

## BENCOR Special Pay Plan Overview

The BENCOR Special Pay Plan is a retirement program consisting of two parts, the *first part* satisfying the requirements under **Section 401(a)** of the Federal tax law, the *second part* following the dictates of **Section 403(b)**. Together, these two parts are offered by BENCOR, Inc. as one Plan to help governmental units, as well as you as an employee, save up to 7.65% of Social Security and Medicare taxes on certain forms of "special pay" (as described below) contributed to the first and second parts of the Plan. The Plan also results in the *deferral* of your income taxes on that same special pay that is contributed under both parts of the Plan, income taxes are not imposed until you actually withdraw money from the Plan. The Social Security and Medicare tax savings are *permanent* because these taxes are not imposed on withdrawals from the Plan.



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Who participates in the Plan?** To be eligible for the Plan, you must be in a category of employees designated as *covered by board policy*. If you are covered by such policy, then you will participate if you (i) are retiring, terminating or entering in DROP, and (ii) have accumulated at least \$5,000 of "special pay" (terminal pay, sick leave pay, annual leave pay, etc.).

**What should I do to set up my Plan account?** Your employer establishes your Plan account for you. Once your account is created, you should log on to your account at [bencorplans.com](http://bencorplans.com) to:

- 1) select your statement delivery preference (electronic/paper) under **Statements/Forms**;
- 2) designate the person(s) who should receive the funds in your account in the event of your death by using the **Beneficiaries link** under the **gear icon**;
- 3) make an investment election under **Investments**; and
- 4) add your personal email address for plan communications, including statement notifications.

**What are the options for investment of my account?** The Plan offers different investment options in which you may choose to invest amounts contributed to your account. The options are listed and described on the website. If you do not choose investment options, your account will be invested automatically in your Plan's default option, which may or may not be the best option for your circumstances. Therefore, it is important for you to log on to your account at [bencorplans.com](http://bencorplans.com) as soon as possible to obtain information about all the available investments and choose the options that are appropriate for your own objectives and preferences.

**What is contributed to the Plan?** Contributions to the Plan consist of accumulated special pay that otherwise would be paid to you in cash at retirement or other separation from service.

### **If you enter DROP:**

**Accumulated Sick Pay** – Contributions of accumulated sick pay are made to the Plan in each year of the DROP period leading up to your actual retirement date. The amount contributed each year depends upon the number of years in your separation period. DROP participants will qualify to participate in the annual sick leave pay out as listed below:

Year 1	20% of balance of terminal sick leave
Year 2	25% of remaining balance of terminal sick leave
Year 3	33% of remaining balance of terminal sick leave
Year 4	50% of remaining balance of terminal sick leave
Year 5	100% of remaining balance of terminal sick leave

DROP participants who meet the eligibility rule of the \$5,000 pay out in Year 1, will continue participation for any amounts less than \$5,000 in accordance with the above schedule.

Employees terminating prior to end date of their DROP will be paid 100% of their eligible sick leave balance per policy. If the yearly sick pay contribution exceeds the amount of the contribution limit the excess amount will be rolled into the next plan year.

**Terminal Pay** -- Employees participating in DROP subject to employer policy have the option to:

- (1) Receive their annual leave as a lump-sum distribution at the time of enrollment in DROP, or
- (2) Receive a lump-sum payment at the end of the DROP period.

If option (1) is chosen (annual leave paid as a lump-sum at the time of enrollment in DROP) this dollar amount will be included in the employee's compensation for retirement benefit calculation purposes (FRS).

If option (2) is chosen (wait until end of DROP period), this dollar amount is not included in the FRS benefit calculation. Under option (1) or option (2) above, annual leave will be placed into the “BENCOR NATIONAL PLAN™” subject to contribution limits. Any annual leave in excess of Plan contribution limits will be paid to the participant subject to Federal tax and related payroll taxes (Social Security and Medicare).

In addition to these contributions of special pay made by your employer, you also may choose to “roll over” into the Plan monies invested in other eligible retirement plans or traditional IRAs, thereby consolidating your retirement savings in one place.

**Is there a limit on the amount of Special Pay that can be contributed to the Plan?** Yes. The IRS adjusts the annual dollar limit periodically to reflect cost-of-living increases. [Click here to see the current IRS limits.](#)

Your employer never will contribute more to the Special Pay Plan on your behalf than is permitted by law. Any amount that cannot be contributed to the Plan will be paid to you as currently taxable compensation. Please consult your tax advisor or your BENCOR representative regarding your specific Plan contribution limits.

**May I still make elective deferrals to another 403(b) or 457(b) plan?** You still may elect to defer money into any other plans for which you are eligible, subject to all applicable limits imposed by Federal tax law, but no elective employee contributions may be made to the BENCOR Special Pay Plan.

**Can I withdraw money from my account?** Your account is always 100% vested and belongs only to you. The balance of your account is available for withdrawal at any time *after* your termination of employment, or upon total disability or death. In the case of your death, the beneficiary(ies) you name under the Plan will be able to withdraw your account balance. Funds may be withdrawn in one or more cash distributions, which are taxable for the year of withdrawal, or in the form of a direct rollover to an IRA or other eligible retirement plan, which results in continued deferral of your income tax obligation. To request a withdrawal, log on to your account at [bencorplans.com](http://bencorplans.com) and submit your request electronically. Additional information about income taxes and rollovers is provided online.

**Are my funds taxable and are there any penalties when I withdraw my funds?** Income taxes are imposed for the year of withdrawal. Income taxes are deferred in the case of a rollover to an IRA or other eligible retirement plan, although rollovers to a “ROTH” IRA are currently taxable. The Special Tax Notice included with the Distribution Request Form provides general information about the taxation of distributions from the Plan. For specific tax information, consult an independent tax advisor.

An additional 10% tax (early withdrawal penalty) may apply to withdrawals taken prior to the attainment of age 59½ if you retire or otherwise separate from service prior to the year in which you turned age 55 (age 50 for police officers, firefighters and other special risk professions). Pensacola State College has chosen to “make whole” those employees who fall within this category *if* they request all of their funds in cash from the Plan Administrator within **30 days** of separation from employment. This generally results in a “make-up” payment of 2.35% (10% penalty minus 7.65% previous savings on Social Security and Medicare taxes). However, individuals who have met the Social Security wage base in effect during the year of retirement will receive an 8.55% (10% penalty minus 1.45% savings) reimbursement. To qualify for the reimbursement, employees must provide proof of cash distribution to the Payroll Department within 10 business days of such distribution. Pensacola State College will issue any “make-whole” payment to the participant as part of the payroll following the distribution approval. This provision in no way changes the participant’s tax filing requirements.

Your account is subject to the IRS Required Minimum Distribution rules after you reach age 73 or retire, whichever is later, or following your death, if earlier. (If you reached age 72 before 1/1/2023, your required beginning date may be different.)

**Can I borrow from my account?** You may be eligible to borrow up to 50% of your account balance. The minimum loan amount is \$1,000. The amount available to borrow is affected by any other Plan loans you have received. An initiation fee of \$75 is deducted from your account each time you take a loan. A quarterly loan maintenance fee of \$6.25 also applies but not in the quarter the loan is issued. There is a maximum of two (2) loans allowed. Please visit [bencorplans.com](http://bencorplans.com) to view loan availability and request a loan.

**Will I receive account statements?** Statements showing your account activity, including beginning balance, contributions made, investment results and ending balance, are provided after the close of each calendar quarter. You may generate a statement on demand at any time by logging in to your account.

**Are there any fees?** There are no administrative fees charged to your account unless your balance is less than \$1,000 *and* no contributions have been made to your account for more than two years. At that time, if you do not elect a distribution, a monthly maintenance fee will apply.