

# **Overcoming Budget Obstacles with Simple Solutions:**Retirement Incentives



The widespread effect of COVID-19 has many public sector organizations facing some difficult challenges – sometimes with even more daunting solutions. The tax savings provided through plans that boost the effectiveness of incentivized voluntary separations can help your organization avoid layoffs while helping your separating staff feel valued throughout the process – allowing you to avoid the long-term costs that often follow reductions in force.

# Let's Take a Look at an Example:

How much of a difference can utilizing a Special Pay Plan (SPP) or Retiree Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) make? See for yourself.



## **Cash Payouts**

- Employer pays \$34,425 in FICA taxes for all 15 employees combined
- Individual employee pays \$2,295 in FICA taxes
- Individual employee pays state and federal income taxes on the gross amount of accumulated leave cashed out

# **SPP** and HRA

- Employer pays \$0 in FICA taxes for all 15 employees combined
- Individual employee pays \$0 in FICA taxes, and funds in SPPs are tax-deferred
- Pre-tax contributions to a qualified plan allow an individual employee to reduce their tax liability significantly

#### Want to Take Your Program a Step Further? Try Our Supplemental Early Retirement Plan (SERP).

SERP allows public sector organizations to develop and offer an incentive plan that will enhance retiree benefits and improve job security for existing employees while providing an effective budget and staff planning solution.



## **Supplemental Early Retirement Plan (SERP)**

- · Payouts to employees can be invested in annuities
- Compensates long-term employees while reducing pension obligations