



Denver Employees Retirement Plan  
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[www.derp.org](http://www.derp.org)  
[www.myderp.org](http://www.myderp.org)  
[mbrsvs@derp.org](mailto:mbrsvs@derp.org)

## Retirement Checklist

### INITIAL DECISION – 90 DAYS PRIOR

- Request an estimate from DERP of your Maximum and, if applicable, Joint and Survivor benefits. To have your estimated payout of sick and vacation/PTO accrual included, provide DERP the gross amount of your payout or your current hours accrued and hourly rate of pay.
- Contact TIAA, the City's Deferred Compensation provider, if applicable, for information on potentially reducing the taxes on your sick and vacation payout, discussing investments during retirement, and developing a post-retirement budget.
- Contact the Social Security Administration, if applicable, to begin the process of receiving benefits and/or to enroll in Medicare (if you are age 65 or older or Medicare-eligible).
- Submit your written notification of intent to retire to your supervisor, the Office of Human Resources (OHR) or your designated HR representative, and DERP. (If you are a Denver Health Authority employee, please provide this notification to the DHHA Benefits Department.) Specifically indicate your last day as an employee and state the reason for separation is **retirement**. OHR, your HR Representative, or DHHA Benefits will provide information to you regarding termination of your employee benefits, such as life insurance, flex cash, RTD passes, and parking passes.
- Securely login to the DERP Member Self-Service Portal ([www.myderp.org](http://www.myderp.org)), and click on the link titled, 'Retirement Application'. Complete all seven steps of the online Retirement Application, and submit.
- Soon after DERP has received your intent to retire and the submitted online Retirement Application, you will be contacted with the remaining application pages that require your physical signature in the presence of a Notary Public. A specific list of the required supporting documents will also be provided. If preferred, you may contact DERP to schedule an appointment to complete your paperwork in person. If DERP is not notified of your retirement at least 30 days in advance, the first benefit check cannot be guaranteed for payment on the retirement date.

### RETIREMENT DECISIONS

- Benefit Options:
  - Maximum Lifetime Benefit** – Terminates upon death with no ongoing benefit for a beneficiary. If married, the spouse must sign a consent form, waiving his/her rights to your benefit.
  - Joint and Survivor Benefit** – The Maximum Benefit is actuarially reduced, based upon the ages of the member and beneficiary. This allows for the beneficiary to receive a monthly, lifetime benefit upon the member's death. Joint and Survivor benefits are available in a 100%, 75%, or 50% option. If married, the spouse must be named or sign a consent form, waiving his/her rights to your benefit.
  - Once your retirement benefits commence neither the benefit option, nor the Joint and Survivor beneficiary can be changed.**
- Beneficiary Information:
  - Name, date of birth, Social Security number, and current address are needed.
  - If electing a Joint and Survivor option for a beneficiary, a copy of the beneficiary's certified birth certificate or valid passport is required to validate the beneficiary's date of birth.
- Tax Withholding:
  - Retirement benefits paid from DERP are considered taxable income and are reported to the IRS and State of Colorado.
  - For members under age 65, the state of Colorado exempts the first \$20,000 of retirement income.
  - For members age 65 or over, the state of Colorado exempts the first \$24,000 of retirement income.
  - Federal and Colorado state tax can be withheld based on exemption status, designated dollar amount, or a fixed percentage.
  - DERP cannot provide tax advice. Please contact a tax professional if assistance is needed.
- Lump Sum Death Benefit:
  - Normal, Rule-of-75, Rule-of-85, or Disability retirement after age 65: \$5,000
  - Early retirement (hired prior to July 1, 2011): Reduced by \$250 for every year under the age of 65

- Early retirement (hired on or after July 1, 2011): Reduced by \$500 for every year under the age of 65
- Deferred retirement: Not eligible
- Beneficiary name, date of birth, Social Security number, and current address is needed.
- The non-interest bearing amount will remain on file with DERP and paid out to your designated beneficiary in one lump sum upon your death, **-OR-**
- Withdrawal Options Available:
  - Can be paid to the member in either 100 or 50 equal monthly payments to be paid in addition to the monthly retirement benefit.
  - The death benefit is taxable income.
  - Federal and Colorado state tax can be withheld if desired.
- Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance:
  - Review current options and costs and determine the Insurance Premium Reduction Benefit (DERP's contribution toward the group insurance enrolled in with DERP).
    - Members who are not yet Medicare-eligible: Years of credited service multiplied by \$12.50.
    - Medicare-eligible members: Years of credited service multiplied by \$6.25.
  - Eligible spouse and dependents may be enrolled.
    - Name, date of birth, and Social Security number is needed for each participant, in addition to dependent verification documentation.

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO PROCESS YOUR RETIREMENT

- Proof of Date of Birth:
  - For the member and, if applicable, the Joint and Survivor beneficiary. A state, city, or county-issued birth certificate, valid passport, baptismal certificate (clearly showing date of birth), or military discharge papers will be accepted. A driver's license, hospital-issued birth certificate, or birth registration are not acceptable documents.
- Consent of Spouse:
  - If married and taking the Maximum lifetime benefit or naming an alternate Joint and Survivor beneficiary.
- Direct Deposit Information:
  - A voided check or a letter from the bank that verifies the routing and account numbers. Deposit slips cannot be accepted.
- Social Security Estimate or Award Letter:
  - A copy of your most recent estimate of benefits from the Social Security Administration (SSA) or a copy of your original Letter of Award from SSA showing your original entitlement date and amount of benefit. You can get a current estimate from the SSA by going to [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).
- Spouse/Dependent Verification:
  - Spousal Verification – A marriage certificate, common law affidavit, or first page of the most current federal tax return will be accepted.
  - Dependent Child Verification – A certified birth certificate issued by the state, city, or county, Guardianship paperwork, or adoption paperwork will be accepted.
- Proof of Medicare Parts A & B:
  - If a member, spouse, or child is Medicare-eligible, DERP must obtain a copy of the Medicare card or Medicare Entitlement Letter of Award for the participant.
- Divorce Decree / Death Certificate:
  - If previously married while employed with the City and County of Denver/DHHA, the appropriate documentation is required.

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR INTENT TO RETIRE NOTIFICATION

- **Denver Employees Retirement Plan**
  - Phone: 303-839-5419
  - Fax: 303-839-9525
  - Email: [mbrsvs@derp.org](mailto:mbrsvs@derp.org)
  - Member Self-Service Portal : [www.myderp.org](http://www.myderp.org)
- **City and County of Denver, Office of Human Resources**
  - Phone: 720-913-5751
- **Denver Health and Hospital Authority, Benefits**
  - Phone: 303-602-7003
  - Email: [Dorene.Dinges@dhha.org](mailto:Dorene.Dinges@dhha.org)