

Retiree NEWSLETTER

DELAWARE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

FEBRUARY 2025



STATE OF DELAWARE OFFICE OF PENSIONS

McARDLE BUILDING • Ste. #1
860 SILVER LAKE BOULEVARD
DOVER, DE 19904

TOLL FREE LONG DISTANCE
(800) 722-7300

TELEPHONE
(302) 739-4208

FAX NUMBER
(302) 739-6129

E-MAIL ADDRESS
pensionoffice@delaware.gov

WEB ADDRESS
www.DelawarePensions.com



Retiree Mailings



1099's and W-2's were mailed to retirees and beneficiaries at the end of January 2025, for anyone who received a payment from the Office of Pensions in 2024. The type of form you receive depends on the pension plan you are enrolled in, and the type of payment received. Some pensioners may receive more than one tax document if they are also a survivor or beneficiary of a deceased member.

For any re-printing needs or to view your documents online, go to my.delaware.gov. Your Retiree Member Login (on the right-hand side of the State of Delaware Office of Pensions main page, www.delawarepensions.com) takes you there, as well.

Retiree Annual Statements were also mailed at the end of January.

If you have not registered for access to the State of Delaware's secure online self-service portal – "My.Delaware.Gov" go to the website below and follow the instructions to register.

[Office of Pensions - State of Delaware - Retiree Self Service Login](#)

2025 UPCOMING STATE HOLIDAYS

The Office of Pensions will be closed on the following State holidays:

Good Friday

Friday, April 18, 2025

Memorial Day

Monday, May 26, 2025

Juneteenth

Thursday, June 19, 2025

Independence Day

Friday, July 4, 2025

Labor Day

Monday, September 1, 2025

Veterans Day

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 27, 2025

Day After Thanksgiving

Friday, November 28, 2025

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25, 2025

An Overview of Delaware Public Employees' Retirement System's (DPERS) Financial Reporting and Investment Performance for Fiscal Year 2024

The Delaware Public Employees' Retirement System (DPERS) provides a **defined benefit pension plan**, ensuring that your pension benefits are based on your compensation and service history, rather than being directly influenced by individual investment returns. Here are key highlights about the system's performance and security:

Key Points About Your Pension:

1. Defined Benefit Plan:

- o Your pension is calculated based on your salary and years of service.
- o It is not subject to fluctuations in individual investment returns, providing financial stability in retirement.

2. DPERS Stability:

- o The DPERS system remains financially robust, securing your pension benefits for the future.

3. Investment Performance:

- o DPERS has demonstrated **strong investment performance** over both medium- and long-term periods. For the five-year period ending June 30, 2024, DPERS ranks in the **first quartile** within the Investment Metrics large public plan universe, signifying top-tier performance compared to peers. This reflects that DPERS has excelled in recent investment strategies.
- o For the ten-year period ending June 30, 2024, DPERS ranks in the **second quartile**, maintaining solid long-term investment performance among large public funds. This demonstrates consistent strength and reliability in the system's long-term investment approach.

4. Investment Strategy:

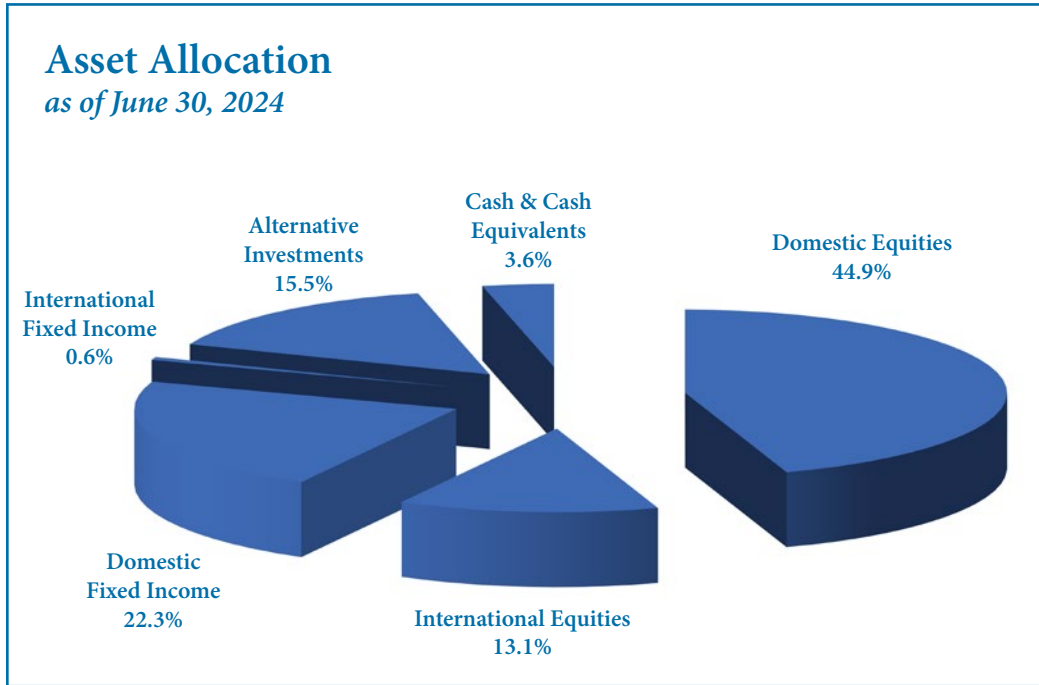
- o DPERS employs well-established investment principles and risk management practices.
- o These strategies prioritize long-term stability and consistent returns to maintain the health of the pension fund.

What This Means for You:

- Your pension benefits are secure, thanks to a sound funding and investment strategy.
- DPERS remains committed to careful management to ensure the long-term sustainability of the system.

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Funding Status

A pension plan is well funded when it has sufficient assets invested to meet all expected future obligations to participants. The funded ratio measures financial health, representing the proportion of assets to net pension liability. Higher funded ratios indicate better funding levels. Seven of the plans/funds included in the DPERS system – the State Employees’, New State Police, Judiciary, County & Municipal Police & Firefighters’ Plan, County & Municipal Other Employees’ Plan, Closed Diamond State Port Corporation, and Special Fund – have funded ratios greater than or equal to 88% of the net pension liability. The Delaware Volunteer Firemen’s plan is making annual contributions at the actuarially determined rate to reach full funding and the Closed State Police Pension Plan remains a pay-as-you-go plan. DPERS’ proactive management and strong funding for the majority of its plans reflect a commitment to meeting participant obligations and maintaining system sustainability.

Financial Reporting

The DPERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 28th consecutive year. This award is granted to government units with easily read and efficiently organized annual reports. In addition, the Public Pension Coordinating Council (PPCC) granted DPERS the Public Pension Standards Award for the 21st consecutive year.

2025 PAYMENT DATES FOR PENSIONERS

Tuesday,
February 28, 2025

Monday,
March 31, 2025

Wednesday,
April 30, 2025

Friday,
May 30, 2025

Monday,
June 30, 2025

Thursday,
July 31, 2025

Friday,
August 29, 2025

Tuesday,
September 30, 2025

Friday,
October 31, 2025

Wednesday,
November 26, 2025

Wednesday,
December 24, 2025



**OFFICE OF
PENSIONS
ANONYMOUS
FRAUD REPORTING**

Online:

www.lighthouse-services.com/dpers

Hotline:

(833) 590-0005

Email:

reports@lighthouse-services.com
(Must include DPERS
in Message)

Fax:

(215) 689-3885
(Must include DPERS
in fax document)



Go to Google Play or the Apple Store and get the new DPERS app. There is Plan Information, Notifications, and even a Count Down to Retirement. Scan the QR Code to the right to get the app.



Tips to Protect Your Personal Information



**Protect Yourself and Your Community
Against Fraud and Abuse**

It's no secret that fraud seems to be increasing across the country. Fraud is becoming more sophisticated and scams are harder to identify. It's important to be diligent in protecting yourself and others against fraud and reporting it immediately if you suspect that you may have fallen victim to it. Below are a few tips and tricks to stop fraud in its tracks.

- ✘ Do not accept calls from unknown callers and do not give your Social Security Number, Bank Information, or Insurance information to anyone if you are not 100% sure of their identity. If you are unsure of their identity, hang up, avoid providing sensitive information, and call back using a verified number from the institution's website or other official correspondence to confirm the legitimacy of the call.
- ✘ Do not open any links sent to you via email or text if you are not 100% sure of the legitimacy. These links can install malware on your devices or ask you to put in sensitive information in an attempt to access your information. If unsure of the legitimacy, call a verified number of the institution.
- Social Security and Medicare will never call, text, or email you requesting your Medicare or Social Security number.
- Your bank will never call, text, or email you requesting your banking information.
- The Office of Pensions will always call you from (302)739-4208 and should only request your Social Security Number if you call us first and do not have your Pension ID number. All official mail from our office will be delivered on Pension Office letterhead or contain our seal. All emails from our office will have an email address ending in @delaware.gov.

Here are a few resources if you or someone you know has been impacted by fraud:

• **Delaware Resources:**

- ◆ Contact the Delaware Senior Medicare Patrol Program for the information you need when you suspect fraud, waste, or abuse of the Medicare program.
 - 302-255-9510 (New Castle County)
 - 302-424-8654 (Kent/Sussex Counties)
 - <https://smp.dhss.delaware.gov/report/>

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- ◆ Contact Delaware’s Adult Protective Services if you suspect a senior citizen is a victim of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation.
 - 1-800-223-9074
 - <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dsaapd/aps.html>
- **National Resources:**
 - ◆ Contact the National Elder Fraud Hotline to report fraud against anyone age 60 or older to the U.S Department of Justice.
 - 833-372-8311
 - <https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/stop-elder-fraud>
 - ◆ Contact the Social Security Administration to report suspected fraud related to your Social Security benefits or Medicare.
 - 1-800-772-1213
 - <https://secure.ssa.gov/oig/scam/>



Keeping Your Address Updated

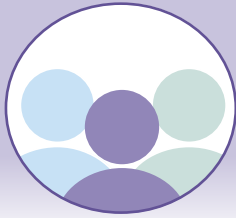


Not having an updated address with our office could jeopardize receiving future monthly pension benefits in a timely manner.

As a pensioner, it’s important to keep your address updated with the Office of Pensions. Why is this so important? Primarily because not having an updated address with our office could jeopardize receiving future monthly pension benefits in a timely manner. We receive thousands of pieces of returned mail between February and June to include Retiree Annual Statements, Tax Forms, Open Enrollment Documents, etc. When we receive two pieces of returned mail and we cannot contact you via phone or email, we automatically hold your pension check until we can confirm and/or get a signed change of address to protect you. We don’t want your pension check or other information relating to your pension benefits falling into the wrong hands. Please understand we cannot change addresses over the phone. All address changes must be submitted in writing and include a “live”/manual signature. You can print out a Change of Address Form on our website at delawarepensions.com then select “Retiree Forms” and “Change of Address.”

You must then mail, fax, or email the completed and signed form to the Office of Pensions.

If you are a retiree enrolled in healthcare, updating your address with our office will also update your address with your healthcare vendor (e.g. Aetna).



Community Corner

Opportunities to get connected to your community!

The Office of Pensions occasionally hosts blood drives on behalf of the Blood Bank of Delaware.

Please be on the lookout for future drives and consider supporting the Blood Bank of Delaware in the following ways:

Save lives and make a difference in your community



Top 3 ways to give:



Donate blood

There is no substitute for blood, and only eligible donors can meet the need. Every 2 seconds, someone needs blood—from newborn babies to cancer patients to accident victims. Give the right type of donation for your blood type and make an even bigger impact in the lives of hospital patients.

Schedule your donation



Make a financial gift

Can't give blood? There are other ways to help! Your financial contribution stocks the canteen with snacks, funds extra support for high school blood drives, and puts gas in the tank of the bloodmobile. Make a one-time gift or pledge ongoing support.

Make a contribution



Volunteer your time

Volunteers play a crucial role in helping save lives every day. Volunteer in a supportive, friendly environment to meet new people and attend an annual recognition event to thank you for your hard work!

Schedule your hours



888.8.BLOOD.8 • delmarvblood.org



State Office of Volunteerism

Consider partnering with the State Office of Volunteerism to help strengthen communities statewide through volunteer opportunities, community support and networking opportunities. Find out more information at volunteer.delaware.gov:

Welcome to Volunteer Delaware 50+



Volunteer Delaware 50+ is a statewide program offered through the Delaware Health & Social Services, Division of State Service Centers, State Office of Volunteerism. The mission of Volunteer Delaware 50+ is to engage persons 50 and older in volunteer service, to meet critical community needs, and provide a high quality experience that will enrich the lives of volunteers.

For more information about Volunteer Delaware 50+ in your area, visit: volunteer.delaware.gov