

Will I have **HEALTH INSURANCE** after retirement?

You have the option of continuing your Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) for you and your family if you retire directly from employment and you have been enrolled in the FEHB for the last 5 years of service prior to retirement.

At Age 65, you are eligible to enroll in Medicare. Medicare Part A is free for most people and covers inpatient hospital care. You will want to enroll in Part A at age 65. Medicare Part B covers doctors' visits, lab tests and other services and has a monthly premium that must be paid by you when you enroll in Part B. If you are still working at Age 65, you may postpone Medicare Part B until you retire.

If you continue your FEHB coverage in retirement, it may be beneficial for you to enroll in Part B when eligible. Consult with Medicare supplement plan providers to discuss options that may eliminate copays, deductibles and coinsurance, as well as lower copays on prescription drugs.



 **800-916-6115**

www.federalbenefitsinfo.org

What about my **THRIFT SAVINGS PLANS**?

Your Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) and Roth TSP can provide the balance of income you may need to continue your current lifestyle in retirement. If you are over age 50, you can make catch-up contributions as well. Don't forget to make Roth TSP deposits, too, as these can provide tax-free income at retirement.

What about the **VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION PLAN**?

Eligible CSRS employees can contribute up to 10% of their total career base pay into the Voluntary Contribution Plan (VCP). No other plan permits an employee to make contributions based upon their career earnings. At retirement, the VCP can be transferred to a Roth IRA that may produce a tax-free income stream.

As you near retirement, or shortly thereafter, you will want to review your options to minimize fluctuations in the values of your TSP and VCP accounts and protect your hard-earned savings. There may be alternatives to these plans that can provide guaranteed lifetime income to you, eliminate the risk of stock market volatility and still provide a benefit to your heirs. Talk with an expert to determine what solutions may be best suited for you.

Want **ANSWERS** to your federal benefits questions? For a more detailed explanation of these topics and more, contact us today. There is no fee for our services.

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UNDERSTANDING YOUR **CSRS BENEFITS** CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM



FEDERAL BENEFITS
INFORMATION CENTER

*The Leading Source of Information and
Education on Federal Employee Benefits*

Do you know what percentage of working income you will retire at? Will it be **60%**, **70%** or **more** of your current salary?

Do you know **YOUR**:

- Estimated CSRS annuity payment?
- Options for a surviving spouse benefit?
- Retirement health insurance options?
- Credited service time for active military duty?
- Cost of continued FEGLI coverage as you age?
- Annual leave distribution amount?
- Sick leave credited to your CSRS annuity?
- TSP maximum withdrawal amount to ensure income throughout retirement?
- Best course for optimizing the TSP and Roth TSP?
- Voluntary Contribution Plan (VCP) can enhance your retirement income?
- Family benefits options?

Do you know where to turn for answers to these questions? We're here to help!

There is no fee for our services.

Contact us today!



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What are your **CSRS Retirement Benefits**?

How much will your **CSRS ANNUITY** pay you?

Your basic CSRS annuity amount is based on:

- Your average High 3 consecutive years' salary
- Your years of creditable service (including unused sick leave and military service)
- Your service factor that can provide as much as 80% of your average High 3 years' salary

To qualify for the 80% CSRS Annuity, you must have creditable service of 41 years 11 months, the maximum service limit. Should you continue to work longer, the mandatory CSRS contributions will be deducted from your pay and refunded to you, with interest, at retirement.

When am I **ELIGIBLE** for my CSRS Annuity?

Your Minimum Retirement Age (MRA) is age 55. Once you reach the MRA, you have the following options:

- MRA with 10 years of service (reduced benefit)
- MRA with 30 years of service (excluding LEO, CBPO, ATC)
- Age 60 with 20 years of service
- Age 62 with 5 years of service

To receive any annuity benefits, you **MUST** have at least 5 years of creditable service. In some cases, intermittent service time may be CSRS creditable service (i.e. part-time).

How much is my **SOCIAL SECURITY** benefit?

To be eligible for Social Security, you must reach age 62, have 40 quarters of covered employment and meet certain earnings criteria. As a CSRS employee, you may also be subject to the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). The WEP may reduce any social security benefits for which you would otherwise be eligible. Accurate estimates of social security benefits require completion of the Personalized Earnings and Benefits Estimate Statement (PEBES) available from the Social Security Administration.



Does CSRS provide **SURVIVING SPOUSE** Benefits?

Yes, CSRS provides a Surviving Spouse Benefit - at a cost! At retirement, you will be required to make an election to leave a percentage of your CSRS Annuity to your spouse or decline this option. You may choose to leave up to 55% of your CSRS Annuity to your spouse at a cost of over 9% of your monthly pension. If your spouse pre-deceases you, all the money you paid toward this benefit is lost. No refunds. There are alternative options to provide for a spousal benefit that can also be left to other family members should your spouse pre-decease you or refund your contributions. Know all your options before you make this election as it can be a costly mistake if you are not fully informed.