

# Retired Firefighter Security Benefit Fund

The Retired Firefighter Security Benefit Fund (RFSBF) supports retired Firefighters and Fire Marshals who retired on or after January 1, 1971 (July 9, 1993 for Wipers), and their eligible dependents, including duly registered domestic partners and their dependents, as well as retired Marine Engineers and Pilots as of January 1, 2012.

## PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The UFA recently finished a prescription drug competitive bidding process. We are striving to keep the cost of prescriptions as affordable as possible. We were able to secure a potential savings of over 10.3 million dollars over three years across all three drug plans that we cover. This not only saves the Security Benefit Fund money, but helps keep co-pays as low as possible. The UFA has raised the non-Medicare retiree plan cap from \$5,000 per year to \$6,000 per year.

## ELDERLY PHARMACEUTICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE (EPIC) PROGRAM

Seniors looking to reduce Part D drug co-pays whose annual income is less than \$7,500 can sign up for EPIC (Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage Program) to help with the cost of prescriptions. For more information on the EPIC Program, visit [www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/epic](http://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/epic).

## REIMBURSEMENT FOR MEDICARE PART B

When you (or your spouse) become eligible for Medicare at age 65, or before 65 because you received Social Security Disability, the City requires that you take Medicare Part A (Hospital) and Part B (Doctors). **Failure to do so could result in a loss of health coverage and a penalty.** If you are in an HMO, you must notify the Office of Labor Relations that you are going on to Medicare.

**Example:** HIP-Prime members become HIP-VIP; Aetna members become Aetna EPO, etc.

If you are receiving a City pension check and both you and your spouse are enrolled in a City health plan, you will be reimbursed for your Medicare Part B by the City of New York. First, you should fill out the Medicare Part B Reimbursement Application found on the OLR website: at [www1.nyc.gov/assets/olr/downloads/pdf/health/med-b-application.pdf](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/olr/downloads/pdf/health/med-b-application.pdf), and send the following information to the NYC Office of Labor Relations - Employee Health Benefits electronically through LeapFile.

Make a copy of your Medicare card to show that you have both parts "A" and "B" and include the following information:

- Member name and full Social Security Number
- Spouse's name and full Social Security Number if it is the spouse going into Medicare
- Birth dates for yourself and your spouse
- Your retirement date
- Your pension number
- Name of your health plan
- Name of your union
- A phone number and/or email address you can be reached at in case there are questions.

## MEDICARE PART D PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN - SILVERSCRIPT

Effective January 1, 2010, the RFSBF purchased a Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan, SilverScript, for all retired members over 65 years old, as well as those who are on Social Security Disability. This also applies to a Medicare eligible spouse, dependent or domestic partner. To enroll, send a copy of your Medicare Card and your Medicare Part B Application via email to [sbfstaff@ufanyc.org](mailto:sbfstaff@ufanyc.org) or mail to the UFA SBF at 204 E 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010.

## KEEPING IT SIMPLE

You can fill in the Medicare Reimbursement Application form electronically at [www1.nyc.gov/assets/olr/downloads/pdf/health/med-b-application.pdf](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/olr/downloads/pdf/health/med-b-application.pdf) and then save it once completed. Then, email the saved document to the UFA SBF at [sbfstaff@ufanyc.org](mailto:sbfstaff@ufanyc.org). After submitting the document to the UFA SBF, it must also be submitted to the City. This can be done by uploading the saved document on the City's LEAPFILE website at [nyemployeebenefits.leapfile.net](http://nyemployeebenefits.leapfile.net).

# Retirement Checklist

## Getting ready to retire?

### RETIREMENT SEMINARS

Members should attend at least two retirement seminars upon receiving the Commissioner's letter; or 4-6 months prior to retirement. We recommend attending at least one UFA Retirement Seminar and one NYC Fire Pension Fund Seminar. Look out for seminar dates on Info Faxes.

### MEDICAL EXAMS

Members should get an annual exam with your personal physician before retirement. Full Body Scans are recommended. WTC Responders should get a separate WTC Annual Medical.

### ESTABLISH A FILING SYSTEM

Retirement folders should be sorted by:

1. Life Insurance: Make sure beneficiaries are updated. Life Insurance policies include any personal policies you may have, along with the NYC FDNY Fire Life Benefit and the UFA Group Life Insurance.
2. Will & Healthcare Proxy / Estate Planning
3. Financial Accounts
4. Quarterly Statements

## Before Retirement

### RETIREMENT PAPERWORK

Complete Retirement Folder Paperwork with the Fire Pension Fund. The Fire Pension Fund is currently hosting in-person paperwork sessions on Fridays to help members complete forms. Call in advance once a retirement date is established.

### HEALTH BENEFITS

Submit Health Benefits Application Form. The Fire Pension Fund is not involved in the administration of health benefits. The Health Benefits Application must be submitted directly to the FDNY Health Benefits Unit. Make appointments to ensure prescriptions are up to date, fill any prescription refills and make any other necessary appointments for your children or spouse, as there will be a lapse in coverage upon retirement.

### DEPARTMENT PROPERTY

Return Your Departmental Property to FDNY. Go to Research and Development to return PSS and harness. Go to Quartermaster and obtain necessary releases for gear. Return Badge and ID to the Badge Desk. The Badge Desk will email a copy of your Property Release to the Pension Fund when you return your badge.

### SOCIAL SECURITY ELIGIBILITY

If deemed eligible, then you must take Medicare Parts A, B & D.

### DEFERRED COMP DEDUCTIONS

Change NYCDP Deductions. To defer up to 75% of terminal leave lump sum to NYCDP Plans (401(k), 457, Roth IRA), you will need to change DCP deferral percentage in the last 28 days of being active.

## After Retirement

### PENSION CHECKS

Receive your first pension check. Pension checks are issued on the last day of the month. You will be paid 90% of your estimated maximum pension until finalization.

### SELF SERVICE PORTAL

Sign up for Retiree Self Service (RSS). Once you are retired, a pension number will be sent to you by mail approximately 30 days after first pension payment. Once assigned this pension number, you can log on and sign up for the Retiree Self Service portal.

### EXCESS LETTER

Return your Excess Letter to Fire Pension Fund. Approximately 3 to 6 weeks after your retirement, you will receive your Excess Letter, on which you will decide what you would like to do with your excess: lump sum, rollover, add to pension, pay off loan, etc.

### TERMINAL LEAVE

Complete the Terminal Leave Disbursement Form. You will complete this form with Barbara Mollica. The Terminal Leave Payment will come from FDNY at least 6 months after.

### RETIREMENT LOAN

[Optional] Take a Retirement Loan. Must be requested within 60 days of retirement.

### UPDATE BANK INFO

Move or Change Bank Account: Contact the Fire Pension Fund at 929-436-0099 to update banking and routing information ASAP.

## Finalization

### PENSION FINALIZATION

Your Pension will not be finalized until after the union contract is settled. Once the union contract is settled you will be contacted by the Fire Pension Fund staff to choose either maximum allowance or one of the survivor options.