



## In-service death benefits

Get Set for Retirement  
Preretirement  
Fiscal year 2026



**PEBA**  
Public Employees' Benefits Authority  
and State Health Plan

Serving those who serve South Carolina

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## Refund of contributions or monthly benefit

- If you die in service as an active member of SCRS or PORS, your beneficiary may be entitled to receive:
  - A refund of your contributions plus the interest earned on your account; or
  - A monthly benefit if:
    - You are a Class Two member with at least five years of earned service credit or a Class Three member with at least eight years of earned service credit; and
    - You have either 15 years of total service credit or are at least age 60 (SCRS) or age 55 (PORS) at time of death.

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## Active member incidental death benefit

- Incidental death benefit coverage is not automatic for all participating employers. Check with your employer to see if it offers this coverage.
- Must have at least one year of earned service unless death results from job-related injury.
- A payment equal to your current annual earnable compensation will be paid to your incidental death benefit beneficiary if you die in service.
- Also applies to return-to-work retirees.

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### First responder death benefit

- Incidental death benefit program includes an additional line-of-duty death benefit for certain first responders (police, fire, EMS).
- First responder death benefit pays a one-time, lump sum benefit of \$75,000 if your death was a natural and proximate result of an injury by external accident or violence incurred while on duty as a first responder.
- Benefit increases to \$150,000 if you are killed in the line of duty and your death is either the result of an unlawful and intentional act of another person or the result of an accident that occurs:
  - As a result of your response to fresh pursuit;
  - As a result of your response to what is reasonably believed to be an emergency;
  - At the scene of a traffic accident to which you have responded; or
  - While you are enforcing what is reasonably believed to be a traffic law or ordinance.

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### First responder death benefit payments

Unless you designated a different beneficiary for this benefit, the benefit is payable as follows:

**If you are married:**  
Spouse receives benefit.

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**If you have no spouse:**  
Benefit is divided equally among surviving children.

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**If you have no spouse or child:**  
Benefit is divided equally among surviving parents.

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**If you have no beneficiary, spouse, child or parent:**  
Benefit is paid to your estate.

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### PORS Accidental Death Program

- Coverage is not automatic for all participating employers. Check with your employer to see if it offers this coverage.
- Provides a survivor benefit if you die as a result of an injury while in the line of duty, without your willful negligence.
- Paid monthly to surviving spouse if you are married, or to children younger than age 18 if not married, or to parents.

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