



## 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.

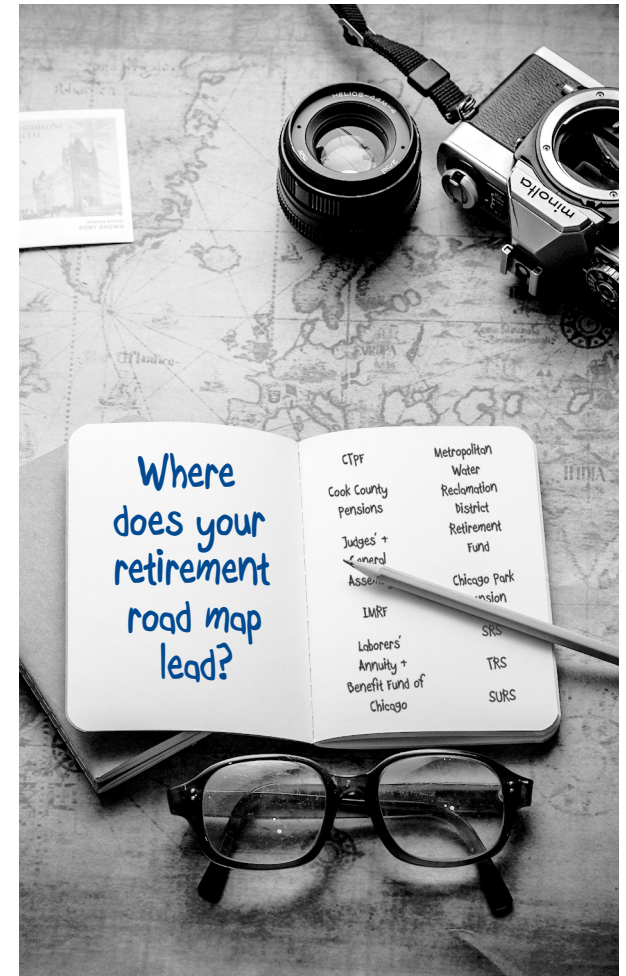
## Returning to work

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

<b>Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund</b> 203 N. LaSalle, Ste. 2600 Chicago, IL 60601-1210	<b>ctpf.org</b> 312-641-4464 Fax: 312-641-7185
<b>County Employees' Annuity &amp; Benefit Fund of Cook County</b> 33 N. Dearborn St., Ste. 1000 Chicago, IL 60602-3103	<b>cookcountypension.com</b> 312-603-1200 Fax: 312-603-9760
<b>Forest Preserve District Employees' Annuity &amp; Benefit Fund of Cook County</b> 33 N. Dearborn St., Ste. 1000 Chicago, IL 60602-3103	<b>cookcountypension.com</b> 312-603-1200 Fax: 312-603-9760
<b>Judges' &amp; General Assembly Retirement Systems</b> 2101 S. Veterans Pkwy, P.O. Box 19255 Springfield, IL 62794-9255	<b>srs.illinois.gov</b> 217-782-8500 Fax: 217-524-9039
<b>Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund</b> 2211 York Rd., Ste. 500 Oak Brook, IL 60523-2337	<b>imrf.org</b> 630-368-1010 Fax: 630-706-4289
<b>Laborers' Annuity &amp; Benefit Fund of Chicago</b> 321 N. Clark St., Ste. 1300 Chicago, IL 60654-4739	<b>labfchicago.org</b> 312-236-2065 Fax: 312-236-0574
<b>Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Retirement Fund</b> 111 E. Erie, Ste. 330 Chicago, IL 60611-2898	<b>mwrdrf.org</b> 312-751-3222 Fax: 312-751-5699
<b>Municipal Employees' Annuity &amp; Benefit Fund of Chicago</b> 321 N. Clark, Ste. 700 Chicago, IL 60654-4767	<b>meabf.org</b> 312-236-4700 Fax: 312-527-0192
<b>Park Employees' Annuity &amp; Benefit Fund of Chicago</b> 55 E. Monroe, Ste. 2720 Chicago, IL 60603	<b>chicagoparkpension.org</b> 312-553-9265 Fax: 312-553-9114
<b>State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois</b> 2101 S. Veterans Pkwy, P.O. Box 19255 Springfield, IL 62794-9255	<b>srs.illinois.gov</b> Springfield office: 217-785-7444 Chicago office: 312-814-5853 Fax: 217-524-2293
<b>Teachers' Retirement System</b> 2815 W. Washington St., P.O. Box 19253 Springfield, IL 62794-9253	<b>trs.illinois.gov</b> 800-877-7896 or 217-753-0311 Fax: 217-753-0394
<b>State Universities Retirement System</b> 1901 Fox Drive, P.O. Box 2710 Champaign, IL 61825-2710	<b>surs.org</b> 800-275-7877 Fax: 217-378-9800



# 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.

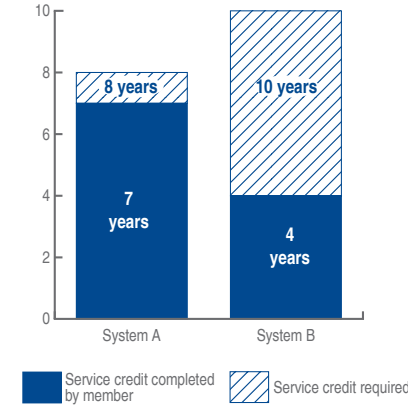
You can do this by repaying the refunded amount **after a minimum of two years** with another retirement system, but it must be reinstated while you're still a contributing member under the Reciprocal Act.

## 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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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