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Welcome ...

Welcome to the latest edition of PensionNotes, the member newsletter of the Cook County Pension Fund (CCPF). We hope that you are having an enjoyable season and encourage you to read this newsletter for helpful and important information regarding your benefits.

As we move into the summer, we are pleased to share developments at the Fund intended to enhance our quality of service to you and promote our viability financially.

Plan Growth & Contributions

Both the Cook County and Forest Preserve District plans enjoyed positive financial performance in 2016 with growth in assets and strong investment results, which represented the greatest source of income for annuitant benefits. Plan assets grew \$500 million for the Cook County Fund and \$4.5 million for the Forest Preserve Fund for a combined total value of \$9.7 billion at year end.

For the Cook County Fund, strong performance was also coupled with supplemental contributions resulting from the Home Rule Sales Tax. This additional funding represented an increase of 140 percent above total statutory contribution levels and helped to bolster the stability of the Cook County Fund through the year. For 2017, anticipated supplemental contributions from the sales tax are expected to nearly match total combined contributions and place the plan on an even more secure footing.

Retiree Pension Savings

In 2016, we saw our retiree membership continue to grow to nearly 18,000 Cook County annuitants and more than 500 Forest Preserve annuitants. As the number of retirees continues to increase, CCPF continues to explore opportunities to enhance value for you while managing costs. With the introduction of a Medicare prescription plan administered by SilverScript this year, we can significantly address the rising cost of prescription drugs and still provide this important benefit to eligible members.

Access a Full Range of Information at CookCountyPension.com

If you haven't done so already, please visit our enhanced website CookCountyPension.com, which we launched in late 2016. It is an excellent online resource where you can access a range of information about the benefits you may be eligible for and more.

We are pleased to share these updates at the Fund with you and look forward to providing further news on our progress throughout the year.

In 2016, The Fund's investment assets earned

8.06%
for Cook County and
6.01%
for Forest Preserve*

*Reflects overall performance before fees.

Contact a Counselor – NEW! Scheduled Appointments!

CCPF is pleased to announce that beginning July 1, members can make an appointment to meet with a counselor for their retirement, health benefits, and disability needs. The Fund will continue to accept walk-in member visits, but in an effort to reduce the wait some members may encounter during our counselors' busiest hours, the new appointment option provides an added convenience for members.

To make a 30-minute appointment with one of our counselors, simply call 312-603-1200 to get started.

About Our Membership

In 2016, the Fund paid retirement benefits to nearly 18,000 Cook County annuitants and more than 500 Forest Preserve annuitants.

Since 2000, the number of active contributing employees has been decreasing while the number of annuitants has continued to grow. This means that fewer employees are contributing into the Fund to help pay for benefits being paid out to retirees.

COOK COUNTY

ACTIVE EMPLOYEES	RETIREES
2016 20,969 ▼	2016 17,909 ▲
2015 21,586	2015 17,597

FOREST PRESERVE

ACTIVE EMPLOYEES	RETIREES
2016 572 ▲	2016 530 ▲
2015 568	2015 529



Have You Moved Lately?

Let us know! The Fund regularly sends important information to its members and needs to be able to contact you. You can access our Change of Address Request form by visiting our General Forms page at CookCountyPension.com.

Investment Performance Overview

We continue to experience strong investment returns, which account for approximately 60 percent of our income. Fund investments represent the greatest source of income to pay benefits to our retirees.

For 2016, the Cook County Fund realized an 8.06 percent return and the Forest Preserve Fund realized a 6.01 percent return.

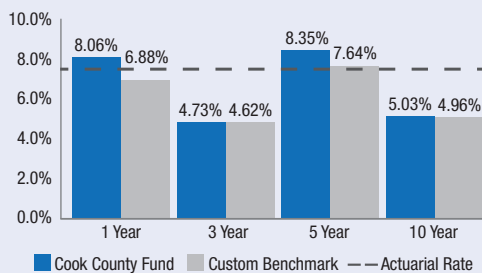
For the seventh consecutive year, both portfolios generated positive returns led by strength in the equity markets and alternative investments for the Cook County Fund.

Since 2011, we have been implementing a long-term diversification strategy intended to enhance returns and protect the portfolios from market swings. As a result, both portfolios have gained exposure to more efficient investment vehicles and reduced the risks associated with concentration in too few strategies.

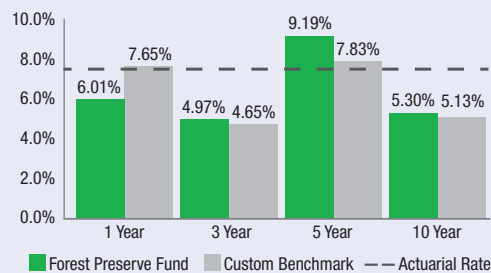
While our investment performance is a strong contributor to the Fund and is an increasing source of current benefit payments to members, our investment strategy is designed to grow our assets over the long-term.

INVESTMENT RETURNS AND PERFORMANCE

COOK COUNTY FUND PERFORMANCE

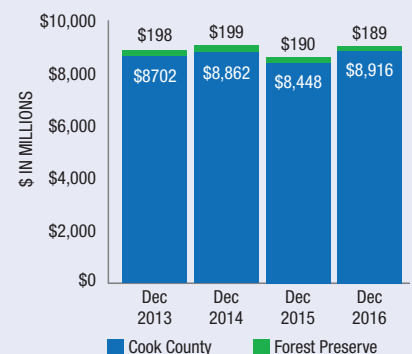


FOREST PRESERVE FUND PERFORMANCE



FIVE YEAR ANNUALIZED: **COOK 8.35%** **FOREST 9.19%**

ASSET GROWTH





Health Concerns? What to Know Before You Visit

When a health issue or event arises, it's only natural that even the smallest complaint might feel like an emergency – it's your body and well-being. However, depending on your medical concern, a hasty decision to head to the emergency room may be overkill and unnecessarily costly.

According to UnitedHealthcare, our retirees' visits to the ER increased nearly 20 percent from 2015 to 2016, though some of those visits could have been treated in a more appropriate venue like an urgent care center. UHC shared some common reasons to go to an urgent care facility versus the ER:

Urgent Care Center	Emergency Room
<i>Urgent care centers can help you with less severe ailments and conditions</i>	<i>Emergency room can help with more severe medical conditions</i>
Minor Burns, Cuts, Sprains /Strains	Heavy Bleeding
Sore Throat	Chest Pains
Ear Aches	Major Burns
Cold or Flu Symptoms	Head Injury



Getting Ready for Medicare

Turning age 65 this year? You must initiate the enrollment process with the Social Security Administration. Apply online at ssa.gov, call or visit your local Social Security office to get started. Your Initial Enrollment Period starts three months before you turn age 65. The Fund provides a Medicare Part D prescription plan benefit with SilverScript. If you have questions regarding the coordination of Medicare, please contact us.

Are you or any of your covered dependents under 65? Annuitants and dependents under age 65 generally aren't eligible for Medicare, but if they are enrolled in our health plan, they are enrolled in the CVS/Caremark prescription drug plan.

As a reminder, your medical and prescription drug coverage is tied together. Do not opt out of SilverScript if you want to keep your CCPF-administered health coverage.

For more information about SilverScript, call 1-877-878-1670.

For more information about Medicare enrollment and coverage, call the Medicare helpline anytime at 1-800-633-4227.



Regular Exercise is a Heart Smart Idea

You may feel short on time to do everything you want in 24 hours – pressured to push some activities to the next day or abandon them altogether. But it's critical you prioritize exercise, which helps keep your heart healthy. Fitness experts say that all you need is as little as 10 minutes each day to work out and reduce your risk for heart disease. And the workout doesn't have to be a high-energy event. Moderate physical activity like brisk walking, jogging or running, biking, swimming, dancing or jumping rope count.

Before you start this or any other exercise regimen, be sure to first consult your doctor.

PENSIONNotes

Summer 2017 Retiree Newsletter

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Retiree Spotlight Series Coming Soon

Do you know a retiree who you want to tell the world about? Do share! Nominate a retiree you admire for their career and community work in Cook County and they could be featured in our new Retiree Spotlight series that starts in the next issue of PensionNotes.

Email us at PNotes@countypension.com or call 312-603-1200 with the nominee's name, the reason for the nomination and your phone number to follow up.

Retirement Board

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Diahann Goode – Secretary
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Andrew Jatiko
Bill Kouruklis
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Dennis White
Lawrence L. Wilson, CPA

Office Closed

Labor Day, September 4
Columbus Day, October 9

Upcoming Retirement Board

Meeting Dates

August 3, 2017
September 7, 2017
October 5, 2017

Contact Us

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