

If you were previously a PERA member who left public service and received a refund of your contributions, you may repay the refund plus interest to restore lost service credit. Repaying your refunded service with PERA is optional, but could result in a larger benefit with PERA.

YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO PURCHASE REFUNDED SERVICE IF:

- **Active in public service:** If you returned to a Minnesota public pension plan and earned at least six additional months of allowable service, you qualify to repay your PERA refund. If you recently returned to public service covered by PERA, you must meet the membership earnings requirement and be a PERA member.
- **Terminated public service:** If you recently terminated public service, you have six months from your termination date to repay the refund.
- **Applying for disability:** You may repay your refund within six months after the date you file your disability application or within six months after the effective date of the disability benefit, whichever is later. Any repayment of a refund must be made within six months of termination.
- **Privatization:** Members must repay all refunds, including refunded service with another Minnesota public pension plan, prior to privatization.
- **Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund (MERF):** The law doesn't allow repayment of MERF refunds.

What is the cost to repay my refund?

The purchase cost is the original refund amount plus accumulated interest, compounded annually. A refund repayment must be made in full and will include all previously forfeited service.

Example:

Let's say you took a refund of 36 months of prior PERA service. You returned to PERA-covered employment and want to repay those forfeited service credits.

The details:

- The purchase cost will be the original refund amount for the 36 months plus interest, compounded annually, from the date you received the refund to the date you make the purchase.
- PERA will send out benefit estimates (with and without the purchase) and a purchase transmittal, which will include the full purchase cost of the repayment.
- To receive credit for the purchase, you will be required to return the completed transmittal, along with full payment, to PERA

One time repayment

You may repay all of your previously refunded service in one time lump-sum payment. However, if you subsequently take a refund of the repurchased period, then that period may not be repaid again.

How do I request refund purchase information?

Visit MY PERA to receive immediate repayment information using our online retirement calculator. You may also request an estimate through MY PERA or by contacting a PERA Service Representative. PERA will mail the estimate to you.

Questions?

For more information, visit mnpera.org or contact a PERA Service Representative.



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