



Virtual Benefits Fair

COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND

CERF Background

- ▶ Missouri Legislature created County Employees' Retirement Fund in 1994
- ▶ Only counties not included: St. Louis, St. Charles, Jackson



Who is NOT in CERF?

- ▶ Circuit Clerks
- ▶ Court Employees under Circuit Judge or Associate Circuit Judge
- ▶ Election Employees of independent election boards
- ▶ Extension Employees
- ▶ Juvenile Employees
- ▶ Nurses/County Health, unless controlled by County Commission
- ▶ Elected Prosecuting Attorneys
- ▶ Elected Sheriffs
- ▶ 911/Emergency Management, unless controlled by County Commission

Participation

- ▶ Mandatory for eligible employees hired on or after Jan. 1, 2000, and working at least 1,000 hours during the year
- ▶ Part-time employees enroll upon reaching 1,000 hours



Employee Contributions

- ▶ LAGERS employees hired before Feb. 25, 2002: no contribution
- ▶ LAGERS employees hired on or after Feb. 25, 2002: 4%
- ▶ Non-LAGERS employees hired before Feb. 25, 2002: 2%
- ▶ Non-LAGERS employees hired on or after Feb. 25, 2002: 6%

Vesting



- ▶ Becoming vested means you have a permanent right to your pension benefit
- ▶ CERF Pension vested after eight consecutive years of at least 1,000 hours

Receiving Your Benefit

- ▶ Full benefit paid at age 62
- ▶ Actuarially-reduced benefit available as early as age 55
- ▶ Pension paid as monthly direct deposit, no lump-sum option
- ▶ Non-vested participants receive full refund of any contributions paid
- ▶ Refunds can be taken as taxable event, or rolled into qualified plan

Death Benefits

- ▶ If you die while actively employed, your beneficiary will receive a \$10,000 death benefit
- ▶ Additionally, your beneficiary will receive a refund of any contributions paid by you if you die before becoming vested
- ▶ If you are married and vested and die prior to electing a pension benefit option, your spouse is eligible for a 50% survivor benefit
- ▶ If you are unmarried and vested and die prior to electing a benefit option, your survivor will receive a refund of all contributions made

CERF Member Portal

- ▶ Member Portal allows employees to view and make changes to their account
- ▶ Click on Member Portal at mocerf.org
- ▶ You will need your Member ID to register; call CERF: 877-632-2373

Contact Information

- ▶ CERF switchboard: 877-632-2373
- ▶ CERF fax: 573-761-4404
- ▶ CERF website: www.mocerf.org
- ▶ CERF email: administrator@mocerf.org
- ▶ Empower switchboard: 800-701-8255
- ▶ Empower fax: 855-785-7329
- ▶ Empower website: www.empower-retirement.com
- ▶ Empower representative email: Robert.Eastburn@empower-retirement.com

