

# PORAC

RETIREE MEDICAL TRUST

2026



## FAQs

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## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS** **- MARCH 2026 -**

**These Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQs”) contain important information about the PORAC Retiree Medical Trust (the “Trust”).** The purpose of these FAQs is to answer common questions about the “Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan (the “Plan”) of the Trust. These FAQs will give you a general outline of the operation and structure of the Plan and Trust.

***IMPORTANT NOTE: These FAQs do not provide all the details and limitations of the Plan. Exact specifications are provided in the formal “Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan of the PORAC Retiree Medical Trust,” restated effective 7-1-2025, as amended, which will prevail in case of conflict with these FAQs. You may request a copy of the most up-to-date Plan document or the “Summary Plan Description” from the Trust Office; see Part A(3) below for contact information.***

### **PART A: INTRODUCTION TO THE PORAC RETIREE MEDICAL TRUST**

**1) What is the PORAC Retiree Medical Trust?** The PORAC Retiree Medical Trust is a funding vehicle in which to deposit money while you are working, to pay for medical expenses after you retire, pursuant to the rules of the Plan. Any PORAC member Association may choose, as a bargaining unit (through collective bargaining), to join the Trust. (You cannot choose to join as an individual; it must be through bargaining by your Association.)

**Note regarding new hires:** An Association may bargain that only hires after a certain date will participate in the Trust, e.g., every employee hired after January 1, 2020. Although there can be no individual employee choice to join the Trust, an Association may bargain that a certain *defined class of employees* will participate in the RMT. That may help in situations where your employer cut off retiree health benefits after a certain date.

**2) Why should my Association join the Trust?** The PORAC Retiree Medical Trust directly responds to the problem of rising health care costs, especially during retirement.

**3) Whom should I contact with questions regarding the Trust?** You should contact the Trust Office, or any Trustee or the Trust’s Field Representative (see Part F), with questions regarding the Trust, e.g., if you have any questions regarding benefits from the Trust:

**PORAC Retiree Medical Trust  
c/o Benefit Programs Administration  
Phone: (877) 808-5994 \* Email: [PORACRMT@bpabenefiits.com](mailto:PORACRMT@bpabenefiits.com) \* Website: [PORACRMT.org](http://PORACRMT.org)**

If your Association is interested in joining the Trust, please call (877) 808-5994 and ask to speak with the Trust’s Account Executive or the RMT Director of Operations.

### **PART B: BENEFITS AND PARTICIPATION AT A GLANCE**

**1) What types of benefits are available from the Trust?** The Trust provides reimbursement benefits toward the cost of post-retirement “Covered Expenses” paid by participants, on or after the date the participant becomes an Eligible Retiree under the Plan. “Covered Expenses” include the following:

- ❖ Premium or contribution payments for coverage under health, dental, or vision insurance plans.
- ❖ Medical expenses excludable from gross income under Internal Revenue Code Section 213(d), i.e., costs for diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease or injury, including co-pays and deductibles.

You may contact the Trust Office, or visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) to see IRS Publication 502 for more details on Covered Expenses. Generally, any medical expense that would be deductible under Internal Revenue Code Sec. 213(d) is allowed as a Covered Expense.

**2) Who can participate in the Trust?** Generally, an individual can participate in the Trust if they are a member of a bargaining unit that is a member Association of PORAC, which has bargained to participate in the Trust; and the individual is employed in a classification covered by a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”), which provides for participation in the Trust. Associations outside of California may join under separate rules.

## **PART C: ELIGIBILITY FOR MONTHLY BENEFITS FROM THE TRUST**

*(Note: the rules in this Part C are for the regular monthly benefits; they do not apply to Individual Account benefits from the Trust, which are discussed below in Part D.)*

**1) How does a participant become eligible for monthly reimbursement benefits?** A participant becomes eligible for monthly reimbursement benefit payments generally after: a) the participant has earned 10 years of Active Service in the Plan (or five years for an individual already employed when their bargaining unit joins the Trust); b) the Trust has received monthly Contributions for all years of Active Service earned by the participant; c) the participant has attained age 55; and d) the participant has ceased all employment (including part time or post-retirement contract work) with any participating employer of this Trust.

**2) When will monthly benefits commence?** Monthly reimbursement benefit payments commence after retirement, assuming the participant meets the eligibility rules in Part C1.

**3) How is the monthly benefit level calculated?**

- ❖ **What is an Active Service Unit (ASU)?** An Active Service Unit (ASU) is a factor used to calculate the monthly benefit level for an Eligible Retiree. The Trust will credit a participant with one ASU for each monthly \$50 contribution that the Trust has received on the participant’s behalf over the duration of their career. For example, if the participant’s Association has negotiated a monthly contribution of \$150, they will receive 3 ASUs for each monthly contribution.
- ❖ **What is the Unit Multiplier (UM)?** The Unit Multiplier is a factor that the Trust uses to calculate benefit levels. The UM is set from time to time by the Trustees, with the help of a professional actuary, and is based on demographic and financial data.
- ❖ **How is the Eligible Retiree’s “benefit level” calculated?** An Eligible Retiree’s “benefit level” is the maximum amount that they may receive in monthly reimbursement benefits from the Trust. The benefit level for each Eligible Retiree is calculated by multiplying the total number of ASUs they have accumulated by the Unit Multiplier, \$0.80 effective April 1, 2025. The benefit level will change from time to time. See Appendix A for sample benefit level calculations.

**4) Does the Trust provide benefits to participants who retire before earning 10 years of Active Service?** Yes, for a participant who retires before earning the required 10 years (or 5 years, if applicable; see Part C1), the Trust will credit their contributions to an Individual Account in the Trust, and they will be entitled to reimbursement of medical expenses up to the amount in their Individual Account. See Part D.

**5) How long will monthly benefits from the Trust last?** It is the Trustees' intent, and the Plan is designed so that monthly reimbursement benefit payments for Eligible Retirees will last until death. However, this is not guaranteed, and the Trustees have the authority to reduce or terminate benefits earlier, if prudent, to preserve the soundness of the Plan for all of the participants. In any event, all contributions and earnings in the Trust may be spent only on benefits and administrative expenses, as required by federal law.

**6) What happens to a participant's monthly benefits upon death? Are there survivor's benefits?** Yes, the Plan includes monthly reimbursement benefit payments to the Surviving Spouse (at 50% of participant's monthly benefit) and Children (as defined in the Plan) of an Eligible Retiree. Further, if the Surviving Spouse has surviving Children in the household, the monthly benefit level will be 100% of the Eligible Retiree's monthly benefit level.

**Note:** The Trustees have the authority to modify these benefit rules or terminate benefits at any time, if prudent, to preserve the financial health of the Plan for all participants.

## PART D: INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNT BENEFITS

*(Note: the rules in this Part are for the Individual Account benefits; they do not apply to regular monthly benefits from the Trust, which are discussed above in Part C.)*

**1) What benefits are offered by an Individual Account?** The Trust maintains Individual Accounts, generally for the transfer of sick or vacation leave to the Trust. The expenses covered from an Individual Account are the same as for the monthly lifetime benefits, i.e., reimbursement of "Covered Expenses" (see Part B). However, there are two important differences:

- ❖ The claim can be in any amount up to the amount in the Individual Account; and
- ❖ Claims are paid only until the Individual Account balance is exhausted (not for lifetime).

**2) Can a participant receive both monthly reimbursement benefits and Individual Account benefits?** Yes, a participant may receive both monthly reimbursement benefits and Individual Account benefits if the participant has met the eligibility requirements for monthly benefits, and also has an Individual Account.

**3) What happens to Individual Account benefits upon the death of a participant?** In the event of death, a Surviving Spouse may utilize the deceased participant's Individual Account funds to pay for covered medical expenses until the Individual Account balance reaches zero.

Possible forfeiture. Note: if there is no Surviving Spouse, then the balance of the Individual Account is divided equally among all Children (as defined in the Plan) for reimbursement of Covered Expenses. If there are no Children, then it forfeits to the Trust.

## PART E: TAX AND POOLING ADVANTAGES

**1) What are the tax advantages of the Plan?** The Trustees have structured the Plan to obtain three separate tax breaks:

- ❖ Neither employer contributions nor employee contributions to the Trust are taxable income to you;
- ❖ The Trust itself will accrue earnings on a non-taxable basis (which increases your benefits); and
- ❖ Generally, your benefit payments from the Trust will not be taxable income to you when you receive them.

This is better tax treatment than a pension plan (e.g., CalPERS) or your deferred compensation 457 plan. Benefits from those plans are taxed upon receipt, after you retire. In contrast, the benefit payments from this Trust will not be taxable income to the retirees. (There is one exception,<sup>1</sup> which is if you paid your premiums with pre-tax income -- e.g., through your spouse's cafeteria plan. In that case, your benefits from this Trust would be taxable income to you.)

**2) What are the advantages of a pooled account over an Individual Account system?** The Trust is generally designed so that contributions are held and invested collectively in a "pooled account." (The Trust provides the Individual Accounts (discussed in Part D) for limited purposes.) There are certain advantages to pooling funds, including:

- ❖ **Higher investment assumption is reasonable.** This Trust is different than an individual "Health Savings Account" ("HSA"). This Trust invests the pooled account on a long-term time horizon. The Trustees do not move the investments in a pooled account to a more conservative earnings assumption as a given retiree ages, since the pool is always gaining more funding, and does not have a limited life span. Contrast that to a retiree over age 55 with an individual HSA and no more funding, who generally moves to a more conservative investment portfolio as they age. Actuarial studies demonstrate that the Trust's plan design produces greater aggregate benefits to beneficiaries.
- ❖ **Lifetime benefit payments.** The pooled part of the Plan is designed to provide a monthly stream of benefit payments for the retiree's lifetime,<sup>2</sup> plus a continuing benefit payment stream to the Surviving Spouse during retirement years, until their death. This will become very important in a retiree's later years, when an individual HSA might run out.

## PART F: LEGAL STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

**1) What is the legal structure of the Plan?** Plan assets are held in the PORAC Retiree Medical Trust, which is a legally separate entity from PORAC, the participating Associations, or employers. The Trust is controlled and administered by a Board of Trustees, composed of peace officers from PORAC member Associations.

**2) Who is currently on the Board of Trustees?** Effective August 11, 2025, the Trustees will be:

Brian Dutton, Region I  
Gilroy Police Officers' Association  
[Brian.Dutton@hotmail.com](mailto:Brian.Dutton@hotmail.com)

Terry A. Moore, Region II (Chairman)  
Retired, Chico Police Officers' Association  
[CPOAPrez@sbcglobal.net](mailto:CPOAPrez@sbcglobal.net)  
C (530) 588-5117

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<sup>1</sup> Your reimbursement benefits will be taxable income to you if you paid your premium with pre-tax income: Examples include where spouse's employer deducted the premium from your spouse's salary or wages prior to calculating the spouse's taxable income (like from a cafeteria plan) or under the HELPS Act, which allows public safety retirees to deduct \$3000 of their pension income used to pay health care premiums. If your premium is paid with pre-tax income, the IRS requires the Plan to issue a Form 1099 to the participant to show that he or she has received taxable income from the Trust.

<sup>2</sup> The Plan is designed to provide monthly reimbursement benefits to Eligible Retirees until death. However, benefits from the Trust are not vested, and the Trustees reserve the right to modify and/or terminate benefits as necessary to preserve the financial soundness of the Trust.

Steve Saucedo, Region III  
Burbank Airport Police Officers' Association  
[stevesaucedo@ymail.com](mailto:stevesaucedo@ymail.com)

Dennis Hashin, Region IV  
Retired, Huntington Beach Police Officers' Assoc.  
[dahashin@gmail.com](mailto:dahashin@gmail.com)

Dustin Smith, PORAC Board Representative  
Sacramento Police Officers' Association  
[dasmith@sboa.org](mailto:dasmith@sboa.org)

One Trustee from each PORAC Region is elected for a two-year term. Elections for regional Trustees are held on a rotating basis during the PORAC Annual Conference. The PORAC President appoints one Trustee for a one-year term. If you are interested in running for a Trustee position on the Board, please contact the PORAC Office in Sacramento.

**3) Who handles the day-to-day administration of the Trust?** The Trustees have retained Benefit Programs Administration a third-party administrator, to handle the day-to-day administration of the Trust and serve as the Trust Office. Participants should contact the Trust Office with any questions regarding the Trust or updates of any information that might affect your rights and benefits under the Plan, such as, change of address, family composition (e.g., marriage, divorce, birth of a child, etc.) or employment status (e.g., lay-off, reduction in hours, retirement, etc.). The contact information for the Trust Office is listed in Part A.

**4) Who is the Trust's Field Representative, to assist with joinder and participation of police associations?** The Trustees have retained Earl Titman as Field Representative to provide educational services for the Trust. Mr. Titman previously sat as Chairman of the Trust, and has extensive knowledge of the Trust makeup and daily operations. Employers, Associations, and participants should contact Mr. Titman if they have questions or would like more information about the Trust and the Plan. Please contact Mr. Titman at: [earltitman@gmail.com](mailto:earltitman@gmail.com) or (415) 497-3043.

## PART G: JOINING THE TRUST/ FUNDING

**1) How does a PORAC member Association join the Trust?** A PORAC member Association can join the Trust by entering into an MOU with its employer, which mandates contributions to the Trust in the same amount for every employee in the bargaining unit. The MOU can provide for employer contributions on behalf of employees, and/or to take pre-tax deductions from employees' paychecks to pay into the Trust (or both). In order to comply with IRS guidelines, there can be no individual election to enroll, and the contributions by or on behalf of employees generally must be the same for all members of the bargaining unit.

**2) What is the contribution rate to join the Trust?**

❖ **Monthly contributions from salary.**

- \$100 minimum per employee per month. An Association may join with contributions in any \$25 increment, starting at least at \$100/month per employee per month. There can be no individual election either to participate or the contribution level. Currently, Associations have bargained a range of \$100 to \$750 per employee per month.
- Special rate of \$50 for 12 months. An Association may use an initial contribution rate of \$50/employee per month for no more than twelve months.

❖ **Changes in Contribution Rate Allowed**

Each Association is allowed to change its contribution in increments of \$25 at any time, as set forth in your MOU, or side letter.

- ❖ **Contribution of sick or vacation leave in the form of a Lump-Sum Transfer to Individual Accounts.** An Association may negotiate an automatic transfer of its members' accrued sick and/or vacation leave to the Trust for deposit into Individual Accounts. The Trust will accept deposits of accrued sick/vacation leave at retirement or once a year, if negotiated in the MOU at a uniform percentage (e.g., 50% of accumulated sick leave; 100% of accumulated sick leave, etc.) for all individuals in the bargaining unit. These amounts will not be taxable income to the employee (as they would be if the employee receives them in cash). These amounts will be credited to the participant's Individual Account in the Trust.

**3) May an individual participant contribute more (or less) than the other members in his/her bargaining unit?** No, individual increases (or decreases) in contributions are not allowed. The IRS prohibits individual election, including for contribution increases; any violation will jeopardize the Trust's tax advantages. (The only exception is COBRA contributions.)

**4) May an individual elect whether or not to participate in the Trust (like a cafeteria or 401k plan)?** No, there is no individual election to participate in the Trust. Generally speaking, the entire bargaining unit must participate. However, as discussed in part A1, you may carve out part of the bargaining unit to participate, e.g., new hires. The tax advantages of the Trust depend on the absence of individual election. These requirements are set by the IRS.

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## APPENDIX A

### Examples of Calculation of Benefit Level

\$50 monthly contribution = 1 Active Service Unit  
Unit Multiplier, effective April 1, 2025 = \$0.80

**Example #1 – 6 years in Trust:** An Association has a contribution rate of \$100/month, and Employee Jones participates for two years (or 24 months) at that level. Then the Association increases the contribution rate to \$150/month, and Jones participates for four years (or 48 months) at that level, and then retires. The monthly amount available to Jones for medical expense reimbursement will be calculated as follows:

Step 1: Convert monthly contributions to Active Service Units

\$100/month = 2 Active Service Units/ Month

\$150/month = 3 Active Service Units/ Month

Step 2: Find number Active Service Units

2 Active Service Units x 24 months = 48 Active Service Units

3 Active Service Units x 48 months = 144 Active Service Units

Total = 192 Active Service Units

Step 3: Multiply number Active Service Units by Unit Multiplier

**Monthly Benefit Amount: 192 x \$ 0.80 = \$153.60**

**Example #2 – 12 years in Trust:** An Association selects a contribution rate of \$100/month, and Employee Jones participates for seven years (or 84 months) at that level. Then the Association increases the contribution rate to \$200/month, and Jones participates for five years (or 60 months) at that level, and then retires. Then the monthly amount available to Jones for medical expense reimbursement will be calculated as follows:

Step 1: Convert monthly contribution to Active Service Units

\$100/month = 2 Active Service Units/ Month

\$200/month = 4 Active Service Units/ Month

Step 2: Find number Active Service Units

2 Active Service Units x 84 months = 168 Active Service Units

4 Active Service Units x 60 months = 240 Active Service Units

Total = 408 Active Service Units

Step 3: Multiply number Active Service Units by Unit Multiplier

**Monthly Benefit Amount: 408 x \$ 0.80 = \$326.40**

**Example #3 – Career Employee – 25 years in Trust:** An Association selects a contribution rate of \$100/month, and Employee Jones participates for seven years (or 84 months) at that level. Then the Association increases the contribution rate to \$200/month, and Jones participates for 18 years (or 216 months) at that level, and then retires. Then Jones' benefit level will be calculated as follows:

Step 1: Convert monthly contributions to Active Service Units

\$100/month = 2 Active Service Units/ Month

\$200/month = 4 Active Service Units/ Month

Step 2: Find number Active Service Units

2 Active Service Units x 84 months = 168 Active Service Units

4 Active Service Units x 216 months = 864 Active Service Units

Total = 1,032 Active Service Units

Step 3: Multiply number Active Service Units by Unit Multiplier

**Monthly Benefit Amount: 1,032 x \$ 0.80 = \$825.60**

***Caveat: The foregoing information shows three examples for calculation of a retiree's benefit level, under current Plan terms. The Trustees reserve the right to modify the Unit Multiplier (UM) and the formula used to calculate benefit levels at any time for both existing and future Beneficiaries. Such a modification is most frequently attributable to favorable or adverse demographic or financial experience of the Plan.***