

Editor’s note: Provide your feedback to PERS, learn about our strategic efforts to engage members

Each year PERS surveys our members to ensure PERS customer service meets expectations. [Your feedback](#) will help us improve the services we provide as we strive to be public employees’ retirement education and planning resource.

As PERS’ new member engagement and communications director,

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE 2017 PERS MEMBER SATISFACTION SURVEY](#)

I am especially interested in learning how members currently get information about PERS and which communication channels would be most helpful to receive information from us in the future. One new effort PERS is launching this summer is **GovDelivery**, an email subscription system. You can [sign up now](#) to receive email or text message updates and be notified when we have new resources or information available tailored to your interests.

For instance, since 2015, the *Perspectives* newsletter for active members has been emailed to employers, but we haven’t been able to directly inform members when a new edition is available. Rather than members waiting to receive information in a three-times-a-year newsletter, we also recognize the need to provide better, clearer information on a consistent basis. That’s why we’ve made improvements to the PERS website (*see page 2*) and are always looking for feedback to better serve our members.

Most importantly, we want to hear from you—our members—on what you would like to see from your retirement system and how we can best inform you.

Much of this work stems from our [2015-2020 Strategic Plan](#), which includes a goal to engage mem-

bers throughout their careers so they can plan for a successful retirement. Younger public employees, like myself, see retirement as something far into the future. However, understanding the basics about PERS will give you a leg up—especially once you

run estimates to see what your OPSRP pension and Individual Account Program (IAP) benefits could provide and consider if you want to save more for retirement on your own, such as through the [Oregon Savings Growth Plan](#) for those who are eligible.

Having recently learned the basics about PERS, I understand the system is complex. We are working to create new tools and resources to better serve you. If you are planning to attend **Retirement Expo ’17** in Salem on October 12 (*more information on pages 4-5*), I will also be running a few focus groups to get member insights.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts in our [Member Satisfaction Survey](#). The survey is available online and will be live through **Thursday, August 31, 2017**.

Sincerely,

Dean Carson



Dean Carson is a Pacific Northwest native and the son of a Seattle Public Schools special education teacher. He lives in Northeast Portland with his wife and their Chilean street dog. Dean became a member of the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan after completing his six-month waiting period. Starting in June, 6 percent of his salary began going into his IAP. If he works for at least 600 hours in five calendar years, he will become vested in the OPSRP pension program, meaning he will not lose his right to his retirement benefit—a lifetime monthly benefit for eligible employees—unless he withdraws from the program.

Tell us what you think

What would you like *Perspectives* to cover or feature? If you have suggestions for future issues, please include specific feedback when filling out the Member Satisfaction Survey, or send an email to editor@pers.state.or.us.

In This Issue

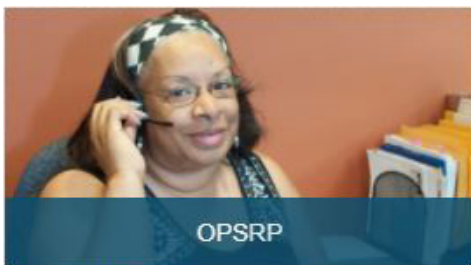
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Get to know the member section of the PERS website

From the PERS homepage, clicking on “[Active/Inactive Member Information](#)” will take you to the section of the website that has the most relevant information for you as an active PERS member.

Whether your retirement is a long way off or just a few years away, it is important to understand the basics about your retirement plan—such as you have **both** a pension and an account-based benefit (the Individual Account Program)—so you can make informed retirement decisions throughout your career. While our Member Services team is happy to answer any questions about your PERS retirement benefits, the PERS website contains a number of self-service features and information.

Here is a summary of what you will find on the **member page**:



Understand the [steps to retire](#), including information about retirement age eligibility and the Retirement Application.

The [OPSRP Pension Program and IAP Pre-Retirement Guide](#) includes comprehensive information about the plan.

When you are within 90 days of retirement, you can attend a Retirement Application Assistance Session (RAAS) with a PERS staff member to have your retirement application reviewed and notarized at no cost. [Click this link](#) to find sessions around the state.

A [searchable, A-Z guide and glossary](#) that provides general information about PERS, OPSRP, and the IAP.

Use [Online Member Services \(OMS\)](#) to create a benefit estimate for your OPSRP pension for a future retirement date. You can also request a [written estimate](#) when you are within two years of retirement eligibility. An estimate from PERS does not include your Individual Account Program (IAP) balance or information, but you can find that at [IAP.voya.com](#). You can also use PERS' [IAP Disbursement Forecaster](#) to estimate your IAP retirement distribution.

Retirement-related and other [forms](#) for OPSRP members.

PERS offers [group education sessions](#) around the state for members at any stage in their careers. The sessions provide information on membership, benefits, and retirement. There are some sessions that include financial planning information.

Get the [basics](#) about the OPSRP pension program and the IAP, including how your benefit will be calculated.

Through [Online Member Services \(OMS\)](#), you can also review your employment and PERS membership information and make sure you have received the right amount of service credit for the years you have worked for PERS-covered employer(s), generate estimates for future retirement dates, and get other account information and forms.



From any main page, navigate to “OMS Login,” and click the green “OMS Login” button to reach OMS.

The page “[What Can I Do In OMS?](#)” (the Q&A for active members is reproduced on the left side of this page) includes further information.

- [Generate a Benefit Estimate](#)
- [See Employment History](#)
- [View Contributions for this Year](#)
- [View Information Used in Annual Statement](#)
- [View Salary Details](#)
- [View Service Credit](#)

It is important that PERS always has your up-to-date, accurate information so we can send annual member statements to you throughout your career and accurately calculate your benefit when you retire.

Remember your employer(s) are responsible for updating any personal information (name, address, or date of birth), and you are responsible for informing them of any changes. You can update your personal email address directly in OMS.

Investment news from the Oregon State Treasury

The following article was submitted on behalf of the Oregon State Treasury

To help pay for the retirement benefits of more than 347,000 public sector workers, retirees, and their beneficiaries, the Oregon State Treasury manages a complex global portfolio of assets on their behalf, with a goal of achieving long-term, sustainable investment returns. Now there's a new way to learn how investments in the Oregon Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERS fund) are faring.

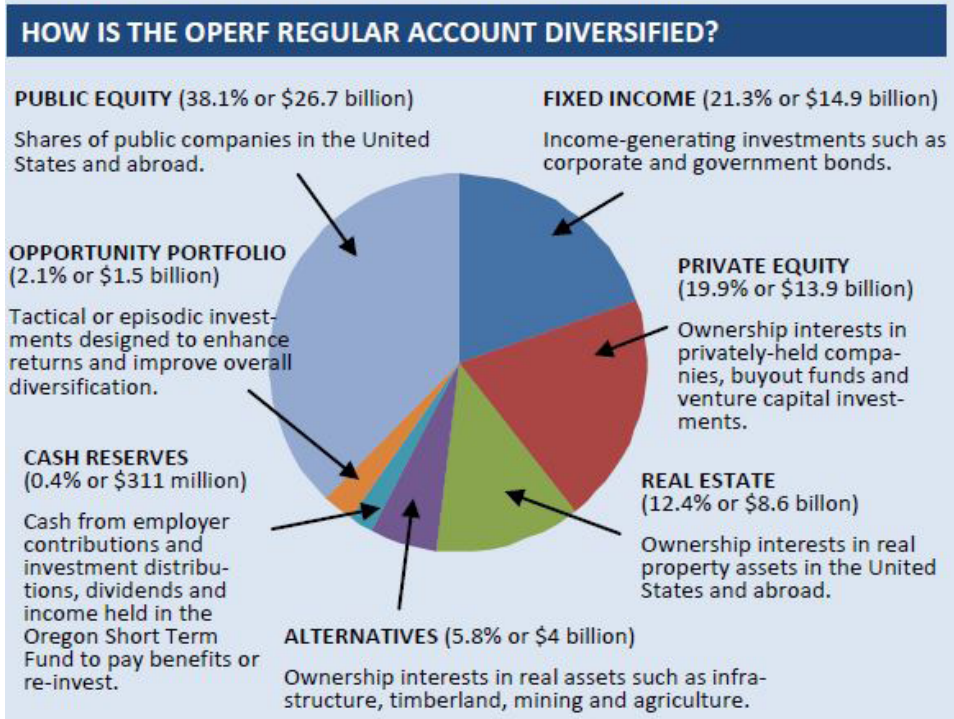
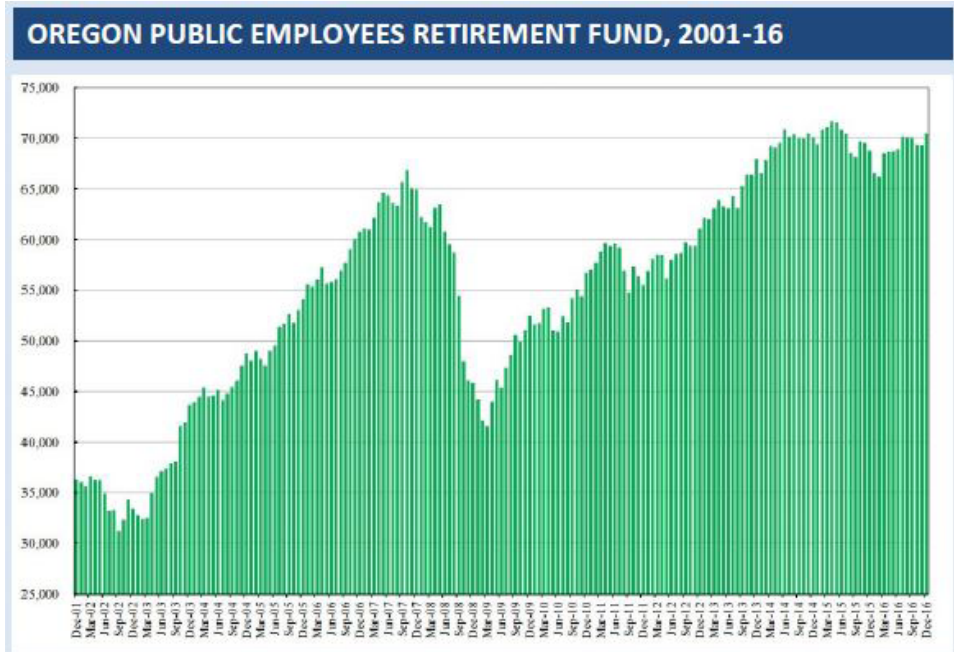
How much money are we talking about? The PERS fund was valued at more than \$73 billion as of May 2017.

So how are the investments doing? Treasury has created a newsletter geared specifically to PERS members and beneficiaries to offer a clearer view of how the portfolio is diversified and performing. Called "[Invested for You](#)," it can be accessed or downloaded from the newsroom section of the Oregon State Treasury website at <http://oregon.gov/Treasury>.

Under state law, the PERS fund must be invested for the exclusive benefit of members and their beneficiaries. That means, for instance, that lawmakers cannot divert parts of the PERS fund for other projects.

The performance of Oregon trust funds is important to the state, and it also impacts PERS members and their beneficiaries: 73.5 cents of every dollar of a retirement benefit comes from investment returns on the PERS fund.

The "Invested for You" newsletter will be produced twice yearly and



A snapshot of year-end 2016 returns from the Oregon State Treasury's "Invested for You" newsletter.

includes a synopsis of portfolio performance.

Over time it will also give readers an opportunity to learn about investment staff and members of the Oregon Investment Council, who decide how the fund should be invested. You'll also learn more

about Treasury's corporate governance program, which engages with companies and regulators to solidify market conditions, investor rights, and long-term shareholder value.

- James Sinks, Oregon State Treasury

Retirement Expo '17

Presented by PERS and OSGP



National Retirement Security Week | October 15-21, 2017

Salem Convention Center - October 12, 2017 | Statewide - October 14-20, 2017



You're invited!



Register now at
growyourtomorrow.com

PERS and OSGP will host their 12th annual open house on **Thursday, October 12** from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Salem Convention Center. State and local government employees are welcome.

Topics at this year's Expo will include:

- Introduction to OSGP
- Retirement Strategies with OSGP
- Ask Kathy
- Social Security Programs: What You Need to Know
- Building Financial Resiliency in Retirement
- PERS Health Insurance Program
- Tier One & Tier Two: From Membership to Retirement
- OPSRP: From Membership to Retirement
- PERS Informational Resources
- PERS Member Engagement Focus Group
- Retirement Discussion Panel

Please visit growyourtomorrow.com to join us. We look forward to seeing you there. Do something good for yourself and plan on attending.



Better TOGETHER.



The Expo is also hitting the road to show the many ways that PERS and OSGP can help you retire with confidence. Register at growyourtomorrow.com to join us at one of the following locations. Space is limited, so register to reserve a seat at any of the hour-long sessions:

PERS Overview for all PERS

Members - 12:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Introduction to OSGP - 1:15 p.m., 3:45 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

October 14, 2017 Portland

October 17, 2017 Ontario

October 17, 2017 Medford

October 17, 2017 Coos Bay

October 18, 2017 La Grande

October 18, 2017 Klamath Falls

October 18, 2017 Roseburg

October 19, 2017 Pendleton

October 19, 2017 Bend

October 19, 2017 Eugene

October 20, 2017 Hermiston

October 20, 2017 Albany

**Retire with
Confidence**

Education Presentations

PERS offers education sessions for OPSRP members at any stage of their careers. Education sessions are held around the state.

All About OPSRP

This presentation is ideal for members at any stage of their careers who began their PERS-covered careers after August 28, 2003. Topics include membership and vesting requirements, information regarding Online Member Services (OMS) and estimates, retirement eligibility, detailed information about the Individual Account Program (IAP), and member resources.

All About OPSRP with Financial Planning

Some education sessions add financial planning information supplied by our education partner, VALIC. Additional topics covered at these sessions include:

- Social Security and Medicare,
- coordinating PERS benefits with other income sources, and
- planning for changing income and expense needs.

Registration is required. Register through the PERS website in the [Education Sessions](#) section. All presentations are free, including the financial planning sessions. Space is limited, and the schedule is subject to change.

Retirement Application Assistance Sessions (RAAS)

These are one-hour, one-on-one appointments with a PERS staff member to review PERS retirement application forms and are for members within 90 days of retirement who have:

1. decided on a PERS effective retirement date and
2. completed the service retirement application and are ready to have it reviewed.

You can call to request a retirement application or [download the form\(s\)](#).

PERS will:

1. conduct a comprehensive review of your retirement application, forms, and supporting documents for accuracy and completeness;
2. notarize your retirement application at no cost; and
3. explain the retirement application process.

Please note that RAAS are not counseling sessions to help you make a decision to retire. As a courtesy to others, please do not schedule more than one RAAS session. One hour is sufficient time for a comprehensive review of your retirement forms. Sign up for [2017 sessions](#) on the PERS website.

Perspectives is published by the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System for the benefit of members and employers.

Address correspondence to: **PERS, P.O. Box 23700, Tigard, OR 97281-3700.** PERS' headquarters is located at **11410 SW 68th Parkway, Tigard, Oregon, 97223.**

Phone: **888-320-7377**; TTY: **503-603-7766.** Telephone hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. PERS' website address is <http://oregon.gov/PERS>. Email PERS Member Services at: Customer-Service.PERS@state.or.us.

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