

# Tier 2 Public Safety and Firefighter Retirement System Highlights



2024-25

*Effective July 1, 2024*

# Where to Find It

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*Contact information on the back cover.*

**Welcome to the  
Tier 2 Public Safety and Firefighter  
Contributory Retirement System!**



The Tier 2  
Public Safety  
and Firefighter  
.....

Contributory Retirement System allows members to participate in either the Tier 2 Hybrid Retirement System or the Tier 2 Defined Contribution Plan. The laws that govern this retirement system are set forth in Utah Code Title 49.

As set forth in Utah Code Title 49, a person entering full-time employment with a participating employer on or after July 1, 2011, must make an election to participate in either the Tier 2 Hybrid Retirement System or the Tier 2 Defined Contribution (DC) Plan, within one year of their employment date.

**The election made is irrevocable. If no election is made, the employee automatically becomes a member of the Tier 2 Hybrid Retirement System. See Page 2 and 3 for a summary of plan provisions.**

## Tier 2 Hybrid Retirement System Summary

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(See Pages 4-25 for more information.)

- » Your monthly retirement benefit is determined by your age, years of service credit, final average monthly salary, and the benefit formula.
- » You qualify for a monthly retirement benefit if you are:
  - 65 with 4 years of service.
  - 62 with 10 years of service.
  - 60 with 20 years of service.
  - Any age with 25 years of service.
- » If you have fewer than 25 years of service from any combination of Utah Retirement Systems, the allowance is reduced by approximately 7% for each year between ages 60 and 63, and approximately 9% for each year between ages 64 and 65.
- » Service benefit formula is based upon number of years of service credit (years prior to July 1, 2020 x 1.5%; years after July 1, 2020 x 2%) x highest five years' earnings, converted to a monthly average.
- » Death benefit (see Page 8 for more information).
- » Disability benefit (see Page 7 for more information).
- » 401(k) employer contribution\* (equal to 14% minus the Hybrid DB Plan Rate and is vested after four years of accrued service). If the Hybrid DB Plan Rate exceeds 14%, there is no Hybrid 401(k) contribution.
- » Up to a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment on the retirement allowance.
- » You may make additional deferrals to the same defined contribution plan as your employer.
- » You are required to pay the amount, if any, of the certified contribution rate for the defined benefit portion that exceeds the employer

14% contribution rate. Your employer may pick-up part or all of your required contribution. If your employer picks-up part or all of your required contributions, the portion the employer picks-up is vested immediately.

**Employees who may exempt from retirement coverage by filing a URS exemption form with our office:**

- » An executive department head of the state.
- » An elected or appointed sheriff of a county.
- » An elected or appointed chief of police of a municipality.

In all cases, an *exemption* form must be filed with our office *before the date of exemption*.

## Tier 2 Defined Contribution Plan Summary

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(See Pages 26-33 for more information.)

- » Your employer contributes 14% of your compensation to a 401(k) defined contribution plan.
- » If your employer picks-up part or all of the employee's required contribution in the Hybrid DB Plan, they shall make an equal contribution to your account.
- » You may make additional deferrals to the same defined contribution plan as your employer.
- » Total contributions paid into this plan by your employer are vested to your account after four years of eligible employment.\*
- » All deferrals you make into your account are vested immediately.
- » Death benefit (see Page 26 for more information).
- » Disability benefit (see Page 25 for more information).

\*See *401(k) Savings Plan Summary Plan Description* for more information.

The following information pertains to the *Tier 2 Public Safety and Firefighter Hybrid Retirement System, Pages 4-24.*

## Membership Eligibility

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### **You qualify for membership if:**

Your employment normally requires an average of 2,080 hours of regularly scheduled employment per year in a recognized public safety department, as a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or special function officer and in the course of employment, your life or personal safety is at risk, and you have completed a certified training program, that is documented with our office, or you are an eligible certified dispatcher whose employer elected coverage in the Public Safety system, or you are a full-time member of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

**OR**

Your employment normally requires an average of 2,080 hours of regularly scheduled employment per year in a regularly constituted fire department, you have been trained in firefighter techniques, and you are assigned to a position of hazardous duty or you are the full-time State Fire Marshall or a full-time Deputy State Fire Marshall.

If you don't meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the above sections, based on your employer's participation, you will be enrolled in the Tier 2 Public Employees Contributory Retirement System as long as you meet eligibility requirements.

**Employees who may exempt from retirement coverage by filing a URS exemption form with our office:**

- » An executive department head of the state.
  - » An elected or appointed sheriff of a county.
- or
- » An elected or appointed chief of police of a municipality.

In all cases, an *exemption* form must be filed with our office *before the date of exemption*.

## Certification of Eligibility and Member Election

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If you qualify for membership and initially enter full-time employment on or after July 1, 2011, you must make an election to participate in **either** the Tier 2 Hybrid Retirement System **or** the Tier 2 Defined Contribution Plan.

Retirement election must be completed **within one year** from date of employment. The election made is irrevocable. If no election is made, you automatically become a member of the Tier 2 Hybrid Retirement System.

## Refunds

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If you terminate all URS-covered employment you may request a refund of your member contributions, if applicable.

If you elect to take a refund, you forfeit all service credit.

Your refund will be processed after 60 days from the last date of the pay period for which contributions were paid.

You are not eligible for a refund under the following conditions:

» You transfer from one participating employer under URS to another.

» You terminate your employment with one participating employer and you are subsequently rehired by the same or a different participating employer even though there may be a break in service.

» You terminate employment, apply for a refund, and subsequently accept employment with another participating employer before the disbursement of your refund payments.

» You are exempt from retirement coverage as a chief of police, sheriff, or executive department head of the state.

» You are receiving or have applied for long-term disability benefits through an agency that has a benefit protection contract with our office.

» You are on a leave of absence from any position covered by this system.

*If you have exempted from retirement coverage, you may request a direct rollover of member contributions, if applicable, to a qualified defined contribution plan.*

**A Word of Caution.** Refunds are subject to:

» A 20% federal income tax withholding on the eligible portion of your distribution, unless you make a direct rollover to a 401(k) or eligible plan.

» State of Utah income tax.

» Possible taxes of the state where you reside if other than Utah.

» A 10% early withdrawal penalty if taken before age 59½.

The 10% early withdrawal penalty imposed by the IRS may not apply if you are a qualified public safety employee if you work into or beyond the year you reach and have attained at least age 50 or



25 years of service, whichever is earlier. A qualified public safety employee provides police protection, firefighting or emergency medical services within the jurisdiction of the employing state or political subdivision.

*Note: You do not lose service credit if you withdraw your URS Savings Plans (401(k), (457(b), IRAs) balances. For more information regarding the 401(k) plan, 457(b) plan, and IRAs please see section marked URS Savings Plans.*

## Reinstating Withdrawn Contributions

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If you are an active member and have an existing record of eligible, nonforfeited, service credit with our office, you or your employer may reinstate qualified service you previously withdrew. The cost to reinstate your account is the amount you withdrew plus interest from the date of the withdrawal to the date of repayment. The entire amount of withdrawn contributions plus interest may be paid in a lump-sum or by installment payments through payroll deduction. The reinstatement must be completed before your retirement date. Reinstating eligible service may qualify you for an earlier retirement and/or increase your monthly benefit.

See the section marked **Payment Options** (Page 13) for instating withdrawn contributions.

## Disability Benefits

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Your employer’s long-term disability (LTD) program describes your benefits. If your employer has a benefit protection contract with our office and you have been approved for LTD benefits, you will continue to accrue benefits as provided according to the retirement system in which you participate.

## Death Benefits for Non-Retired Members

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The financial settlement your beneficiary(ies) will receive when you die is determined by your status according to the system in which you participate. The following summarizes specific death benefits payable in the Tier 2 Public Safety and Firefighter Hybrid Retirement System.

For surviving spouse benefits, you must have been married for at least six months prior to death.

## Career Benefit

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Your spouse is eligible for a monthly benefit if you meet one of the following requirements:

- 1.) You qualify for a service retirement under the Tier 2 Hybrid Retirement System at the time of death.
- 2.) You have 20-24 years of service credit and you are not age 60 or older at the time of death, your spouse will receive a reduced benefit.
- 3.) You have 15-19 years of service credit and you are not age 62 or older at the time of death, your spouse will receive a reduced benefit.

If your spouse is also the designated beneficiary, your spouse will be required to select the option of a lifetime monthly benefit or a refund of your member contributions, if applicable. However, if your spouse qualifies for a career benefit and is not the designated beneficiary, the lifetime monthly benefit is the only amount payable to your spouse. If your spouse does not elect to receive the monthly benefit, your member contributions, if applicable, will be paid to your designated beneficiary(ies).

**Note:** In order for the career benefit to be effective the first day of the month following the month of your death (the benefit effective date), your spouse must file an application with our office within 90 days of your death. If the application is received 90 days after the date of death, the benefit effective date will be the first day of the month, following the month the application is received.

## Line-of-Duty Death

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If you die in the line of duty, benefits are payable as follows:

If you have accrued less than 20 years of public safety or firefighter service credit, your surviving spouse will receive a lump-sum equal to six months of your final average salary and the greater of an allowance equal to 30% of your final average salary or an allowance equal to 2% of your final average salary multiplied by the years of service credit accrued.

If you have accrued 20 or more years of public safety or firefighter service credit, you will be considered to have retired with an option one allowance calculated without an actuarial reduction and your surviving spouse will receive the allowance that would have been payable to you.

## Death Benefit

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If you are a non-retired member who is employed by a participating employer at the time of your death, your beneficiary(ies) will receive a death benefit payment representing 75% of your highest annual salary. If you have less than 12 months of service, the benefit is prorated. The minimum payment is \$1,000.

***Note:** The payment is not payable if the covered member commits suicide before group coverage has been in force for two years.*

## Accelerated Death Benefit

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This provision allows you to take an advance payment of 75% of your death benefit if you have a terminal illness and a life expectancy under 18 months.

***Note:** After your death, any money vested in your URS Savings Plans (401(k), 457, IRAs) will be payable to your beneficiary(ies).*

## Beneficiaries Before Retirement

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You may name whomever you choose as beneficiary(ies) for the death benefit. You may also name whomever you choose as beneficiary(ies) for your member contributions, if applicable, and for vested funds in your URS Savings Plans.

You may change your beneficiary(ies) any time, by logging in to myURS at **www.urs.org** or you may request a form by contacting our office. When updating your beneficiary designations, you revoke all previous designations.

## Beneficiaries After Retirement

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If you select Option One, your beneficiary(ies) receive(s) no monthly benefit or refund of your member contributions (if applicable) unless death occurs within 120 days after your retirement date.

If you select Option Two, you may name whomever you choose as beneficiary(ies) to

receive the remaining balance of your member contributions (if applicable) when you die. You may change your beneficiary(ies) at anytime by logging in to myURS at [www.urs.org](http://www.urs.org) or you may request a *Beneficiary Designation* form from our office. When updating your beneficiaries, you revoke all previous designations.

If you select Options Three, Four, Five, or Six, your spouse at the time of retirement is designated as your beneficiary. This beneficiary **cannot** be changed.

If retiree life insurance is selected at the time of retirement for you and/or your spouse, you may name whomever you wish as beneficiary(ies). Beneficiaries for member life insurance can be changed by logging in to myURS at [www.urs.org](http://www.urs.org). A *Beneficiary Designation* form must be completed when updating spouse beneficiaries. Forms are available by contacting our office. When updating your beneficiary designations, you revoke all previous designations.

**Beneficiary designations** should be kept current and on file in our office at all times. Forms for claiming benefits are sent to the last known address of the beneficiary(ies).

## Service Purchase

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If you are an active member and have an existing record of four or more years of eligible service credit with our office, and the service credit you intend to purchase has been forfeited under any other retirement system or plan, you or your employer may purchase the following:

- » Active full-time United States military service if it does not otherwise qualify for service credit under a system administered by URS.

**OR**

- » Any portion of the following qualified service if the service has been forfeited under any

other retirement system or plan. This includes:

- 1.) Forfeited United States federal employment;
- 2.) Forfeited private school employment based in the United States, if you received an employer-paid retirement benefit for the employment;
- 3.) Forfeited public employment in another state or territory of the United States that qualified you for membership in the public plan or system covering the employment;
- 4.) Forfeited public service in this state;
- 5.) Full-time public employment while on an approved leave of absence;
- 6.) Exempt service;
- 7.) Worker's compensation, long-term and short-term disability benefit periods for which you were paid and no benefit protection contract existed;
- 8.) Employment covered by the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America (TIAA) retirement plan if you forfeit any retirement benefit from that plan for the period of employment to be purchased;  
or
- 9.) Forfeited Utah Charter School employment.

The purchase must be credited to the system under which you are currently covered and be completed before your retirement date set with our office. To qualify for a purchase, service credit you earned in other public employment outside of URS coverage must meet the minimum qualifications of the system you're in at the time of purchase. Under this system, a minimum of 2080 hours of employment per year is required.

For detailed information on the types of

service you may purchase, refer to the ***Purchasing Service Credit*** brochure. To estimate the cost of purchasing service credit, log in to myURS at [www.urs.org](http://www.urs.org) and use the ***Service Purchase Estimate Calculator***. See ***Payment Options*** for making a purchase.

## Purchasing Future Service Credit

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To purchase future service you must be an active member and have an existing record of five years of eligible service credit with URS, if you're age 65; or you must be an active member with a minimum of 20 years of eligible service. You (or jointly with your employer) may purchase up to five years, even if it exceeds the years you need to retire with an unreduced retirement benefit (meaning no early age reduction). At a minimum, the number of years of service credit you purchase must be enough to allow you to retire without an early age reduction. You must pay at least 5% of the total cost and retire immediately after your purchase. Your employer may pay up to 95%. (See the ***Purchasing Future Service Credit*** brochure for more information.)

## Payment Options

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You may reinstate eligible service you previously withdrew or purchase service according to one of the following options:

- 1.) **Lump-sum payment** made anytime before your effective date of retirement set with our office.
  - » Future service credit in total (your payment, rollovers, and any employer payment) must be received within 15 days before your retirement date and no later than the day before your retirement date.

- 2.) **Payroll deduction** (with your employer's approval) must be completed before your effective date of retirement and within 60 months of your first payment.
  - » Payroll deduction is not available for future service credit purchases.
- 3.) **Direct rollover** is limited to pretax dollars only from your 401(k) or other qualified plan, or from an eligible employer plan such as a 403(b), 457 (b) Plan, or IRA.
- 4.) **Payment made by your employer** must be received by our office no later than the day before your retirement date.
  - » Employer is limited to 95% of the cost of a future service credit purchase. Total payment must be received within 15 days before your retirement date and no later than the day before your retirement date.

All payments must be received before your date of retirement set with our office.

For specific information about purchases, contact the URS Retirement Benefits Department at 801-366-7770 or 800-695-4877.

## Retirement Qualifications

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You qualify for a monthly retirement benefit if you are:

- 65 with 4 years of service.
- 62 with 10 years of service.
- 60 with 20 years of service.
- Any age with 25 years of service.

If you have fewer than 25 years of service from any combination of Utah Retirement Systems, the allowance is reduced by approximately 7% for each year between ages 60 and 63, and approximately 9% for each year between ages 64 and 65.



## Benefit Formula

Your monthly retirement benefit is determined by your age, years of actual service credit, final average monthly salary, and the benefit formula. To estimate your monthly retirement benefit, follow the steps below or log in to myURS at [www.urs.org](http://www.urs.org) and use the **Retirement Benefit Estimate Calculator**.

- 1.) TOTAL your five highest years of salary\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) DIVIDE line 1 by 60, this is your final average monthly salary \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) MULTIPLY your years of service
  - a) Before July 1, 2020 by 1.5% (.015) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) After July 1, 2020 by 2% (.02) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.) Add lines 3a and 3b \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.) MULTIPLY line 2 by line 4 for your TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.) ADJUSTED AMOUNT after any early retirement reduction \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*If any one of the years used exceeds the previous year's salary by more than 10%, plus a cost-of-living adjustment determined by the consumer price index, the year(s) in question will be limited.*

Options that provide a survivor's benefit reduce your benefit. (See the section marked **Six Retirement Options**.)

## Service in Other Utah Retirement Systems

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If you were employed in more than one Utah Retirement System or URS Retirement Plan and the service is not concurrent, you may combine your service credits to determine your eligibility to retire from the system you are in at the time of your retirement. The service you render in any one year cannot count for more than one year of qualifying service credit. Your benefit is computed using the service from the system in which you currently participate plus the transferred service, which is increased or decreased to reflect the value of the assets transferred.

## Steps to Retirement

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### Get an Estimate

Before making the decision to retire, you can compute an estimate of your potential benefit by logging in to myURS at [www.urs.org](http://www.urs.org) and using the **Retirement Benefit Estimate Calculator**. Contact our office for a URS-generated estimate if you're planning to retire in the next 12 months. You may also submit an estimate request through myURS using the *Request Benefit Estimate* option if available.

### Once You Decide to Retire

When you decide to retire, you may request an online or paper application or make an appointment with a retirement counselor. Your application setting your retirement date must be filed with our office not more than 90 days before or after your retirement date.

### Setting a Retirement Date

You may set your retirement date for the first or the 16th day of the month when you cease all actual work for every participating employer

before your retirement date and the employer(s) provide evidence of the bona fide termination(s).

### When You'll Receive Payment

Your retirement benefit is deposited the last working day of each month. Although your first check may take up to three months following your effective retirement date, the amount of your check is retroactive to the date your retirement began. This is due in part to the time required to receive and post salary information from your employer and to receive verification of your termination and your service credit eligibility.

### Filing Your Application

When you file your retirement application, you need to provide a legible copy of your marriage certificate as well as birth certificates or other proof-of-age documents for yourself and your spouse.

*If you submit the application before your retirement date, you have until your retirement date to cancel or change your retirement application. If you submit the application between five calendar days before your retirement date and up to 90 calendar days after your retirement date, you may cancel or change your application up to 10 calendar days following submission. Any requests to change or cancel your retirement application must be made in writing.*

*For more information, the Tier 2 Retirement Guidebook is available at [www.urs.org](http://www.urs.org) or from our office.*

## Six Retirement Options

When you apply for retirement, you choose one of six payout options. Consider carefully because no alterations, additions, or cancellation of benefits may be made after your date of retirement.

**Option One** provides a maximum monthly benefit for the rest of your life. No monthly

payments or refund of your member contributions are made to your beneficiary(ies) after you die. If you die within 120 days after your retirement date, your retirement is canceled, and your account is settled as though you were a non-retired member at the time of death. (See the section marked ***Death Benefits for Non-Retired Members.***)

*You are eligible for Option Two if you have accrued any contributions from the Tier 2 Hybrid Retirement System.*

**Option Two** provides a slightly reduced lifetime benefit. When you die, your beneficiary(ies) will receive the balance of your member contributions after a portion of your monthly benefit payment has been deducted. You may change your beneficiary(ies) under this option at anytime.

*The following four options restrict your beneficiary to the spouse to whom you are married on the effective date of your retirement.*

**Option Three** provides a reduced benefit during your lifetime. After your death, your lawful spouse, at the time of retirement, will receive the same lifetime benefit.

**Option Four** provides a reduced benefit during your lifetime. After your death, your lawful spouse, at the time of retirement, will receive a lifetime benefit equal to one-half of your benefit.

**Option Five** provides a modification of the benefit in Option Three. After your death, your lawful spouse, at the time of retirement, will receive the same lifetime benefit. If your spouse dies before you do, your benefit will revert to the amount payable under Option One.\*

**Option Six** provides a modification of the benefit in Option Four. After your death, your lawful spouse, at the time of retirement, will receive a lifetime benefit equal to one-half of your benefit. If your spouse dies before you do, your benefit reverts to the amount payable under Option One.\*

*\*If we are notified more than 90 days after your spouse's death, your benefit will revert to the first of the month following the month we are notified.*

A member retiring under Option Five or Option Six may increase the monthly benefit subsequent to a divorce, depending on the court order.

## Retiree Life Insurance

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You may purchase retiree life insurance for yourself and/or spouse, which can be selected in addition to the six payout options. The cost of the life insurance appears as a deduction on your retirement check. If you or your spouse die within the first three years of retirement, payments to the designated beneficiary(ies) will be prorated based on the policy provisions in place at retirement.

*You may cancel your election for life insurance at anytime. However, you may only elect to purchase retiree and/or spouse life insurance at retirement.*

## URS Savings Plans

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URS offers four retirement savings plans: 401(k), 457(b), Traditional IRA, and Roth IRA. In addition to your employer's contributions, if applicable, to the 401(k) under the Hybrid System, you have the option of contributing funds to the 401(k) and/or 457(b) plans (the 457(b) is subject to employer participation). You also have the option of contributing to the traditional and/or Roth IRAs. Each plan has been established under separate sections of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, a separate set of laws and regulations governs each plan. As a result, there are some differences among the plans. Information about the savings plans is available at [www.urs.org](http://www.urs.org) or by contacting the URS Savings Plans Department at 801-366-7720 or 800-688-401k (press "0" to speak with a counselor during normal business hours).

URS Savings Plans Quarterly Statements are available at [www.urs.org](http://www.urs.org) by logging in to myURS.

## Things to Know

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Federal law requires you, if you are no longer working, to begin receiving benefits on or before April 1, following the year after you turn age 73. If you are still working after age 73 you must begin receiving benefits on or before April 1, following the year after you terminate employment.

If you fail to meet this **required minimum distribution (RMD)**, you may be subject to a substantial federal excise tax.

**Federal and State of Utah income taxes** can be withheld from your retirement check. Federal and State of Utah income tax may be withheld beginning with your first retirement check unless you tell us otherwise. If you're a nonresident, check your state's tax laws for the status of your Utah retirement benefits. You may change your withholding status at any time by logging in to myURS at [www.urs.org](http://www.urs.org). Forms are also available from our office and at [www.urs.org](http://www.urs.org).

If you had contributions withheld from your paycheck, you may exclude a percentage of your monthly benefit from taxation. This information will arrive with your first retirement check under separate cover. Every January you will receive a 1099-R showing the gross and taxable amounts of benefits paid to you the previous year and the taxes withheld. Consult a tax professional regarding your own situation.

**Social Security benefits** are federally sponsored. For information, contact your local Social Security office.

**Health insurance** after retirement is based on your employer's benefit package and should be reviewed carefully with your employer before you retire. You should also check with your employer about any early retirement incentives. Medicare supplemental coverage for medical,

pharmacy, dental, and vision is available through PEHP Health & Benefits when you or your spouse turns 65. A Retiree Health Counselor can help you with your questions. Call PEHP at 801-366-7499 or visit [www.pehp.org/medsup](http://www.pehp.org/medsup).

**Cost-of-living increases** of up to 2.5% of your original retirement benefit begin one year after you retire, based on the consumer price index.

**Lost or misplaced checks** can be replaced if you request it in writing.

**Direct deposit:** Your monthly retirement benefit is directly deposited the last business day of each month.

We need to know if your **address changes** in order to keep you informed about your retirement benefits. Our having your current address ensures you receive your URS Annual Retirement Statement, your URS Savings Plans Quarterly Statement (401(k), 457, IRAs), informative publications, and information you request on your account. You may change your address by logging in to myURS at [www.urs.org](http://www.urs.org) or you may request a form by contacting our office. Statements are also available by logging in to myURS.

**Your right to privacy is protected.** Information can be given over the telephone to you only if you can demonstrate your identity through knowledge of personal information. If such knowledge cannot be demonstrated, account information will not be discussed over the telephone. Because your file is confidential, we cannot release information to your spouse, relatives, or group representative. Information provided through the URS website is permitted only with a valid user identification (ID) and password.

## Annual Retirement Statement

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URS Annual Retirement Statements reflect salary, service credit, and designated beneficiaries. If applicable, they also include your member contributions transferred from previous membership in any Utah Retirement System. Statements are available online. Go to [www.urs.org](http://www.urs.org) and log in to myURS.

## Administrative Information

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### **Nonassignability of Benefits or Payments**

Retirement benefits or payments are not subject to alienation or assignment by you and are not subject to attachment, execution, garnishment, or any other legal or equitable process except for a domestic relations order (DRO) and IRS tax levies. If there is a valid DRO on your URS Defined Benefit (pension) Retirement account or your URS Savings Plans (401(k), 457, traditional or Roth IRA), part of your benefits will be paid to your alternate payee (ex-spouse), as specified in the DRO. Our office cannot begin payment of your defined benefit (pension) retirement to an alternate payee until you terminate employment and apply for retirement benefits.

A percentage of the vested portion of your URS Savings Plans can be paid to an alternate payee as soon as a valid DRO is filed with our office.

The defined benefit (pension) and the defined contribution savings plans have separate model DROs, available from our office, to help attorneys prepare an acceptable order.

### **Appeals**

If you disagree with a decision made by the



URS Retirement Benefits Department regarding benefits arising under Utah Code Title 49, you may request in writing a determination of that dispute from the URS Retirement Benefits Department Director. If you disagree with the decision made by the department director, you may request in writing a ruling from the URS Executive Director. If you are dissatisfied with the Executive Director's ruling, you may within 30 days of the ruling file a written petition with the Hearing Officer and the Utah State Retirement Board. Following the determination of the Utah State Retirement Board, you may appeal its legal determination as prescribed in Utah Code Section 49-11-613. At each stage of the appeal, your dispute must be in writing stating facts of the situation, the remedy you are requesting, and the legal or equitable basis of your appeal.

## A Final Word

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This publication is intended to provide general information about the Tier 2 Public Safety and Firefighter Hybrid retirement system and does not constitute legal, tax, financial or investment advice and should not be construed as such or relied upon for those purposes. Nothing herein should be construed to establish, amend, enlarge, reduce, or otherwise affect any benefits, rights, responsibilities, or privileges. If there is a conflict between any applicable law, rule, regulation, plan provision, or contract and the contents of this publication, the law, rule, regulation, plan provision, or contract shall prevail. For specific information on your account, contact our office in Salt Lake City or St. George.

For more information regarding 401(k), 457(b), IRAs, contact the URS Savings Plans Department at 801-366-7720 or 800-688-401k.



The following information pertains to the *Tier 2 Public Safety and Firefighter Defined Contribution Plan*, Pages 26-33.

## Membership Eligibility

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### **You qualify for membership if:**

Your employment normally requires an average of 2,080 hours of regularly scheduled employment per year in a recognized public safety department, as a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or special function officer and in the course of employment, your life or personal safety is at risk, and you have completed a certified training program, that is documented with our office, or you are an eligible certified dispatcher whose employer elected coverage in the Public Safety system, or you are a full-time member of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

### **OR**

Your employment normally requires an average of 2,080 hours of regularly scheduled employment per year in a regularly constituted fire department, you have been trained in firefighter techniques, and you are assigned to a position of hazardous duty or you are the full-time State Fire Marshall or a full-time Deputy State Fire Marshall.

If you don't meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the above sections, based on your employer's participation, you will be enrolled in the Tier 2 Public Employees Contributory Retirement System as long as you meet eligibility requirements.

## Certification of Eligibility and Member Election

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If you qualify for membership and initially enter full-time employment on or after July 1, 2011, you must make an election to participate in **either** the Tier 2 Hybrid Retirement System **or** the Tier 2 Defined Contribution (DC) Plan.

Retirement election must be completed **within one year** from date of employment. The election made is irrevocable. If no election is made, you automatically become a member of the Tier 2 Hybrid Retirement System.

The following employees may exempt from the four-year vesting requirement in the Tier 2 Defined Contribution Plan. An employee who is a *public safety service* employee **and** is:

- » An executive department head of the state;
- » An elected or appointed sheriff of a county; or
- » An elected or appointed chief of police of a municipality.

If you choose to exempt from vesting requirements from the Tier 2 Defined Contribution Plan, contact your employer immediately.

## Disability Benefits

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Your employer's long-term disability (LTD) program describes your benefits. If your employer has a benefit protection contract with our office and you have been approved for LTD benefits, you will continue to accrue benefits as provided in accordance with the retirement system in which you participate.

## Death Benefits for Non-Retired Members

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The financial settlement your beneficiary(ies) will receive when you die is determined by your status in accordance with the system in which you participate. The following summarizes specific death benefits payable in the Tier 2 DC Plan.

### **Lump-Sum Settlement**

If you have any vested contributions in your Tier 2 DC Plan, these funds are payable to your designated beneficiary(ies).

### **Death Benefit**

If you are a non-retired member who is employed by a participating employer at the time of your death, your beneficiary(ies) will receive a death benefit representing 75% of your highest annual salary. If you have less than 12 months of service, the benefit is prorated. The minimum payment is \$1,000.

***Note:** The payment is not payable if the covered member commits suicide before group coverage has been in force for two years.*

### **Accelerated Death Benefit**

This provision allows you to take an advance payment of 75% of your death benefit if you have a terminal illness and a life expectancy under 18 months.

***Note:** After your death, any vested money in your URS Savings Plans (401(k), 457(b), IRAs) will be payable to your beneficiary(ies).*

## Beneficiaries

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You may name whomever you choose as beneficiary(ies) for the death benefit. You may also name whomever you choose as beneficiary(ies) for any vested funds in URS Savings Plans.

You may change your beneficiary(ies) any time, by logging in to myURS at **www.urs.org** or you may request a form by contacting our office. When updating your beneficiary designations, you revoke all previous designations.

**Beneficiary designations** should be kept current and on file in our office at all times. Forms for claiming benefits are sent to the last known address of the beneficiary(ies).

## URS Savings Plans

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URS offers four retirement savings plans: 401(k), 457, traditional IRA, and Roth IRA. In addition to your employer's contributions to the 401(k) plan, you have the option of contributing to the 401(k) and/or 457 plans (the 457 is subject to employer participation). You also have the option of contributing to the traditional and/or Roth IRAs. Each plan has been established under separate sections of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, a separate set of laws and regulations governs each plan. As a result, there are some differences among the plans. Information about the savings plans is available at **www.urs.org** or by contacting the URS Savings Plans Department at 801-366-7720 or 800-688-401k (press "0" to speak with a counselor during normal business hours).

URS Savings Plans Quarterly Statements are available at **www.urs.org** by logging in to myURS.

## Things to Know

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Federal law requires you, if you are no longer working, to begin receiving benefits on or before April 1 following the year you turn age 73. If you are still working after age 73 you must begin receiving benefits on or before April 1, following the year you terminate employment. If you fail to meet this **required minimum distribution (RMD)**, you may be subject to a substantial federal excise tax.

**Taxes** — Distributions made from the 401(k) Plan are generally taxable. When you receive a partial balance or total balance withdrawal of \$200 or more, the IRS requires 20% of the amount withdrawn be withheld for federal income taxes. The 20% withholding requirement does not apply to certain distributions, such as, financial hardship, qualified birth or adoption, excess, or required minimum distributions (RMDs). For these types of distributions, 10% will be withheld for federal income tax unless a tax withholding form is submitted.

State of Utah income tax are withheld based on information provided on the tax withholding form, regardless of the type of payment.

If you receive a distribution from your account prior to age 59½, you may be subject to the federal 10% additional income tax on early distributions (10% additional tax). This 10% additional tax is in addition to any federal or state income taxes you are required to pay. The 10% early withdrawal penalty may not apply if you work into or beyond the year you reach age 55 or if you are a qualified public safety employee and have attained at least age 50 or 25 years of service, whichever is earlier. A *qualified public safety employee* provides police protection, firefighting or emergency medical services within the jurisdiction of the employing state or political



subdivision. Also, the 10% additional tax does not apply to death benefits, domestic relations accounts, qualified reservist, qualified birth or adoption, or persons on disability.

There may be other exceptions to the taxes previously mentioned. For more information regarding taxation, please review the *Special Tax Notice* available on our website or in our offices, or *IRS Publication 575 Pension and Annuity Income*. URS does not provide legal or tax advice. (Consult a tax advisor.)

**Social Security benefits** are federally sponsored. For information, contact your local Social Security office.

**Health insurance** after retirement is based on your employer's benefit package and should be reviewed carefully with your employer *before* you retire. You should also check with your employer about any early retirement incentives. Medicare supplemental coverage for medical, pharmacy, dental, and vision is available through PEHP Health & Benefits when you or your spouse turns 65. A Retiree Health Counselor can help you with your questions. Call PEHP at 801-366-7499 or visit [www.pehp.org/medsup](http://www.pehp.org/medsup).

**Lost or misplaced checks** can be replaced if you request it in writing.

**Direct deposit** is available for periodic payments. Deposits are issued the last working date of the month.

We need to know if your **address changes** in order to keep you informed about your retirement benefits. Our having your current address ensures that you receive your URS Savings Plans Quarterly Statement (401(k), 457, IRAs), informative publications, and information you request on your account. You may change your address by logging in to myURS at [www.urs.org](http://www.urs.org) or you may request a form by contacting our office. Statements are also available by logging in to myURS.

**Your right to privacy is protected.**

Information can be given over the telephone to you only if you can demonstrate your identity through knowledge of personal information. If such knowledge cannot be demonstrated, account information will not be discussed over the telephone. Because your file is confidential, we cannot release information to your spouse, relatives, or group representative. Information provided through the URS website is permitted only with a valid user identification (ID) and password.

## Administrative Information

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### **Nonassignability of Benefits or Payments**

Retirement benefits or payments are not subject to alienation or assignment by you and are not subject to attachment, execution, garnishment, or any other legal or equitable process except for a domestic relations order (DRO) and IRS tax levies. A percentage of the vested portion of your URS Savings Plans can be paid to an alternate payee (ex-spouse) as soon as a valid DRO is filed with our office.

A model DRO is available from our office to help attorneys prepare an acceptable order.

### **Appeals**

If you disagree with a decision made by the URS Savings Plans Department regarding benefits arising under Utah Code Title 49, you may request in writing a determination of that dispute from the URS Savings Plans Department Director. If you disagree with the decision made by the department director, you may request in writing a ruling from the URS Executive Director. If you are dissatisfied with the Executive Director's ruling, you may within 30 days of the ruling file a written petition with the Hearing Officer and

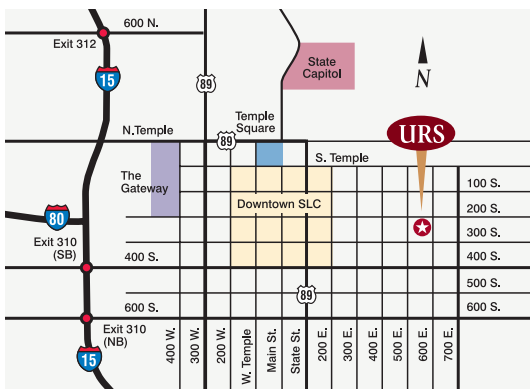
the Utah State Retirement Board. Following the determination of the Utah State Retirement Board, you may appeal its legal determination as prescribed in Utah Code Section 49-11-613. At each stage of the appeal, your dispute must be in writing stating facts of the situation, the remedy you are requesting, and the legal or equitable basis of your appeal.

## A Final Word

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This publication is intended to provide general information about the Tier 2 Public Safety and Firefighter Defined Contribution Plan and does not constitute legal, tax, financial or investment advice and should not be construed as such or relied upon for those purposes. Nothing herein should be construed to establish, amend, enlarge, reduce, or otherwise affect any benefits, rights, responsibilities, or privileges. If there is a conflict between any applicable law, rule, regulation, plan provision, or contract and the contents of this publication, the law, rule, regulation, plan provision, or contract shall prevail. URS investment funds are not FDIC insured, not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed by, any financial institution; and are not guaranteed by URS or any government agency. Past performance of the funds does not guarantee future results. URS regularly evaluates the funds and may change investment managers and Target Date Fund allocations as needed. The funds may utilize transactions involving securities lending in order to generate additional income. Although risk of loss from securities lending is low, securities lending is not without risk. For specific information on your account, contact our office in Salt Lake City or St. George.

For more information regarding 401(k), 457(b), IRAs, contact the URS Savings Plans Department at 801-366-7720 or 800-688-401k.



## Salt Lake City Office

560 East 200 South, Suite 240

Salt Lake City, UT 84102-2021

801-366-7700 • 800-365-8772

Visit: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## Salt Lake Office Mailing Address

PO Box 1590 • Salt Lake City, UT 84110-1590

## Southern Utah Branch Office

20 North Main Street, Suite 206

St. George, UT, 84770

435-673-6300 • 800-950-4877

For more information: [www.urs.org](http://www.urs.org)

On the Cover:

*Left: Nayeli Stalling, Detective, Grantsville Police Department;*

*Right: Kendall Vance, Firefighter, South Davis Metro Fire Department*

