



Welcome to LAGERS!

LAGERS is a non-profit public pension system for local government employees in Missouri, consisting of more than 660 employers from which you can work and earn retirement benefits!

As a LAGERS member, you join nearly 40,000 Missouri local government employees across the state serving their communities. With your LAGERS Defined Benefit Plan, you have a valuable tool in helping you to plan and reach a secure retirement with protected lifetime benefits from your employer!

How Does My LAGERS Benefit Work?

LAGERS is a defined benefit retirement plan. Defined benefit plans provide guaranteed monthly payments based upon a formula that reflects your working career within the LAGERS system. Your monthly payments will begin at retirement age and continue every month for as long as you live.

LAGERS benefits are calculated using a formula based upon three factors:

-  How long you work
-  How much you earn in salary
-  A unique set of benefit levels elected by your employer

Benefits are not affected by swings in the markets, do not require individual portfolio management, and are not based on an account balance that can be outlived. Benefits are permanent, protected, and guaranteed for the lifetime of every eligible LAGERS member.



Benefits are Based on a Formula --



Investments are Professionally Managed --



Market Swings do NOT Impact Benefits --

Stay Connected with Your Retirement System!

 (800) 447-4334

 info@molagers.org

 www.molagers.org



Keep up with the latest pension news, retirement related information, and system updates by following the LAGERS system on social media!



Welcome

to the LAGERS Retirement System

This brochure provides an abbreviated explanation of the statues governing the LAGERS system and does not amend or overrule RSMo70.600 - 70.755 or Administrative Rules, Title 16, Division 20.



How is My Benefit Calculated?

All LAGERS benefits are calculated using this formula. Your monthly retirement benefit is based on how long you work and how much you earn: the longer you work for a LAGERS employer, and the more you earn in salary over your career, the greater your monthly benefit will be at retirement.



$$\text{Benefit Program} \times \text{Credited Service} \times \text{Final Average Salary} = \text{Monthly Lifetime Benefit}$$

Your LAGERS benefit is designed to replace a certain percentage of your pre-retirement income when you retire. You can quickly estimate how much of your income you can expect your LAGERS benefit to replace by taking your projected years of service times your employer's Benefit Program multiplier.

How to Ballpark Your Future Benefit

"I think I'm going to work for 25 years at my employer, who has the L-7 Benefit Program."

$$25 \text{ years} \times .015 = 38\%$$

"My LAGERS benefit will replace 38% of my final average salary at retirement."

**Your final average salary will be based on either your highest consecutive 36 or 60 months of wages from your last 120 months of LAGERS credited service.

Benefit Program	Lifetime Multiplier	Lifetime Income Replacement with 25 Years of Service
L-1, LT-4*	1.00%	25%
L-3, LT-5*	1.25%	31%
L-7, LT-8*	1.50%	38%
L-9, LT-10*	1.60%	40%
L-12, LT-14*	1.75%	44%
L-6	2.00%	50%

*LT Benefit Programs are calculated using the lifetime multiplier, shown above, plus an additional temporary benefit which increases the multiplier to 2.00% until age 65 (or 62)



Your Survivor and Disability Benefits

Your LAGERS benefit is designed to provide lifetime income for you and those who are financially dependent on you. As such, every LAGERS member is covered by Disability and Survivor benefits.

All vested members are eligible for these lifetime benefits and non-vested members are eligible if the permanent disability or death is caused by your job.

Designating Beneficiaries

As with any benefit, it is important to keep your beneficiaries up to date. If you pass away prior to retirement, LAGERS will first look to pay an eligible spouse or dependent child a Survivor Benefit. If no such benefit is payable, LAGERS will refund any Member Contributions, plus interest, to the beneficiary you have designated.

When you apply for retirement benefits, you will elect new beneficiaries with your Payout Option.



You can view and update your beneficiary designations 24/7 on your myLAGERS account!

When Can I Retire?

You will become eligible for a monthly retirement benefit once you are **vested** and have reached **retirement age**.

1

Vesting occurs once you've earned 60 months (5 years) of service in the LAGERS system. This may be with one or more LAGERS employers.

Once vested, you are guaranteed a retirement benefit under Missouri law.

2

Normal Retirement Ages:

General Employees Age 60
Police Officers and Firefighters Age 55

Early Retirement Ages:

Up to 5 years early of your Normal Retirement Age. (Benefits are permanently reduced 1/2% for each month early a member retires.)

Rule of 80 Retirement Age:

Your employer must elect this option. Not all employees will be eligible. Full benefits are payable when a member's:

$$\text{Age} + \text{Credited Service} = 80$$



How is My Benefit Paid For?

Some employers choose to pay the full cost of this benefit while others require their employees to help contribute.

If your employer requires employees to contribute, 4% of gross wage will be withheld from your paycheck each month. You will receive your contributions back either as part of your retirement benefit or, if you terminate employment prior to retirement and do not wish to receive a monthly benefit, you may apply for a refund.



Can I Take My Benefit with Me if I Leave?

You can work for any combination of employers within the LAGERS system and continue to add to your retirement benefit. Each of your benefits will be calculated separately at each employer's respective benefit levels.

If you choose to work outside of the LAGERS system, you are still entitled to any vested benefit(s) once you reach retirement age.