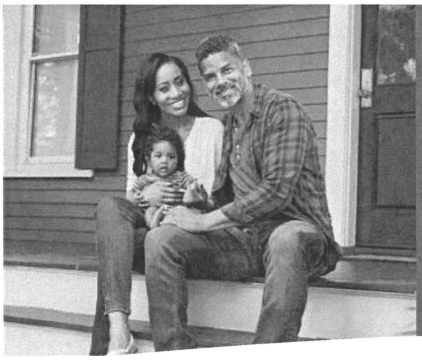

Colorado PERA Benefits AT A GLANCE

Colorado PERA provides benefits to you when you retire or are disabled, or to your survivors after your death. As a PERA member, you may also take advantage of a variety of voluntary PERA programs.

CONTRIBUTIONS

- Your contributions to your PERA member account are tax-deferred, which means they reduce your federal and state income taxes.
- Your contributions are invested on your behalf. Contributions are invested in common stocks of top-rated companies, corporate bonds, U.S. Treasury and other government securities, mortgages, real estate property, and other investment vehicles. These investment earnings are used to fund the monthly retirement benefits paid by PERA.
- You also earn tax-deferred interest on your member contributions. The rate is set by the PERA Board and is subject to change annually. The current interest rate is 3 percent compounded annually. The accumulated interest will be paid to you if you decide to refund your account rather than receive a monthly retirement benefit.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

- When you reach retirement eligibility, you may begin receiving a lifetime monthly retirement benefit based on your age, years of service, and your Highest Average Salary (HAS). Depending on the benefit option you choose at retirement, a lifetime monthly benefit may also be provided to a cobeneficiary following your death. See the *Your PERA Benefits* booklet for more information.
- You can increase your retirement benefit by purchasing service credit based on a previously refunded account and/or employment not covered by PERA or another retirement program.
- After retirement, you may be eligible for annual increases to your monthly retirement benefit.

ENDING PERA-COVERED EMPLOYMENT BEFORE RETIREMENT

- If you leave PERA employment, you can refund your account or leave your account at PERA and receive a lifetime monthly benefit when you are eligible for retirement (see "Retirement Benefits").
- Under the PERA benefit structure:
  - If you are eligible for retirement, but elect to refund your account, you will receive a matching amount equal to 100 percent of your contributions and interest.
  - If you are not eligible for retirement and have five years of earned service credit, but elect to refund your account, you will receive a matching amount equal to 50 percent of your contributions and interest.
  - If you are not eligible for retirement and do not have five years of earned service credit, but elect to refund your account, you will only receive a 50 percent match on your contributions and interest made prior to January 1, 2011.
- Under the Denver Public Schools (DPS) benefit structure, if you are eligible for retirement, but elect to refund your account, you will receive a matching amount equal to 100 percent of your contributions and interest if you terminated employment on or after January 1, 2001, and you have five or more years of service credit; otherwise no match will be included.

See the *Refund/Rollover Request* booklet for more information.

(Continued on reverse)

Colorado PERA Benefits
AT A GLANCE

DISABILITY BENEFITS

- If you have earned five or more years of service credit, you may apply for disability benefits if you cannot perform your job duties because of a physical or mental disability.
- Disability coverage is part of the PERA program with no premiums required.

SURVIVOR BENEFITS

- If you are under the PERA benefit structure and die after earning one year of service credit, your qualified survivors may receive a monthly benefit or your named beneficiary will receive a lump-sum payment of your contributions, applicable interest, and a 100 percent match if no monthly benefits are payable.
- If you are under the DPS benefit structure and die after earning five years of continuous service and meeting specific eligibility requirements, your survivors may receive a monthly benefit. If the eligibility requirements are not met, your named beneficiary may receive a lump-sum payment of your contributions and applicable interest.

PERAPLUS 401(K)/457 PLANS

- You may invest for your future by enrolling in the voluntary PERAPlus 401(k) Plan, and if your employer participates, the PERAPlus 457 Plan. A Roth option is also available if your employer has adopted it. The PERAPlus Plans offer a variety of investment choices.

PERACARE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

- If you are under the PERA benefit structure, you have the option to enroll in the PERACare Health Benefits Program at retirement and may receive a subsidy toward your health care premium.
- If you are under the DPS benefit structure and have five years of service credit, you have the option to enroll in the PERACare Health Benefits Program at retirement and may receive a subsidy toward your health care premium.

PERA LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM

- You may enroll in the voluntary PERA Life Insurance Program, a decreasing-term life insurance product without evidence of good health when you first become a member or during the annual open enrollment period. You may enroll at other times with evidence of good health.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

PERA provides the following services to help keep you informed about your PERA membership:

- **PERA Website (www.copera.org)**
  The website has information about PERA and its benefits and benefit calculators.
- **Online Access**
  You can access your account information online with your User ID and password. If you have not yet set up your User ID and password, you will first need a PERA PIN. If you do not have a PERA PIN, request one from PERA's website or by calling PERA's Customer Service Center. Your PERA PIN will arrive by mail within seven business days. If you need access to your account before then, please call PERA's Customer Service Center.
- **PERA Information Meetings**
  PERA regularly holds meetings around the state. See the "Meetings & Appointments" link on PERA's homepage at www.copera.org.
- ***Member Report* Newsletter**
  All PERA members are mailed the PERA *Member Report* three times a year.
- ***Annual Member Statement***
  A personalized statement is mailed to you every year summarizing your PERA information.
- **Publications**
  PERA publishes a variety of brochures, fact sheets, and newsletters that can be ordered or downloaded to help you understand your retirement plan.

PERA Resources

- **Visit PERA's website at www.copera.org**
- **Email PERA through the "Contact Us" link at www.copera.org**
- **Call PERA at 1-800-759-7372**

This fact sheet provides general information about PERA benefits. PERA membership rights, benefits, and obligations are governed by Title 24, Article 51 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, and the Rules of the Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association, which take precedence over any interpretations in this fact sheet.

5/58 (REV 7-18)