



2022

Annual Retirement Conference

Knowing Your Resources and the Value They Bring

Presented by:

*Matt Campbell
MERS Service Center Manager*

*Angie Schrauben
MERS Benefit Education Specialist*

Agenda

- Employer Resources - MERS Website
- Reporting Portal Resources
- Onboarding and Termination Resources and Best Practices
- Employee Resources – MERS Website
- Customized Education Options
- Contacting MERS

Employer Resources - MERS Website

Locating Employer Resources

The screenshot displays the MERS (Municipal Employees' Retirement System) website. At the top, the MERS logo is on the left, and navigation links for Home, Forms, Contact Us, and Log In are on the right. A green navigation bar contains links for PARTICIPANT, RETIREE, EMPLOYER, NEWSROOM, and MERS, along with a search bar. The main content area features a large banner titled 'Helping you through MARKET VOLATILITY' with a sub-header 'Some things you should know about investing when times get tough.' and a 'Click here' link. To the right of the banner is an 'Account Access' section for Employers & Participants, including a 'LOG IN' button and links for 'Create myMERS account', 'Forgot Username?', 'Forgot Password?', and 'Need help?'. Below the banner are three circular icons representing different resources: 'CentsAbility Blog' (a circular arrow icon), 'Video Library' (a play button icon), and 'Financial Wellness' (a checklist icon). Each resource has a brief description. At the bottom, there are two yellow boxes: 'Communications Corner' with a speech bubble icon and 'Administrative & Policy Changes' with a warning triangle icon. Both boxes include links to view recent communications or changes.

MERS
Municipal Employees' Retirement System

Home Forms Contact Us Log In

PARTICIPANT RETIREE EMPLOYER NEWSROOM MERS

Search ... SEARCH

Helping you through MARKET VOLATILITY

Some things you should know about investing when times get tough.
[Click here](#)

Account Access

Employers & Participants

[LOG IN](#)

- [Create myMERS account](#)
- [Forgot Username?](#)
- [Forgot Password?](#)
- [Need help?](#)

CentsAbility Blog

Learn about topics ranging from Budgeting, Debt Management, Emergency Savings, Investments, and Retirement Planning.

Video Library

Get to know your MERS products and learn about important retirement topics with quick video tutorials.

Financial Wellness

The MERS Financial Fitness tool will help managing your day-to-day spending, controlling debt, having money set aside for an emergency, and having a financial plan for the future.

Communications Corner

View a list of recent communications sent to participants and employers.
[View Communications Sent](#)

Administrative & Policy Changes

View a list of MERS administrative & policy changes.
[View changes over time](#)

Communications Corner & Administrative and Policy Change Log



Communications Sent

MERS is committed to communicating with our participants. The MERS Communication Corner is here to help you organize that you know what was sent and any action that needs to be taken.

Please note: All mailing dates are approximate. Large mailings may be delayed from the mailing date.

eBlast – CEO News

July 22, 2022

Audience: Employers Product: All Contacts: All contacts
Annual Conference Updates and Reminders Local Unit
check out the most recent issue of Municipal Matters 3

[Read more](#)

2nd Quarter PDA Statements Available –

July 20, 2022

Audience: Employers Product: Defined Contribution, H
Program Contacts: Quarterly statement contacts Date
Defined Contribution Hybrid (DC portion), DC+, 457, H

Administrative And Policy Change Log

[All](#) [457 Program](#) [Defined Benefit Plan](#) [Defined Contribution Plan](#)
[Group Life & Disability Insurance Program](#) [Health Care Exchange](#) [Health Care Savings Program](#)
[Hybrid Plan](#) [Investment Services Program](#) [Retiree Health Funding Vehicle](#) [Stable Income Annuity](#)

Expanded Plan Close/Freeze Policies

July 13, 2022

What: The MERS Retirement Board approved plan amendments to allow new options to be made available to employers looking to close their existing 401(a) plans to new hires while freezing accrued benefits of existing employees.

Action Required: None

Key Dates: Effective immediately and as administratively feasible

Impacted Audiences: Employers offering Defined Benefit, Defined Contribution and/or Hybrid Plans

For More Information: Contact your Benefit Plan Coordinator

[Read More](#)

Enhancements to the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)

June 21, 2022

What: The MERS Retirement Board has approved an amendment that allows an employer to design a DROP that balances both the level of the participant benefit with the cost to the plan.

Action Required: None

Key Dates: Effective immediately

Corner

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nd Policy

e and policy



Zooming into
Retirement



Retiree
Connections



Employer Tab



HomeFormsContact UsLog In

PARTICIPANTRETIREEEEMPLOYERNEWSROOMMERS

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Employer

 **Programs**

- [Defined Benefit Plan](#)
- [Defined Contribution Plan](#)
- [Hybrid Plan](#)
- [457 Program](#)
- [MERS IRA](#)
- [Stable Income Annuity](#)
- [Retiree Health Funding Vehicle](#)
- [Health Care Savings Program](#)
- [Health Care Exchange](#)
- [Investment Services Program](#)
- [Group Life & Disability Insurance Program](#)

 **Role Specific Information**

- [Primary Contact](#)
- [Finance Contact](#)
- [Human Resources Contact](#)
- [Contacts with Reporting Portal Access](#)
- [Contact Management Admin](#)
- [Elected Official & Boards](#)

 **Trending Topics**

- [GovInvest Actuarial Tool](#)
- [Plan Provision Updates](#)
- [Actuarial Assumptions](#)
- [Annual Actuarial Valuations \(AAV\)](#)
- [Unfunded Liability](#)
- [Wage and Contribution Reporting](#)
- [Service Credit Purchase](#)
- [COVID-19](#)
- [Changing to MERS Defined Contribution Plan](#)
- [Fiduciary Responsibility](#)
- [GASB 68/75](#)
- [Other Post-Employment Benefits \(OPEB\)](#)
- [State-Mandated Reporting](#)

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Municipal Employees' Retirement System

Primary Contact Information

Home Forms C

[PARTICIPANT](#) [RETIREE](#) [EMPLOYER](#) [NEWSROOM](#) [MERS](#)

Home | Employer

Employer

Programs

- [Defined Benefit Plan](#)
- [Defined Contribution Plan](#)
- [Hybrid Plan](#)
- [457 Program](#)
- [MERS IRA](#)
- [Stable Income Annuity](#)
- [Retiree Health Funding Vehicle](#)
- [Health Care Savings Program](#)
- [Health Care Exchange](#)
- [Investment Services Program](#)
- [Group Life & Disability Insurance Program](#)

Role Specific Information

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- [Contacts with Reporting Portal Access](#)
- [Contact Management Admin](#)
- [Elected Official & Boards](#)

Trending Topics

Primary Contact

Primary

As your municipality's Primary Contact, you are the main point of contact for all plan administration and communication with MERS. This page provides you with important resources and information that will help you navigate your role.

As the Primary Contact, you are responsible for maintaining current employer contact information on behalf of your municipality. To learn more about how to make changes to your employer contacts, including managing their access to MERS systems and communication preferences, please review this [Employer Contact Management Guide](#). You may designate one other person at your municipality as a Contact Management Admin to share this responsibility with you.

Note: While only one person per municipality can be listed as the Primary Contact, you can now create an unlimited number of customized communication preferences and system access permissions.

Content By Role

- [Primary Contact](#)
- [Finance Contact](#)
- [Human Resources Contact](#)
- [Contact Management Admin](#)
- [Elected Official & Boards](#)

 [Contact List Request](#)

New to Your Role?

- [Who is MERS?](#)
- [Your MERS Team](#)
- [Your MERS Benefits](#)

Important Topics for Your Role

- [GASB](#)
- [Unfunded Liability](#)
- [MERS Financial Reports](#)
- [Annual Actuarial Valuations](#)
- [Other Post Employment Benefits](#)
- [Investments](#)

Other Helpful Information

- [Forms](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [MERS Legal](#)
- [Retirement Reform Updates](#)
- [MERS Retirement Board](#)

Learn by Your Role

MERS has organized helpful resources by employer role, making it easy to find just what you need

Contact Management Tool

Manage Site

Select Plan

Participant Search

Contribution Reporting

Resources

Manage Employer Contacts

Click here to sign on to Employer Contact Management >

Plan Browse

Find Plan Name:

Count Low: Count High:

Plan Status: All ▼

Services:

WELCOME TO MERS

Municipal Employees' Retirement System

Contact Management

EMPLOYER SEARCH

CONTACTS

GLOSSARY

HELP

RETURN TO EMPLOYER PORTAL

Sample City (12345)

Contacts

Add New Contact

Below you will find a list of your employer contacts and their preferences for conducting business with MERS. For each contact, you may click the dropdown arrows (▼) to view more details and click the "Edit" button to make changes.

Brenda Jones

Contact Information

MERS Roles

Has Access To:

Responds To Questions About:

Receives Communication For:

Edit

Terry Miller

Contact Information

MERS Roles

Has Access To:

Responds To Questions About:

Receives Communication For:

Edit

Bill Wallace

Contact Information

MERS Roles

Has Access To:

Responds To Questions About:

Receives Communication For:

Edit

Katherine Kelly

Contact Information

MERS Roles

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WELCOME TO MERS

Municipal Employees' Retirement System

Finance Contact Information

The screenshot displays the MERS (Municipal Employees' Retirement System) website. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Forms, Contact Us, and Log In, along with social media icons for Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube. The main menu features links for PARTICIPANT, RETIREE, EMPLOYER (highlighted), NEWSROOM, and MERS. A search bar is located on the right side of the menu.

The page is titled "Employer" and is divided into two main sections: "Programs" and "Role Specific Information".

Programs

- [Defined Benefit Plan](#)
- [Defined Contribution Plan](#)
- [Hybrid Plan](#)
- [457 Program](#)
- [MERS IRA](#)
- [Stable Income Annuity](#)
- [Retiree Health Funding Vehicle](#)
- [Health Care Savings Program](#)
- [Health Care Exchange](#)
- [Investment Services Program](#)
- [Group Life & Disability Insurance Program](#)

Role Specific Information

- [Primary Contact](#)
- [Finance Contact](#) (indicated by a red arrow)
- [Human Resources Contact](#)
- [Contacts with Reporting Portal Access](#)
- [Contact Management Admin](#)
- [Elected Official & Boards](#)

The "Finance Contact" page is shown on the right, featuring a red "Finance" ribbon icon. The page content includes:

Finance Contact

As your municipality's Finance Contact, you are the main point of contact for all financial information related to your MERS benefits.

Responsibilities in this role include:

- Receiving benefit information such as annual actuarial valuations, statements, invoices and financial reminders
- Understanding reports available to you and circulating this information with others at your municipality
- Understanding the process to remit payment to MERS for the benefits you offer
- Understanding the process of reporting employee wages, contributions, hire dates and termination dates to MERS

Note: While only one person per municipality can be listed as the Finance Contact, your municipality may have an unlimited number of General Contacts, each with customized communication preferences and system access permissions.

This page provides you with important resources and information that will help you navigate your role.

Content By Role

- [Primary Contact](#)
- [Finance Contact](#)
- [Human Resources Contact](#)
- [Contact Management Admin](#)
- [Elected Official & Boards](#)

[Contact List Request](#)

New to Your Role?

- [Who is MERS?](#)
- [Your MERS Team](#)
- [Accessing myMERS and the Employer Portal](#)

Important Topics for Your Role

- [GASB](#)
- [Unfunded Liability](#)
- [MERS Financial Reports](#)
- [Annual Actuarial Valuations \(AAV\)](#)
- [How to Read Your Statement of Fiduciary Net Position \(pdf\)](#)
- [Contribution Limits and Reporting Data \(pdf\)](#)
- [Investments](#)

Human Resources Contact Information



[Home](#) [Forms](#) [Contact Us](#) [Log In](#)

[PARTICIPANT](#) [RETIREE](#) [EMPLOYER](#) [NEWSROOM](#) [MERS](#)

Search ... [SEARCH](#)

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Employer

★ Programs

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- [Defined Contribution Plan](#)
- [Hybrid Plan](#)
- [457 Program](#)
- [MERS IRA](#)
- [Stable Income Annuity](#)
- [Retiree Health Funding Vehicle](#)
- [Health Care Savings Program](#)
- [Health Care Exchange](#)
- [Investment Services Program](#)
- [Group Life & Disability Insurance Program](#)

💬 Role Specific Information

- [Primary Contact](#)
- [Finance Contact](#)
- [Human Resources Contact](#)
- [Contacts with Reporting Portal Access](#)
- [Contact Management Admin](#)
- [Elected Official & Boards](#)

Human Resources Contact

HR

As your municipality's Human Resources Contact, you are the main point of contact for all employee relations and education needs related to your MERS benefits.

This can include:

- Scheduling onsite education for your employees
- Onboarding new hires
- Assisting employees with life events such as marriage, death or divorce and how it will affect their MERS benefit(s)
- Providing employees with benefit information as they transition out of employment at your municipality
- Working with MERS to provide financial wellness education and resources to employees
- Answering questions from MERS staff on your employees' records

Note: While only one person per municipality can be listed as the Human Resources Contact, your municipality may have an unlimited number of General Contacts, each with customized communication preferences and system access permissions.

This page provides you with important resources and information that will help you navigate your role.

Content By Role

- [Primary Contact](#)
- [Finance Contact](#)
- [Human Resources Contact](#)
- [Contact Management Admin](#)
- [Elected Official & Boards](#)

 [Contact List Request](#)

New to Your Role?

- [Who is MERS?](#)
- [Your MERS Team](#)
- [Your MERS Benefits](#)

Employee Education

- [Request Onsite Education](#)
- [Events for employees](#)
- [Video Library](#)
- [CentsAbility Blog](#)
- [Financial Wellness](#)

Onboarding New Employees

- [Enrollment Forms](#)
- New Hire Process
Go to the [administration](#) section for [your product](#) to learn more.
- New Hire Video

Retirement Process

- [Retirement Forms](#)
- [Retirement Process](#)
- [Webinars](#)

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Contacts with Reporting Portal Access

MERS
Municipal Employees' Retirement System

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PARTICIPANT RETIREE **EMPLOYER** NEWSROOM MERS

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Employer

Programs

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Role Specific Information

- [Primary Contact](#)
- [Finance Contact](#)
- [Human Resources Contact](#)
- [Contacts with Reporting Portal Access](#)
- [Contact Management Admin](#)
- [Elected Official & Boards](#)

Reporting Portal Access

Reporting

As your municipality's contact with Reporting Portal access, you have the ability to report financial and employee information to MERS through the Employer Portal.

Your responsibilities in this role may include:

- Reporting employee hire and termination dates
- Reporting employee wages and contribution
- Updating employee information as changes occur
- Submitting and retrieving files
- Receiving invoices and submitting payments
- Reporting hours worked by employees

This page provides you with important resources and information that will help you navigate the system access.

New to Your System Access?

- [Who is MERS?](#)
- [Your MERS Team](#)
- [Your MERS Benefits](#)

Resources for Your System Access

- [Employer Plan Provision Reporting](#) (DB, Hybrid, DC)
- [Wage & Contribution Reporting Information](#) (DB, DC, DC+, Hybrid, HCSP, 457)
- [Contribution Limits and Reporting Data](#) (DB, DC, HCSP, 457, IRA)
- [Employer Portal DB User Guide](#) (DB)
- [ePayment User Guide](#) (DB)
- [MERS Reporting Enhancements Overview](#) (DC, DC+, Hybrid, HCSP, 457)

Trending Topics

- [State-Mandated Reporting](#)
- [Actuarial Assumptions](#)
- [Annual Actuarial Valuations \(AAV\)](#)
- [Unfunded Liability](#)
- [Employer COVID-19](#)
- [Changing to the MERS Defined Contribution Plan](#)
- [Other Post-Employment Benefits \(OPEB\)](#)
- [GASB 68/75](#)
- [Reporting Portal Access](#)
- [Wage and Contribution Reporting](#)
- [DB - Wage and Contribution](#)
- [DC - Wages and Contributions](#)
- [Hybrid - Wage and Contribution](#)
- [HCSP - Wage and Contribution](#)
- [457 - Wage and Contribution](#)

[Contact List Request](#)

Reporting Portal Resources

Reporting



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[PARTICIPANT](#) [RETIREE](#) [EMPLOYER](#) [NEWSROOM](#) [MERS](#)

Search ...

SEARCH

Helping you through MARKET VOLATILITY



Some things you should know about
investing when times get tough.

[Click here](#)



Account Access

Employers & Participants

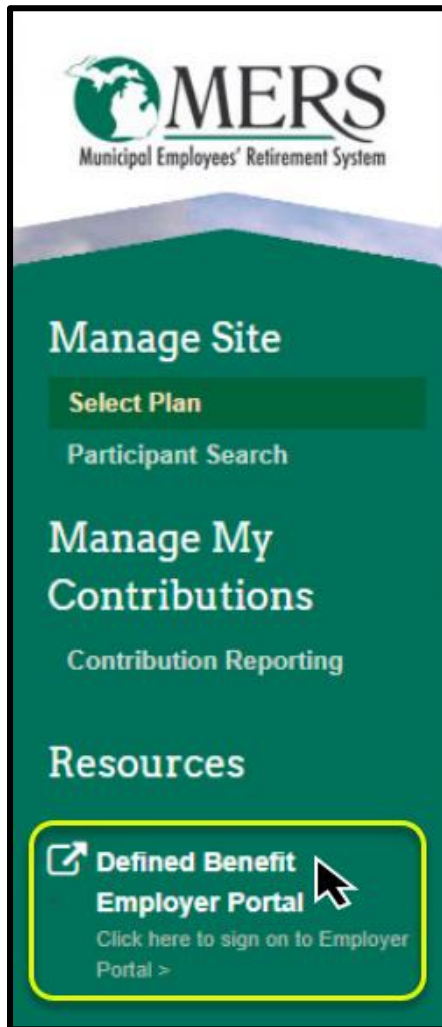
LOG IN

- [Create myMERS account](#)
- [Forgot Username?](#)
- [Forgot Password?](#)
- [Need help?](#)

Defined Benefit (DB) Reporting

Use the DB Employer Portal to:

- Add a new hire to a MERS DB (including Hybrid) Plan
- Report wages and contributions
- Upload files and documents to send to MERS
- Report voluntary contributions, corrected reports, edit demographic data for actives, transfers and other plan-related activities
- Report a terminated employee
- Download reports



Examples of Available DB Reports



- **Annual Actuarial Valuation**
 - Includes a summary of your municipality's plan provisions
- **Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) reports**
 - Provides annual employee counts and plan liabilities by division
- **Census**
 - Provides annual wage and service information for active employees, vesting and eligibility information for former employees and retirement benefit elections for your retirees/beneficiaries.
- **Annual Statements**
- **Quarterly Statements**
- **Beneficiary Report**
 - See which employees have a beneficiary on file

Participant Directed Account (PDA) Reporting

MERS
Municipal Employees' Retirement System

Manage Site

- Select Plan
- Participant Search
- Contribution Reporting

Resources

Manage Employer Contacts
Click here to sign on to Employer Contact Management >

Plan Browse

Find Plan Name:

Count Low: Count High:

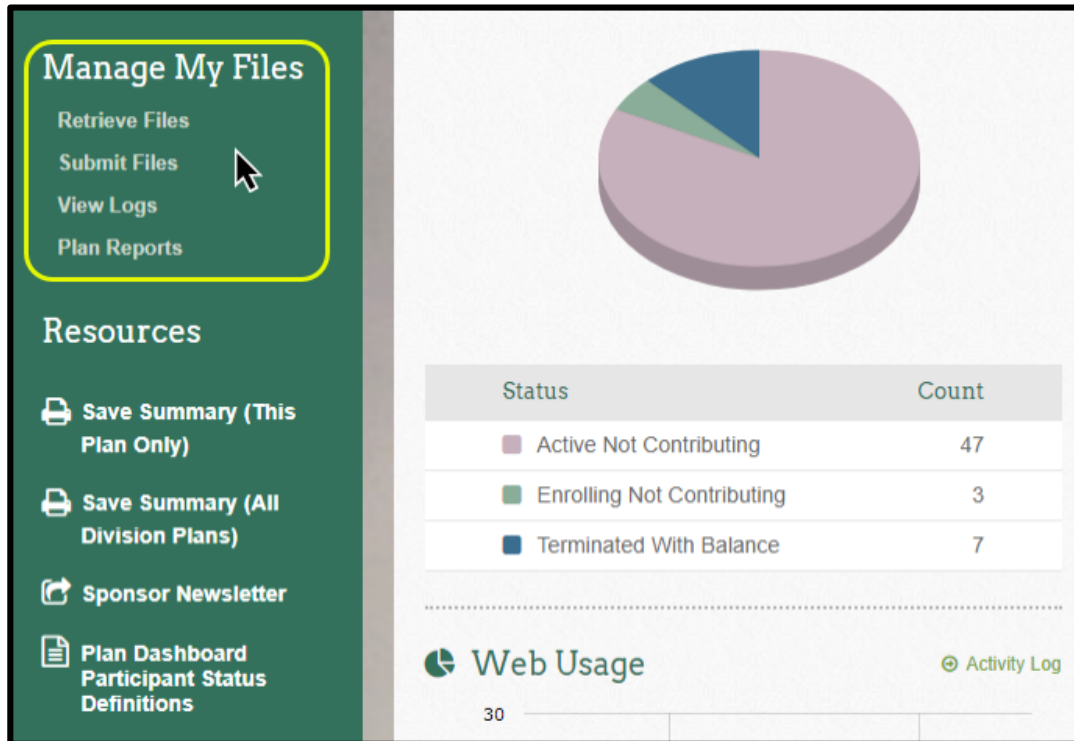
Plan Status:

Service:

Use the PDA side of the Employer Portal to:

- Add a new hire to a MERS Defined Contribution (DC) (including Hybrid) Plan, 457 Program or Health Care Savings Program
- Report wages and contributions
- Upload files and documents to send to MERS
- Transfer, add a rehired employee and other plan-related actions
- Report a terminated employee
- Request and download reports

Examples of Available PDA Benefit Reports



- **Plan Reports**
 - Various reports with information related to participant data and plan details
- **Census Reports**
- **Quarterly Statements**
- **Beneficiary Report**
 - See which employees have a beneficiary on file
- **Wage and Contribution Reports**
- **Loan Reports**

Questions on Reporting for your Plan?

Stop by the Help Desk to chat with one of our Service Center Analysts.



Patty Hollon

Service Analyst at MERS for six years

Located near the
conference
registration desk



Kelli Potter

Service Analyst at MERS for almost two
years

Onboarding & Termination Resources and Best Practices

Onboarding Process

New hires should be reported through the MERS Employer Portal as soon as possible



Welcome Letter



Subject: Welcome to Municipal Employees' Retirement System

Dear Jessica,

As a benefit of your employment with [EMPLOYER], you have recently been enrolled in the following Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Michigan (MERS) plan(s):

- **MERS Defined Benefit Plan**

The first thing you should do is set up your myMERS account at www.mersofmich.com and provide us with your beneficiary information.

It is important that you have a beneficiary on file for each of the MERS plans you are enrolled in. You can update your beneficiaries any time through myMERS.

Through the app, you can access all of your MERS plan information, add and edit beneficiary information, view investment account information and much more. To download the app, simply search for "myMERS" in your app store. Once downloaded, you can log in with the same username and password you designated when you created your account.

To help you understand your benefits and make the most of them, check out our welcome video that will walk you through your specific plans: <http://www.mersofmich.com/Participant/Life-Events/New-Participant>.

Again, we welcome you to Michigan. If you have any questions or need assistance, the MERS Service Center is available weekdays 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. by calling 800.767.6377. Additionally, you can reach us via email, live chat and Facebook Messenger or schedule an appointment to meet with a MERS representative virtually. Visit www.mersofmich.com for more details.

Sincerely,
MERS of Michigan

Leaving Employment



Always report
departing
employees to
MERS in a
timely matter!

DB Plan Communications



8/11/2022

Bonnie Williams
189 Franklin Ave.
Sample City, MI 44444

Dear Bonnie:

During a recent record review, we determined that you were enrolled in the MERS Defined Benefit Plan through your employment with Sample City. You did not meet the vesting requirement with this employer prior to terminating your employment and therefore are not eligible to receive a pension benefit. However, because you made contributions to your plan during employment, you are entitled to a refund of those contributions, or you may choose to roll them over into another qualified retirement plan.

To request a refund of your contributions, complete the enclosed *Refund Application* and return it to MERS within 30 days of the date of this letter (*allow up to 60 days to process your application from the date the form is received by MERS*). More information and submission details can be found on the form. *Please note that tax penalties may apply if you choose to take a refund of your contributions.*

If a response is not received within 60 days of the date of this letter, the remaining contributions on file will be rolled into a MERS IRA. If your intent is to rollover your contributions into a MERS IRA, we still request that you complete the enclosed Refund Application to be sure your personal information is accurate. A confirmation will be mailed to you after the rollover is processed.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact our Service Center at 800.767.MERS (6377).

Sincerely,

Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Michigan

Ref: 00389/Indiv. ID: 1234567890

MERS is committed to keeping our participants informed. Our records indicate you have a MERS retirement benefit. If you are not yet eligible, we will contact you 60-90 days prior to the date you are eligible for your first payment. If you are currently eligible and have not applied, you will continue to receive annual notifications until we receive your application for retirement.

It's important to update your account so we can keep you informed about your benefits. **Staying in touch is easy with myMERS!** Sign into your secure on-line account where you can change your personal information, calculate your estimated benefit amount and eligible retirement date, and view other resources. If you haven't registered for myMERS, visit www.mersofmich.com and sign up for free today.

Log in to myMERS to view your account and estimated benefit:

- Select the **MERS Defined Benefit Plan** option from the dropdown > click **Go**
- Select the **DB Calculator** on the left
- The calculator will default to your first eligible retirement date
- Select your beneficiary > click **Calculate** to view your estimated benefit

FORM 7611 20151003



PAYER'S name, street address, city or town, state or province, country, ZIP or foreign postal code, and telephone no.			1 Gross Distribution \$ 2,669.26		OMB No. 1545-0119 2021 Form 1099-R		Distributions From Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit-Sharing Plans, IRAs, Insurance Contracts, etc.	
CT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD 165 CAPITOL AVENUE HARTFORD, CT 06106			2a Taxable Amount \$ 2,598.54		Total distribution \$ 2,669.26		Copy B Report this income on your federal tax return. If this form shows federal income tax withheld in box 4, attach this copy to your return.	
PAYER'S TIN 060991575			3 Capital gain (included in box 2a) \$ 706.32		4 Federal income tax withheld \$ 522.00		This information is being furnished to the IRS.	
RECIPIENT'S name, address and ZIP Code or foreign postal code DUMBLEDORE ALBUS 934 KINGS CROSS RD HOGWARTS NY 13217			5 Employee contributions (Designated Roth contributions or insurance premiums) \$ 706.32		6 Net unrealized appreciation in employer's securities \$ 0.00			
RECIPIENT'S TIN 123-45-4321			7 Distribution code (S) 7		8 Other \$ 0.00			
			9a Your percentage of total distribution % %		9b Total employee contributions \$ 1,824.52			
10 Amount allocable to RIR within 5 years \$ 0.00			11 1st year of design Roth contrib. \$ 0.00		12 FATCA filing requirement 13 Date of payment 001024		14 State tax withheld \$ 0.00	
15 State/Payer's state no. CT6791610-000			16 State distribution \$ 0.00		17 Local tax withheld \$ 0.00		18 Name of locality \$ 0.00	
19 Local distribution \$ 0.00			20 Form 1099-R		21 www.irs.gov/form1099		Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service	

DC & 457 Program



Dear Fred,

Our records indicate that you are no longer active in the **MERS Defined Contribution Plan**. If you've recently separated employment with Sample City, your relationship with MERS doesn't have to end – in fact, we consider this a new beginning!

Here are the top five reasons to keep your money with MERS:

1. MERS operates on a not-for-profit basis, meaning our low cost puts more of your hard-earned money directly into your retirement account.
2. You still have access to myMERS, offering "one-stop" access to your investments and distribution requests when you move into the retirement phase of your life.
3. As a former employee of Sample City, you can open a MERS Traditional and/or Roth IRA. Rolling your existing assets into the IRA is optional, but with no annual fees, it's a smart way to keep your money invested with MERS. You may even be eligible to make ongoing contributions to the account.
4. Speaking of investments – sticking with MERS means your funds will continue to be monitored by our experienced and professional management team. As the fiduciary, we're required by law to put your interests first when making investment manager decisions, and your investment success is our number one priority.
5. We're a Michigan-based company, focusing solely on Michigan customers. Regardless of your employment status, you still have access to our Service Center and professional staff to help assist you with any questions you have as you approach retirement.

As your retirement services provider, we're here to support you in whatever the next stage of life brings. Here are some tips to consider as you continue on your journey:

- You still have access to all your plan information through your secure myMERS account. And the good news is, it's available at your fingertips through the myMERS app. Search "myMERS" in your app store to download it. Access your account using your existing myMERS username and password. If you haven't created your account yet, visit mersofmich.com to get started.
- Make sure to designate beneficiaries for each of your MERS plans and keep them updated. You can add or edit information right through your myMERS account.
- Consider reviewing your investment allocation – are your goals the same today as they were when you first enrolled?
- Did you know you can roll eligible outside investments into your existing MERS account or a MERS IRA? This is a great way to consolidate accounts and build your retirement savings by harnessing the power of compounding.

We're here to help! Our Service Center is available weekdays from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at 800.767.6377.

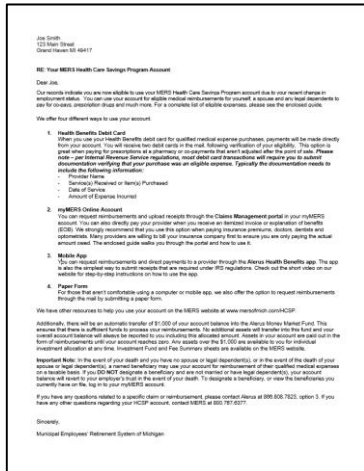
Sincerely,

MERS of Michigan

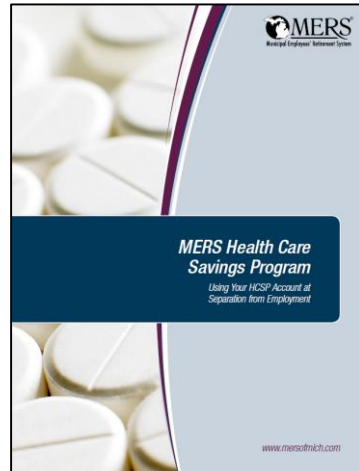
Reminders:

- Money can stay invested with MERS
- Account information will continue to be available in myMERS and is accessible 24/7
- Designate beneficiaries

Health Care Savings Program



Letter with
benefit
information



Guide to using
your account



Health Benefits
debit card

Participant Resources – MERS Website

MERS
Municipal Employees' Retirement System

Home Forms Contact Us Log In

PARTICIPANT **ETIREE** EMPLOYER NEWSROOM MERS

Search... SEARCH

2022 RETIREMENT CONFERENCE
Grand Traverse Resort
SEPTEMBER 26 - 27

Account Access
Employers & Participants
LOG IN

- [Create myMERS account](#)
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- [Forgot Password?](#)
- [Need help?](#)

Community Blog
Learn about topics ranging from Budgeting, Debt Management, Emergency Savings, Investments, and Retirement Planning.

Video Library
Get to know your MERS products and learn about important retirement topics with quick video tutorials.

Financial Wellness
The MERS Financial Fitness tool will help managing your day-to-day spending, controlling debt, having money set aside for an emergency, and having a financial plan for the future.

Benefit & Life Event Information

Provides details about each MERS plan and offers important information on life events such as divorce, death and retirement

myMERS Log In

Quick access to log in to myMERS account

Communications Corner
View a list of recent communications sent to participants and employers.
[View Communications Sent](#)

Administrative & Policy Changes
View a list of MERS administrative & policy changes.
[View changes over time](#)

MERS Website



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Blog Search

Search ...

Blog Categories

[All](#) (43)
[Budgeting](#) (7)
[Debt Management](#)
[Emergency Savings](#)
[Estate Planning](#) (6)
[In Retirement](#) (4)
[Investments](#) (14)
[Retirement Planning](#)

By Audience

- ☐ All Videos (42)
- ☒ Participant (42)

By Topic

- ☐ Retirement Planning (19)
- ☐ Investments (6)
- ☐ Budgeting (4)
- ☐ In Retirement (4)
- ☐ Emergency Savings (2)
- ☐ Estate Planning (2)
- ☐ Debt Management (1)

By Product

- ☐ Health Care Savings Program (HCSP) (10)
- ☐ 457 (6)
- ☐ Defined Benefit (DB) (6)
- ☐ Defined Contribution (DC) (6)
- ☐ Hybrid (6)

Financial Wellness

What is Financial Wellness?

When you think about wellness – or being well – your mind might automatically go to your physical or mental health. But, financial wellness can be just as important. MERS defines being financially well as managing your day-to-day spending, controlling debt, having money set aside for an emergency, and having a financial plan for the future. Taking control of your finances for both the present and future increases your likelihood of a successful and enjoyable retirement, and relieves the stress and burden that financial uncertainty can cause.

Tracking Financial Wellness through Financial Fitness

The Financial Fitness tool is available to MERS participants through myMERS. This tool includes a series of workouts you can engage in to help determine your current Financial Fitness Score in the areas of emergency savings, debt management and planning for the future along with the ability to create a budget to manage your day-to-day spending and as a bonus, workouts to help with insurance and health savings account management (if applicable).

Your Financial Fitness Score

We all need motivation when we're completing tasks, which is why this tool utilizes a point system to help keep you on track and entice you to take steps to increase that score.

After you complete some initial information in each of the workouts, you will be presented with your personal Financial Fitness Score.

To increase your financial fitness score, or gain points, you need to add to your total net worth. This means paying down existing debt and not adding more new debt, as well as saving for your future.

Resources

[Financial Fitness Tool Overview](#) (Video)

Locating your MERS Programs in myMERS

[Using Your myMERS Account Overview](#) (Video)

[myMERS Overview Guide](#) (pdf)

Learn about topics ranging from Budgeting, Debt Management, Emergency Savings, Investments, and Retirement Planning.

Get to know your MERS products and learn about important retirement topics with quick video tutorials.

The MERS Financial Fitness tool will help managing your day-to-day spending, controlling debt, having money set aside for an emergency, and having a financial plan for the future.

Upcoming Events



[Zooming into Retirement](#)



[Retiree Connections](#)



[Employer Events](#)



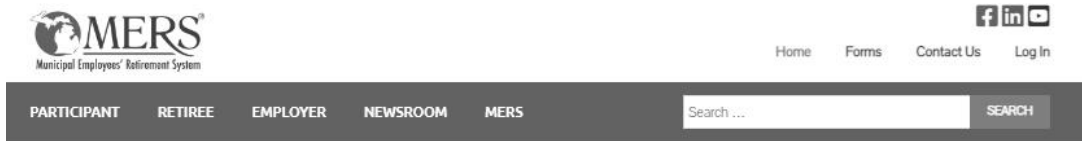
[Quick Bite Webinars](#)



[Annual Conference](#)



MERS Website



Meet Sara,
She already uses her phone for everything she does.
Now she can add checking her retirement account to the list with the **myMERS app** at her fingertips.



Available in your app store



Account Access
Employers & Participants

LOG IN

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CentsAbility Blog

Learn about topics ranging from Budgeting, Debt Management, Emergency Savings, Investments, and Retirement Planning.



Video Library

Get to know your MERS products and learn about important retirement topics with quick video tutorials.



Financial Wellness

The MERS Financial Fitness tool will help managing your day-to-day spending, controlling debt, having money set aside for an emergency, and having a financial plan for the future.

Upcoming Events

Check out upcoming events



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Upcoming Events



Events for All Audiences



Virtual
sessions to
prepare for
retirement



Educational
sessions for
those in
retirement



Employer
focused
events

myMERS Online Account



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Upcoming Events

[Zooming into Retirement](#)[Retiree Connections](#)[Employer Events](#)[Quick Bite Webinars](#)[Annual Conference](#)

Account Access

Employers & Participants

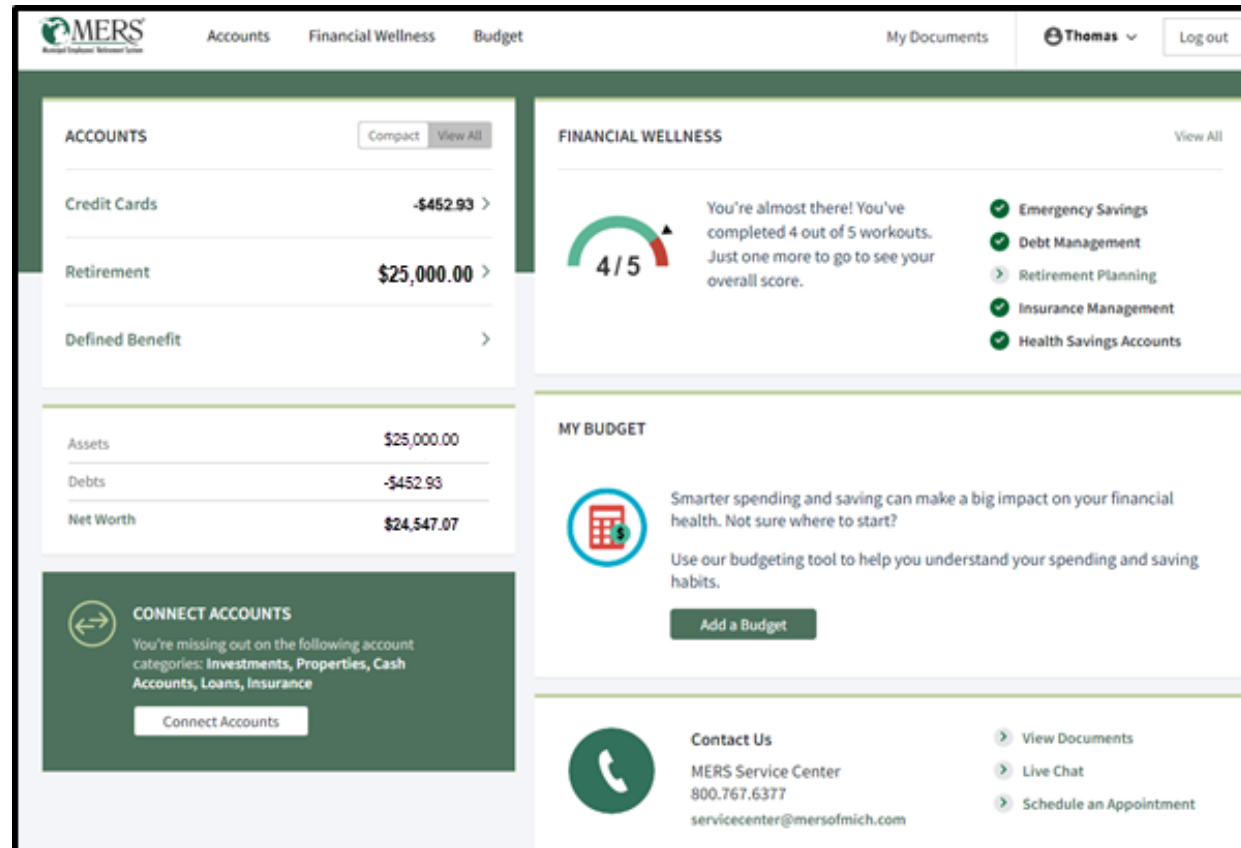
[LOG IN](#)

- [Create myMERS account](#)
- [Forgot Username?](#)
- [Forgot Password?](#)
- [Need help?](#)

The MERS Financial Fitness tool will help managing your day-to-day spending, controlling debt, having money set aside for an emergency, and having a financial plan for the future.

Financial Fitness Dashboard

- Comprehensive tool available to all participants through myMERS online account
- Intuitive financial wellness “workouts” focus on:
 - Emergency savings
 - Debt management
 - Retirement planning
 - Insurance needs
 - Health care savings
- Can view all financial data in one place



Locating MERS Plan Information

The screenshot displays the MERS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the MERS logo, links for 'Accounts', 'Financial Wellness', and 'Budget', a 'My Documents' link, a user profile for 'Thomas', and a 'Logout' button. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'ACCOUNTS', features a 'Compact' and 'View All' toggle. It lists 'Credit Cards' with a balance of -\$452.93, 'Retirement' with a balance of \$25,000.00, and two specific retirement plans: 'Sample City 457' (\$15,000.00) and 'Sample City HCSP' (\$10,000.00). Below these is a 'Defined Benefit' section. A green box at the bottom of the left column contains the text 'categories: Investments, Properties, Cash Accounts, Loans, Insurance' and a 'Connect Accounts' button. The right column, titled 'WELLNESS', includes a progress indicator stating 'You're almost there! You've completed 4 out of 5 workouts. Just one more to go to see your overall score.' It lists five wellness goals: 'Emergency Savings', 'Debt Management', 'Retirement Planning', 'Insurance Management', and 'Health Savings Accounts'. Below this is a section about budgeting with an 'Add a Budget' button. At the bottom right, there is a 'Contact Us' section with the MERS Service Center phone number (800.767.6377) and email (servicecenter@mersofmich.com), along with links for 'View Documents', 'Live Chat', and 'Schedule an Appointment'.

ACCOUNTS Compact View All

Credit Cards -\$452.93 >

Retirement \$25,000.00 ✓

Sample City 457 \$15,000.00 ⋮

Sample City HCSP \$10,000.00 ⋮

Defined Benefit >

categories: Investments, Properties, Cash Accounts, Loans, Insurance

Connect Accounts

WELLNESS View All

You're almost there! You've completed 4 out of 5 workouts. Just one more to go to see your overall score.

- ✓ Emergency Savings
- ✓ Debt Management
- > Retirement Planning
- ✓ Insurance Management
- ✓ Health Savings Accounts

Smarter spending and saving can make a big impact on your financial health. Not sure where to start?

Use our budgeting tool to help you understand your spending and saving habits.

Add a Budget

Contact Us

MERS Service Center
800.767.6377
servicecenter@mersofmich.com

- > View Documents
- > Live Chat
- > Schedule an Appointment

myMERS – PDA

ACCOUNTS

Credit Cards

Retirement

Sample City 457

Sample City HCSP

Defined Benefit

Sample City 457 Plan

\$15,000.00

Account Balance

YTD Personal Rate of Return
6.00%

YTD Contributions
\$800.00

Loan Balance
\$0.00

- > View Plan Summary
- > View My Personal Rate of Return
- > Change My Investments
- > Manage My Beneficiaries
- > View My Statements
- > View Loan Center
- > Edit My Profile
- > Enroll in IRA

ALLOCATION OF ASSETS



2040 Retirement Strategy	\$10,000.00	0.67%
Large Cap Stock Index	\$2,000.00	0.13%
Real Estate Stock	\$2,000.00	0.13%
MERS Total Market Portfolio	\$1,000.00	0.07%

Year to Date Activity

Balance

Beginning Balance	\$14,500.00
Contributions	\$500.00
Cash Earnings	\$0.00

myMERS – PDA

Sample

YTD Personal Rate
6.00%

Loan Balance
\$0.00

ALLOCATION

Total Assets
\$15,000

Year to Date Accumulation

myMERS

Summary

My Balance

My Contributions

Change My Investments

Investment Performance

Loan Center

My Statements

Distributions

Resources

Manage Beneficiaries

Save Account Summary

Retirement Calculators

Loan Balance

Pending Activity

Manage Devices

File Upload

My Profile

Resource Library

Logout

Return to Dashboard

Thomas Deering | Edit My Profile

Sample City 457 Plan

Account Overview

Alerts

The myMERS app is now available. Click here for more information and download details.

Account Balance

\$15,000.00

as of August 22, 2022

My Personal Rate Of Return (PRR)

7.12%

5 Year

ENROLL TODAY
IN MERS IRA

>> Click here to get started

My Outstanding Loan Balance

Number of Loans: 0

Total Outstanding Balance: \$0.00

ME

Beginning Balance	\$14,500.00
Contributions	\$500.00

MERS[®]

Municipal Employees' Retirement System

myMERS – DB Plan

INDIVIDUAL SEARCH

ACCOUNT DETAIL

CALCULATOR

INBOX

FILE UPLOAD

STATEMENTS

1099 RECORDS

GLOSSARY

FORMS

PUBLICATIONS

CONTACT US

ADMIN

I Want To...

CALCULATE MY BENEFIT

Status: Active

Account Detail - Summary

Retirement Benefit

Estimated Date

12/1/2039

Retirement Age

55 Years

Years Until Retirement

19 Years 10 Months

Earned Monthly Benefit

\$1,044.95

Details

Benefit Provisions

Benefit Multiplier

Benefit B-4 (80% max)

Final Average Compensation (FAC)

Benefit FAC-5 (5 Year Final Average Compensation)

Your FAC

\$51,889.20

View Reported Wages

Service Credit

Vesting Requirement

10 Year Vesting

Your Service Credit

9 Years 8 Months

Details

Employee Contributions

Post-Tax

\$0.00

Pre-Tax

\$12,964.79

Interest

\$695.88

Total

\$13,660.67

Request a Refund

Beneficiaries

Monthly Pension Beneficiary

Joseph J. Smith

Primary Refund Beneficiary

Joseph J. Smith

Contingent Refund Beneficiary

John L. Smith

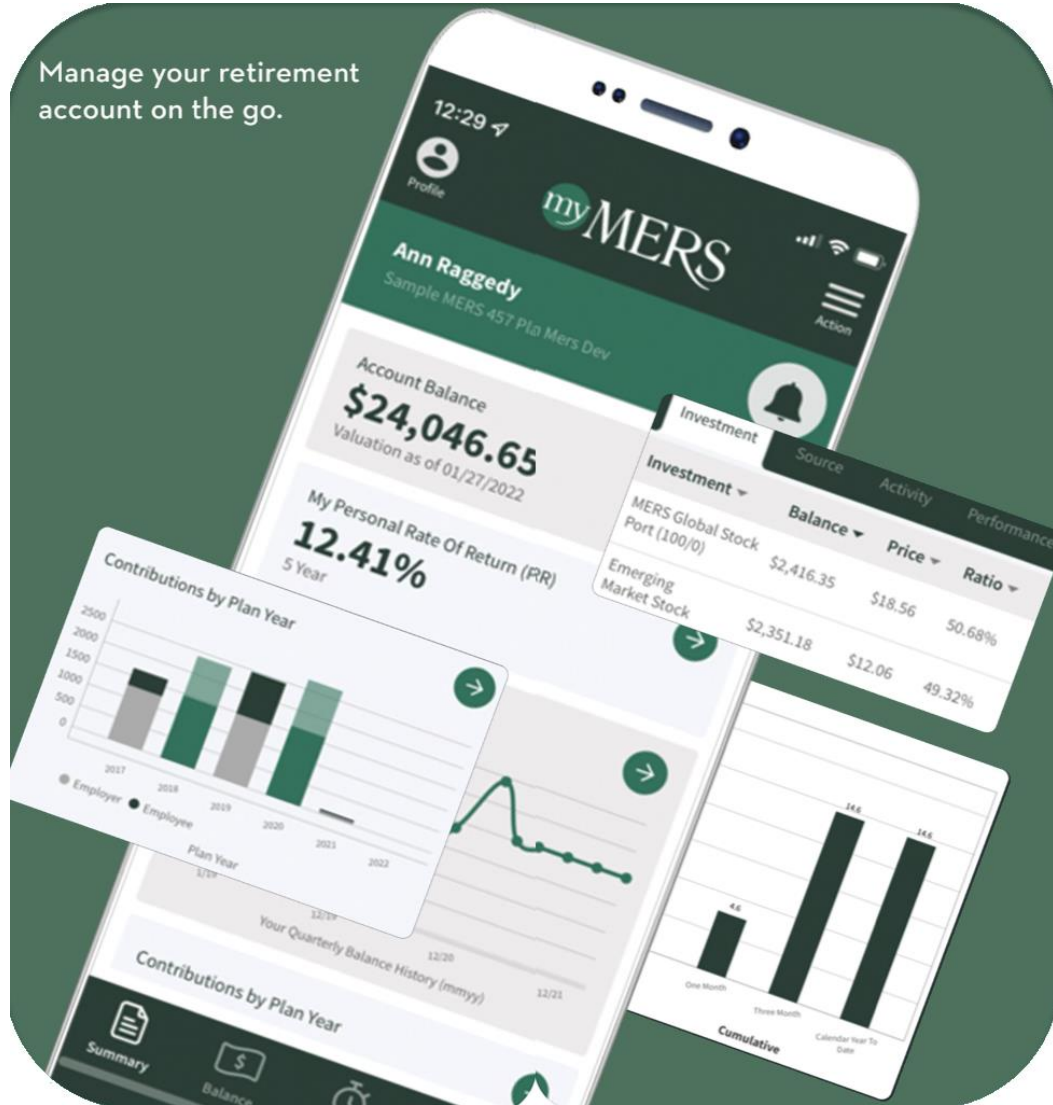
Details

Calculate My Benefit

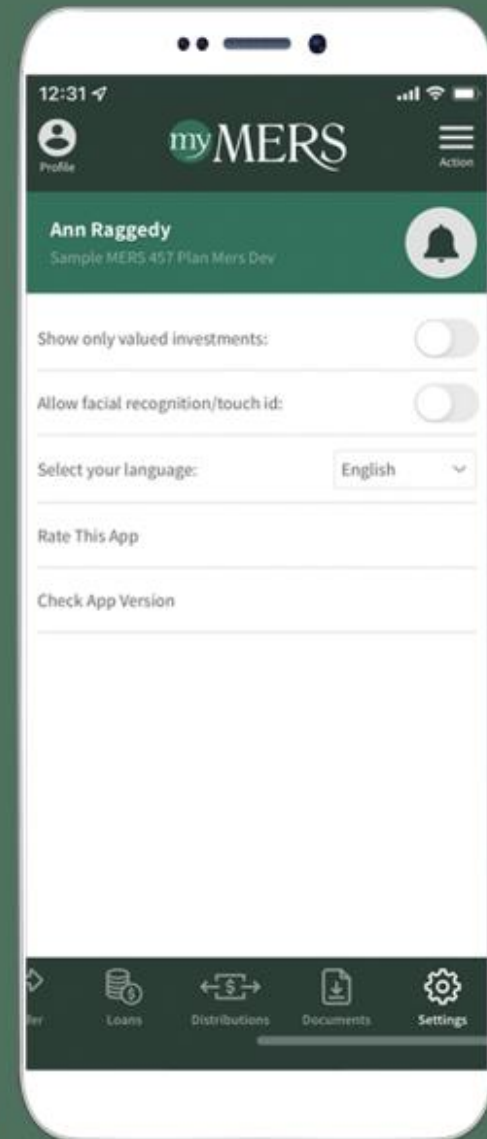
Apply for Retirement

myMERS App

Manage your retirement account on the go.



Log in with facial recognition or touch ID.



Customized Education Options

Menu of Education Options

- Work with your Benefit Education Specialist to find the right fit for your employees
- Variety of delivery methods available



Build Your Own Program



ENTRÉES

Product overviews that provide an understanding of benefits, tools to track accounts or make changes, and tips on working toward a secure retirement.

DEFINED BENEFIT OVERVIEW (DB)

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION OVERVIEW (DC)

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLUS OVERVIEW (DC+)

HYBRID OVERVIEW (H)

HEALTH CARE SAVINGS PROGRAM OVERVIEW (HCSP)



ALA CARTE

Add a serving of one or more of these topics to your presentation for any audience.

EMERGENCY SAVINGS
DEBT MANAGEMENT
BUDGETING



BUFFET OPTIONS

For a pre-built session that includes a mix of retirement planning and financial wellness, you might be interested in one of the options below.

FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE SELF (All)

We'll walk you through the process to create a financial plan, including defining short, mid and long-term goals, assessing current income and expenses, and examining a savings plan.

READY TO RETIRE: AN OVERVIEW OF THE DB RETIREMENT PROCESS (DB)

For a closer look at how the MERS Defined Benefit Plan works and where it fits into participants' retirement picture.

HEALTH CARE IN RETIREMENT (All)

During this session, we'll provide an overview of health care options in retirement, including costs and available resources.

TAKING STEPS TOWARD FINANCIAL SECURITY – INVESTMENT BASICS & SAVINGS OPTIONS (All)

Explores retirement savings choices and helps participants add security to their retirement plan.

ROCK-N-ROLL TO A SUCCESSFUL RETIREMENT USING AC/DC STRATEGIES (DC, DC+, H, 457, HCSP, IRA)

Covers topics such as investment basics and best practices for both the accumulation and decumulation phases of investing.



SIDES

Sides offer education that supports the entrée. For example, if you offer a participant directed account, you may want to include some investment basics.

INVESTMENT BASICS (DC, DC+, H, 457, HCSP, IRA)

Highlights some basic savings and investment concepts such as why we save, how to invest and the costs associated to investing and how they can impact your overall account balance.

ACCUMULATION STRATEGIES (DC, DC+, H, 457, HCSP, IRA)

Teaches participants in the working phase of their career tips on how to maximize their investments in order to generate more savings for retirement.

DECUMULATION STRATEGIES (DC, DC+, H, 457, HCSP, IRA)

Helps employees better understand best-practices in decumulation, or spending down their account throughout retirement. Topics covered include diversifying investments, considerations to make your account balance last in retirement and how to plan for inflation.

MANAGING & MONITORING YOUR PORTFOLIO (DC, DC+, H, 457, HCSP, IRA)

Covers how often invested accounts should be reviewed and where to find your account information. Also highlights how to create and review your investment plan and make changes to your allocations.

MAKING YOUR MONEY WORK FOR YOU (DC, DC+, H, 457, HCSP, IRA)

Covers the importance of investing money versus saving it in a traditional bank account by explaining the concept of compounding. Additionally, it highlights how to invest during different stages of your life and factors to consider when investing.

RETIREMENT PLANNING (All)

Focuses on topics of financial considerations in retirement, goal-setting, tips to build a retirement budget and health care considerations.



DESSERTS

Top off your session with some information highlighting these topics for all audiences.

SECURITY BASICS
MEDICARE BASICS
HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT BASICS

HEALTH CARE EXCHANGE BASICS
IRA BASICS
457 SUPPLEMENTAL SAVINGS BASICS
MERS INVESTMENT MENU OVERVIEW

On-Site Education

NEED HELP PLANNING FOR YOUR RETIREMENT JOURNEY?



Retirement Resources Meeting

Learn more about how to log into your myMERS account, important information about most of your financial options, and how to invest for the future.

WHEN:
Thursday, April 12, 2018
1 PM – Overview of the Defined Benefit and the 457 Plans
2 PM – Overview of the Hybrid Plan and the 457 Plan

WHERE:
Community Room
Barry County Tyden Center
121 S. Church Street
Hastings

SPONSORED BY:
MERS of Michigan

To keep up with trending retirement information as well as follow MERS of Michigan on Facebook.

To...
Cc...
Subject: Upcoming Educational Opportunity - MERS Defined Benefit Retirement Presentation

MERS
Municipal Employees' Retirement System

WEBINAR

ONLINE PRESENTATION

Your MERS Defined Benefit Retirement

Join Tammy Marier for a webinar overview of your Defined Benefit Plan, including:

- The formula used to calculate your benefit
- Beneficiaries
- The retirement process

WHEN:
Thursday, April 23
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION:
Click here to register.
You'll receive email confirmation and instructions for logging into the webinar.

Tammy is a MERS Benefit Plan Advisor and can answer questions if they are specific to your account, can be addressed in person.

Please log into your myMERS account and set up your retirement on track.

MERS
Municipal Employees' Retirement System

1134 Municipal Way
800.767.MERS (6377)
www.mersofmich.com

MERS 457 Overview

Wednesday, May 10, 2017
beginning at 2:30 p.m.
Sample Village
All employees welcome

Learn how you can:

- Give yourself a raise by reducing your current investment fees by nearly 300%
- Save even more by rolling over assets from other accounts
- Make retirement planning easier by simplifying your investments

MERS
Municipal Employees' Retirement System

www.mersofmich.com
800.767.MERS (6377)

Benefit Education Specialists



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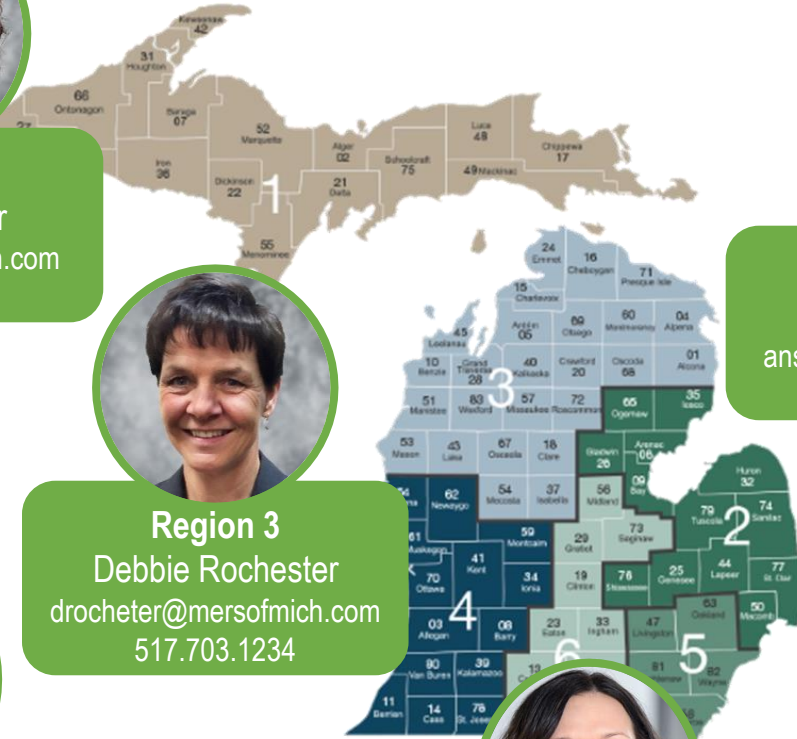
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Region 6
Candice Skinner
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517.703.1267



Region 5
Lynn Henley
lhenley@mersofmich.com
517.703.1325



Contacting MERS

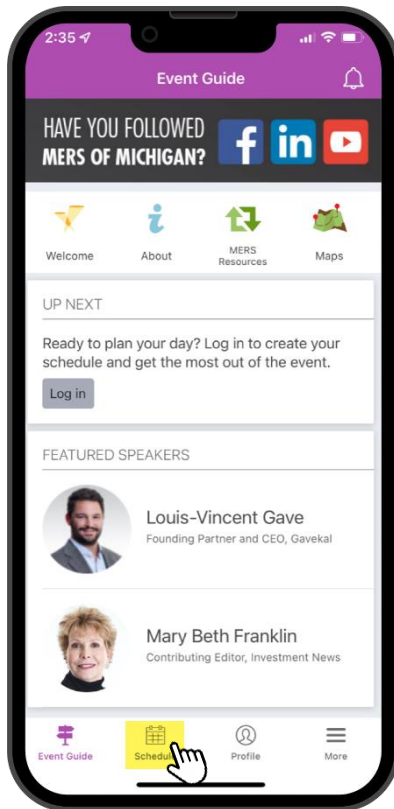
Get in Touch with Us

The screenshot displays the MERS website's 'Contact Us' page. The main header features the MERS logo and navigation links: PARTICIPANT, RETIREE, EMPLOYER, NEWSROOM, and MERS. A search bar is located on the right. A red circle highlights the 'Contact Us' link in the top navigation bar, with a mouse cursor pointing at it. The 'Contact Us' page content includes:

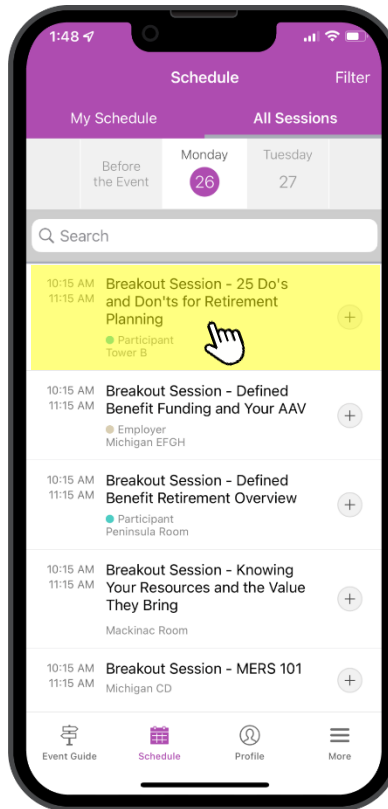
- MERS Service Center**
Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Phone**
800.767.6377
- Chat**
Start Chat
- 1-on-1 Scheduler**
Schedule time to talk to MERS over the phone regarding the following topics:
 - MERS Benefit Overview
 - Ready to Retire with Defined Benefit
 - MERS Investment EducationFor all other questions, please give us a call.
- Directions**
MERS of Michigan
1134 Municipal Way
Lansing, MI 48917
- Facebook Messenger**
Message us
- Account Access**
Employers & Participants
LOG IN
Need help?

**What other resources
would be helpful?**

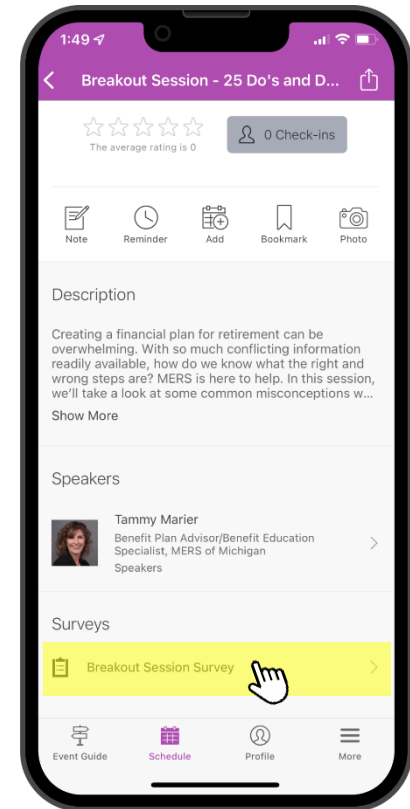
Please Complete a Session Survey



Step 1:
Locate and select the
“Schedule” icon



Step 2:
Select the **session**
you attended (look
for correct date/time)



Step 3:
Scroll down and click
“Breakout Session
Survey”

Connect with MERS

www.mersofmich.com

800.767.6377



Online Chat



Schedule 1-on-1
Appointments Online



Social Media



MERS of Michigan

1134 Municipal Way
Lansing, MI 48917



This presentation contains a summary description of MERS benefits, policies or procedures. MERS has made every effort to ensure that the information provided is accurate and up to date. Where the publication conflicts with the relevant Plan Document, the Plan Document controls.