# Education and Other Resources

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The information provided in this publication is for your convenience and reference as a general guide only and cannot be relied upon as an authoritative source for the law, practices, or policies of CalPERS. While CalPERS tries to include only accurate, timely and complete information in its publications, summaries, guidelines and other advisory printed materials, sometimes information provided in printed materials may be or become inaccurate, untimely, incomplete, unclear or misleading. In all instances, the law then in effect, not this publication, controls the application of the Public Employees' Retirement Law. It is the reader's responsibility to independently verify the accuracy of the information contained in this publication before engaging in a course of action.
CalPERS provides various education and training offerings to assist you and your employees in conducting business with CalPERS as well as learn about member benefits. You can find important information, additional resources and quick tips to help you maximize the services we offer by viewing the education pages on CalPERS On-Line.

ON-LINE TRAINING
Online training modules provide a convenient, self-directed and self-paced training experience. Requiring only the use of a computer with Internet connection and Adobe Flash Player, participants can access this type of training 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

EMPLOYER EDUCATION
Our employer education classes provide you valuable information about CalPERS membership, accurate reporting, your role in employee benefits and available online resources.

CalPERS also provides special request Employer Business rules and myCalPERS System Training for those agencies that need additional assistance with determining CalPERS membership eligibility and reporting responsibilities.

EMPLOYER CLASSES
CalPERS Membership for State Agencies
This class provides an overview of CalPERS membership criteria and related topics for state agencies. Topics covered in this class include determining membership qualifications, understanding the Alternate Retirement Program (ARP), explaining agreements with other public retirement systems, criteria for working after retirement, and additional CalPERS programs.

CalPERS Membership for California State Universities (CSU)
This class provides an overview of CalPERS membership criteria and CSU-related topics. Topics covered in this class include membership qualifications, agreements with other public retirement systems, criteria for working after retirement, and additional CalPERS programs.

The Importance of Accurately Reporting Payroll
Become informed about the importance of accurately reporting payroll. Learn more about topics such as what is on a payroll report, pay rates, special compensation, and earnings.

The Employer's Role in Employee Benefits
Understand your role as an employer in the retirement process. Topics include how to complete employer certification, how service credit is calculated, types of service credit, and how accurate payroll reporting is key to an accurate retirement benefit.

CalPERS On-Line Tools and Resources
Become more familiar with the many CalPERS resources available to you. This class teaches you about the resources and communication tools available online to assist you in doing business with CalPERS.

HOW TO ENROLL
You can enroll in our employer classes through myCalPERS under the Education tab.

Disability Retirement Workshops
CalPERS Customer Service and Outreach Division sponsor the Benefit Services Division, Disability Section, who conduct Disability Retirement workshops. The three-hour workshop is an interactive process intended to benefit the Human Resources personnel, Return-To-Work Coordinators, Health & Safety Officers, Risk Managers, and other interested employer and employee representatives. These workshops provide information on all aspects of disability and industrial disability retirement, local safety, reinstatement, employment after retirement issues, and include Q & A opportunities.

For workshop information, select the following link: Disability Retirement Workshop Schedule

CalPERS Annual Educational Forum
CalPERS holds a three-day Educational Forum every Fall. The Forum provides employers the opportunity to get the most up-to-date CalPERS information, attend classes, and talk to CalPERS Board members and staff at this event focused
entirely on employer topics. Registration materials are generally mailed in August.

If you have not attended this popular event before and would like to be placed on our direct mailing list, please e-mail your request to: mailto:calpers_conference@calpers.ca.gov

**MEMBER EDUCATION**

Our member education classes provide your employees with valuable information about their CalPERS membership benefits, savings and health programs, and available online resources.

**MEMBER CLASSES**

**WEBINARS**

CalPERS currently offers the following webinars:

- Planning Your Retirement Webinar

This free two-hour webinar will provide information about your CalPERS benefits and the retirement process.

- Your Retirement Application and Options Webinar

Learn about retirement options and how to complete your service retirement application.

**EMPLOYER-SUPPORTED RETIREMENT PLANNING CLASSES FOR MEMBERS**

CalPERS Regional Office staff conduct employer-sponsored retirement planning classes at the employer’s facility. The class provides customized explanations of the employee benefits offered by the employer. A minimum audience of 20 is recommended to request an employer-sponsored class. If the audience will be less than 20, please contact CalPERS.

To request an employer-sponsored class, call the CalPERS Customer Contact Center at 888 CalPERS (or 888-225-7377).

**RETIREMENT CLASSES FOR MEMBERS**

CalPERS Regional Office staff conduct Retirement Planning Classes throughout California to help members prepare for retirement. We offer five classes based on a member’s career life cycle. All five classes are available as in-person classes or online classes.

**NEW CALPERS MEMBER**

This class is for members who are new to the CalPERS system. Members receive an overview of CalPERS programs and benefits.

**CONTINUING CALPERS MEMBER**

This class is for members who are not yet ready to retire but want more information about CalPERS benefits and programs.

**PLANNING YOUR RETIREMENT**

This class is for members nearing retirement and is designed to help members plan and prepare for retirement.

**COMPLETING YOUR RETIREMENT APPLICATION**

This class is for members who are ready to retire. It provides detailed information on the step-by-step process of filling out the retirement application.

**RETIRED CALPERS MEMBER**

This class is for members who have already retired. The class provides retirees with information about CalPERS programs and provides a refresher on retirement benefits.

**HOW TO ENROLL**

Advise your employees to log into myCalPERS, select my education, then “Select a Class” to find a date and time. Active member class schedules are regularly provided to the Human Resources Divisions of all CalPERS employers.

Schedules for member classes are established twice a year, in April and October. Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis and is free to all members and their spouses.
The California Employers’ Retiree Benefit Trust (CERBT) Fund is an investment vehicle that can be used by California public employers, including State agencies to prefund future retiree health and Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) costs.

**OVERVIEW**

The CERBT Fund is a Section 115 Trust set up for the purpose of receiving employer contributions that will prefund health and other post-employment benefit costs for retirees and their beneficiaries. By joining this trust fund, all California public employers can help finance future OPEB costs in large part from the investment earnings provided by CalPERS. Just as earnings from invested retirement contributions cover $3 of every $4 spent in pension benefits, the CERBT intends to generate investment earnings to apply toward OPEB obligations.

**WHY PREFUND?**

- Prefunding enables you to make actuarially determined periodic contributions to partially or completely fund your future obligations.
- Enhances financial security for retirees.
- Earnings on assets reduce employer contributions.
- May prevent your net OPEB obligation from becoming a significant liability on your balance sheet.
- Can contribute to a positive credit rating.

**BENEFITS OF INVESTING WITH CALPERS**

- 80 years’ experience in administering employer-sponsored pension plans for public employees since 1932.
- CalPERS is the largest public pension system in the U.S., managing more than $200 billion in assets for more than 3,000 California employers and a history of exceptional risk-adjusted investment performance.
- CalPERS has an outstanding record of investment performance. Over the past 20 years, CalPERS has averaged a 10 percent rate of return on our investments.
- Low administrative fees.
- As an agency of the State of California, CalPERS is required to cover all operational costs and to retain no profit. We seek to provide the lowest cost service to all participating agencies, irrespective of size or financial resources. For these reasons, the CalPERS OPEB trust is organized to charge a single cost rate to all participating agencies. The cost charged to participating employers is based on the average daily balance of assets.
- Dedicated employer service specialists and quality customer service.
- CalPERS has a seasoned team of investment professionals with a proven track record and is dedicated to meeting the needs of our participants and beneficiaries, while minimizing the cost to employers.

**INFORMATION FOR NON-PEMHCA AGENCIES**

AB 554 (Chapter 318, statutes of 2007) became law on January 1, 2008. California public employers can join the California Employers’ Retiree Benefit Trust (CERBT) to prefund OPEB obligations:

- Local government employers can participate in the fund even if they are not currently affiliated with CalPERS.
- The requirement to contract for health benefits through CalPERS has been dropped.

**CERBT FUND WORKSHOPS**

Register to attend a [CERBT Fund Workshop](#) to learn about our trust fund and other services we offer to prepare you to measure, report, and prefund OPEB liabilities. The following subjects are covered in the workshops:
Features and Benefits of the CalPERS CERBT Program
In this workshop, you will find solutions on how to pay for other post-employment benefit (OPEB) liabilities through the CERBT Fund. All employers are encouraged to attend. Topics include:

- Investment fiduciary responsibility
- Accounting compliance
- World class investment management
- Program simplicity
- New asset investment allocation strategies
- Lowest cost services

CERBT Administration and Education
In this workshop, you will learn about the administration and processes of the CERBT Fund. All employers are encouraged to attend. Topics include:

- New asset allocation strategies
- Contributions and disbursements
- Accruals
- Alternative Measurement Method (AMM)
- Valuation renewals
- End of the year financial reporting

For more information on CERBT, call the CalPERS Customer Contact Center at 888 CalPERS (or 888-225-7377) or visit the CalPERS Website at GASB 45 & California Employers’ Retiree Benefit Trust Fund or email: CERBT4U@CALPERS.CA.GOV
The CalPERS Health Benefits Program is governed by the Public Employees’ Medical and Hospital Care Act (PEMHCA) of the California Public Employees’ Retirement Law (G.C. sections 22750 and 22777). The program was established in 1962 to purchase health care for employees of the State of California, including the California State University System (CSU). In 1976, legislation was passed to allow other public employers, such as cities, counties, and school districts, to join the program. Currently, CalPERS provides health benefits to over 1.3 million covered lives.

State, CSU, and contracting Public Agencies must offer all eligible active and retired employees an opportunity to enroll in a CalPERS health plan of their choice. All employers are required by statute to contribute towards the cost of the health plan premium. Premiums and health plan benefits are approved annually by the CalPERS Board of Administration.

The CalPERS Health Benefits Program offers a choice of health plans to provide Basic coverage to active employees and Supplement to Medicare and Managed Medicare coverage for retired members. Eligible enrollees can choose between a variety of Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs), Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs), and employee association plans.

**HMOs**

CalPERS offers several HMOs, each serving specific geographic areas. Except for out-of-area emergencies, HMO members receive all their care from HMO doctors with a small co-payment for most services and supplies.

**PPOs**

CalPERS offers three self-funded PPO plans – PERSCare, PERS Choice and PERS Select. PERS Select is available in all California counties except: Alameda, Marin, Placer, and Solano. Members must reside or work in one of the 54 counties in which PERS Select is available to enroll in the plan. PERSCare and PERS Choice offer a PPO network through Blue Cross of California, with nationwide affiliations. PERSCare and PERS Choice offers out-of-area and worldwide coverage.

**Employee Association Plans**

CalPERS offers employee association health plans. An enrollee must belong to the specific employee association and pay applicable dues to enroll in one of these plans.

For further information on the CalPERS Health Benefits Program, you may contact the CalPERS Customer Contact Center at **888 CalPERS** (or 888-225-7377) or visit the CalPERS Website at [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov)
The CalPERS Long-Term Care Program offers long-term care benefits as an option to members. It is not an employer-paid benefit and is entirely funded by member premiums and investment of those premiums.

The Program is available to all current California public employees, retirees, their spouses, parents, parents-in-law; adult children and adult siblings between the ages of 18 and 79 are eligible to apply for coverage. Eligible public employees include, but are not limited to, those employed by the State of California and all State departments, state Assembly and Senate, judicial systems, school districts, cities, counties, special districts, public universities and community colleges.

The Long-Term Care Program is accepting applications. Please select the previous link or call 1-800-982-1775 for more information.