

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Understanding the Value of Your OPERS Retirement



For members in the Traditional Pension Plan

Inside this guide, you'll find information to help you determine when you're eligible for your pension and health care allowance.



Ohio Public Employees Retirement System
277 E. Town St.
Columbus, OH 43215

www.opers.org | 1-800-222-7377

Pension

Your Retirement Group

All OPERS members are in one of three retirement groups: Group A, Group B or Group C. You can find your retirement group on your *Annual Statement*, in your online account. Your group determines when you are eligible to retire and how your benefit is calculated. It also affects when you will be eligible for an OPERS health care allowance.

Minimum Earnable Salary

For 2023, you must earn at least \$709.03 per month to receive a full month of service credit toward pension eligibility. If you earn less, the amount of service credit will be prorated in the exact percentage of the salary earned. The amount is scheduled to increase by \$12-\$14 each year until 2029.

Service Credit

Service credit from other Ohio retirement systems can be combined or transferred at retirement if the jobs were non-concurrent. If jobs are concurrent, only the salaries can be combined. You won't need to take any action until retirement to combine or transfer credit.

There are also types of service credit that you can purchase. For information about service credit purchases, view the *Service Credit and Contributing Months* leaflet on the OPERS website.



This publication reviews the types of purchasable service credit and the transfer of other public pension system service to OPERS. It also explains how to obtain a service purchase estimate and payment options should you decide to purchase any eligible service.

Pension eligibility

State and Local	Group A		Group B		Group C	
	Age	Service	Age	Service	Age	Service
Unreduced Benefit	Any	30	52	31	55	32
			Any	32		
	65	5	66	5	67	5
Reduced Benefit	55	25	55	25	57	25
	60	5	60	5	62	5

To view pension eligibility for law enforcement and public safety members, find the Law Enforcement and Public Safety Officers leaflet on our website.

Payment Plan Options

Payment plans are options chosen at retirement under which you will be paid each month. There are three payment plans: Single Life, Joint Life and Multiple Life. All three payment plans provide a monthly benefit to you for as long as you live. The Joint Life and Multiple Life plans will continue monthly lifetime payments to your beneficiaries after your death.

Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

The cost-of-living adjustment is an annual benefit increase tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W), it can vary from zero percent to a maximum of 3 percent per year.

Health care

The Basics

Ohio law states that OPERS must pay eligible members a retirement benefit, however, there is no such requirement for health care. We do currently offer a health care program to all retirees with 30-32 years of qualifying service (depending on your group), and to retirees 65 or older with at least 20 years of qualifying service. You must be eligible for and receiving a retirement benefit before you can have access to a health care allowance through OPERS.

While we understand the importance of offering a health care program, the OPERS Board of Trustees has the discretion to review, rescind, modify or change our health care program at any time.

Minimum Earnable Salary

The minimum earnable salary required to earn service credit for health care is \$1,000 per month. Earnings less than \$1,000 per month do not earn partial or prorated service credit.

Qualifying Service Credit

Only the following types of service credit qualify for health care eligibility:

- Contributing service
- Eligible service in other Ohio retirement systems
- Military time interrupting service (USERRA)
- Unreported public service
- OPERS redeposit (restored) service

Health care allowance eligibility

Pre-Medicare retiree eligibility for those ages 59 or younger (based on group)

Group A – 30 years of qualified health care service credit

Group B – 32 years of qualified health care service credit at any age or 31 years of qualified health care service credit and at least age 52

Group C – 32 years of qualified health care service credit and at least age 55

Pre-Medicare retiree eligibility for those ages 60-64 (based on group)

Group A – 30 years of total service with at least 20 years of qualified health care service credit

Group B – 31 years of total service with at least 20 years of qualified health care service credit

Group C – 32 years of total service with at least 20 years of qualified health care service credit

Medicare retiree eligibility

Age 65 with 20 years of qualified health care service credit

Aging into Eligibility

If you're not eligible for a health care allowance when you retire, because you don't meet the age requirement for health care, you can begin receiving a retirement benefit and then "age into" health care eligibility later (at age 60 or age 65).

Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) and the OPERS Connector

If eligible, Pre-Medicare and Medicare retirees will receive an allowance amount deposited to an HRA for the tax-free reimbursement of qualified medical expenses including premiums, deductibles, co-insurance and co-pays. The OPERS Connector, Via Benefits, will provide assistance in researching and selecting a plan on the individual market.

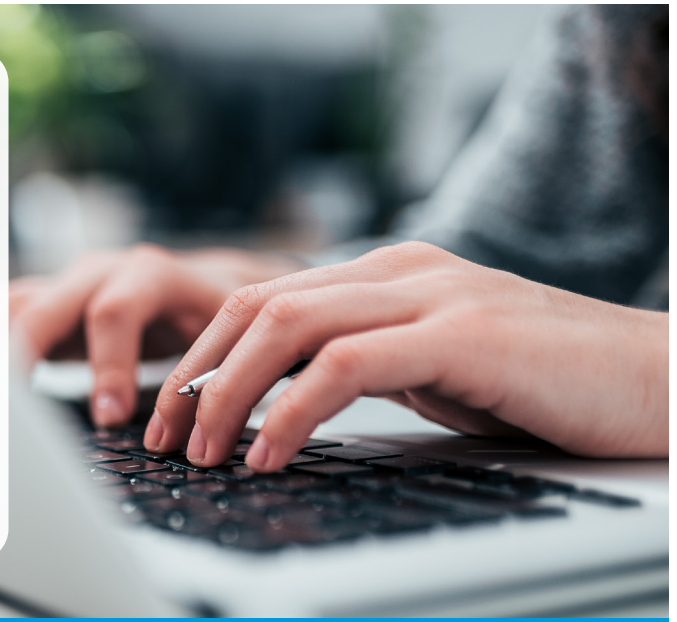
Other OPERS Benefits

Survivor Benefits

Your survivors will have survivor benefits if you die with at least 18 months of contributing service credit with three of those months occurring within the two and a half years immediately prior to your death.

Disability Benefits

You can apply for disability benefits if you are disabled from your position of public employment with at least five years of service credit.



At the OPERS Website - opers.org

Online Account

- See your service credit, contributions and account value
- Estimate your pension and health care allowance amount
- Apply for a refund
- Register for a seminar
- Schedule an in-house, phone or virtual counseling session

Media resources

- Articles
- PERSpective Blog
- Facebook
- Twitter

Member Education Center

- Webinars
- Recorded presentations
- In-person presentations



A Note About Social Security

OPERS will not reduce your age and service pension benefit if you paid into Social Security. Social Security may reduce their pension to you based on your OPERS benefit. Contact Social Security or visit ssa.gov to learn more about the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO).

This document reflects information as of the date listed herein. There is no promise, guarantee, contract or vested right to access health care coverage. The OPERS Board of Trustees has the discretion to modify or terminate the health care program at any time.