, 1968 and November 1, 1974.

Federal/Military (*Gov. Code Sec. 31641.2(a) – 1972 Board of Supervisors Resolution*): Employment with the United States Government, including military service, if you were an active or deferred member of LACERA any time between December 1, 1972 and July 1, 1974.

Any Public Agency or Special District Located Wholly in the County of Los Angeles (*Bylaws of the Board of Retirement, Art. V, Sec. 1(b)*): Any public agency located wholly within the County of Los Angeles, if you were an active or deferred member of LACERA.



This is an excellent planning tool for YOU!

TRANSFER CALCULATOR

Shows Cost of:

- Open Window Transfer
- Prospective E to D
- Purchasing E Time

lacera.com/benefits/calculators

1. Have you had a break in service? Check "yes" if you have terminated county service in the past and then returned to service. Yes No

2. Have you had any period of County employment without earnings or Absence Without Pay (AWOP)? Yes No

3. What age will you be when you transfer? / Yes

4. What is your current monthly salary (gross)? \$ / Mo. [Click here if you were hired on or before 12-31-05.](#)

5. How much Plan E service credit do you have? / Yes / Mos.

6. How many years would you like to purchase? / Yes

7. Over what time period would you like to purchase your Plan E service credit? / Yes

OR you may enter what you would like your monthly payment to be. \$ / Mo.

(You may select only one of the above options.)

Calculate Your Plan Transfer

SERVICE CREDIT COST CALCULATIONS

SERVICE CATEGORY	PURCHASE WITHIN 10-YEAR TRANSFER PERIOD	PURCHASE AFTER TRANSFER TO PLAN D IS COMPLETED
Temporary Time Permanent Part-Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All compensation earned during the period of service multiplied by the initial contribution rate upon becoming a member, plus the interest that would have been credited had the above amount been on deposit from date of membership until paid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present value of the additional liability incurred by the retirement system in crediting the prior service, based on actuarial tables
Withdrawn Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amount withdrawn, plus the interest that would have been credited had funds been left on deposit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present value of the additional liability incurred by the retirement system in crediting the prior service, based on actuarial tables
Sick Without Pay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contributions the member would have paid, plus the interest the contributions would have earned had they been on deposit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present value of the additional liability incurred by the retirement system in crediting the prior service, based on actuarial tables
United States Of America, State Of California, Or Any Public Agency Located Within The State Of California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service credit may not be purchased during transfer period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present value of the additional liability incurred by the retirement system in crediting the prior service, based on actuarial tables
Any Public Agency Or Special District Located Wholly In The County Of Los Angeles Other Public Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the total compensation a member would have earned had the member been employed in County service at the level of a carpenter during the time the member was in service in the public agency, multiplied by the initial contribution rate, plus the interest that would have been credited had the above amount been on deposit from date of membership until paid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present value of the additional liability incurred by the retirement system in crediting the prior service, based on actuarial tables
Federal/Military	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twice the member's initial contribution amount multiplied by the number of months of credit, plus the interest that would have been credited had the above amount been on deposit from date of membership until paid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present value of the additional liability incurred by the retirement system in crediting the prior service, based on actuarial tables

Your retirement resource 24/7

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WHAT'S NEW

lacera.com

ELIGIBILITY FOR PURCHASING SERVICE CREDIT

If You Joined LACERA In or After January, 1976

The following guidelines apply for the purchase of service credit:

IF PRIOR TO YOUR PLAN D TRANSFER	REQUIRED PURCHASE DURING TRANSFER PERIOD	OPTIONAL PURCHASE AFTER TRANSFER TO D IS COMPLETE
<p>You joined Plan E and have maintained uninterrupted Plan E membership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All your Plan E service credit • Pay interest on above credit • Monthly contributions via payroll deductions, on a go-forward basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any County or non-County service prior to membership*
<p>You had less than 10 years of Plan E service (non-vested) and...</p> <p>You terminated County service, then rejoined as a Plan E member</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit for non-vested Plan E membership • Any of the following service: County Temporary Time* County Permanent Time* County Withdrawn Contributions* County Sick Without Pay* U.S. Government State of California Any California Public Agency Other Public Agency Federal/Military
<p>You had more than 10 years of Plan E service (non-vested) and...</p> <p>You terminated County service, then rejoined as a Plan E member</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All your prior vested Plan E service credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the following service: County Temporary Time* County Permanent Time* County Withdrawn Contributions* County Sick Without Pay* U.S. Government State of California Any California Public Agency Other Public Agency Federal/Military
<p>You transferred to Plan E from Plan A, B, C, or D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit from County service: Temporary Time Permanent Time Withdrawn Contributions Sick Without Pay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the following service: State of California Any county in California City and County of San Francisco Any city or special district in L.A. County Federal/Military Any Public Agency or Special District Located Wholly in L.A. County
<p>You were a former Plan A member</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the following service:** State of California Any county in California City and County of San Francisco Any city or special district in L.A. County Federal/Military Any Public Agency or Special District Located Wholly in L.A. County

If You Joined LACERA Between January, 1968 and January, 1976

Optional non-County service credit may be purchased the following two ways:

- 1) **Within The Ten-Year Transfer Period.** By law, service credit purchased within the ten-year transfer period to Plan D is calculated at a much lower rate than service credit purchased after the transfer is

completed. **Therefore, provided you are eligible, it is advisable to purchase service credit within your contract period.**

Eligibility for the optional purchase of non-County service credit within the ten-year transfer period:

- **If you became a member of LACERA on or before July 1, 1974:**
You may purchase credit for Federal or Military service*
- **If you became a member of LACERA on or before November 1, 1974:**
You may purchase credit for service in any Public Agency or Special District located within the state of California*
- **If you became a member of LACERA prior to January 1, 1976:**
You may purchase credit for service in any Public Agency or Special District located wholly within L.A. County*
- **If you were previously a member of Plan A any time between December 1, 1972 and July 1, 1974:**
You may purchase credit for any of the following service:**
 - State of California
 - City and County of San Francisco
 - Any city or special district in L.A. County
 - Federal/Military
 - Any public agency or special district located wholly in L.A. County

2) After Your Transfer To Plan D Is Completed. You may also use this more costly method to purchase non-County service credit.

*County service purchased after the transfer period is treated as non-County time, and calculated under a Present Value Formula. It does not count toward vesting or minimum service eligibility.

****Certain eligibility applies:** Members eligible now or in the future for either a pension or retirement allowance for such service, or eligible now or in the future for reciprocity benefits from the redeposit of contributions withdrawn from a reciprocal agency are not eligible to purchase these credits.

HOW TO PROCEED: INITIATING THE TRANSFER PROCESS



HOW TO REQUEST AN OPEN WINDOW PLAN TRANSFER

First, make sure an Open Window Transfer to Plan D is the right choice for you. To receive personalized information on your cost for an Open Window Transfer, **complete the enclosed Request For Cost Notification Form** and return it to LACERA. Submitting the form is merely a request to receive more detailed information on your costs; *it does not obligate you to take any further action.*

Within approximately 60 days from receipt of your Request For Cost Notification Form, LACERA will send you a Cost Notification Letter detailing your cost to complete an Open Window Transfer to Plan D. The letter will include the itemized cost of purchasing credit for your service prior to membership in LACERA, and a Payment Contract. (Verification of your service prior to your LACERA membership and the computation of the cost of your service credit may affect the time required to prepare your letter and contract.)

The cost for your service includes the interest your contributions would have earned if they had been on deposit with LACERA from the date you became a member up to the Expiration Date on the Payment Contract. Member contributions that have been on deposit for at least six months are credited with interest at a rate set semi-annually by the Board of Investments.



You can also use the online Transfer Calculator on www.lacera.com to compare your monthly costs using an Open Window Transfer versus a Prospective Transfer. The Transfer Calculator will allow you to calculate the

costs associated with purchasing service credit. You can choose the number of years of Plan E service credit you wish to purchase and select either a payment period from one to ten years *or* enter the monthly dollar amount you want to pay.

If, after reviewing the Cost Notification Letter, you decide to go forward with an Open Window Transfer to Plan D, you must sign and return the contract by the expiration date.

If you don't return the contract, or if you inform LACERA that you don't wish to proceed, your request to transfer will be canceled. If at some later date, you wish to reinstate your transfer, you must submit a new Request For Cost Notification Form.

BASIC PROVISIONS OF PLAN D AND PLAN E

COMPARISON OF BASIC PROVISIONS	PLAN D	PLAN E
Member makes cash contributions	Yes	No
Employer makes cash contributions	Yes	Yes
Member vested	In 5 yrs.	In 10 yrs.
Member eligible for a service retirement allowance, after meeting requirements	In 10 yrs.	In 10 yrs.
Minimum retirement age	50	55
Maximum percentage of final compensation member can receive as retirement allowance	100%	80%
Final compensation based on monthly average of	1 year of service	Any 3 years service
LACERA pays disability benefit if active member is disabled	Yes	No
LACERA pays death benefit if active member dies	Yes	No
Percentage of retirement allowance LACERA pays to eligible surviving spouse or domestic partner when retired member dies (up to 100% when Unmodified +Plus or Option 2 is elected)	65%	55%
May purchase credit for County service prior to membership	Yes	No
May purchase credit for non-County service prior to membership	Yes	No
Eligible for reciprocity with a reciprocal retirement system	Yes	Yes
Eligible former members may be reinstated to prior contributory retirement plan	Yes	No
Pension Advance Option permitting coordination of payments for those entitled to Social Security benefits	Yes	No
Cost-of-living (COLA) increases after retirement	Yes	Yes
Eligible for LACERA-administered health care benefits after retirement	Yes	Yes
LOS ANGELES COUNTY BENEFITS	PLAN D	PLAN E
County pays disability benefits if active member is disabled	Yes	Yes
County pays death benefit if active member dies	Yes	Yes
County pays death benefit when retired member dies	No	No
Life insurance benefits provided by County if member dies in active service	\$2,000	\$10,000

Your signature on the Payment Contract authorizes LACERA to begin payroll deductions for the transfer cost and for current deductions. Your transfer cost is calculated through the month in which your signature is due on the contract. Payroll deductions will begin within 30-45 days after the contract expiration date, and will be reflected on your paycheck on the 15th of each month. If you choose monthly payroll deductions, your fixed deduction will be calculated using a projected semi-annual interest crediting rate for the term of the contract.

If you choose the lump-sum payment option, you must include your completed rollover form with your signed Payment Contract.

For Great-West Rollovers:

Call Great-West at 1-800-947-0845 to request a rollover form.

For Other Rollovers:

Rollover Certification Forms are available in the Brochures & Forms section of www.lacera.com.

For additional information or assistance with transferring plans, contact LACERA's Retirement Benefits Specialists at 1-800-786-6464.

CONTRIBUTION RATES FOR PLAN D MEMBERS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005

AGE	RATE %	AGE	RATE %	AGE	RATE %	AGE	RATE %
16	4.63	27	5.92	38	7.55	49	9.53
17	4.74	28	6.05	39	7.72	50	9.70
18	4.84	29	6.18	40	7.89	51	9.87
19	4.96	30	6.33	41	8.07	52	10.03
20	5.07	31	6.46	42	8.26	53	10.17
21	5.18	32	6.61	43	8.44	54	10.31
22	5.30	33	6.75	44	8.63	55	10.42
23	5.42	34	6.91	45	8.82	56	10.48
24	5.54	35	7.05	46	9.00	57	10.49
25	5.66	36	7.21	47	9.18	58	10.49
26	5.79	37	7.38	48	9.36	59+	10.49

Maximize Your Retirement!

Attend a Pre-Retirement Workshop

- RSVP Info
- Schedule
- Safety & General Members

lacera.com/benefits/Active_Members

This is a Great Resource!

Brochures & Forms Page

- Health Care
- Brochures
- Applications
- Disability
- Read and Order Retirement Info

lacera.com/benefits/Active_Members

RECAP: HOW TO PROCEED IF YOU DECIDE TO INITIATE AN OPEN WINDOW TRANSFER TO PLAN D FROM PLAN E

- 1) Complete the **Request For Cost Notification Form** that accompanies this brochure, and mail it to LACERA in the envelope provided.
- 2) Wait approximately 60 days to receive a **Transfer Cost Notification Letter** and a **Payment Contract** from LACERA.
- 3) To proceed with the transfer, **sign and return the contract** by the expiration date.
- 4) Your **payroll deductions** will begin within 30-45 days from the expiration date.
- 5) For further assistance, contact LACERA's Retirement Benefits Specialists at 1-800-786-6464.

Request For Cost Notification Form And Envelope

1

Front

Back

Mail to LACERA

Transfer Cost Notification Letter and Payment Contract

2

pg. 1

pg. 2

pg. 3...

within
60
days you
will
receive

3

sign and
return by the
expiration
date

4

payroll
deduction
begins
30-45
days after the
expiration
date

5

call
1-800-786-6464
for further
assistance

“My LACERA”

OFFICE SUPPLIES



JUNK MAIL



MY LACERA
PERSONAL INFORMATION

SNACKS



Think of “My LACERA” as your personal online file cabinet for all things LACERA. Always locked, it’s a private place on www.lacera.com where all your personal information is neatly stored, and always accessible... to you, and you only. Your password serves as the key that unlocks your LACERA personal and financial information, including:

- Retirement Plan Information
- Create a Retirement Benefit Estimate
- Annual Benefit Statement
- Recap of Your Recent LACERA Interactions

To register, visit www.lacera.com and look for the “My LACERA” icon. When registering, it will be helpful to have your most recent paycheck stub handy. Once you’re registered, you will only need to enter your email address and password to enter “My LACERA.”

MY LACERA

YOUR OWN PERSONALIZED
SPACE ON THE LACERA INTERNET
Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association

WELCOME TO My LACERA

Please sign in to your “My LACERA” web page

REGISTERED USERS

If you are a registered member, please enter your Email Address and Password below, then press the Sign In Now button.

FYI: You have three attempts to sign-in to your My LACERA account, after that you must call LACERA, and one of our Retirement Specialists will assist you with the process 1-800-786-6464.

Email Address:

Password:

SIGN IN NOW

FORGOT YOUR PASSWORD?

NEW USERS

Welcome! Register now to access your very own “My LACERA” page.

FYI: You will have two attempts to register, after that you must call LACERA, and one of our Retirement Specialists will assist you with the process 1-800-786-6464.

REGISTER NOW



**Open Window
TRANSFER GUIDE**

FROM PLAN E to D

LACERA

300 N. Lake Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101
1-800-786-6464
www.lacera.com