Reciprocity and Retirement

Advantages of Reciprocity
If you do not have enough service to retire, combining service from reciprocal systems may allow you to meet eligibility requirements and receive pensions from all systems. With reciprocity, your highest FAS from all systems is used to calculate benefits. In most cases, this enhances your final pension.

Who Is Eligible?
To retire under the reciprocal act you must meet the following conditions:

- The service you earned in each reciprocal system must equal one year or more.
- Your combined service must meet the vesting and age requirements of each system.

Each reciprocal system has different vesting requirements. The CTPF vesting requirement is 5 years of service for employees who joined CTPF or a reciprocal system before January 1, 2011, and 10 years of service for employees who joined on or after January 1, 2011.

How Reciprocity Works
Your retirement benefit is based on a formula that include:

- A pension percentage
- Years of service
- Final average salary (FAS)

If you retire under reciprocity, the reciprocal systems exchange information including service credit, dates of service, and earnings. Your total combined service and highest FAS are used to calculate your reciprocal pension. You receive a monthly benefit from each system.

Reciprocity is optional. You may retire independently under each system. The reciprocal act does not change or override any individual system’s rules. You can find more information about CTPF retirement in our Retirement Information sheet available at www.ctpf.org.

Applying for Reciprocal Benefits
You can determine if you will benefit from a reciprocal pension, by requesting a pension estimate from each system where you earned service and a reciprocal estimate from your final system. If you do not qualify for a separate pension from each system, you should request a reciprocal pension estimate from your final system. Requests can be made up to a year in advance and should be made no less than six months prior to your retirement date.

Reciprocal Retirement Process
When you retire under the reciprocal act, you must apply for benefits following the process required by each system. You must declare your intent to retire under reciprocity when you file your retirement applications.

Once you receive a pension, the provisions of each respective retirement system govern eligibility for and determination of survivor and death benefits, any available annual pension increase, and eligibility for health insurance or a premium subsidy.
**Important Considerations**

**Reinstatement of Service**
If you accepted a refund from a reciprocal system, you may reinstate service of one year or more by repaying the refund, with interest. Contact the retirement system that paid the refund to determine your eligibility, reinstatement cost, and allowable payment methods.

If you wish to reinstate CTPF service, you must be a current contributor in CTPF or a reciprocal system and have earned at least two years of additional service before applying. All refunds must be repaid before retirement.

**Concurrent Service**
If you plan to retire under reciprocity and have earned service in more than one system for the same period, each system will reduce the credit proportionately. This reduction will be made when reciprocal benefits are calculated.

**Post-Retirement Information**

**Health Insurance Eligibility**
If CTPF is the final system for which you earned service credit, you and your survivors may be eligible for health insurance through CTPF’s health insurance program. Each system has their own rules governing insurance eligibility.

**Returning to Work**
Each retirement system has specific rules that apply to a return-to-work situation. If you violate the rules, your pension may be suspended. Contact each retirement system from which you receive a benefit to determine how reemployment may affect your pension.

**Updating Personal Information**
You must contact each retirement system when you change your address, bank account, tax withholding information, designation of beneficiary, or other information that may affect benefits for you or your survivors.

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### Illinois Reciprocal Systems

**Chicago Teachers’ Pension Fund**
203 North LaSalle, Suite 2600
Chicago, IL 60601-1231
312.641.4464 ▪ Fax 312.641.7185
www.ctpf.org

**County Employees’ Annuity & Benefit Fund of Cook County**
33 North Dearborn Street, Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60602-3103
312.603.1200 ▪ Fax 312.603.9760
www.cookcountypension.com

**Forest Preserve District Employees’ Annuity & Benefit Fund of Cook County**
33 North Dearborn Street, Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60602-3103
312.603.1200 ▪ Fax 312.603.9760

**Judges’ & General Assembly Retirement Systems**
2101 South Veterans Parkway
P. O. Box 19255
Springfield, IL 62794-9255
217.782.8500 ▪ Fax 217.557.5154
www.srs.illinois.gov

**Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund**
2211 York Road, Suite 500
Oak Brook, IL 60523-2337
630.368.1010 ▪ Fax 630.368.5399
www.imrf.org

**Laborers’ Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago**
321 North Clark, Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60654-4739
312.236.2065 ▪ Fax 312.236.0574
www.labfchicago.org

**Municipal Employees’ Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago**
321 North Clark, Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60654-4767
312.236.4700 ▪ Fax 312.527.0192
www.meabf.org

**Park Employees’ Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago**
55 East Monroe, Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60603
312.553.9265 ▪ Fax 312.553.9114
www.chicagoparkpension.org

**State Employees’ Retirement System of Illinois**
2101 South Veterans Parkway
P. O. Box 19255
Springfield, IL 62794-9253
217.785.7444 ▪ Fax 217.524.2293
Chicago Office:
312.814.5853 ▪ Fax 312.814.5805
www.srs.illinois.gov

**Teachers’ Retirement System**
2815 West Washington Street
P. O. Box 19253
Springfield, IL 62794-9253
800.877.7896 ▪ Fax 217.753.0394
www.trs.illinois.gov

**State Universities Retirement System**
1901 Fox Drive
P. O. Box 2710
Champaign, IL 61825-2710
800.275.7877 ▪ Fax 217.378.9800
www.surs.org

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**More Information**

You can find more information about CTPF retirement on our website www.ctpf.org. Contact each reciprocal system for more information about their plan requirements.