

What is IPERS?

The state's largest public retirement plan, the Iowa Legislature created IPERS in 1953 to attract and retain quality public employees, including those who teach our children, maintain our roads and parks, care for our most vulnerable residents and protect our citizens. Today, IPERS is a trust fund of more than \$40 billion that pays more than \$2 billion in annual benefits.

The Iowa Legislature and the Governor are the retirement plan's sponsors, and IPERS is the plan administrator. Federal and state laws regulate the administration of retirement plans for public employees, including IPERS. The IPERS Investment Board and the Benefits Advisory Committee provide additional oversight.

YOU'RE IN GOOD COMPANY

400,000+
MEMBERS

2,000+
EMPLOYERS



ONE IN 10
IOWANS IS AN IPERS MEMBER.

ALL MEMBERS by Status

- Active
- Retired
- Inactive vested
- Inactive nonvested
- Retired reemployed



ACTIVE MEMBERS by Major Employer Type

- Education
- County
- State
- City
- Other



IPERS is a defined benefit plan, making it different from traditional 401(k)-style plans. Defined benefit plans feature these unique qualities:

- 1** Your retirement benefit is guaranteed for life.
- 2** Your retirement benefit is based on a formula and is not dependent on the performance of the stock market.
- 3** IPERS' skilled investment team invests member and employer contributions to generate the revenue necessary to pay benefits. You don't have to make complicated investment decisions.

Still, it's important that you create a personal savings plan to supplement your IPERS retirement benefit. IPERS, your personal savings and Social Security are each important components of a financially secure retirement.

SELECT YOUR BENEFICIARY(IES)

As a new member, it's important that you designate a beneficiary. Your beneficiary is the person, people or entity that is/are eligible to receive any retirement benefits payable upon your death. It is essential that you select a beneficiary so IPERS can carry out your wishes at your death.

To designate your beneficiary(ies), complete and return the Beneficiary Designation form available at www.ipers.org or in My Account.



IPERS HAS THREE MEMBERSHIP GROUPS



Regular members:

You are a Regular member. Regular members make up 95% of IPERS' membership.



Protection Occupations and Sheriffs/Deputy Sheriffs members:

These are two smaller membership groups. Collectively, IPERS refers to these as Special Service members. These members work in public safety occupations.



The Iowa Legislature and Governor determine the employment positions that qualify for each membership group and the benefits provided. The benefits for each group are somewhat different and are fully explained in IPERS' Member Handbook. **Scan the QR code** to read IPERS' Member Handbook or visit our website at www.ipers.org/publications.

SCAN ME



MEMBERSHIP STATUSES

Status	Definition
Active member	A member who has made contributions to IPERS during the current calendar year and has not applied for a retirement benefit or a refund.
Inactive member	A member who has left IPERS-covered employment, has not made contributions during the calendar year and has not applied for a retirement benefit or a refund.
Retired member	A member who has applied for and is receiving retirement benefits.
Retired reemployed member	A member who has retired from IPERS-covered employment but has since returned to work for an IPERS-covered employer.

How the IPERS Trust Fund works

IPERS is a prefunded retirement plan. That means the money you and your employer contribute today is pooled in the IPERS Trust Fund and is invested to pay for the retirement benefit you will receive in the future. IPERS holds the investment income in the trust fund for the exclusive purpose of paying benefits to members and their beneficiaries. Investment earnings account for nearly 70% of the funds used to pay benefits. IPERS' investment staff manages the portfolio with a long-term outlook so it can weather market challenges and fluctuations.



70%

**OF IPERS' BENEFIT PAYMENTS
COME FROM INVESTMENT INCOME**

Contribution rates

IPERS members and their employers contribute money each month to the IPERS Trust Fund. Members contribute a small amount directly from their paycheck. These contributions are pooled and invested to pay for future retirement benefits.

IPERS' third-party actuary performs an annual actuarial valuation study that applies actuarial assumptions and IPERS' funding policy to determine the contribution rates for members and employers. By law, the rate for Regular members cannot increase or decrease by more than one percentage point each year. Rates for all membership groups are announced annually in the fall and take effect on July 1 of the following year.

