



How secure is my retirement?

Defined benefit plans provide peace of mind

Your retirement with CERF is secure. CERF is a defined benefit plan, meaning pension payments are made based on a formula. The payment option you initially choose is guaranteed, and CERF has never missed a payment, despite market volatility.

Contrast this with a defined contribution plan, for instance a 457 or 401(a). Under those plans, money is subject to market fluctuations.

You'll want to monitor those accounts to make sure the investments are appropriate for you.

As of September 1, 2016, CERF was paying benefits to 4,087 retirees and 593 beneficiaries. The average gross monthly benefit was \$505.83. Furthermore, as of January 1, 2016, the plan's funded ratio was 70.1%. This is the ratio of the fund's assets to its liabilities.

So, all in all, your CERF Pension is a secure stream of payment you can count on in retirement.



Member Portal now available

In August, CERF introduced its Member Self-Service Portal. This new tool gives active members and retirees easy access to their CERF information online.

You can access the portal through our home page, www.mocerf.org. Simply click on CARS Member Self-Service Portal, and follow the steps to get registered. The information you provide to CERF is highly secured and will not be shared with any third party. Once you're set up in the system, you can view your county employment history and get details for your next scheduled pension payment. You can also request tax withholding changes, view your pension payment history and your 1099-R tax information beginning with 2015. The portal also provides contact information for your CERF Benefits Specialist.

COLA set at 0.7%

CERF's Pension Plan provides a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to participants who have been receiving benefits for at least one year at the time the COLA takes effect.

This adjustment takes effect each July 1 and will be 100% of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), up to a 1% cap, as mandated by the Legislature.

The COLA that took effect in July 2016 was 0.7%.

Youth is the gift of nature, but age is a work of art.

— Stanislaw Jerzy Lec



Daylight Savings Time ends on Nov. 6

Daylight Savings Time (DST) ends on Sunday, Nov. 6, this year. You'll want to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed.

Benjamin Franklin is often cited as "inventing" DST, but he merely proposed a change in sleep schedules. Englishman

William Willett led the first campaign to implement DST.

It was introduced in the US in 1918 when Woodrow Wilson signed it into law to support the war effort during World War I. Franklin D. Roosevelt instituted year-round DST in the United States in 1942.

I think your whole life shows in your face and you should be proud of that.

—Lauren Bacall

RMD rules apply to CERF Savings

If you have money in the 457 and/or 401(a) plans, you must begin receiving a required minimum distribution (RMD) on April 1 of the calendar year following the latter of the year in which you reach age 70 ½, or the year in which you separate from service.

If you have questions about the RMD rule as it pertains to your pension, call CERF at (877) 632-2373. If you have questions about the rule as it applies to your 457 or 401(a) accounts, call Empower Retirement at (877) 895-1394.



Moved? Let us know so your benefits can continue without interruption

Have you moved? Changed your phone number or email address? Changed banks?

Please let CERF know via the member portal or a phone call if you've had a change in your contact information. We want to have current information on file to continue communicating with you. Let us know so we can update our records.

Returning to work? Keep these points in mind

If you are retired and receiving a benefit from CERF, your benefit will be suspended if you are rehired at a county in a full-time (1,000 hours or more), eligible position. You will also be subject to making the required CERF contributions, since you will be eligible for death benefits again and additional service credit up to the maximum allowed. A pension benefit will not be paid for the same month in which you returned to work.

When you retire again, your pension will be based on your *total* years of creditable service, as long as it doesn't exceed the maximum allowable (29 years).

If you are rehired as a part-time employee, however, and work fewer than 1,000 hours in the calendar year, your pension will continue without interruption. You will not earn additional credit for the part-time service, and you will not be eligible for the \$10,000 death benefit.

You can, of course, work at another job outside county employment, which will not affect your CERF Pension. The rules on returning to work only apply if you come back to work for a county in a CERF-eligible position.

Are Social Security and your CERF Pension related?

Though your CERF Pension is offset by an estimated Social Security benefit based only on county employment, receiving a pension from CERF does not impact the payments or amounts you get from Social Security.

Your CERF pension takes into account the number of years you worked in county employment and an average of your two highest years of salary.

Social Security uses your total yearly earnings for your entire work history. For more information, visit www.ssa.gov.



The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age.

—Lucille Ball

Time for annual flu shots

Have you received your flu shot yet?

The Centers for Disease Control recommends everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu shot every season.

The CDC says that while seasonal influenza outbreaks can happen as early as October, influenza activity peaks in January or later. Since it takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop, it's best to get vaccinated soon.

County Employees' Retirement Fund, 2121 Schotthill Woods Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone: 877-632-2373 Fax: 573-761-4404

www.mocerf.org