



Member Self-Service Portal

You can access the self-service portal by clicking on the link at www.mocerf.org.

The portal allows retirees to do the following:

Payment Info – Retirees can view pension payment history or details of their next scheduled payment.

Tax Withholding – Retirees can view current tax withholding information and request tax withholding changes.

1099-R – Retirees can view and print 1099-R tax forms beginning with 2015.

If you need help logging on to the portal, call CERF at (877) 632-2373.

COLA

CERF 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 state statute.

Need to update your withholdings?

You may elect to change or stop federal income tax withholding on your pension payments at any time by completing and signing Form W-4P and returning it to CERF. The form is on CERF's website (www.mocerf.org), under the Retiree tab and Pension Plan Forms. You can also obtain one from your tax advisor or from the Internal Revenue Service.

You may wish to discuss your tax withholding election decision with your tax advisor. If you have any questions about your benefits, call the CERF Administrative Office at (877) 632-2373.

As a reminder, federal tax tables change in January of each year; therefore, you may see a slight change in your February benefit payment. You can find full details of your pension payment at the CERF Member Self-Service Portal.

1099-Rs to be mailed

1099-Rs for pension payments during calendar year 2019 will be mailed by the end of January 2020.

Form 1099-R provides each payee with detailed information on pension income and tax withholding for the previous year.

CERF Statistics (as of 10-31-19)

Number of Active Participants	11,869
Number of Terminated Vested Participants	2,923
Number of Members Receiving Benefits	4,920
Number of Beneficiaries Receiving Benefits	718
Average Gross Monthly Benefit in October	\$551
CERF Pension Plan Investment Balance	\$560 million
CERF Savings Plan Investment Balance	\$165 million

Need to update banking information?

If you've moved or changed banks, let CERF know. It's important to keep us updated, so your benefit payments can continue uninterrupted.

You'll need to complete a new Form EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer). There's a place for your information and signature, plus your new bank's information and a financial institution official's signature.

You can find Form EFT under Forms at www.mocerf.org, or you can call our office at (877) 632-2373, and we'll send you one.

Changing Benefit Elections

Benefit elections are generally irrevocable, per state statute.

But if you selected the Joint and Survivor Annuity and your co-annuitant dies before you, your benefit will increase to the Single Life Annuity amount.

If you selected the 10-Year Certain and Life Annuity and your beneficiary dies during the first 10 years after you retire, you may select a new beneficiary for the remainder of those 10 years.

RMD

If you have money in the 457 and/or 401(a) plans, you must begin receiving a required minimum distribution 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. Or call Empower Retirement in St. Louis at (314) 241-1334, or Empower's home office, (800) 701-8255.

Spotlight: Jerry Richardson

Jerry Richardson knows first-hand how much CERF helps retirees. Richardson, 73, served as Oregon County Collector from 1986-2015. He remembers CERF's beginnings in the early 1990s, and the years of work it took before Gov. Mel Carnahan signed legislation in 1994, providing a retirement not only for county officials, but for almost all county employees.



Even though he was in the CERF Pension Plan and contributed to the CERF Savings Plan, he didn't fully appreciate what this was going to mean for him.

But almost immediately after his retirement, his wife's health began to deteriorate. "Long-term illnesses are always extremely difficult, but they are made much worse by a lot of unexpected out-of-pocket expenses," he says. "It was only after her passing in March of 2019 that I really had the presence of mind to evaluate the financial impact of the situation.

"And it was only then when I really realized, and fully appreciated, not only the importance of my CERF Pension, but also the great help that my CERF Savings Plan would be during my retirement.

"I had contributed the maximum allowed to the matching plan since it first began, which gave me several years of savings. It really made things a lot easier for me during a very rough time. When you have a loved one with a terminal illness, you come to realize that there are so many unexpected expenses not covered by your insurance."

He says he's thankful for the many enduring relationships he developed with county employees in Oregon County and throughout the state.

"As I look back, I realize that the quality of our courthouses has been made much better because of a more secure retirement. This is due in part because of a Governor who cared about public servants, along with my fellow county officials who worked together for a common cause for retirement security."

He sums up: "Thoughts of retirement security are of importance when you are working, but they become even much more important after you retire. I am very thankful for CERF."

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Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else. – Fred Rogers
