

Application for Disability Benefits

In accordance with the Illinois Pension Code, the Fund provides disability benefits for members who have become unable to perform work duties either due to an injury incurred in the performance of duty (Duty Disability) or due to an illness/accident that occurred not in the performance of duty (Ordinary Disability).

Effective immediately, the Fund cannot accept applications for ordinary disability pending the result of a duty disability claim. Any member, who has filed a worker's compensation claim or is challenging the rejection of a worker's compensation claim, would be considered injured in the performance of duty pending the ruling of the claim. An application for ordinary disability would be denied until the final ruling of the claim. Any member submitting both an ordinary disability application and a duty disability application for the same injury will be rejected.

In addition, any overpayment of a disability benefit must be repaid to the Fund through a direct payment or recouped from a member's annuity or refund of contributions as appropriate.

Please contact the Fund's Disability Section if you have any questions regarding this change.

Payment for Past Service

Members of the Fund can pay for periods of creditable prior service rendered to the City of Chicago or Chicago Board of Education (and service with certain other entities such as the CTA, CHA, and PBC subject to restrictions) and receive credit for such service for annuity and disability purposes. Creditable service does not include service paid by voucher or services performed as an independent contractor.

Payment for past service must be made while in City or Chicago Board of Education service or within 90 days after withdrawal from City or Chicago Board of Education service, or while in active service with a reciprocal fund.

While an active member of the Fund has up to 90 days following withdrawal from service to pay for past service, it is in the best interest of the member to pay for past service before resignation from City/Board of Education service. If a member elects to make a payment within the 90 day-period following his withdrawal from service, his retirement annuity application will not begin to be processed until after the payment for past service has been received by the Fund, possibly delaying the date when the annuitant would start receiving his annuity payments. Also, the amount of annuity the member would receive for any eligible annuity payment period prior to the date the Fund received his payment would be computed based only on the years of service paid for prior to his withdrawal from service date. The higher annuity amount reflecting the additional service that was purchased after withdrawal from service would become effective for the eligible annuity period following his payment for past service and would not be retroactive.

Please note: As of 2/21/13, the use of an annuitant's first 3 retirement checks to pay for past service is no longer an allowable option.

Please contact the Benefits Department if you have any questions regarding creditable service and paying for past service to the Fund.