

PERSPECTIVES

Retired
Member
Edition

Tax form 1099-R to be mailed in January

By the end of January 2018, PERS will mail Internal Revenue Service Form 1099-R for tax reporting to those who received a PERS benefit in calendar year 2017. 1099-Rs will be mailed to your address on file at PERS.

If your address has changed, **please update it by December 15, 2017**. To change your address, use [Online Member Services](#) (OMS) on the PERS website at <http://oregon.gov/PERS> or complete the [Information Change Request](#) form. You can contact PERS Member Services at 888-320-7377 to have the form mailed to you, or you can find it in the [Retired Member Information](#) section of the PERS website.

PERS cannot accept forms via email. Mail the completed form to PERS or fax it to 503-598-0561. PERS' mailing address is:

PO Box 23700
Tigard, OR 97281-3700

You might receive more than one 1099-R if you received monthly retirement benefits *and* any of the following:

- ♦ beneficiary benefits,
- ♦ alternate payee benefits,
- ♦ a lump-sum installment,
- ♦ police & fire unit benefits,
- ♦ you directly rolled over any portion of your benefit (i.e., Roth, IRA, Oregon Savings Growth Plan), or
- ♦ you turned age 59 1/2 in 2017.

If you do not receive your 1099-R by February 15, 2018, you can request a duplicate via OMS or by calling PERS Member Services at 888-320-7377.

1099-R tax forms cannot be mailed earlier, but the December 1 benefit payment stub shows the total gross benefit amount you received for the year. You can use this amount to start on your taxes. Your December 1 payment stub also shows the total amount deducted for federal and state taxes, the PERS Health Insurance Program (if you participate), and other 2017 deductions.

Receiving IAP installments? Read this investment notice

On September 20, 2017, the Oregon Investment Council (OIC) [voted](#) to change the investment strategy of the Individual Account Program (IAP) to target-date funds, a change that will help to reduce investment risk as members age. Effective at the close of business on December 29, 2017, the balance in all member IAP accounts will be transferred to custom IAP Target-Date Funds (IAP TDF). **All retired members receiving IAP installment payments will be placed in the IAP Retirement Allocation Fund.** The change is automatic, and it will not interrupt your payments. It is important to remember that your IAP installments are completely separate from your pension payments.

Since the inception of the IAP in 2004, the money in every IAP account has been invested the same way, for every person, at every age, as part of the Oregon Public Employees Retirement Fund (OPERF). That means people nearing retirement age and people in retirement have had the same investment risk profile as younger members.

The money in your IAP will now be held in more conservative asset classes to help protect against market fluctuations. In the IAP Retirement Allocation Fund, half of your money will remain in OPERF, and the rest will have additional exposure to bonds and “fixed income” strategies. This change will help preserve your account balance while reducing the potential for large losses. Beginning in 2018, each IAP TDF will have a current monthly earnings rate, which will be credited when a payment is processed.

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Variable adjustment

If you remained in the Variable Annuity Program at retirement, the variable annuity portion of your monthly retirement benefit is adjusted every January and payable with your February 1 benefit payment.

The adjustment is based on earnings or losses to your variable account **as of October 31 of the previous year**. The adjustment will begin with your **February 1, 2018 benefit payment**.

You will receive a letter from PERS showing the amount of the adjustment in January 2018.

The variable account is invested in global equities by the Oregon Investment Council. Monthly investment results are posted on the Oregon State Treasury's website at <http://www.oregon.gov/treasury>.

Perspectives is published by the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System for the benefit of members and employers.

Address correspondence to:
PERS, P.O. Box 23700, Tigard, OR 97281-3700.

PERS' headquarters is located at:
11410 SW 68th Parkway, Tigard, Oregon, 97223.

Phone: 888-320-7377; TTY: 503-603-7766. Telephone hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Online: <http://oregon.gov/PERS>.
Email PERS Member Services at Customer-Service.PERS@state.or.us.

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IAP installments (continued)

You can also choose to receive a **one-time, lump-sum distribution** of the remainder of your IAP balance. Please be aware that you may need to fill out specific tax and acknowledgement forms depending on where we are sending the remaining balance. You can ask PERS Member Services for an IAP Change Forms Packet to be mailed to you, or find the [IAP Rollover-Eligible Distribution](#) form in the [Retired Member Information](#) section of the PERS website.

Oregon Revised Statute 238A.050(3) gives the OIC discretion to invest IAP assets differently from PERS pension benefit assets. Further information can be found at www.oregon.gov/IAP, including investment returns starting in the first quarter of 2018. Comments or questions about the new IAP Target-Date Fund framework can be sent via email to iap.comments@ost.state.or.us.

PERS Health Insurance rate changes for 2018

PERS Health Insurance Program (PHIP) premiums for 2018 take effect January 1. If you have your health insurance premiums deducted directly from a pension benefit, your monthly direct deposit will automatically adjust.

PHIP rates are printed in the *2018 PHIP Benefit & Rate Guide* that was mailed to participants in September 2017. They are also available at www.pershealth.com.

If you have questions, a PHIP Customer Service representative can assist you between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Pacific Time at 503-224-7377 or 800-768-7377.

When will my benefit be paid in 2018?

2018 pay date	Checks mail from Salem	Direct deposit effective date
January 1	December 29, 2017 (Friday)	January 2, 2018 (Tuesday)
February 1	January 31 (Wednesday)	February 1 (Thursday)
March 1	February 28 (Wednesday)	March 1 (Thursday)
April 1	March 29 (Thursday)	March 30 (Friday)
May 1	April 30 (Monday)	May 1 (Tuesday)
June 1	May 31 (Thursday)	June 1 (Friday)
July 1	June 28 (Thursday)	June 29 (Friday)
August 1	July 31 (Tuesday)	August 1 (Wednesday)
September 1	August 30 (Thursday)	August 31 (Friday)
October 1	September 28 (Friday)	October 1 (Monday)
November 1	October 31 (Wednesday)	November 1 (Thursday)
December 1	November 29 (Thursday)	November 30 (Friday)

GovDelivery: Sign up to receive email or text alerts

PERS has a new communications tool that allows you to receive timely updates on PERS topics that may be of interest to you.

You can choose specific topics to receive email or text message updates, including retired member news and information, tax remedy and variable adjustment notifications, and PERS Health Insurance. You will only receive information on the topics you choose. You can learn more and review step-by-step sign-up instructions at

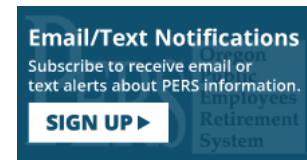
<http://www.oregon.gov/pers/Pages/GovDelivery.aspx>. The direct link to sign up is <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORPERS/subscriber/new>.

By using GovDelivery, we can better inform you when new resources are available and share relevant information more quickly than a three-times-a-year newsletter. We will continue to send a printed copy of *Perspectives* to all retirees.

FYI: GovDelivery does not con-

nect with or impact anything on the PERS system or your individual account or membership information. All emails will come from **OregonPERS@public.govdelivery.com**.

You can also click this icon on the bottom-left of the PERS website to sign up directly.



Tier One members living in Oregon: Make sure your residency status is updated by December 15!

Eligible* Tier One members who are Oregon residents qualify for a “tax remedy” increase in their monthly PERS benefit payments. Each year, PERS works with the Oregon Department of Revenue to determine residency based on income tax returns for the previous year.

If your residency status changed from the previous tax year, PERS mailed a letter to your address of record in November either informing you that you are eligible to receive the tax remedy increase or that the tax remedy will be removed unless we receive verification of your Oregon residency.

If you want to confirm or update your residency status, you can do so using [Online Member Services](#) (OMS) or by submitting a [PERS Residency Certification](#) form. Further [information](#), frequently asked questions, and a [step-by-step guide to updating your residency status using OMS](#) is available in the Retired Member Information section of the PERS website at <http://www.oregon.gov/pers/RET/Pages/index.aspx>.

PERS must receive your certification **by December 15, 2017**, to ensure the tax remedy you are eligible for will be included in your benefit payments in the upcoming year.

*Tier One members who are Oregon residents for the purpose of paying Oregon income taxes, were hired before July 14, 1995, and have either service time before October 1, 1991, or at least 10 years of creditable service, are eligible for the tax remedy.

Tier Two and Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan (OPSRP) members are **not** eligible for the tax remedy on their PERS benefits.

What do I do for _____?

It is important that you 1) keep your information up to date and 2) send forms to PERS in a timely manner.

Here are some quick reminders:

Address change: Update via [Online Member Services](#) or submit an [Information Change Request](#) form.

Direct deposit: Submit a new [direct deposit](#) form. This must be in and validated by the 15th of any month to impact your next payment.

Tax withholding: Submit a new [W-4P](#) form. Remember you may have withholding on both your PERS pension and IAP payments. Try to provide these by the beginning of the third week of any month.

Power of Attorney: Submit the [Special Power of Attorney](#) form.

Divorce: [Contact](#) PERS Member Services.

Death notices: PERS will [require](#): the date of death, city and state where the death occurred, a photocopy of the death certificate, and spouse or personal representative contact information.

Thank you for your feedback

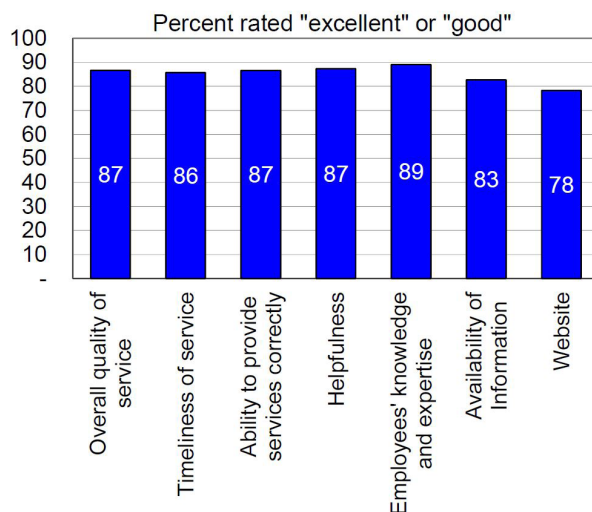
We asked for your feedback, and you delivered: over 3,000 retired PERS members responded in August to our member satisfaction survey either online or via mail. Combined with over 1,000 responses from actively employed members, this is the most responses ever received since the survey began as a result of 2005 Legislative direction. You can find the full results in the September 29, 2017 PERS Board packet under item C.4 ([page 97 of the PDF](#)). The PERS Board packet is available on the [PERS website](#).

We recognize that our retired members prefer to receive information in print, such as through this *Perspectives* newsletter. Though we are excited about our use of the new [GovDelivery email tool](#) (see page 3) and will strive to continue to better update our website to get information to all members more frequently than a three-times-a-year newsletter, we wanted to clarify that PERS has no immediate plans to stop delivering critical letters or

hard copies of *Perspectives*.

We also heard many members' frustration with call wait times and the timeliness for benefit adjustments. Over the past year, call volume has increased dramatically because of potential legislative changes to PERS as well as some technical account issues. The Member Information Center is actively working to mitigate the increase in wait time, and we are evaluating other tools and methods to enhance self-service opportunities.

Thank you for your feedback and suggestions. We look forward to making further improvements.



Their rights, your voice: Seeking volunteer ombudsmen

The following volunteer opportunity was submitted on behalf of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Make an impact in your community. Certified Ombudsman Volunteers advocate for the rights and dignity of residents in long-term care.

Volunteer Ombudsmen are needed throughout Oregon. Only 53 percent of the nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and residential care facilities have an Ombudsman assigned to them. This leaves vulnerable residents without the protection they need or someone to speak up when things go wrong: call lights go unan-

swered, meals arrive cold, or medications are given incorrectly.

Volunteers enjoy quality training, ongoing support, a flexible schedule, and the opportunity to gain knowledge and build new relationships. They listen to resident concerns, educate families and staff about resident rights, and resolve quality of care issues. Applications are being accepted now.

Learn more at www.oregon.gov/litco or call 800-522-2602.

Welcome to 3,700 new retirees!

Congratulations to the 3,745 newly retired members who submitted applications since July 1. For our new retirees, a few helpful things to keep in mind:

- Your first pension benefit payment can take **up to 92 days** from your retirement date. It can take 120 days from your retirement date to receive your IAP benefit. Our goal is to provide these payments to 80 percent of applicants within 45 days, but our success depends on workload fluctuations and whether we can confirm all the necessary information in time.
- Forms must be mailed or faxed to PERS. We cannot currently accept forms via email.
- Member Services is available at 888-320-7377 from Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Time and via email at Customer-Service.PERS@state.or.us.
- Review the [Retired Member Information](#) section of the PERS website, and use [Online Member Services](#) for many self-service features, such as printing a benefit confirmation letter.

Have a volunteer opportunity to share? Send your ideas to editor@pers.state.or.us.