



Chicago Teachers'
Pension Fund

The provisions of the Illinois Retirement Systems Reciprocal Act (*reciprocal act or reciprocity*) allow individuals who earn service in more than one covered system to combine their service and coordinate benefits at retirement.

Thirteen Illinois public pension systems are covered under the reciprocal act (*see page 2*). When you choose to retire with a reciprocal pension, each system calculates benefits based on your highest final average salary (FAS) and pays a proportion of your pension.



Reciprocity & Retirement

Advantages of Reciprocity

If you do not have enough service to retire, combining service from reciprocal systems may allow you to meet eligibility requirements and receive pensions from all systems.

With reciprocity, your highest FAS from all systems is used to calculate benefits. In most cases, this enhances your final pension.

Who Is Eligible?

To retire under the reciprocal act you must meet the following conditions:

- The service you earned in each reciprocal system must equal one year or more.
- Your combined service must meet the vesting and age requirements of each system.

Each reciprocal system has different vesting requirements. The CTPF vesting requirement is 5 years of service for employees who joined CTPF or a reciprocal system before January 1, 2011, and 10 years of service for employees who joined on or after January 1, 2011.

How Reciprocity Works

Your retirement benefit is based on a formula that includes:

- A pension percentage
- Years of service
- Final average salary (FAS)

If you retire under reciprocity, the reciprocal systems exchange information including service credit, dates of service, and earnings. Your total combined service and highest FAS are used to calculate your reciprocal pension. You receive a monthly benefit from each system.

Reciprocity is optional. You may retire independently under each system. The reciprocal act does not change or override any individual system's rules. You can find more information about CTPF retirement in our Retirement Information sheet available at www.ctpf.org.

Applying for Reciprocal Benefits

You can determine if you will benefit from a reciprocal pension by requesting a pension estimate from each system where you earned service and a reciprocal estimate from your final system. If you do not qualify for a separate pension from each system, you should request a reciprocal pension estimate from your final system. Requests can be made up to a year in advance and should be made no less than six months prior to your retirement date.

Reciprocal Retirement Process

When you retire under the reciprocal act, you must apply for benefits following the process required by each system. You must declare your intent to retire under reciprocity when you file your retirement applications.

Once you receive a pension, the provisions of each respective retirement system govern eligibility for and determination of survivor and death benefits, any available annual pension increase, and eligibility for health insurance or a premium subsidy.

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Illinois Reciprocal Systems

Important Considerations

Reinstatement of Service

If you accepted a refund from a reciprocal system, you may reinstate service of one year or more by repaying the refund, with interest. Contact the retirement system that paid the refund to determine your eligibility, reinstatement cost, and allowable payment methods.

If you wish to reinstate CTPF service, you must be a current contributor in CTPF or a reciprocal system and have earned at least two years of additional service before applying. All refunds must be repaid before retirement.

Concurrent Service

If you plan to retire under reciprocity and have earned service in more than one system for the same period, each system will reduce the credit proportionately. This reduction will be made when reciprocal benefits are calculated.

Post-Retirement Information

Health Insurance Eligibility

If CTPF is the final system for which you earned service credit, you and your survivors may be eligible for health insurance through CTPF's health insurance program. Each system has their own rules governing insurance eligibility.

Returning to Work

Each retirement system has specific rules that apply to a return-to-work situation. If you violate the rules, your pension may be suspended. Contact each retirement system from which you receive a benefit to determine how reemployment may affect your pension.

Updating Personal Information

You must contact each retirement system when you change your address, bank account, tax withholding information, designation of beneficiary, or other information that may affect benefits for you or your survivors.

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Chicago, Illinois 60605-1000
312.641.4464 • Fax 312.641.7185
www.ctpf.org

County Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Cook County

33 North Dearborn Street, Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60602-3103
312.603.1200 • Fax 312.603.9760
www.cookcountypension.com

Forest Preserve District Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Cook County

33 North Dearborn Street, Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60602-3103
312.603.1200 • Fax 312.603.9760
www.cookcountypension.com

Judges' & General Assembly Retirement Systems

2101 South Veterans Parkway
P. O. Box 19255
Springfield, IL 62794-9255
217.782.8500 • Fax 217.557.5154
www.srs.illinois.gov

Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund

2211 York Road, Suite 500
Oak Brook, IL 60523-2337
630.368.1010 • Fax 630.368.5399
www.imrf.org

Laborers' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago

321 North Clark, Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60654-4739
312.236.2065 • Fax 312.236.0574
www.labfchicago.org

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Retirement Fund

111 East Erie, Suite 330
Chicago, IL 60611-2898
312.751.3222 • Fax 312.751.5699
www.mwrd.org

Municipal Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago

321 North Clark, Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60654-4767
312.236.4700 • Fax 312.527.0192
www.meabf.org

Park Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago

55 East Monroe, Suite 2720
Chicago, IL 60603
312.553.9265 • Fax 312.553.9114
www.chicagoparkpension.org

State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois

2101 South Veterans Parkway
P. O. Box 19255
Springfield, IL 62794-9255
217.785.7444 • Fax 217.524.2293
Chicago Office:
312.814.5853 • Fax 312.814.5805
www.srs.illinois.gov

Teachers' Retirement System

2815 West Washington Street
P. O. Box 19253
Springfield, IL 62794-9253
877.927.5877 • Fax 217.753.0394
www.trsil.org

State Universities Retirement System

1901 Fox Drive
P. O. Box 2710
Champaign, IL 61825-2710
800.275.7877 • Fax 217.378.9800
www.surs.org

More Information

You can find more information about CTPF retirement on our website www.ctpf.org. Contact each reciprocal system for more information about their plan requirements.