



ANNUITANTS: BENEFITS OF YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT

Did you receive your 1099-R tax form this year?

The number one reason annuitants don't receive it is because they haven't notified us of an address change.

One of the benefits of creating an online account is that you can access and print your 1099-R form and your annual statement at any time after they are uploaded to your online account. You don't need to wait for the print copy to be delivered to you.



continued on page 2

KEEP US INFORMED OF YOUR LIFE EVENTS

Is your beneficiary form current?

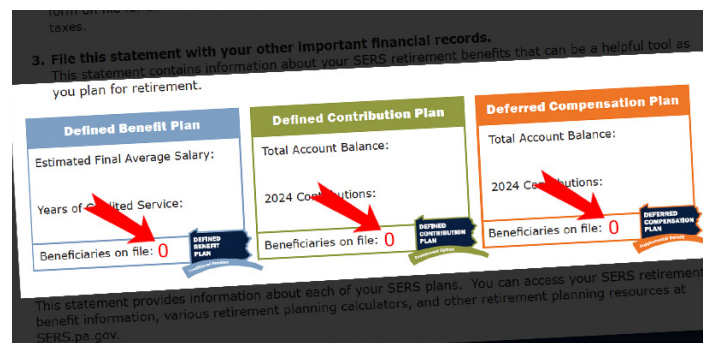
One of your most important responsibilities is to ensure that your personal information and forms are up to date for each of your SERS retirement plan accounts. This includes periodically checking your beneficiary designations for each plan, especially after a life-changing event like a direct marriage, or the birth or adoption of a child.

Beneficiary nominations are plan specific. If you contribute to more than one SERS retirement plan, you will need to submit a form for each plan. The Defined Benefit Plan forms are returned to SERS while the Defined Contribution and Deferred Compensation Plan forms are returned to Empower, our third-party administrator for those plans.

Maintain Beneficiary Information

Your pension plan *Beneficiary Nomination* form is available under the [Defined Benefit Plan menu - Forms](#). The completed form can be mailed or hand delivered to SERS. Your new beneficiary nomination will take effect when SERS receives your form.

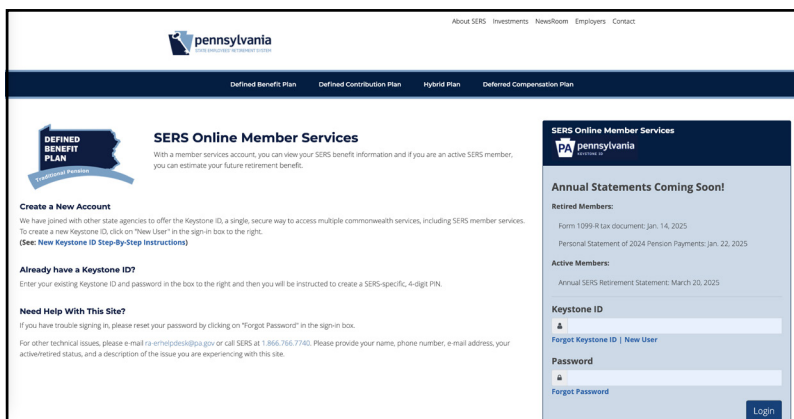
If you are a participant of the Defined Contribution (investment) Plan or the supplemental, voluntary Deferred Compensation Plan, you can update your beneficiaries after you [sign into your online account](#), sers.empower-retirement.com/participant/#/login, or Empower's app. Look for the red waves from the Empower logo in the App Store® or on Google Play.™ After signing in, you can click Accounts – Overview, and then Plan Forms in the menu at the left of the screen.



VALUABLE TOOLS ADDED TO YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT

In addition to accessing your annual statements and pension benefit history, recently enhanced services provide valuable tools for both our retirees and current state employees.

As discussed in the [fall/winter edition](#), retirees and others receiving payments from SERS now have access to a new pension verification tool and updated W-4P tax calculator. Additionally, current state employees now have access to an enhanced pension estimate tool that can produce estimates based on more payment options, including a partial withdrawal of your contributions and interest.



Aside from those enhanced services, retirees and others receiving payments from SERS can also request to receive this newsletter by email, by selecting that option in their online account. Earlier this year, current state employees could access their 2024 statement days before their printed statement was dropped in the mail.

If you haven't created a SERS account or visited your SERS account in some time, now is a great time to check out the enhanced services.

To [access your online SERS account](https://members.sers.pa.gov/) (<https://members.sers.pa.gov/>), you'll need to create a Keystone ID, with a password, and select a SERS-specific, four-digit PIN (personal identification number).

ANNUITANTS: BENEFITS OF YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT (CONTINUED)

Create your account

If you need to create an online account, you can start the process by clicking on [Account Sign In](#) under the Defined Benefit Plan menu at [SERS.pa.gov](https://members.sers.pa.gov/), and then choosing New User in the blue sign-in box. Follow the steps to complete the necessary information to create your Keystone ID. After signing in for the first time, you will be prompted to create a permanent password and select a SERS-specific, four-digit PIN (personal identification number).

Keep your address up to date

Throughout the year, we mail tax documents, annual statements, and other important documents to you. It is crucial that your home mailing address is up to date with us. To change your address, please complete the [Defined Benefit Plan – Change of Address Form](#), posted under the Defined Benefit Plan menu – Forms, and mail it to the address at the bottom of the form.

CONSOLIDATING INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS CAN STREAMLINE RETIREMENT PLANNING

If your retirement benefit with a prior employer included an investment account, you may be able to streamline your retirement planning by rolling that money into your SERS [Deferred Compensation Plan account](#).

One account means you'll no longer need to keep track of multiple statements, multiple account usernames and passwords, and multiple representatives when you have questions.

Better yet, deferred comp plan enhancements introduced this year reduced the recordkeeping fee by 35% and provide you with faster access to your money in retirement.

So, what types of accounts can be rolled into your deferred comp plan account? Pretax balances from a governmental 457(b), a qualified 401(a) and 401(k), a 403(b), and a traditional individual retirement account (IRA). Roth IRAs and designated Roth accounts cannot be rolled into your deferred comp plan.

If you have a Defined Contribution Plan account but haven't enrolled in deferred comp, now may be the perfect time. There are tax benefits to rolling your other accounts into a deferred comp account (See, [Your Voluntary Contributions Shouldn't be So Taxing](#)). In addition, if you take a lump-sum withdrawal from your SERS pension when you retire, you can roll that money, as well as a payout of any unused sick or annual leave you may receive at retirement directly into your deferred comp account.

REGISTER YOUR ONLINE INVESTMENT PLAN ACCOUNT

If you are a new SERS member or you just haven't registered your online investment plan account yet, now's the time!

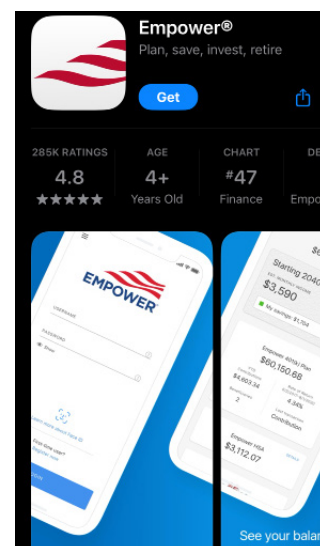
Your investment plan account can do more than help you plan for retirement – which is big in and of itself – it can also help you budget, track your savings, and view your net worth.

Through your online investment plan account, you can view statements and documents, add or edit your beneficiaries, update your personal information, including communication preferences, review investment performance, and manage your investments.

It also offers you the ability to track and manage your financial priorities. By linking other household accounts, you can see a full snapshot of your financials, including your retirement assets, in one account.

You can [register your online investment plan account](https://sers.empower-retirement.com/participant/#/login) (<https://sers.empower-retirement.com/participant/#/login>) today, by clicking "Register" and selecting "I do not have a PIN" and then verifying your identity. From there you'll create a username and password.

Empower, the third-party administrator of your Defined Contribution Investment Plan and Deferred Compensation (supplemental) Plan, also offers a mobile app, so you can keep track of your financials while on the go. Look for the red waves from the Empower logo in the App Store® or on Google Play.™





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