

Know **Your** Benefits

OVERVIEW OF IMRF TIER 1 BENEFITS - ACTIVE (REGULAR)

Your Plan: Tier 1 Regular (began participation before January 1, 2011)

You contribute: 4.5% of your reportable earnings



Eligibility for retirement benefits:

- 8 years service credit
- Age 60 (for an unreduced pension)
- Age 55 (earliest age)
- Increases by 3% of the original amount on January 1 every year after you retire
- Cannot be working in any position which qualifies for IMRF participation
- If under age 60 or less than 35 years of service
 - Pension reduced by 0.25% per month
 - Reduction is permanent

Final Rate of Earnings (FRE):

Average of your highest consecutive 48 months in the last 10 years of service

Service credit determines how much of your FRE is used in the pension calculation:

$$\begin{array}{l} 1\text{-}2\text{/}3\% \text{ for each of your first 15 years of service} \\ + 2\% \text{ for each year after your fifteenth year of service} \\ \hline = \% \text{ of your FRE used in the pension calculation} \end{array}$$

VISIT **WWW.IMRF.ORG** OR CALL 1-800-ASK-IMRF FOR MORE INFORMATION

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS



Once you are eligible for an IMRF pension you are guaranteed your pension for life. When you start receiving your IMRF pension, you will likely receive the total amount of your contributions back within the first few years of your retirement. The remaining lifelong pension payments you receive will be paid by your employer's contributions and investment earnings.

You are guaranteed a return of your IMRF contributions, paid as either your IMRF pension, a refund, or death benefits. If you are working in a position that qualifies for IMRF you must contribute; IMRF is not an optional program. (There are exceptions for city hospital workers and elected officials.)

SERVICE CREDIT



The amount of your IMRF pension is partially determined by how much service credit you have. Service credit is your total time under IMRF, stated in years and months. The more service credit you have, the larger the amount of your pension will be. You earn one month of service credit for each month you:

- Work in a qualified position with wages and contributions reported each month.
- Receive an IMRF disability benefit.
- Are on an IMRF Benefit Protection Leave (limited to 12 months).
- Purchase a month of past service credit.

You cannot earn more than one month of service credit for any given calendar month.

Seasonal Employees: If your job requires you to work at least six consecutive months during the year, you may receive service credit for the months you don't work during the year.

DISABILITY BENEFITS



Your IMRF benefits include disability protection if you become disabled while you are an IMRF member. Call 1-800-ASK-IMRF (275-4673) for a disability handout for more information.

DEATH & SURVIVOR BENEFITS



The amount and type of your IMRF death benefits depends upon your service credit, participation status, and marital status. For your spouse to be eligible for surviving spouse death benefits:

1. You must be an active IMRF member at the time of your death.
2. You must have named your spouse as your only primary beneficiary on your IMRF Designation of Beneficiary form.
3. The date of your marriage or civil union must be at least one year prior to your death.

The amount of the surviving spouse benefit is always 50% of IMRF's standard pension plan and is payable for the lifetime of your surviving spouse, even if your spouse remarries.

VOLUNTARY ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS



IMRF's Voluntary Additional Contribution (VAC) program is an easy way to help you save additional retirement income. Call 1-800-ASK-IMRF (275-4673) for a VAC handout for more information.

PAST SERVICE



If you are able to purchase past service, you could increase the amount of your pension. Your IMRF pension amount is based on your years of IMRF service credit, your age, and an average of your salary. Purchasing past service increases your total service credit, which may increase the amount of your pension.

Types of past service that you may be eligible for include:

- Reinstated service (Paying back a refund)
- Omitted service
- Military service (employer resolution required)
- Prior service
- Benefit protection leave
- Retroactive service
- Out-of-state service (employer approval required)
- Conversion of ECO or SLEP service credit

Repaying a refund is the most common type of past service. For more information, call 1-800-ASK-IMRF (275-4673) for a Past Service handout.

PENSION OPTIONS & REFUNDS



At retirement, you are always eligible for the Standard pension option. If you are eligible for any additional pension payment or retirement refund options, IMRF will send you an Option Letter.

Optional Pension: If you retire under age 62, you are eligible to choose an optional pension, which is a lifetime pension where you receive a larger pension until age 62 but a reduced pension once you reach age 62.

Refunds before retirement

You may be eligible for these types of refunds:

- **Separation refund:** When you leave your IMRF employer before you are eligible to retire.
- **Voluntary Additional Contributions refund:** If you have been making Voluntary Additional Contributions (VAC), you can take a refund of these contributions at any time.

Refunds after retirement

The refunds you may receive after retirement include:

- **Surviving spouse contributions:** If you do not have an eligible spouse when you retire, you will receive your surviving spouse contributions, with interest.
- **Voluntary Additional Contributions (VAC):** At retirement, you may choose to take a refund of your VAC and use it to pay for past service.
- **SLEP or ECO Service Contributions:** If you have SLEP and/or ECO service credit but do not qualify for a pension under these plans at retirement, the contributions will be refunded to you with interest.

You can either choose a one-time lump sum payment or choose a lifetime monthly annuity.

Applying for your pension

You can complete a paper "Application for IMRF Pension" form and mail or fax it to IMRF one month before you want to retire. Or, for quicker service, go online, create a Member Access account, and submit an online form.

If you are retiring reciprocally, you must apply for retirement with each of your reciprocal systems at the same time.

Manage your
IMRF benefits with
**MEMBER
ACCESS**

VISIT **WWW.IMRF.ORG** TO SIGN
UP FOR YOUR ACCOUNT TODAY!