# New CalPERS Website Will Launch This Summer

Stay tuned. We are getting ready to launch a new CalPERS website this summer, making it easier to access the information you need quickly and easily.

A team of experts from multiple areas within CalPERS has met with more than 1,000 members and employers, and conducted dozens of focus groups in order to determine what information you want most and how best to deliver it. With the results of our research, we are building our new website from the ground up. As new sections are designed, we are conducting more tests to make sure our site, its content, and the navigation are easy to use and provides the information you want in your preferred format.

Our new website also incorporates responsive design, making it easier to access our site on mobile devices. As the primary channel for CalPERS information, it is extremely important that the site is user-friendly and serves the needs of our members. Our existing CalPERS website sees more than 10,000 users a day and serves 1.7 million members, retirees, and their families as well as more than 3,000 employers.

We continue to design and refine the new website in hopes of delivering a newer, more responsive user experience for you this summer, whether you’re visiting us from home, work, or on the move.

## Our new site will feature:
- A clean design with simplified navigation
- Quick access to important information
- Improved search capabilities via Google Search
- Multiple pathways to the tasks you use most
- A new life events area focusing on what your employees need to know during different stages of their careers
Time for Spring Cleaning

It’s the perfect time of year to purge any old, inaccurate documents and to make sure we have your most current information too.

Update your system contacts
With spring fast approaching, you should consider cleaning up and organizing your myCalPERS system contacts. We are specifically talking about those employees who have been added to our myCalPERS system as contacts on behalf of your organization. We are also talking about employees who have been added to myCalPERS with specific access roles.

Over the years, some of these employees may have changed roles or vacated their positions. To enable the best customer service from CalPERS, we always suggest keeping accurate myCalPERS contact information. If an employee wears multiple hats, such as payroll and human resources, they should have two contact types within the system. If an employee leaves the organization, their contact information and access should be disabled. Details about how to add, disable, or modify contact information are available at www.calpers.ca.gov.

Purge those old member publications
The following CalPERS member publications have been revised and are now available to you:

Pub 1 - Planning Your Service Retirement
Pub 2 - School Benefits
Pub 6 - State Miscellaneous & Industrial Benefits
Pub 7 - State Safety Benefits
Pub 8 - Local Miscellaneous Benefits
Pub 9 - Local Safety Benefits

These new versions contain various typographical edits, as well as an update of the retirement benefit limit cap and a new section on benefit forfeiture. Retirement option language was also deleted and now refers your employees to Pub 1 for that information.

Please destroy any previous versions of these publications. The new versions are dated January 2015 and they are available on the Forms & Publications Center at www.calpers.ca.gov.
my|CalPERS Employer Resources Help You Get Down to Business

my|CalPERS is your gateway to conducting business electronically with CalPERS, and we are dedicated to helping you use it.

The following list includes several important user features and support functions that you can take advantage of to get the most out of your my|CalPERS experience:

- **my|CalPERS Important Updates**
  Be informed of the latest my|CalPERS updates, user information, and status reports.

- **my|CalPERS Employer Reports Status**
  Check the current status and user access information regarding Cognos reports.

- **Technical Resources**
  Access the technical resources needed to help you transition to my|CalPERS. Here you will find the technical toolkit, data element definitions, and more.

- **Training & Education**
  We have developed a number of training opportunities to help you use my|CalPERS. Find out about the training and access valuable educational materials.

- **Resources for Employers**
  Access valuable educational materials that will help you use my|CalPERS.

Resources include our Get Ready Overview, Glossary of Terms, and FAQs.

- **System Access Administration**
  Find out how to designate your agency’s system access administrator, who is responsible for providing my|CalPERS access to all administrative users in your organization.

As a reminder, you and your employees can use my|CalPERS to:

- View your contact information.
- Select mailing preferences for your statements and newsletters.
- Confirm which dependents are covered on your health plan and what health plans are available in your area.
- Register for online and instructor-led classes.
- Schedule personal appointments at one of our eight Regional Offices throughout the state.
- Send and receive secure messages.
- Order and download publications.
- Send account information to third parties, such as banks.
- Search for medical premium rates.

Active employees can:

- View Annual Member Statements.
- Estimate future retirement benefits and save to view at a later date.
- Apply for service retirement and submit online or save and print.

Retired employees can:

- View tax statements and benefit statements.
- Make Open Enrollment health plan changes.
- Change health dependents.
- Add and modify payment options.
- Update your contact information.
- Update federal or California state tax withholding amounts, and more.

Find out more about my|CalPERS resources and support on our website at [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov).
Optional Member Rules to Know

Make Sure You’re Up-to-Speed on Optional Member Needs

The California Public Employees’ Retirement Law (PERL) provides “optional” membership rights for certain public officers and employees such as city council members, county board of supervisors, legislative employees, and persons directly appointed by the Governor. Optional members are defined in Government Code sections 20320–20325 of the PERL. Those eligible optional members are excluded from membership unless and until a written election for membership is filed with CalPERS.

Optional members must make their election in writing by submitting a signed optional member election form to CalPERS. It is very important that your agency offers optional members the election document at the date of appointment. Your agency must retain the signed election form for your records, and a copy of the signed election form must be submitted to CalPERS in a timely manner.

There are four categories of optional membership: legislative employees, state appointees, elective officers, and part-time employees. Optional members may elect membership at any time while in the eligible position, but the membership is established on a prospective basis. The membership effective date should correspond to the signature date provided on the election form. If the optional member changes optional positions, a new election is required.

If the member decides to make an election into CalPERS membership at a later date, the member may request to purchase the service prior to the membership date. For example, if the member elects CalPERS membership two years after entering into the optional member position, all the time prior to the CalPERS membership date represents optional member service that may be purchased at the expense of the member.

Information for state agency employers is available in the State Reference Guide, Chapter: General Membership Information, Section: “Optional” Members of CalPERS.

Public agencies and schools, please view the Public Agency and School Reference Guide.

For more information regarding optional membership and to download the optional member election forms, visit the Forms & Publications Center on our website at www.calpers.ca.gov.

Please submit the optional member election form to the Membership Management Section at time of enrollment, and when prompted you can upload the election document directly into myCalPERS. If you have additional questions, you may call our Customer Contact Center at 888 CalPERS (or 888-225-7377).

Welcome New CalPERS Retirement and CERBT Fund Agencies

We welcome the following employers who began new contracts for the CalPERS Retirement Program and the California Employers’ Retiree Benefit Trust (CERBT) Fund during the past quarter:

CalPERS Retirement Program Contract Agencies
- Humboldt Bay Fire Joint Powers Authority

CERBT Contract Agencies
- Lafayette School District
- Santa Clara County Superior Court
- Orinda Union School District

The California Employers’ Retiree Benefit Trust 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.
Share the Facts on CalPERS Long-Term Care

Separate Long-Term Care Tales from Truth

Some of your employees likely have misconceptions about long-term care – how it works, who needs it, and what it costs. A CalPERS video, “Myth versus Fact,” may be the perfect way to educate your employees about long-term care. The video, available on the home page of the CalPERS Long-Term Care website at www.calperslongtermcare.com, tackles misconceptions and provides clarification on four commonly held myths about long-term care.

Let’s explore each of these four myths individually:

"I won’t need long-term care..."
A federal study found that 70 percent of people aged 65 and older will require long-term care at some point. Aging is commonly associated with the need for long-term care, but younger people may need these services as a result of injury, disease, or disability.

"Coverage is too expensive..."
The average daily cost of residence in a California skilled nursing facility is about $260 per day. At more than $7,800 per month, this is a cost 64 percent of Californians over age 40 say they could not afford for more than three months. And the cost could rise over time due to inflation.

"My health insurance will pay for it..."
Long-term care services typically are not covered by health insurance, Medi-Cal, or Medicare, or will only provide coverage when certain prerequisites are met, including spending down financial assets. Most people don’t want to do this since it can reduce resources for other family members.

"My family will take care of me..."
Even the most dedicated spouse, child, sibling, or close friend may not be able to take care of someone 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for an extended period of time. Additionally, solely relying on loved ones may make you feel like a burden.

If you or your benefits staff have questions or need assistance with this video or would like additional information, please contact CalPERS Long-Term Care through our dedicated employer customer service team at (800) 845-8427.

CalPERS Board of Administration Update

The CalPERS Board of Administration recently elected leadership positions for its 2015 committees. They include:

**Investment Committee**
Henry Jones, Chair
Bill Slaton, Vice Chair

**Pension & Health Benefits Committee**
Priya Mathur, Chair
Michael Bilbrey, Vice Chair

**Finance & Administration Committee**
Richard Costigan, Chair
Dana Hollinger, Vice Chair

**Board Governance Committee**
Bill Slaton, Chair
Richard Costigan, Vice Chair

**Performance, Compensation & Talent Management Committee**
Michael Bilbrey, Chair
Priya Mathur, Vice Chair

**Risk & Audit Committee**
Ron Lind, Chair
JJ Jelincic, Vice Chair

Learn more about the CalPERS Board and its duties by visiting our website at [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov) and selecting About CalPERS, then Board of Administration.
CalPERS Benefits Education Events

CalPERS Benefits Education Events are designed for employees at all stages of their careers. These events provide valuable information about benefits and services relevant for our varied generations of CalPERS members of all types, whether newly hired, mid-career, or planning to retire relatively soon.

CalPERS program area experts will offer your employees information on supplemental savings plans, service credit, long-term care, retirement and health benefits, social media, and more. Representatives from CalPERS Regional Offices will also be available to answer questions.

Be sure to take advantage of our Event Promotion Kit, which contains online promotional tools such as banner ads and hyperlink buttons to help you raise awareness of these valuable opportunities for your employees. More details about the CalPERS Benefits Education Events are available at [www.calpers.ca.gov/benefitseducationevents](http://www.calpers.ca.gov/benefitseducationevents).

Upcoming Dates & Locations

May 8 & 9
Doyletree San Diego/Mission Valley
7450 Hazard Center Drive
San Diego, CA 92108

June 5 & 6
Hilton Pasadena
168 South Los Robles Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101

June 12 & 13
Sofitel San Francisco Bay
223 Twin Dolphin Drive
Redwood City, CA 94065

Parent-Child Relationship Criteria Clarified

Over the past year, CalPERS staff met with employers and stakeholders up and down the state to talk about CalPERS’ Health Benefits Program. Many of you expressed a desire for us to provide more defined guidelines related to health enrollment and eligibility standards for the Parent-Child Relationship (PCR). Recent changes to section 599.500(o) of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) clarify the PCR guidelines, which are now in effect.

What This Means
State and contracting agency employers and their health benefit officers (HBOs) who process PCR health enrollments and recertification must now require subscribers to submit specific supporting documentation upon each new PCR enrollment and annual recertification. These documents must accompany the Affidavit of Parent-Child Relationship affidavit form. Subscribers who fail to satisfy these requirements will not be allowed to enroll or re-certify a PCR dependent in a CalPERS health plan.

What’s Changed?
To be consistent with the regulatory language, we have modified the affidavit for improved clarity and consistency. The affidavit must now be signed by the subscriber, the HBO, and the HBO’s manager. The first page clearly specifies the types of documents (based on the child’s age) that the HBO must require and review for PCR dependent eligibility before enrolling or recertifying the PCR dependent. These include, but are not limited to:

- A copy of the most recently filed income tax return listing the child as a tax dependent
- Current legal document(s) confirming custody/guardianship of the child
- Documents that prove the child’s financial dependence upon the subscriber for more than 50 percent of annual support

The revised affidavit form will be available for employers and subscribers to download from the CalPERS website beginning in May 2015.

What You Can Do
As employers, you can have your HBOs review the regulatory changes and the revised affidavit form and relevant form completion instructions. You may also let HBOs know that reference documents are available on our website.

Subscribers with existing PCR dependents are receiving advance notice to prepare for these new requirements, but you may also want to communicate with your employees directly about these changes so they know what to expect when they add or recertify a PCR dependent.

For more information, including frequently asked questions about the revised PCR Regulations, visit the Health Benefits Program or the Employer Information section of our website at [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov).
## Employer Education & Events

CalPERS offers educational workshops to assist you in meeting retirement program requirements. Visit our website at [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov).

### April - June 2015

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<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>April</td>
<td>CalPERS Board of Administration Meetings</td>
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<td>Walnut Creek Regional Office</td>
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<td>8-9</td>
<td>CalPERS Benefits Education Event</td>
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<td>44933 Fern Ave., First Floor Parks, Large Conference Room, Lancaster</td>
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<td>500 North State College Blvd., Ste. 750, Orange</td>
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<td>Disability Retirement Workshop</td>
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my|CalPERS Marketing Kit

Use the my|CalPERS marketing kit to educate your employees about member self-service features.

www.calpers.ca.gov/mycalperskit