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Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho

First Quarter 2021

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HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR PERSI BENEFIT?

Do you understand what it means to be vested? Do you know the three factors used to determine what your PERSI benefit will be when you retire? Do you know that your benefit is based on a unique formula that is not dependent on the markets, your account balance, how much you have contributed, or how much interest you have earned?

PERSI trainers are ready to answer these questions and others you may have about your benefit. PERSI workshops are designed to help you make well-informed retirement decisions from the first day on the job all the way through retirement. Our trainers have made preparing for retirement even easier with live, secure, online workshops.

Custom-designed workshops focus on different stages of your career with a PERSI employer. You will learn how to better prepare for retirement and about your PERSI retirement benefit through our workshops.

The following workshop descriptions will help you decide which workshop is right for you:



READY workshops are for anyone just starting a career with a PERSI employer. The workshop provides a general overview of what PERSI is and the benefit provided to PERSI members.

SET workshops are for those in mid-career with a PERSI employer. SET workshops focus on how vesting changes the PERSI benefit and things to consider in planning for retirement.

GO! workshops are designed for late-career PERSI members who may be approaching or contemplating retirement.

To protect your personal information, you may obtain benefit estimates through the myPERSI portal or by calling the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or (208) 334-3365.

To schedule for a workshop, go to PERSI's website, www.persi.idaho.gov, select the "Education" tab and click "Schedule Workshops".



ADD THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO YOUR CALENDAR!





Do you have questions? Schedule a call or online visit with your local RETIREMENT Empower Retirement representative.

- Ali Belden Direct 208-345-5201 Toll-Free (844) 446-8658 Ext. 20461 ali.belden@empower-retirement.com
- Oscar Lopez Direct 208-345-1120 Toll-Free (844) 446-8658 Ext. 20431 oscar.lopez@empower-retirement.com

UNDERSTANDING MEDICARE & OTHER OPTIONS

If you are nearing age 65 and starting to think about retirement or already preparing for retirement, you may be confused about how Medicare works and the many options you have for health insurance. Idaho's Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) program can help answer your questions.

SHIBA is a part of the Idaho Department of Insurance and has three main goals:

- Help people understand Medicare how it works, the advantages and disadvantages of each option, and how to avoid costly mistakes like coverage gaps, penalties, and enrollment
- Help Idahoans find the right plan for their health, prescriptions, and individual needs.
- Provide assistance with complaints, appeals, and grievances in the event of claim denials, billing disputes, or other issues.

SHIBA counselors can help you apply for assistance to pay for prescription drug costs, learn about Medicare options if you are under age 65, and provide the most current Medicare information. SHIBA has many counseling sites throughout Idaho, and multiple Certified Medicare Counselors are available to assist beneficiaries or their caregivers. Services are free and unbiased.

To learn more about SHIBA, register for a SHIBA Medicare 101 class, or schedule an appointment with a counselor, call 1-800-247-4422.

For more information about SHIBA, visit the website at https://doi.idaho.gov/shiba/





ARE YOU READY TO RETIRE?

If you are considering retirement, please contact PERSI for a **retirement estimate** approximately 6 months before your desired retirement date. You should also contact PERSI for a **retirement paperwork packet** 60 days prior to your requested retirement date.

All retirement paperwork must be completed and returned to PERSI with supporting proofs of identity, such as a birth certificate, Social Security card, or other identification, no later than the 15th of the month prior to the date of retirement.

Your employer needs to provide PERSI with confirmation that your have or will be terminating employment. If we receive all proofs from you and the termination date from your employer by the 15th, we will have you on our payroll for the upcoming month.

If any required items are received after the 15th, your first check will be delayed until the month thereafter. Please keep in mind that September retirements are popular! Very popular! PERSI processes three times more applications for September retirements than in any other month.

PERSI is asking members who are planning an



effective retirement date of September 1, 2021, to submit their application to PERSI on or before <u>July 15, 2021.</u> PERSI cannot guarantee a retirement application will be processed in time for a September

benefit if the application is received after July 15th. For members purchasing additional service, the first benefit payment may be delayed a month or two.

Members who have questions or would like more information can call the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or 208-334-3365 from the Treasure Valley area.

PROTECT YOURSELF

REGISTER & CLAIM YOUR myPERSI ACCOUNT

PERSI strongly urges all members to register and claim their *my*PERSI account.

By doing this, you can greatly reduce the risk to your account, and stop potential fraudsters in their tracks!

Keep your account, and your personal information out of the hands of bad actors.

Learn how to register and claim your account here: https://www.persi.idaho.gov/docs/brochures/myPERSI-Registration.pdf

If you have questions, call the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or 208-334-3365 from the Treasure Valley area.



DON'T WAIT TO GET YOUR STAR CARD — IDAHO'S REAL ID

If you haven't got your Star Card-Idaho's Real ID, now's the time to get your documents in order and obtain one before the Oct. 1, 2021, deadline. Due to the pandemic, the federal deadline was extended one year.

Without a Star Card, passport, or other compliant identification, citizens won't be able to board a plane or enter a federal facility after Oct. 1, 2021.

"Preparing now is critical and will save you headaches later when you may have an important planned or unplanned trip, and you get turned

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THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



LET YOUR EMPLOYER KNOW
IF YOU HAVE A NEW MAILING ADDRESS

Updating your mailing address must be done through your employer's transmittal, not PERSI. You will need to work with your employer to ensure that your current address is being submitted to PERSI.

Employers can only update an address on their payroll transmittals, so it may take up to a month for the address to be reflected in PERSI's records. Address changes affect your Base Plan and Choice 401(k) Plan accounts simultaneously. Once the address change is processed, all statements and correspondence will be mailed to the address of record.

If you have questions, call the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or 208-334-3365 from the Treasure Valley area.

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away from boarding a plane because you don't have a compliant ID," said Division of Motor Vehicles Administrator Alberto Gonzalez.

You must obtain a Star Card in person by visiting your county driver's license office with documents that prove your identity, social security and residency. The DMV is encouraging customers not to wait until the last minute, in an effort to reduce crowds and long lines in statewide licensing offices as the deadline gets closer.

To determine which documents you need, visit itd.idaho.gov/starcard and click on the "Add the Star" tool. The public is also encouraged to call the DMV at 208-334-8736 if they have questions about the process.



UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

PERSI will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- Monday, May 31 Memorial Day
- Monday, July 5 Independence Day

If you have questions, call the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or 208-334-3365.

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www.persi.idaho.gov

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