

Colorado Springs New Hire Pension Plan

Fire Component



The Colorado Springs New Hire Pension Plan (CSNHPP) is a defined benefit plan funded by Member and Employer contributions.

Basic Plan Structure

Plan Members may receive a monthly lifetime benefit upon meeting the eligibility requirements for Normal (including the Rule of 80), Early, Vested or Deferred retirement.

When close to retirement or DROP, contact FPPA for clarification/confirmation of service credits and other retirement related information.

Eligibility Requirements

Generally, this Plan covers Colorado Springs firefighters who were hired on or after April 8, 1978 and before October 1, 2006.

Colorado Springs New Hire Pension Plan *Fire Component*

Years of Service	Age at Retirement										
	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60+
10						20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
11						22.85	22.85	22.85	22.85	22.85	22.85
12						25.70	25.70	25.70	25.70	25.70	25.70
13						28.55	28.55	28.55	28.55	28.55	28.55
14						31.40	31.40	31.40	31.40	31.40	31.40
15						34.25	34.25	34.25	34.25	34.25	34.25
16						37.10	37.10	37.10	37.10	37.10	37.10
17						39.95	39.95	39.95	39.95	39.95	39.95
18						42.80	42.80	42.80	42.80	42.80	42.80
19						45.65	45.65	45.65	45.65	45.65	45.65
20	37.31	39.55	41.79	44.02	46.26	48.50	48.50	48.50	48.50	48.50	48.50
21	39.50	41.87	44.24	46.61	48.98	51.35	51.35	51.35	51.35	51.35	51.35
22	41.69	44.19	46.70	49.20	51.70	54.20	54.20	54.20	54.20	54.20	54.20
23	43.89	46.52	49.15	51.78	54.42	57.05	57.05	57.05	57.05	57.05	57.05
24	46.08	48.84	51.61	54.37	57.14	59.90	59.90	59.90	59.90	59.90	59.90
25	48.27	51.17	54.06	56.96	59.85	62.75	62.75	62.75	62.75	62.75	62.75
26	50.46	53.49	56.52	59.55	65.60	65.60	65.60	65.60	65.60	65.60	65.60
27	52.66	55.81	58.97	68.45	68.45	68.45	68.45	68.45	68.45	68.45	68.45
28	54.85	58.14	71.30	71.30	71.30	71.30	71.30	71.30	71.30	71.30	71.30
29	57.04	74.15	74.15	74.15	74.15	74.15	74.15	74.15	74.15	74.15	74.15
30	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00
31	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00
32	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00	77.00

Normal Retirement
 Early Retirement
 Vested Retirement

Note: This chart is for Colorado Springs firefighters. Normal retirement benefits include age 55 with 25 years of service and the Rule of 80 as defined below. The maximum benefit payable in this plan is 77%.

The Rule of 80: Beginning June 1, 2022, any Member covered by the **Colorado Springs New Hire Pension Plan: Fire Component**, who has attained the age of fifty, whose combined age and years of accrued service equal to at least eighty and who is not receiving a disability benefit shall be eligible for an unreduced Normal retirement benefit.

Normal Retirement

Requirements

At least 25 years of service and age 55 OR eligible for the Rule of 80.

Calculation

A 2% benefit for each full year of service for the first 10 years, then a 2.85% benefit for each full year of service thereafter with a maximum benefit of 77%. (Refer to the chart on page 1.)

The retirement benefit is calculated using Final Average Salary (FAS), which is the average of the Member's monthly base salary, (including longevity, mandatory overtime, and third week pay, if applicable), received by the Member for the final 18 months before the Member separates service. (See the Final Average Salary section on Page 3.) Salary for time obtained by purchasing service credit is not factored into the FAS. If a Member does not work their last full payroll period, the FAS will be affected.

Payment

Retirement benefits are payable immediately.

Survivor Benefit

For Members who have elected Normal retirement or who are eligible for Normal retirement the maximum survivor benefit is 70% of the retirement benefit at the time of death. This is payable to the qualified surviving spouse* (and/or qualified surviving child). Survivors of a Member who has not separated service and is eligible for a Normal retirement and dies in the line of duty, are eligible for a supplemental benefit under the Statewide Death & Disability Plan to bring the combined benefit to 70% of salary at the time of death. Survivors of a Member who dies while an active Member and who is not eligible for Normal retirement may be eligible for benefits under the Statewide Death & Disability Plan.

** For purposes of this benefit, spouse also includes a partner in a civil union effective May 1, 2013 - per C.R.S. 14-15-101, et seq.*

Vested Retirement

(Vested Separation Benefit)

Requirements

At least 10 years of service.

Calculation

A 2% benefit for each full year of service for the first 10 years, then a 2.85% benefit for each full year of service thereafter with a maximum benefit of 77%. (Refer to the chart on page 1.)

The retirement benefit is calculated using Final Average Salary (FAS), which is the average of the Member's monthly base salary, (including longevity, mandatory overtime and third week pay, if applicable), received by the member for the final 18 months before the Member separates service. (See the Final Average Salary section on Page 3.) Salary for time obtained by service credit purchase is not factored into the FAS.

Payment

Retirement benefits are payable at age 55.

Survivor Benefit

The maximum survivor benefit is 70% of the retirement benefit that the Member would have received at the commencement of benefits. If the firefighter dies prior to age 55 (and therefore, prior to the commencement of benefits), the qualified surviving spouse* will receive 70% of the benefit that would have been payable to the Member. If there is no qualified surviving spouse, the benefit is payable to the qualified surviving child(ren). The survivor benefit is payable when the Member would have reached age 55.

** For purposes of this benefit, spouse also includes a partner in a civil union effective May 1, 2013 - per C.R.S. 14-15-101, et seq.*

Early Retirement

(Reduced Retirement Benefit)

Requirements

At least 20 years of service and age 50 and not eligible for the Rule of 80.

Calculation

A 2% benefit for each full year of service for the first 10 years, then a 2.85% benefit for each full year of service thereafter with a maximum benefit of 77%. (Refer to the chart on Page 1.)

The retirement benefit is calculated using Final Average Salary (FAS), which is the average of the Member's monthly base salary (including longevity, mandatory overtime and third week pay, if applicable) received by the Member for the final 18 months before the Member separates service. (See the Final Average Salary section below.) Salary for time obtained by purchasing service credit is not factored into the FAS.

This benefit is reduced by 4.615% for each year the Member is less than age 55.

Payment

A reduced retirement benefit is payable immediately.

Survivor Benefit

For Members who have elected an Early retirement the maximum survivor benefit is 70% of the retirement benefit at the time of death. This is payable to the qualified surviving spouse* (and/or qualified surviving child).

** For purposes of this benefit, spouse also includes a partner in a civil union effective May 1, 2013 - per C.R.S. 14-15-101, et seq.*

Final Average Salary (FAS)

Because there are 39 payroll periods in the 18 months used to calculate Final Average Salary, the total "Salary" amount reported to FPPA as earned during the final 39 payroll periods is used to determine the member's "rate of pay." Since the "rate of pay" is based on an average of the final 39 payrolls, it is to your advantage to work or be paid until the last day of the payroll period.

The following FAS calculation will help to give you an **estimate**:

Total "Salary" for 39 Payroll Periods ÷ 39 x 2.17262 = Monthly Rate of Pay x 12 =
Annual Rate of Pay or FAS

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Deferred Retirement

Members who qualify for a Normal retirement, (which includes the Rule of 80), may defer the receipt of their Defined Benefit Pension to as late as age 65 and receive the actuarial equivalent of the benefit. The percentage in the chart below is applied to the Member's defined benefit amount, not the Member's FAS.

Deferred Retirement Actuarial Equivalence Factors

Age at Retirement	Age at Benefit Commencement															
	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
50	100.00%	108.17%	117.08%	126.79%	137.39%	148.97%	159.33%	170.39%	182.19%	194.78%	208.19%	222.47%	237.67%	253.83%	271.01%	296.91%
51		100.00%	108.23%	117.21%	127.00%	137.70%	147.28%	157.50%	168.41%	180.03%	192.42%	205.62%	219.66%	234.60%	250.47%	274.40%
52			100.00%	108.29%	117.34%	127.22%	136.07%	145.51%	155.58%	166.32%	177.76%	189.95%	202.91%	216.71%	231.36%	253.46%
53				100.00%	108.35%	117.48%	125.65%	134.36%	143.66%	153.57%	164.13%	175.37%	187.34%	200.07%	213.59%	233.99%
54					100.00%	108.42%	115.95%	123.99%	132.57%	141.71%	151.45%	161.83%	172.86%	184.60%	197.08%	215.89%
55						100.00%	106.95%	114.36%	122.26%	130.69%	139.67%	149.23%	159.41%	170.23%	181.73%	199.07%
56							100.00%	106.93%	114.32%	122.19%	130.59%	139.52%	149.03%	159.14%	169.88%	186.09%
57								100.00%	106.91%	114.27%	122.11%	130.47%	139.35%	148.80%	158.84%	173.98%
58									100.00%	106.88%	114.22%	122.02%	130.33%	139.16%	148.55%	162.70%
59										100.00%	106.86%	114.16%	121.92%	130.18%	138.95%	152.19%
60											100.00%	106.83%	114.09%	121.81%	130.01%	142.39%
61												100.00%	106.79%	114.02%	121.69%	133.27%
62													100.00%	106.76%	113.93%	124.77%
63														100.00%	106.72%	116.86%
64															100.00%	109.50%
65																100.00%

Member must meet the Rule of 80

Example

If a Member's Normal retirement benefit was equal to \$1,000.00 per month if paid at age 55 and they elected to defer receipt of that benefit until age 60; the deferred benefit amount would be \$1,396.70 per month, payable at age 60. ($\$1,000.00 \times 139.67\% = \$1,396.70$)

This chart is for illustrative purposes only and shows some of the factors used to calculate a Deferred retirement. There is a separate factor for each age, specific to both the year and the month. Tables may be revised periodically. If you select a Deferred retirement, your benefit will be determined by the exact tables and factors in effect at the time you begin to receive your benefit.

Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP)

Requirements

In order to enter DROP, the Member must meet one of the following criteria:

- be eligible for Normal retirement (which includes the Rule of 80); or
- be at least age 50, and the sum of the Member's age and years of service equal at least 75

Instead of terminating employment and receiving retirement benefits, a Member could choose to enter DROP and continue employment for a specified period of time, not to exceed five years. A written agreement between the Member and the Employer is required. While participating in DROP, a Member earns no additional service credit toward retirement.

Calculation

During this period of time, the Member's retirement benefits as well as employee contributions are paid into a DROP account. The Member directs the investment of their DROP account in any of the investment options offered by FPPA. Currently FPPA offers a variety of investment options through Fidelity Investments (the record keeper).

Payment

At the end of a specified period of time, the Member ceases employment and receives the amount accumulated in the DROP account. Payments from the DROP account may be paid as a periodic payment, a lump sum, or a combination of a lump sum and periodic payments.

The Member's DROP payments are in addition to the benefits paid from the Defined Benefit Plan.

Refund Of Contributions

Non-Vested

Any firefighter terminating employment with less than 10 years of service may request a refund of Member contributions. The Member will receive their accumulated contributions plus 5% per annum, as interest. If a refund of contributions is chosen, all employer contributions are forfeited.

Vested

Any firefighter terminating employment with 10 or more years of service may elect a Vested retirement in lieu of a refund of contributions. If a refund of contributions is chosen, all employer contributions are forfeited.

Cost-Of-Living Adjustments (COLA)

Cost-of-living-adjustments will begin on October 1st immediately prior to the retired firefighter turning age 65 or 10 years after benefit payments commence, whichever is earlier. Thereafter the COLA increases are effective October 1st of each year. The amount of the COLA cannot exceed 3% per year subject to limitations linked to the consumer price index.

Purchasing Service Credit

Members may be eligible to purchase service credit if they have:

- Prior public employment not covered by the Colorado Springs Fire New Hire Pension Plan
- Prior private employment, or
- Prior military service

The cost factors will be based on the Member's age and the applicable FAS at the time of purchase. The cost changes as you age and as your FAS changes. A calculator to estimate the cost may be found in your Member Account Portal (MAP). The factors used to determine the cost of purchasing service credit may be revised periodically.



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This plain language document is intended for informational purposes only. Official interpretations or determinations are based upon the statutes, rules & regulations and plan document which govern this plan.