



# CONVERSION OF REGULAR OR SLEP SERVICE CREDIT TO ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIAL (ECO) SERVICE CREDIT

For earnings previously reported to IMRF

IMRF Form 6.06 (Rev. 02/08)

**Avoid delays**—read the instructions below and on the back before completing this form

## Requirements for Converting Service Credit

### If you joined ECO before January 26, 2000

- you can convert **any** earnings and contributions which were previously reported to IMRF under the Regular or SLEP plans to service credit under the ECO plan.

### If you joined ECO on or after January 26, 2000

- you can convert only those earnings and contributions you earned **as an elected county official** which were previously reported to IMRF under the Regular or SLEP plans to service credit under the ECO plan.

1. You must have previously participated in or currently participate in IMRF under the ECO plan.
2. You earned the service while working in a position which qualified for IMRF membership.
3. **Earnings and contributions** for the periods listed on this form **were** reported to IMRF under either the Regular or SLEP plans and the service (your contributions) is currently on deposit with IMRF. If you took a refund of your service, see item number 6.
4. The county employer you worked for when you elected to participate in the ECO plan must have adopted a resolution allowing their current and former elected county officials to participate in ECO. IMRF Form 6.80, "Suggested Form of Resolution to Adopt Alternative Benefit Program for County Officers," must be on file with IMRF.
5. You have signed and submitted IMRF Form 6.21B, "Election by Elected County Official to Participate in IMRF Elected County Official Plan."
6. **If you took a refund of member contributions** and forfeited the service credit, the service can be reinstated and converted to ECO simultaneously using IMRF Form 6.03, "Application for Reinstatement of Service Credit."
7. **If you have earnings and contributions (i.e., service) which were never reported** to IMRF, see IMRF Form 6.04, "Application for Retroactive Service Credit" or Form 6.05, "Omitted Service Credit Verification," if applicable.

## Instructions for Completing this Form

1. **Member's information**  
Enter the requested information, including a daytime telephone number.
  2. **Employer information**  
Enter the requested information.
  3. **Periods of participation to be converted**  
If you joined ECO **before January 26, 2000**, you can convert **any** earnings and contributions which were previously reported to IMRF under the Regular or SLEP plans to service credit under the ECO plan.
  4. **Member Certification**  
Sign and date where indicated.
- If you joined ECO **on or after January 26, 2000**, you can convert only those earnings and contributions **you earned as an elected county official** which were previously reported to IMRF under the Regular or SLEP plans to service credit under the ECO plan.

## How to pay for the service

1. **Your (member) cost**  
For each month of service converted to ECO, you would pay IMRF an additional:
  - 3% contributions, plus interest, on Regular IMRF earnings converted to ECO; or
  - 1% to 3% (depending on the original contribution rate) contributions, plus interest, on SLEP earnings converted to ECO

Your employer may pass a resolution (IMRF Form 6.83, "Suggested Form of Resolution to Require Additional Member Contributions for Past Service Converted to the Alternate Benefit Program for County Officers") that **requires you to pay both the member and employer cost** for converting service credit to ECO.

Interest is calculated on the contributions from the earliest year that is being converted through December 31 of the year preceding the current year.

## 2. Payment Schedules

IMRF will mail you a Past Service Payment Schedule which offers **two payment plan options** for establishing the past service:

### Option 1 is the **Lump Sum Payment Plan**.

The Lump Sum Payment Plan allows you to pay the total cost with a single payment and purchase all the eligible service you choose to purchase at one time. You can purchase a portion, all, or none of the past service listed on your payment schedule

### Option 2 is the **Unit Payment Plan**.

The Unit Payment Plan allows you to purchase one or more months of service at a time. You may pay as often as you like, buying back credit from the most recent month to the earliest month of eligible service. However, you may not buy more months than indicated on the Past Service Payment Schedule.

## 3. Using a rollover from another pension plan to purchase the service

You may pay for service with money from a qualified pension plan as defined by Section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code. Complete and **submit IMRF Form 6.01, “Request for Rollover Approval,”** for determination of eligibility.

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## How purchasing the service will affect your pension

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If you want to know how converting your service will affect your pension, you should wait until you receive the Past Service Payment Schedule. Then you can call 1-800-ASK-IMRF (1-800-275-4673) or call your current retirement system for a pension estimate before you determine how many months of service to purchase.

You can also refer to the IMRF Past Service Booklet, which you can find online at [www.imrf.org](http://www.imrf.org), or call 1-800-ASK-IMRF to request a copy. The section titled “Is it worth it to purchase service?” provides a detailed description of how to calculate the impact of service on your pension.

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## If the member plans to retire under the Reciprocal Act

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The Illinois Retirement Systems Reciprocal Act requires a minimum of 12 months of service credit with any single reciprocal pension system. If you have less than 12 months of service with any single reciprocal retirement system, that service will not be counted in the calculation of your reciprocal pension. **Exception:** A former teacher aide who transferred to a position covered by the Teachers’ Retirement System (TRS) and who has less than 12

months of IMRF service credit can apply that service toward a reciprocal pension. A list of the 13 systems covered by the Act is available on the IMRF website, [www.imrf.org](http://www.imrf.org), or by request from an IMRF Member Service Representative at 1-800-ASK-IMRF (1-800-275-4673). Local police and fire pension funds are not covered by the Act.

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## Employer’s Cost

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1. The additional benefit costs resulting from the conversion of Regular IMRF or SLEP service to ECO service will be charged to your ECO employer (your employer when you elected to participate in the ECO plan), even if the converted service was earned with a different employer.
2. Your employer may pass a resolution that **requires you to pay both the member and employer cost** for converting service credit to ECO.

