



El Paso County Retirement Plan Overview

I. Who is ERCRP?

Started in 1967, the *El Paso County Retirement Plan* has grown to become a multi-million dollar trust with five employers and over 3700 members. The Retirement Plan is overseen by the Retirement Board. A five member board comprised of 2 qualified electors of the County, appointed by the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners, 2 employees elected by the active membership in the Plan, and the elected County Treasurer.

Our employers advance fund the Retirement Plan over the length of their employee's careers. That means the dollars needed to fund promised benefits are on hand when retirements commence.

Employers: There are currently five employers participating in this plan, they include: *El Paso County, El Paso County Public Health, Office of the 4th Judicial District Attorney, Pikes Peak Library District* and the *El Paso County Retirement Plan*.

Active Employees: 2,333

Retirees: 1,050

Retirees in Colorado: 979

Retirees in El Paso County: 841

Retirees in Colorado Springs: 706

Deferred Vested Members: 272

Beneficiaries Receiving Benefits: 80

We pay out almost \$17 million annually to retirees and beneficiaries. The average annual retirement benefit is \$15,614, and 93% of benefits are spent right here in Colorado.

II. How the Plan Works?

Summary: The retirement benefits administered by the *El Paso County Retirement Plan* are an important part of the compensation you receive as a county or district employee. Through this Retirement Plan, you and your

employer set aside money during the time you are working to provide a lifetime income for you after you retire. While the plan has been improved over the years, the basic intent has not changed; that is, to help provide for your future financial security.

Through this plan, the benefit is based upon your final salary and length of career. The benefits are primarily funded by investment returns.

The *El Paso County Retirement Plan* is one source of dependable retirement income. When it's combined with Social Security benefits and your personal savings, you should have the financial protection that will help you enjoy your retirement years.

Joint Funding: The *El Paso County Retirement Plan* is a 401(a) Defined Benefit Plan. You contribute a percentage of pre-tax dollars from your paycheck as determined by the Retirement Board. At the same time your employer is matching your contributions. Money invested cannot be borrowed or withdrawn, except for termination of employment, retirement or death.

Benefit: The benefit is based on your final average monthly pay. Your contributions are held separately and earn interest at 3% compounded monthly. Using the Benefit Calculator (www.epcretirement.org) will help you determine what age would be best for you to retire. Upon your retirement, you will have several options to choose from. Contact the Retirement Plan to discuss which option works best for you.

III. Investments

Investment Returns

Annualized Returns	2010 Return	5 Year	10 Year	20 Year
Total Fund	13.7%	3.8%	5.2%	7.6%

Based on Investment Performance Evaluation for December 31, 2010 (Watershed Investment Consultants).

