



Applying for benefits

If you'd like to apply for benefits under the Reciprocal Act, you should:

- request an application from each system you participated in a minimum of 60 days before your planned retirement date; and
- return the completed forms to each system, requesting reciprocity provisions.

Returning to work

If you have started receiving retirement benefits but return to work with one of the reciprocal systems paying a pension to you, all systems may suspend payments based on direction from the employing system.

Once your employment ends, the pension payments will be reinstated. Each system will determine if your benefit needs to be recalculated to add the additional service credits earned.

Reciprocal systems

Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund
425 S. Financial Place, Suite 1400
Chicago, IL 60605-1000

ctpf.org
312-641-4464
Fax: 312-641-7185

County Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Cook County
70 W. Madison St, Ste. 1925
Chicago, IL 60602-3103

cookcountypension.com
312-603-1200
Fax: 312-603-9760

Forest Preserve District Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Cook County
70 W. Madison St, Ste. 1925
Chicago, IL 60602-3103

cookcountypension.com
312-603-1200
Fax: 312-603-9760

Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund
2211 York Rd., Ste. 500
Oak Brook, IL 60523-2337

imrf.org
800-ASK-IMRF (800-275-4673)
Fax: 630-706-4289

Judges' & General Assembly Retirement Systems
2101 S. Veterans Pkwy, P.O. Box 19255
Springfield, IL 62794-9255

srs.illinois.gov
217-782-8500
Fax: 217-524-9039

Laborers' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago
321 N. Clark St., Ste. 1300
Chicago, IL 60654-4739

labfchicago.org
312-236-2065
Fax: 312-236-0574

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Retirement Fund
111 E. Erie, Ste. 330
Chicago, IL 60611-2898

mwrdrf.org
312-751-3222
Fax: 312-751-5699

Municipal Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago
321 N. Clark, Ste. 700
Chicago, IL 60654-4767

meabf.org
312-236-4700
Fax: 312-527-0192

Park Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago
3500 S. Morgan St., Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60609

chicagoparkpension.org
312-553-9265
Fax: 312-553-9114

State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois
2101 S. Veterans Pkwy, P.O. Box 19255
Springfield, IL 62794-9255

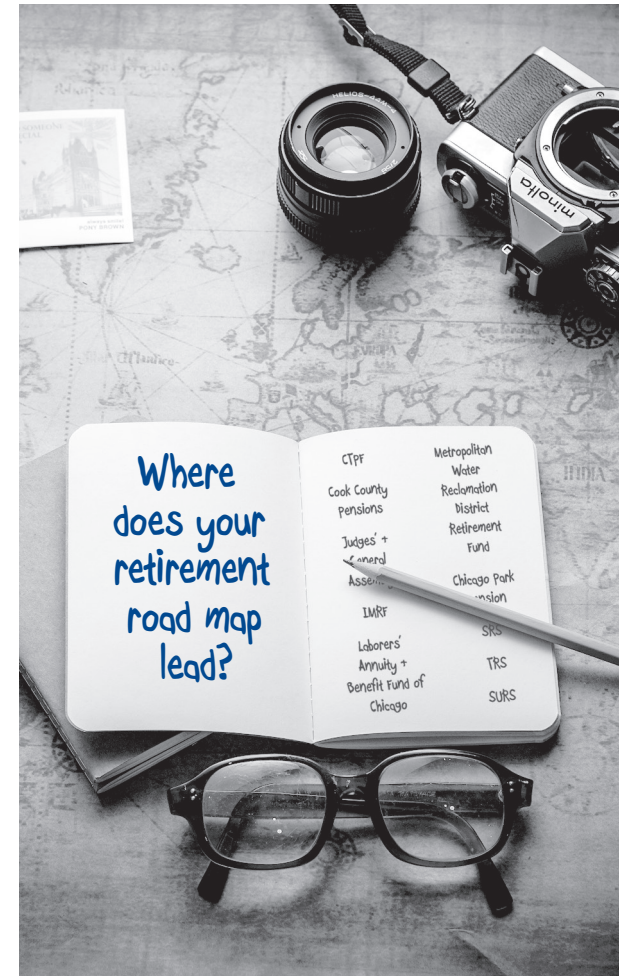
srs.illinois.gov
Springfield office: 217-785-7444
Fax: 217-524-2293

State Universities Retirement System
1901 Fox Drive
Champaign, IL 61820-7333

surs.org
800-275-7877
Fax: 217-378-9800

Teachers' Retirement System
2815 W. Washington St., P.O. Box 19253
Springfield, IL 62794-9253

trsil.org
877-927-5877
Fax: 217-753-0394



RETIREMENT SYSTEMS RECIPROCAL ACT

Learn how your service credit can speed up your retirement plan.

The Illinois Reciprocal Systems have published this brochure to provide members with uniform information about the Reciprocal Act.

What is system reciprocity?

The Illinois Retirement Systems Reciprocal Act gives retiring Illinois public employees the option to use service credit earned within the public retirement systems listed in this brochure toward a benefit calculated based upon combined pension service between funds.

To use the provisions of the Reciprocal Act, the systems will exchange information regarding service credits, earnings and other important information to determine payable benefits.

Earning service credits

Service credits are earned based on the amount of time you participate in a retirement system. Service credit established in all retirement systems is considered under the Reciprocal Act, with the exception of the following:

- credit of less than one year (12 months) of participation in any system, except credit earned by teacher's aides in IMRF (*check with your IMRF representative for specific provisions on this rule*);
- credits that have been forfeited by accepting a refund, but have not been repaid; and
- credits that have already been applied toward a retirement pension.

Benefits of reciprocity

You can decide if you want to combine your service credits or retire independently under each individual system. In both scenarios, you must meet the qualifications of each individual retirement system before you are eligible to earn a pension, but combining service credits can potentially give you enough total service credits to qualify in a system that you might not have enough credits for otherwise (*Example 1*).

Because of the ability to use your service credits among reciprocal systems, you could have a larger combined pension and/or begin drawing benefits

earlier than if you retire from each system independently.

If you choose to combine your service credits using reciprocity, you must meet the highest minimum qualification of all systems involved. Each system looks at combined service credits and earnings, paying their share of the pension accordingly. The highest final average compensation (FAC) from all systems is used to calculate your benefit, but each system uses its own formula to determine the amount you'll receive from them, including annual increases (*Example 2*).

Concurrent service

If a member is granted service credit by multiple funds for a given period of time, adjustments are made to ensure the member does not receive service credit from both systems for the same period of time.

If you contribute to multiple systems in the same month, it's not legally permitted to earn more than one-month's service credit during that time.

Reinstating service credits

If you previously participated in a reciprocal system and took a refund when you separated service, you will need to reinstate your service credit in order to include it in your reciprocal benefit.

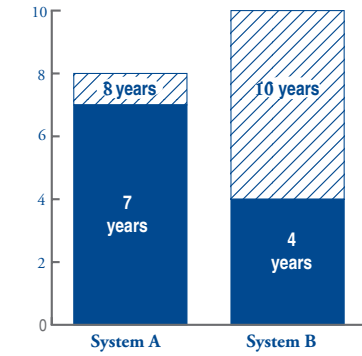
You can do this by repaying the refunded amount **after a minimum of two years** with another retirement system, but it must be reinstated while you're still a contributing member under the Reciprocal Act.

Pension estimates

You can receive an estimate of your benefit by submitting a request to the most recent system with which you're employed. Include information about all systems you participated in, as well as your estimated retirement date.

The following illustrations are over-simplified to show basic advantages to reciprocity. Each member's circumstances will vary, so you should speak with your most recent system to get an accurate pension estimate based on your eligibility.

Example 1: The benefit of time



System A Requirements
8 years of service

Member participation
7 years of service

System B Requirements
10 years of service

Member participation
4 years of service

■ Service credit completed by member
▨ Service credit required

This member wouldn't have enough service credit to retire independently in either system.

However, under reciprocity the member's combined service credit is 11 years, which qualifies the member for a proportional pension from each system (assuming the member meets all other system requirements for eligibility).

Example 2: The potential of a higher benefit

A member has 12 years of service with a final average compensation (FAC) of \$1,600 per month with System A, and 20 years of service with a FAC of \$2,400 per month with System B.

System A has a flat rate formula of 1.67% for each year of service.

$$1.67\% \times 12 = 20.04\%$$

$$20.04\% \times \$1,600 \text{ (FAC)}$$

$$= \mathbf{\$320.64/month}$$

System B has a step-rate formula of 1.67% for each year of the first 15 years and 2% for each year after.

$$1.67\% \times 15 = 25.05\%$$

$$2\% \times 5 = \frac{10.00\%}{35.05\%}$$

$$35.05\% \times \$2,400 \text{ (FAC)}$$

$$= \mathbf{\$841.20/month}$$

$$\mathbf{\text{Total combined benefit of } \$1,161.84}$$

Now let's see what the benefit would be when calculated with reciprocity:

$$1.67\% \times 12 = 20.04\%$$

$$20.04\% \times \$2,400 \text{ (highest FAC for both systems)} = \mathbf{\$480.96/month}$$

$$1.67\% \times 3 = 5.01\%$$

$$2\% \times 17 = \frac{34.00\%}{39.01\%}$$

$$39.01\% \times \$2,400 \text{ (FAC)}$$

$$= \mathbf{\$936.24/month}$$

$$\mathbf{\text{Total combined benefit of } \$1,417.20 \text{ with reciprocity}}$$