

Service Retirement

Your eligibility for a service retirement depends on two factors: your service credit and age. You are eligible for a normal service retirement if you meet either of the following requirements:

- Age 55 with at least 10 years of service credit or
- 20 years of service credit regardless of age

When you retire, you will be able to choose from a number of payment options. These options range from the Basic Allowance, which provides the highest monthly allowance for you alone, to options that reduce your monthly payment but provide varying degrees of protection to your beneficiaries upon your death.

Vested Retirement: If you leave employment after you have earned at least 10 years of service credit, but before you are 55 (60 if you are a maximum security attendant at the Clifton T. Perkins Hospital and separated from employment before July 1, 2016) years old, you are eligible to receive a future benefit based on your service at your termination.

If you are not vested when you leave employment and you don't anticipate returning to membership, you may contact the Retirement Agency to receive a refund of your balance of accumulated contributions and interest.

If you withdraw your balance of accumulated contributions and interest, you will forfeit your right to a future benefit.

During Retirement

As a retiree, once you have been retired one full year as of July 1, your retirement allowance may be adjusted each July to help your benefit payments keep pace with inflation.

sra.maryland.gov

Resources

Register for the Retirement Agency's secure online participant portal, mySRPS, to view your account information, create estimates of your service retirement benefits, and communicate securely with the Retirement Agency. You may begin the registration process for mySRPS by visiting the Retirement Agency's website, sra.maryland.gov, and clicking on the mySRPS Login button.

The Retirement Agency's website also has lots of additional information for you, including newsletters, member handbooks, printable forms and updates on the system's financial performance.

To visit the office or write a letter:

Maryland State Retirement Agency
120 East Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-6700

Email inquiries to sra@sra.state.md.us

To speak with a retirement benefits specialist:

410-625-5555 or toll-free 1-800-492-5909



MARYLAND
STATE RETIREMENT
and PENSION SYSTEM

sra.maryland.gov

Welcome to the Correctional Officers' Retirement System*

* For members enrolled
on or after July 1, 2011



Blue Crab
Maryland State Crustacean

Maryland State Retirement
and Pension System
120 East Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-6700

410-625-5555
1-800-492-5909

sra.maryland.gov

Welcome!

The Maryland State Retirement and Pension System has a long history of providing retirement benefits to employees and teachers of Maryland state and local employers.

This overview deals with the highlights of the Correctional Officers' Retirement System ("CORS"). Please refer to the CORS handbook on our website at sra.maryland.gov for more details about any of these topics.

A retirement coordinator, usually someone in your human resources department, can help you file enrollment forms and answer basic questions about your benefits. The Maryland State Retirement Agency ("Retirement Agency") also maintains a staff of retirement benefits specialists to answer questions from members and retirees.

Enrollment

Membership in CORS is mandatory.

To properly enroll, you must submit to the Retirement Agency an *Application for Membership* (Form 1) and a valid proof of birth date document. You are strongly encouraged at the time of your enrollment to also submit to the Retirement Agency a *Designation of Beneficiary* (Form 4). These forms are available from your retirement coordinator or on our website.

If you have membership credit in another Maryland state or Maryland local retirement/pension system, you may be able to transfer that service credit to your new record in CORS. To qualify for the transfer, your employment must be continuous and you almost always must apply to transfer your service within one year of becoming a member of CORS. Contact a retirement benefits specialist if this situation applies to you.

Employee Contributions

You contribute 5% of your annual compensation to CORS.

Service Credit

You earn service credit toward your retirement benefits each day you work and pay your required contribution. Your service credit and age determine when you are eligible for retirement and how much your retirement benefit will be.

You earn a month of credit for any month in which contributions are reported to the Retirement Agency by your employer. Service credit also can include purchased prior service, qualifying military service, and accrued sick leave that is unused as of your retirement date.

Your Benefits

CORS provides survivor, disability and service retirement benefits. Please see the CORS handbook on our website for more detailed information.

Survivor Benefits

If you die while in active membership and after you have earned at least one year of eligibility service, your beneficiaries are eligible to receive a one-time payment equal to your annual salary plus your balance of accumulated contributions and interest.

If, at the time of death, you were an active member, your spouse may be eligible to receive a monthly benefit in lieu of the one-time payment if: you were eligible to retire or you were at least 55 years old and had at least 15 years of eligibility service.

In lieu of the survivor benefits mentioned here, you are eligible for a special death benefit if you die in the line

of duty. That benefit is a monthly allowance of two-thirds of your average final compensation that will be paid to the first of the following who survives you: your spouse, your children who are under age 26 or disabled, or your dependent parents. Also, a return of your balance of accumulated contributions with interest will be paid to your designated beneficiaries.

Disability Benefits

If you are permanently and totally disabled from performing your job duties, as determined by the System's medical board and Board of Trustees, you may be eligible for a lifetime monthly disability retirement benefit.

Types of Disability Retirement

There are two types of disability benefits:

Ordinary: A physical or mental condition that permanently disables you from performing the duties of your job. To file for ordinary disability, you must have accrued five years of eligibility service.

Accidental: A physical or mental condition that permanently disables you from performing the duties of your job, and which results from an on-duty accident without your willful negligence. As an active member, you are eligible to file for accidental disability from your first day on the job provided you file within five years after the date of the accident.

Your retirement coordinator can provide you with the necessary forms to file for a disability retirement benefit. These forms are also available on our website.