

2025 Authorized Agent Workshop Webinar



Authorized Agent Webinar Schedule for 2025



Wed. March 12th Wed. April 9th

Part 1
Introduction, Enrollment, Wage Reporting and
Termination



Wed. March 26th Wed. April 23rd

IMRF Benefits, Employer Rates & Legislation



To sign up for future Authorized Agent webinars, please go to www.imrf.org, under Employers tab and select Workshops & Materials.





Topics of the Day

- Your Role as an Authorized Agent
- Resources Available to You
- Understanding IMRF Participation
- Wage Reporting
- Service and Earnings
- Accelerated Payments
- Terminations, Retirees & Health Insurance Continuation





Role of an Authorized Agent (AA)

- AA is the Employer Admin (primary)
- One per employer

- Discussed in Section 2 of the Manual for Authorized Agents
- Uses Data Collections to complete administrative tasks





- **Employer Access**
- **Employer Learning Center**
- Workshops
- Authorized Agent Manual





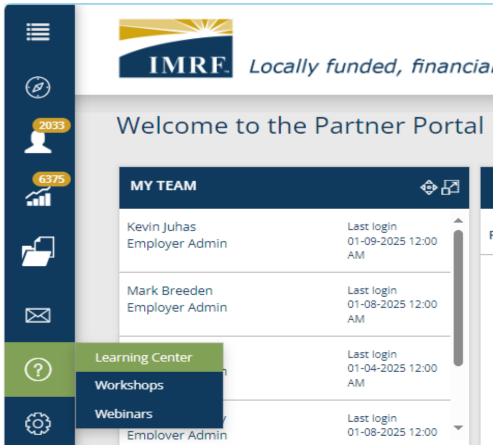
Employer Access Help Link – Accessing through www.imrf.org







Employer Access Help Link – Accessing through Partner Portal



Welcome to the IMRF Learning Center. In the Learning Center you will find instructions that will guide you through common tasks.





Employer Access Learning Center

Learn how to enroll an employee, respond to RFIs, send wage reports, pay invoices, view documents, and more.







Who Qualifies for Enrollment?

Enrollment is based on number of hours expected to be worked during a 12-month period.

There is no probation period with IMRF enrollment.

OR

600
HOUR STANDARD

1,000
HOUR STANDARD

- School districts
- Special education cooperatives
- Employers who have not adopted the 1,000hour standard

- Employers who have adopted the 1,000hour standard
- All governing body members enrolled 1/1/2018 or after

Please review your Employer Checklists





Malcolm Baldrige
National Quality Award

2019 Award Recipient

Election to Participate for Qualifying Position Revised July 2019 Questions? Call 1-800-728-7971. Upload this form through Employer Access Please print in capital letters, using black ink. Member's First Name Current Position Title

I certify that I am electing to participate in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund and have authorized payroll deductions to be made from my earnings as required under the Illinois Pension Code. I understand that this election may not be revoked, and that I must continue IMRF participation as long as the position continues to qualify for

Signature of City Hospital Employee (write: do not print or type) Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

CERTIFICATION BY ELECTED OFFICIAL.

- I am electing to participate in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund and have authorized payroll deductions to be made from my earnings as required under the Illinois Pension Code.
- Lunderstand that my elected position must normally require performance of duty for at least

curs in a twelve-fronth period in order to be eligible for IMRF participation. Governing body members: If you were first elected to this position on or after 1/1/2018, the position must require 1,000 hours to be

Employee Status

- Full-time, part-time, temporary
- Seasonal
- Age
- Participation is required; it's a condition of employment; except for
 - Elected officials (Election to Participate for **Qualifying Position)**
 - City hospital employees (Election to Participate for Qualifying Position)



Employer Checklists

Please review the helpful checklists below when enrolling an employee, terminating an employee or submitting death, disability and retirement benefits.

Training Topic	Format
Should this employee be enrolled in IMRF?	PDF
Participation - Steps to enroll employees in IMRF	PDF
Death Benefit Checklist	PDF
Disability Checklist	PDF
Termination Checklist	PDF
Retirement Application Checklist	PDF

EALC Ho	me		
Employe	r Access Man	agement	
Wage Re	port Procedu	res	
Wage Ac	ljustment Pro	cedures	
Manage	Member Ever	nts	
Docume	nts and Repo	rts	
Pay Onli	ne Procedure		
Find Imp	ortant Inform	nation	
Secure N	Messages		
Employe	r Access FAQ		
Employe	r Checklists		





Did you know?

IMRF participation for your elected officials is optional.



COMMON AUDIT FINDING

Contact your Employer Representative For Elected Official Enrollment Protocol

Section 3.65E of the Authorized Agent manual Confirm if elected position requires resolution and meets hourly standard



Multiple Positions & IMRF Eligibility





Position 1

- Bus driver
- 500 hours
- School District 83

Position 2

- Lunch monitor
- 200 hours
- School District 83

Position 1

- Landscaper
- 400 hours
- Park District

Position 2

- Maintenance Staff
- 400 hours
- County

At least 600 (or 1,000) hours with the same employer are required for eligibility.



What are some problem positions?



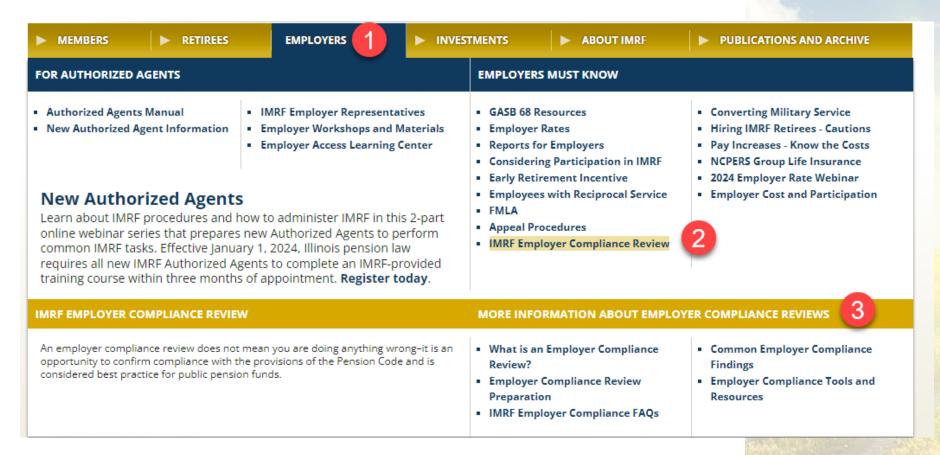
Employer Enrollment Issues

- Pension Code mandates participation
- Timely enrollment reduces future employer cost
- Enroll prior to submitting wage report
- Tier assignment determined by IMRF
- Pension funding begins immediately





Compliance Review







Common Employer Compliance Findings

- ➤ Commingled IMRF/Social Security Funds
- > Enrollment and Termination
- > Reporting optional wages without resolution





Voluntary Additional Contributions (VAC) Plan

Optional Contributions

- Up to 10% of IMRF reportable earnings after tax
- Currently earn an interest rate of 7.25%
- Caution for mid-month changes in VAC

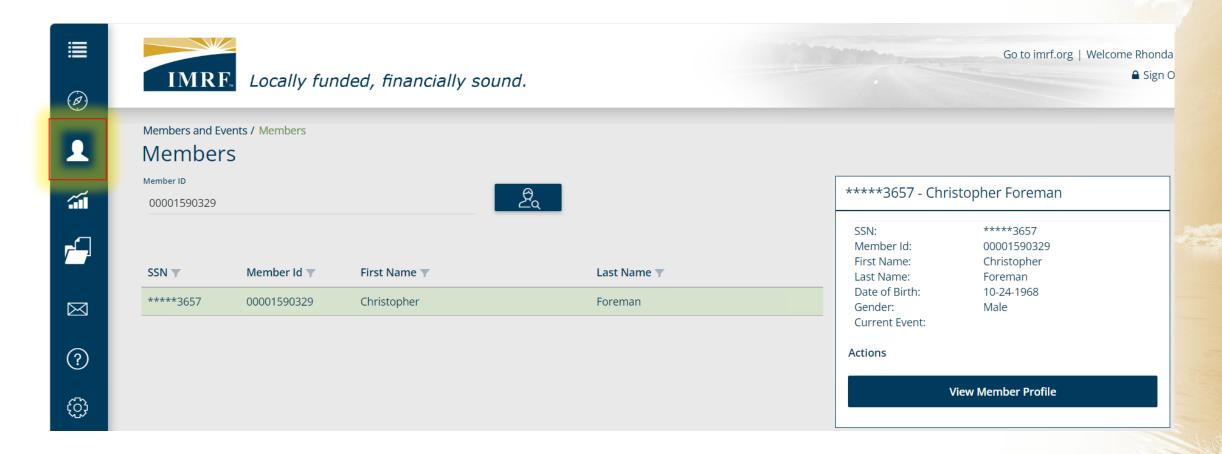
Based on IMRF wages, do not deduct:

- From SLEP Tier 2 overtime
- Tier 2 cap \$127,283.01 effective 1/2025
- If employee has over 40 years of service and has stopped contributing





Location of Member Information







Location of Tier on Member Widget







IMRE Locally funded, financially sound.













MEMBER INFORMATION	EMDI OVMENIT	2 MEMBERSHIP	EVENTS	DEDUCTIONS	ALERTS
IVIEIVIDER INFORIVIATION	EIVIPLOTIVIEIVI	IVIEIVIDERSHIP	EAEIAIO	DEDUCTIONS	ALERIS

Membership Information

Plan Group Participation Date



Status	StatusDate	Sub Status	SubStatusDate
Active	2006-01-16	Regular employee	2006-01-16



New Members

Welcome Letter Specifics

Your Membership Information		
Age	36	
IMRF Member ID:		
IMRF Plan and Tier:	Regular Plan Tier 2	
IMRF Employer Name:	Bertraum County	
IMRF Participation Date:	October 23, 2024	



Understanding Plans and Tiers

Not sure which plan you participate in? > Learn More

Benefit Processing Time

After IMRF has received all the information we need for your benefit claim, it will take approximately eight weeks to process your benefit. This includes retirements, death benefits, member contribution refunds, disability benefits, and Voluntary Additional Contributions refunds.







Wage Reporting

- Contributions
- Service and Earnings
- Reporting Wages



Member Contributions

Regular 4.5%

SLEP 7.5%

Member contributions are tax-deferred

■ Established by the Illinois Pension Code





Average 2025 Employer Rates

Regular 6.99%

SLEP 18.47%

Reminder to update the Employer Rate in your payroll system (effective January 1st)

Final Rate for 2025 posted in Employer Access

Attend the Authorized Agent Part 2 to learn more about Employer Contributions and Rates Stay tuned 2025
May 14-16
Rate Meetings
Sign up will be
soon!

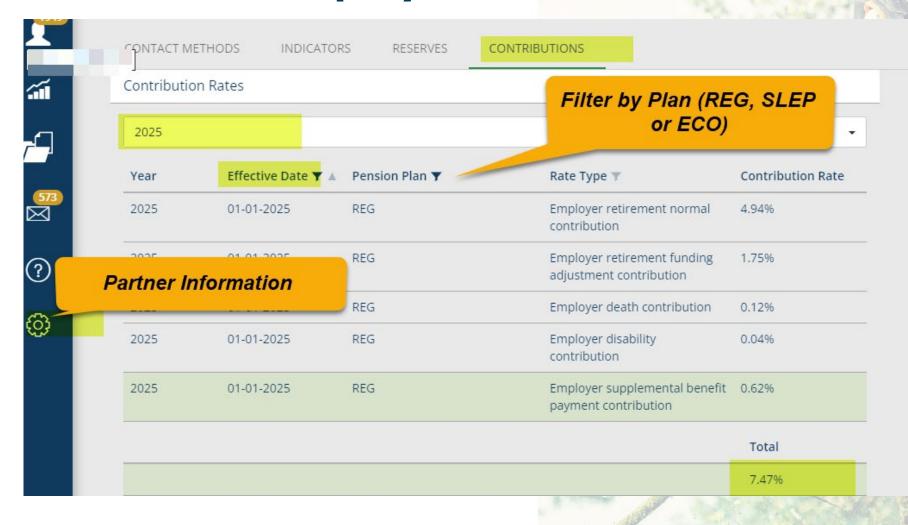
Malcolm Baldrige

2019 Award Recipient





How to locate Employer Rate

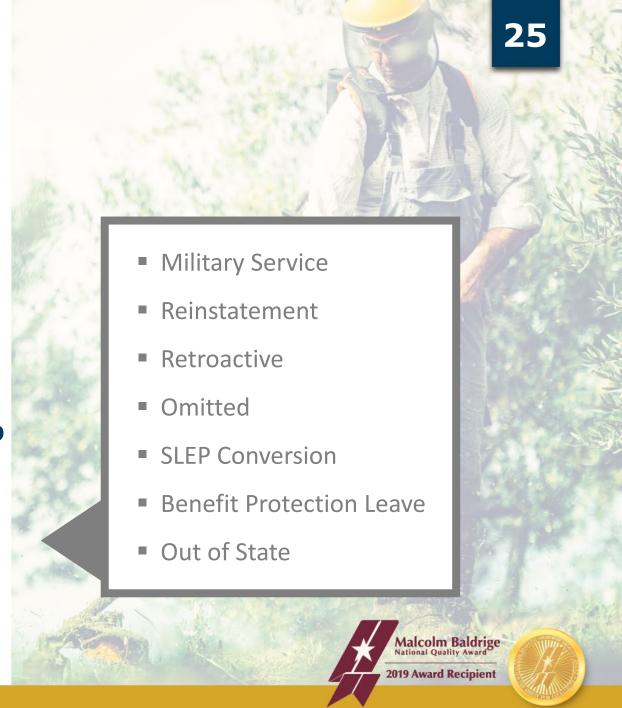






How Do IMRF Employees Earn Service Credit?

- Working for an IMRF employer
 - Full-time
 - Part-time
- Being on IMRF disability
- Seasonal position
- Unused/unpaid sick time converted to service credit
 - can not be used to vest
- Purchasing service credit



Process for Acquiring Past Service







Payment information will be mailed to members directly



Members should request comparative estimates with and without additional service





Past Service Employer Issues

- Employer costs are factored into the employer contribution rate
 - Two-year lag after member purchases service
- Employer resolution or approval may be required
- Contributions and cost
 - Determined by Pension Code
 - Vary by type of service





Unused/Unpaid Sick Time

Did You Know?

- Full days are applied
- Pension effective date needs to be within 60 days of the IMRF termination date
- Final employer only, unless retiring from certain educational employers

1-20	1 month
21-40	2 months
41-60	3 months
61-80	4 months
81-100	5 months
101-120	6 months

121-140	7 months
141-160	8 months
161-180	9 months
181-200	10 months
201-220	11 months
221-240	12 months





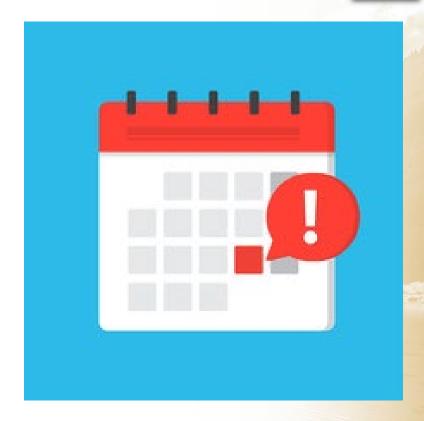
IMRF Earnings

Submit wage report (data collection) and payments monthly

Report IMRF wages through the calendar month after termination

- For example, if the termination date is June 1, wages paid through July 31 are reported
- Make sure to indicate "Y" for Final Wages

See Section 3.96 of the Authorized Agents Manual for more information







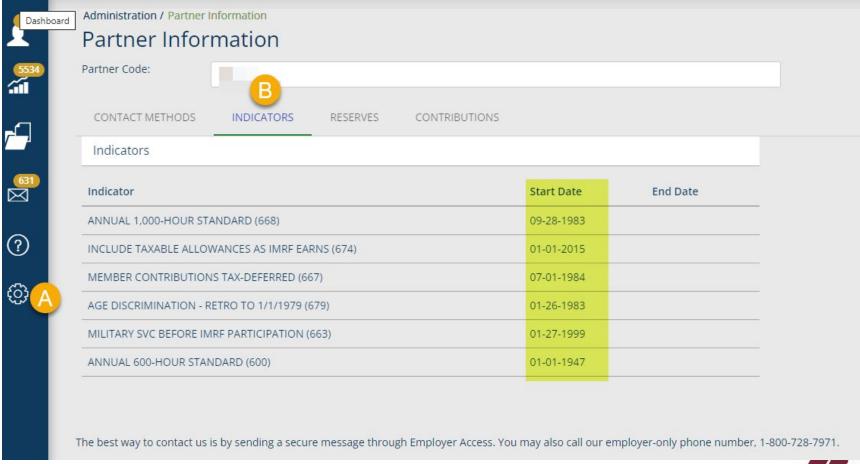
Employer Optional Earnings

- Resolution to Include Cash Payments in Lieu of or Related to Health Insurance as IMRF Earnings;
- Resolution to Include Compensation Directed into a Retirement Health Savings Plan as IMRF Earnings;
- Resolution to Include Compensation Paid Under an IRC Section 125 Plan as IMRF Earnings;
- **Resolution to Include Taxable Allowances as IMRF Earnings**





How to locate resolution adoption/end dates







Not Reportable Earnings

- Workers' compensation payments (Unless supplemented)
 - See Section 3.96 R in the AA MANUAL
 - Call IMRF Legal Department (for clarification if needed)
- Tier 1 wages in excess of \$350,000 if member participation started after January 1, 1996
 - Tier 2 participants, 2025 limit is \$127,283.01
- SLEP Tier 2 overtime





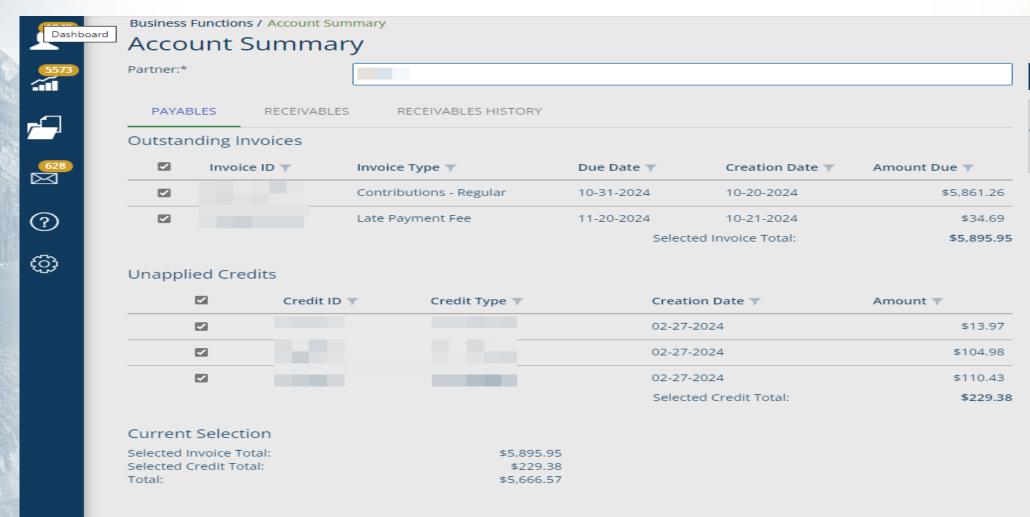
Address Postponed and Rejected Data Collections







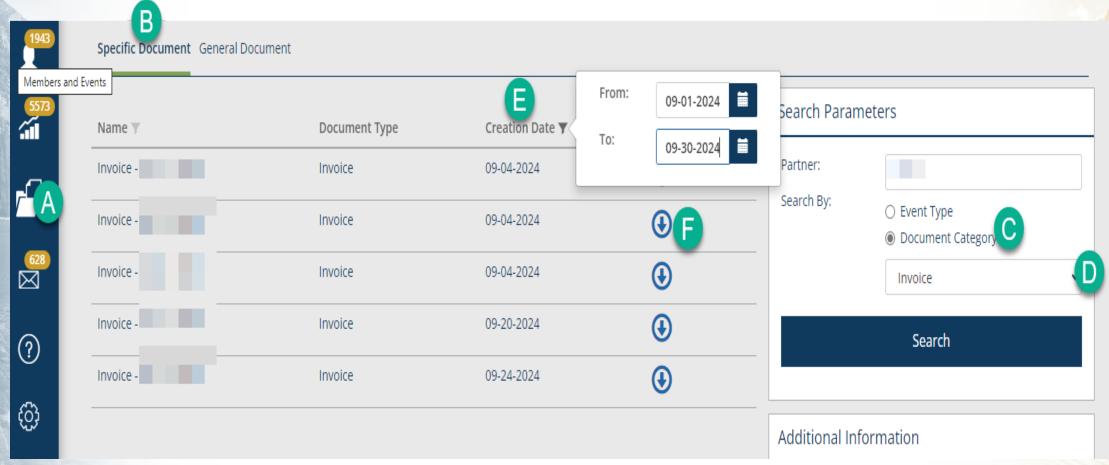
Review Invoices/Credits







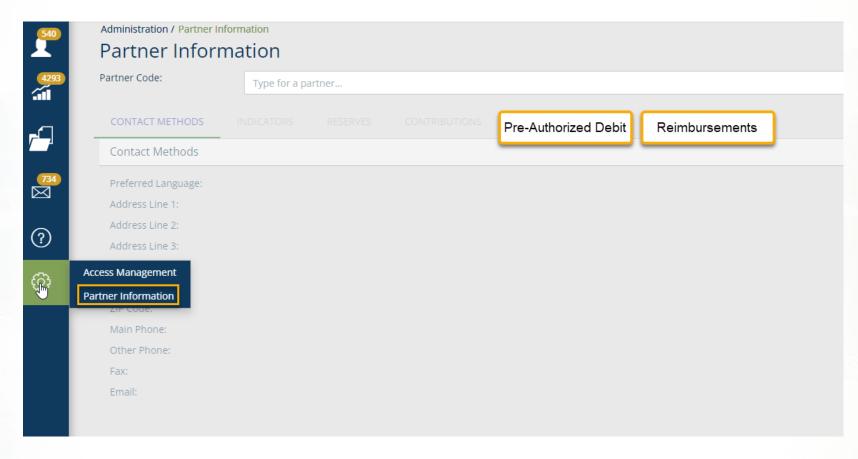
How to locate Invoices and Payment Notifications







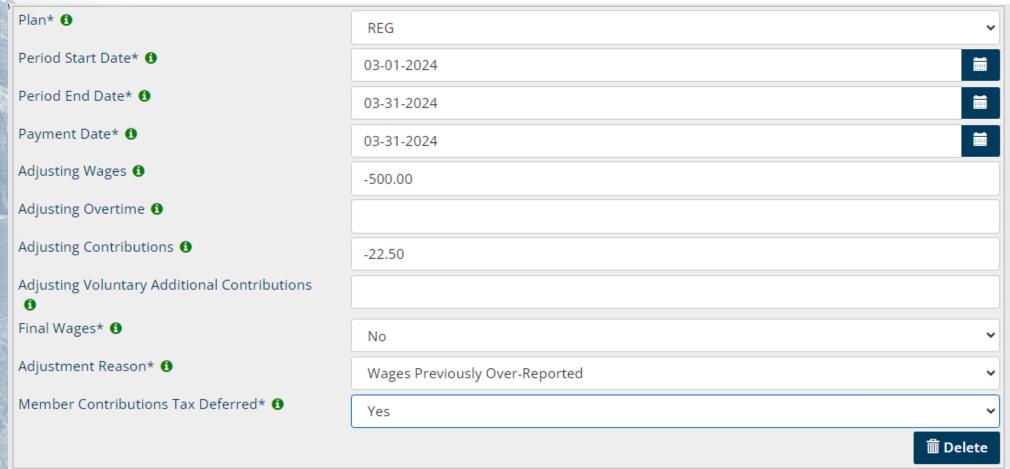
Paying Your IMRF Contributions







Submitting a Wage Adjustment











Accelerated Payments



Accelerated Payments







What is an Accelerated Payment?





The IMRF
Accelerated
Payment is **not** a Penalty

The IMRF Accelerated Payment is not a penalty. If the cost of a member's retirement is greater than the employer contributions made over the member's working career, it creates a shortage in the employer reserve account.

The Accelerated Payment replenishes the employer reserve to fund the shortage created when the member retires.



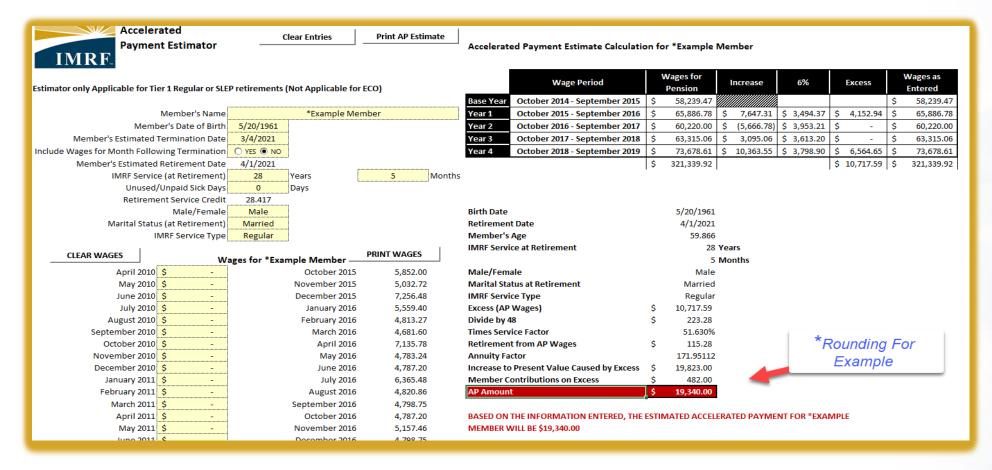
Accelerated Payment

- Look at each 12-month period in the FRE
- For each period, look for wages that are more than 6% greater (or 1½ times the CPI-U if greater) than the previous period
- Invoice if AP is greater than \$5,000
- Quarterly statements





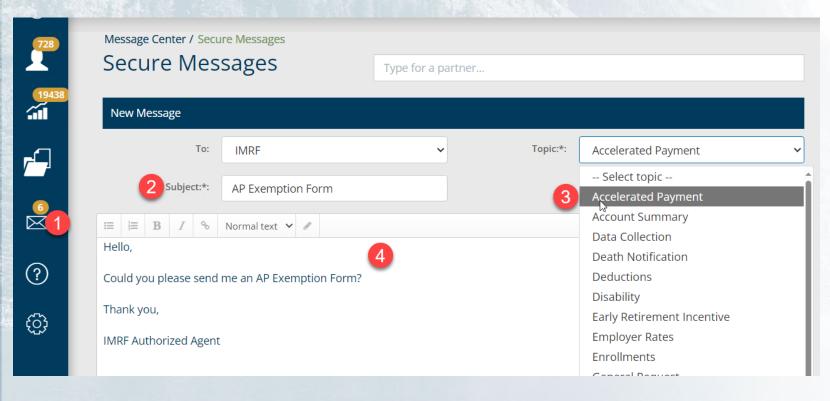
Accelerated Payment

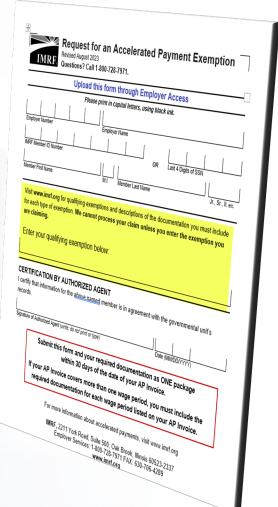






Accelerated Payment Exemption









Pension Impact Statements are Required by Law

Public Act 97-0609 effective January 1, 2012

Employers must request a Pension Impact Statement *before* increasing the earnings of an officer, executive, or manager by 12% or more.

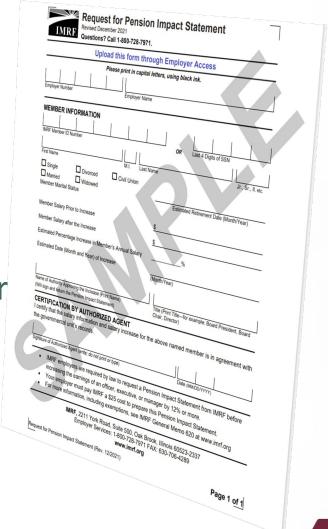




Request for Pension Impact Statement Form

IMRF will provide the resulting effect the salary increase could have:

- On the employee's pension
- On the estimated Accelerated Payment due from the employer the time of the employee's retirement from IMRF



Termination,
Retirees
(Return to
Work) and
Health
Insurance
Continuation

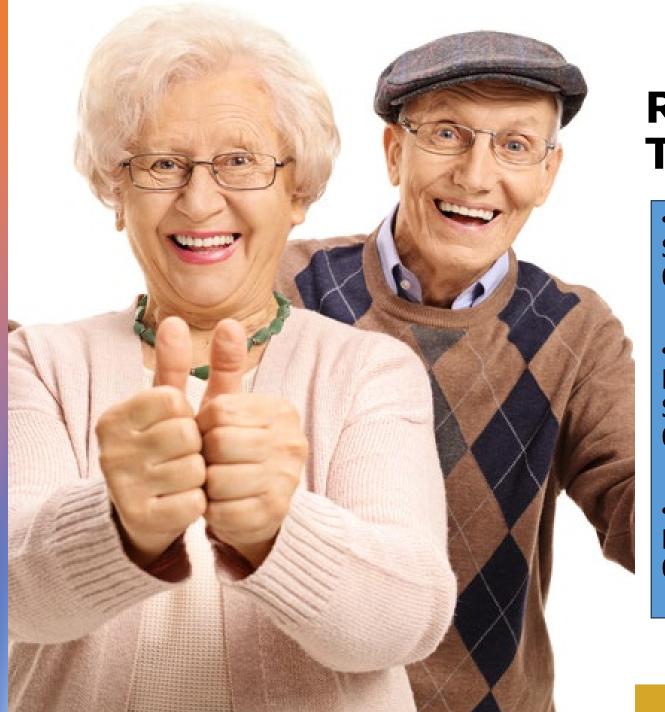






Termination Data Collection

- If employee does not leave employment
 - ✓ Submit online termination
 - ✓ Submit second termination when employee leaves
 - ✓ For a Reduction In Force (RIF), postpone submission of termination
- Must report unused/unpaid sick days for all terminations (whether eligible for retirement or not)



Retirement Date vs. Termination Date

- DELORES BRINGS YOU A LETTER STATING SHE IS RETIRING 07/01/2025
- PLEASE CONFIRM IF SHE IS LEAVING THE END OF JUNE OR IS SHE ACTUALLY WORKING ON 07/01/2025
- IF CHOOSES 07/01/2025, HER PENSION WILL NOT START UNTIL 08/01/2025



Termination Due to Retirement

* ALL IMRF RETIREMENTS START ON THE FIRST OF A MONTH

* RETIREMENT DATE CANNOT BE SAME DAY AS THE MEMBER'S TERMINATION DATE

ISSUE: Many employers putting the 1st of the month as their last day on payroll/termination date when member intended on retiring on that day





Helpful Hint for Retirees

Benefit Processing Time

After IMRF has received all the information we need for your benefit claim, it will take approximately eight weeks to process your benefit. This includes retirements, death benefits, member contribution refunds, disability benefits, and Voluntary Additional Contributions refunds.





USE CAUTION WHEN REHIRING IMRF RETIREES

Returning to work may affect pension benefits of IMRF Retirees

- You must call IMRF at 1-800-728-7971 if you hire or re-hire an IMRF retiree
- Potential employer liability
- Retiree must call IMRF too!
- If retiree does not qualify for IMRF, don't deduct IMRF contributions





Health Insurance Continuation

Illinois Insurance Code

PA 86-1444



Department of Insurance

Contact the Consumer Service Division 877-527-9431 (toll free)

COBRA is a federal provision





Many Resources are Available Online







What we covered today:

- Your Role as an Authorized Agent
- Resources Available to You
- Understanding IMRF Participation
- Wage Reporting
- Service and Earnings
- Accelerated Payments
- Terminations, Retirees & Health Insurance Continuation





Questions and Answers





Thank you for joining us.



Remember to encourage your employees to register with new Member Portal



A link to the presentation along with a survey will be emailed to you today.

We appreciate your feedback!



