



FDNYCRA NEWSLETTER JUNE, 2020

The Fire Department Pension fund has relocated from headquarters to its new location in Manhattan. The address is 1 Battery Park Plaza, 9th Floor NY , NY 10004-1405 Phone number : 929 436 0099

The NYC Health Benefits Program is no longer on Rector St. It has moved to 22 Cortland Street. The Program information line for retirees has not changed (212-513-0470

New York City fire fund has enough assets to pay out 10.1 years of pension benefits, study finds

By The Center Square - 5/28/20

The New York City Fire Department Pension Fund, with an assets-to-liabilities ratio of 63 percent, has enough money on hand to pay beneficiaries for 10.1 years, according to a new ranking of public retirement funds from the Wirepoints website.

The retirement system ranked 32nd on a list of 148 state and Local retirement funds nationwide with at least \$2 billion in assets, the website reported. The list, which includes pension systems in every state except Vermont, lists pension funds from fiscally weakest to strongest.

The New York City Fire Department Pension Fund has plan assets of \$13.27 billion and yearly payouts to beneficiaries of \$1.31 billion. The numbers are based on 2018 data, the most recent year for available data, according to Wirepoints, a website that focuses on economic commentary and Illinois government research.

Some of the weakest funds will see their declines accelerated by the Covid-19 crisis as a result of the stock market's recent plunges, according to Wirepoints. Even before the coronavirus pandemic, the nation's public pension funds had shortfalls amounting to \$5 trillion in 2018, the study says.



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BENEFITS THAT COULD BE LOST, WHEN A RETIRED FDNY FIGHTER PASSES AWAY

1. The FDNY Retirement Pension is a single person annuity. It was designed to only cover the worker. If the retiree doesn't select an option to extend coverage to his spouse, his pension will die with him.
2. The Health, Drug and Dental Benefits. A surviving widow can now purchase these benefits at 102% of the group rate, if requested within one year of demise. A surviving spouse could be entitled to a continuation of health benefits at no cost! If a member was retired for a Service Connected Disability (3/4 pension) and dies as a result of that retirement disability. This benefit is provided for eligible UFA and UFOA members by the City of New York. Apply to the Pension Desk @ (718) 999-2320 and request information.
3. The \$12,000 controversial Variable Supplement Benefit. It is not considered a pension, because it is not guaranteed by the state. A FDNY Member must be retired "For Service" to receive this benefit. The spouse of a deceased retiree receiving a lifetime allowance under an option could meet the requirement in the 1987 VSF

4. The Part B Medicare Reimbursement. It is payable after a full completed year and is payable up to the month of demise.

5. The Mandatory Life Insurance Benefit was never lost, but an attempt was made to radically reduced it at the expense of Retirees. It should be regularly monitored!

6. Social Security benefits will be diminished.

7. Personal income tax costs will increase for the surviving spouse, if reclassified, as Single from Married Filing Jointly. There are ways to mitigate the "Widow Tax Trap."

Medicare Advantage Plans cover all Medicare services

Medicare Advantage Plans must cover all of the services that Original Medicare covers. However, if you're in a Medicare Advantage Plan, Original Medicare will still cover the cost for hospice care, some new Medicare benefits, and some costs for clinical research studies. In all types of Medicare Advantage Plans, you're always covered for emergency and urgently needed care.

The plan can choose not to cover the costs of services that aren't medically necessary under Medicare. If you're not sure whether a service is covered, check with your provider before you get the service.

Most Medicare Advantage Plans offer coverage for things that aren't covered by Original Medicare, like vision, hearing, dental, and wellness programs (like gym memberships). Plans can also cover more extra benefits than they have in the past, including services like transportation to doctor visits, over-the-counter drugs, adult day-care services, and other health-related services that promote your health and wellness. Plans can also tailor their benefit packages to offer these new benefits to certain chronically ill enrollees. These packages will provide benefits customized to treat those conditions. Check with the plan to see what benefits are offered and if you qualify. Most include Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D). In addition to your Part B premium, you usually pay a monthly premium for the Medicare Advantage Plan. In 2020, the standard Part B premium amount is \$144.60 (or higher depending on your income).

If you need a service that the plan says isn't medically necessary, you may have to pay all the costs of the service. But, you have the right to appeal the decision.

You (or a provider acting on your behalf) can request to see if an item or service will be covered by the plan in advance. Sometimes you must do this for the service to be covered. This is called an "organization determination." If your plan denies coverage, the plan must tell you in writing.

You don't have to pay more than the plan's usual cost-sharing for a service or supply if a network provider didn't get an organization determination and either of these is true:

The provider gave you or referred you for services or supplies that you reasonably thought would be covered.

The provider referred you to an out-of-network provider for plan-covered services.

Contact your plan for more information. Get your plan's contact info

MEDICARE Part B INFO

Preventive & screening services

Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) covers:

Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening

Alcohol misuse screenings & counseling

Bone mass measurements (bone density)

Cardiovascular disease screenings

Cervical & vaginal cancer screening

Colorectal cancer screenings

Multi-target stool DNA tests

Screening barium enemas

Screening colonoscopies

Screening fecal occult blood tests

Cardiovascular disease (behavioral therapy)
Depression screenings
Diabetes self-management training
Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) infection screening
HIV screening
Mammograms (screening)
Obesity screenings & counseling
Sexually transmitted infections screening & counseling
Shots:
Flu shots
Hepatitis B shots
Pneumococcal shots
Tobacco use cessation counseling
Yearly "Wellness" visit

Screening flexible sigmoidoscopies
Diabetes screenings
Glaucoma tests
Hepatitis C screening test
Lung cancer screening
Nutrition therapy services
Prostate cancer screenings

MEDICARE PART A

In general, Part A covers:

Inpatient care in a hospital
Skilled nursing facility care
Inpatient care in a skilled nursing facility (not custodial or long-term care)
Hospice care
Home health care

2 ways to find out if Medicare covers what you need

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider about why you need certain services or supplies. Ask if Medicare will cover them. You may need something that's usually covered but your provider thinks that

**New York City Office of Labor Relations
Health Benefits Program
22 Cortlandt Street - 12th Floor
New York, NY 10007
nyc.gov/hbp**

A Little Humor

An Irishman's first drink with his son

While reading an article last night about fathers and sons, memories came flooding back to the time I took me son out for his first pint.

Off we went to our local pub only two blocks from the cottage.

I got him a Guinness. He didn't like it, so I drank it.

Then I got him a Kilkeny's, he didn't like that either, so I drank it.

Finally, I thought he might like some Harp Lager?

He didn't. I drank it.

I thought maybe he'd like whisky better than beer so we tried a Jameson's; nope!

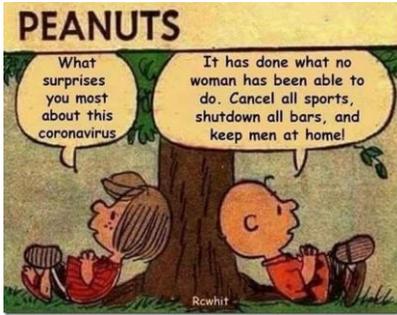
In desperation, I had him try that rare Redbreast, Ireland's finest whisky.

He wouldn't even smell it.

What could I do but drink it!

By the time I realized he just didn't like to drink, I was so shit-faced I could hardly push his stroller back home!!

Commented [RG1]:



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Our next meeting is cancelled until further notice.