



County Employees' Retirement Fund

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Clerk Bulletin

November 2021

CARS Upgrade

The CARS County Portal and Member Portal upgrade originally planned for November 1st will now take place December 6th. Both Portals will be unavailable the weekend prior as we work on implementing an upgrade to the system.

This upgrade consists of updated graphics and enhanced features. *The Portals will only work in Chrome or Edge going forward.* More information will be sent in the coming weeks on these enhancements.

Timetable for End of December Terminations

Many employees will end their county employment on December 31, 2021, and be eligible to commence their CERF Pension benefit on January 1, 2022.

CERF needs Form 2V (Termination Vested) and 2B (Designation of Survivor) 30 to 90 days prior to commencement of CERF Pension benefits. For those participants commencing January 1, 2022, the Forms 2V and 2B must be signed and dated by November 30. Form 2V also requires completion by the county and signature of the County Clerk.

Please have all immediate retirees contact your county's Benefits Specialist at CERF. If you are not sure who your Benefits Specialist is, call CERF toll-free, 877-632-2373.

2021 Refunds Cut-Off

The cut-off for processing refunds for the year will be 3 p.m. Wednesday, December 15.

Virtual Benefits Fair

CERF and Empower Retirement will host a Virtual Benefits Fair December 14, from 3-3:30 p.m. Empower will distribute registration information to counties.

CERF Eligibility

Questions arise from time to time about who is eligible for CERF and who is not. So here's a brief overview of non-eligible positions:

Circuit Clerks or any **Deputy Circuit Clerks** who are members of MOSERS.

Court Employees. Employees who are hired, fired, or whose work and responsibilities are controlled by a Circuit Judge or Associate Circuit Judge.

Election Employees. Directors and employees of independent election boards.

Extension Employees. Missouri law states that extension employees are employed by the University, which is a political subdivision of the State of Missouri. State employees are not eligible.

Juvenile Employees. Missouri courts have consistently ruled that Juvenile employees are employees of the Circuit Court. Additionally, HB 971, effective August 28, 1998, states that Juvenile employees are not eligible for CERF.

Nurses/County Health. Employees of a health unit established pursuant to Chapter 205, RSMo. However, nurses who are controlled by the County Commission are eligible.

Prosecuting Attorneys. Elected Prosecuting Attorneys are not eligible because they are members of a separate retirement system. However, other employees of the Prosecuting Attorney's office are eligible.

Sheriff. Elected sheriffs are not eligible because they are members of a separate retirement system. However, other employees of the Sheriff's department are eligible.

911/Emergency Management. 911 and Emergency Management employees who are controlled by an independent board. However, 911 and Emergency Management employees who are hired and/or fired directly by the County Commission are eligible.