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A Message from the Executive Director

Keeping Up With the Changing Needs of Our Members

We began this fiscal year by focusing on the changing needs of our members. Our members are retiring younger and living longer which means we are evaluating how best to serve your needs now and into the future. We have included your annual contribution statement with this newsletter so you can proactively plan for retirement.

Health Care in Your Retirement Years

One of the primary ways we are responding to the changing needs of our members is by focusing on improving the quality, affordability and access to health options available to our members. We recognize that health management is a lifelong commitment, and we strive to bring personalized choices to you in your retirement years. With these priorities in mind, our Retirement Board selected UnitedHealthcare as the new health care management provider.

We know that the level of medical care for retirees is different from that of our active members, and we will continue to provide you with helpful information about current health benefits. To learn more about the retirement health coverage, visit CookCountyPension.com/retiree_benefits/health/.

Supporting Long-Term Pension Sustainability

Another way we are keeping up with our growing membership is by managing our investment portfolio, which accounts for approximately 55% of the Funds income. Our growth in assets helps pay current benefits while bridging to longer-term solutions. Our strong investment performance allows us to make existing benefit payments and meet the needs ahead.

In 2014, a bill was introduced to establish long-term solutions to meet funding needs; however, the proposed legislation was deferred. Any legislative solution will require support from leaders in Springfield. As always, we will keep you updated on the progress of this very important issue, in the newsletter and on CookCountyPension.com.

Communicating With Our Members

We are working to improve our service delivery to you by strengthening our communications and member experience. Our staff is actively researching possibilities now for a new communication initiative – looking for the most promising strategies and best practices – to meet your needs. The key to our success is your feedback. We have introduced an online member experience survey available to all visitors to the Cook County Pension Fund website. Go to CookCountyPension.com and select **Contact Us**. Then select **Tell Us About Your Experience** to take the survey. Your feedback will help us deliver better service to you.

We remain committed to providing exceptional member service alongside effective management of the Fund's assets to support member benefits. We look forward to providing you with updates on our progress throughout the year.

Nickol R. Hackett
CCPF Executive Director

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IN 2014, THE FUND
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17,000
COOK COUNTY
RETIRES AND

500
FOREST PRESERVE
RETIRES

Investment Performance Overview

We continue to experience strong investment returns, which accounts for approximately 55% of our income. Fund investments represent the greatest source of income to pay benefits to our retirees.

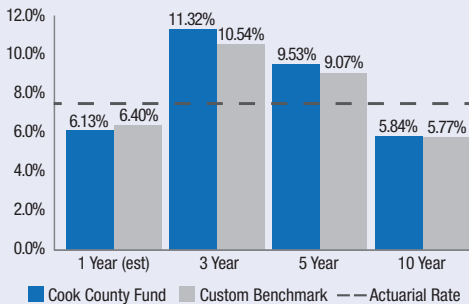
For 2014, the Cook County Fund estimates a realized 6.13% return on investment and the Forest Preserve Fund estimates a realized 7.31% return on investment, with both Funds performing above their peer groups (median 6.09%) for the year.

For the sixth consecutive year, both funds generated positive returns led by strength in the equity markets and alternative investments.

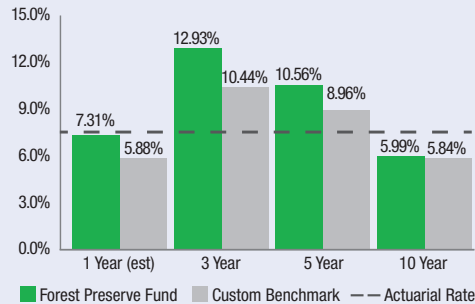
INVESTMENT RETURNS AND PERFORMANCE

THREE YEAR ANNUALIZED RETURN
COOK 11.32% **FOREST 12.93%**

COOK COUNTY FUND PERFORMANCE



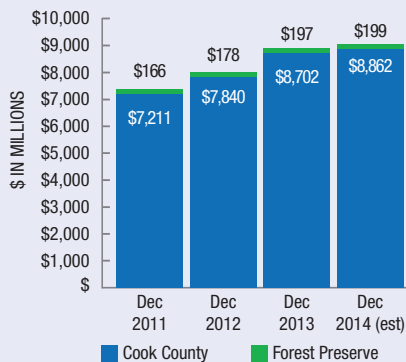
FOREST PRESERVE FUND PERFORMANCE



Since 2011, the Fund has been implementing a long-term diversification strategy intended to enhance returns and protect the portfolios from market swings. As a result, the Fund has optimized performance through exposure to more efficient investment vehicles and associated risk.

The chart below compares the rebalancing activity of the revised asset allocation strategy showing the change in market values (net of benefit payments) since implementation.

ASSET GROWTH



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.

About Our Membership

In 2014, the Fund paid retirement benefits to over 17,000 Cook County retirees, and 500 Forest Preserve retirees, our largest year yet.

Since 2000, the active number of contributing employees is decreasing while the number of retirees continue to increase. This means that fewer employees are contributing into the Fund to help pay for benefits being paid out of the Fund to retirees. The graphic below highlights the increasing number of retirees compared to the decreasing number of active employees over time.



COOK COUNTY		FOREST PRESERVE	
ACTIVE EMPLOYEES	ACTIVE EMPLOYEES	ACTIVE EMPLOYEES	ACTIVE EMPLOYEES
2000 26,767	2000 885	2000 885	2000 364
2014 21,636 ▼	2014 525 ▼	2014 525 ▼	2014 535 ▲
RETIREES		RETIREES	
2000 10,589	2000 364	2000 364	2000 364
2014 17,090 ▲	2014 535 ▲	2014 535 ▲	2014 535 ▲

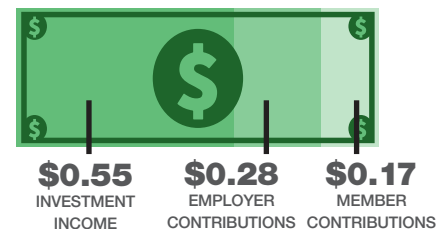
The growing number of retirees is a factor for consideration as legislators decide on steps to improve long-term pension sustainability.

Fund Income Sources

Since 2006, the Fund has paid out more in benefits to new and current retirees than contributions received from active employees. The shortfall is made up by investment income that grew in 2014.

Over the past 10 years, every dollar paid to Fund retirees comes from three sources: Investment Income, Employer Contributions and Member Contributions.

OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS,
 FOR EVERY \$1 IN INCOME ...



The full report of our financial results will be available in the July 2015 newsletter along with a more detailed analysis posted online this summer.

Health Care in Your Retirement Years



As we grow older, our focus on health care will change. A member who is 35 years old may have very different health needs than a retiree who is 65 years old. While both individuals might live healthy lifestyles, the retiree may focus on managing chronic conditions while the 35-year-old likely has only routine health visits.

With your retirement health in mind, our Retirement Board selected UnitedHealthcare as the new health care management provider for retirees. UnitedHealthcare goes beyond providing health insurance to our retired members; they specialize in providing personal health management for a retiree population.

Three reasons we switched to UnitedHealthcare for retirees:

1. To keep health benefit costs lower for members.
2. To provide personal health management tools and resources specific to retiree needs.
3. To offer broader selection of health care providers, in Illinois and nation-wide.

Personal Health Management for Retirees

Recognizing the Importance of Managing Your Health as You Age

We are proud to offer health coverage to eligible retirees and provide medical care when needed. The Retirement Board thoughtfully considered a variety of health insurance partners for our retired membership and determined UnitedHealthcare provides the best value while offering a comprehensive wellness program, managed care from nurses and online access to health information.

To learn more about current health coverage visit CookCountyPension.com/retiree_benefits/health.

Two ways health benefits are paid:

1. Through health premiums
2. Through Fund subsidies

Disability Series

PART I: Knowing the Key Players

The first of three articles about understanding your disability benefits

Whether you become disabled due to a job-related injury or illness or a non-job related injury or illness, not being able to work and earn a salary can create a hardship on you and your family. As an employee and a member of the Fund, you can apply for disability benefits with us.

By applying for disability with the Fund, you may receive income while disabled as well as pension contributions and service credit for your approved disability period. Duty disability can be up to 75 percent of your salary, and up to 50 percent of your salary for ordinary disability. Please note the percent granted from the Fund can be offset by additional disability benefits received.

While there are necessary steps you must take to apply for disability, we are revisiting the disability topic in our newsletter to help you understand the process. The graphic to the right outlines a three-part Disability Series and topics we will address in each newsletter. Be sure to read the newsletters and follow along with this special series.



You are the key player and will need to work with all parties. The law states that your disability claim must be filed while the disabling condition exists – so don't wait, only YOU can apply.

Your Employer is a key player throughout the disability process. Make sure to notify your employer immediately about your disability and work with them directly to complete any required documentation.

The Pension Fund is a key player that you need to apply with for disability. The disability benefit provided by the Fund may provide you with some compensation and service credit.

Your Physician is a key player in providing you with the required medical report and documentation to support your disability application with the Fund.

The Cook County Doctor is the final key player that you will meet with (after your personal doctor) to obtain a Cook County medical report.

Access information about disability benefits by calling (312) 603-1200 or visiting CookCountyPension.com/disability.

PENSION*Notes*



Spring 2015 Active Member Newsletter

Retirement Board

Alexis Herrera - President
Brent Lewandowski - Vice-President
Patrick J. McFadden - Secretary
John E. Fitzgerald
Diahann Goode
Robert Janura
Patrick Nester
Samuel Richardson, Jr.
Lawrence L. Wilson, CPA

Office Closed

Memorial Day, May 25
Independence Day (observed), July 3

Board Meetings

May 7, 2015
June 4, 2015
July 9, 2015

Your Annual Contribution Statement was included with this newsletter. Please review the statement carefully and call us at (312) 603-1200 if you have questions.

Contact Us

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Forest Preserve District Employees' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Cook County
33 N Dearborn St, Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60602
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