

**Be Aware + Prepare**

## Leaving before retirement eligibility

Retirement Starts Now  
Mid-career  
Fiscal year 2025



Serving those who serve South Carolina

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### Requesting a refund from your SCRS, PORS account

- Forfeit rights to any future service or disability retirement benefit.
- Can generally roll over funds into eligible retirement plan.
- If you do not roll over refund, taxable portion may be:
  - Subject to taxes; and
  - Subject to additional tax penalty if younger than age 59½.
- Consult with tax professional for more information.
- Must terminate employment from all covered employers and correlated systems.
- Minimum 90-day waiting period from termination date before refund issued.
- Employer contributions are not refunded.
- Returning to covered employment before refund payment cancels refund application.
- Request a refund by completing a notarized Refund Request (Form 4101).

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### Leavings funds in your SCRS, PORS account

- Account earns 4% interest annually until account becomes inactive.
- Account becomes inactive as of July 1 when:
  - No contributions made in preceding fiscal year; and
  - No other active, correlated system or State ORP account exists.
- Can request refund later.
- If leaving employment with enough earned service, can apply for retirement benefit once age requirement is met.
- If returning to covered employment later, can resume making contributions and earning service credit.
- May leave funds in your account until required by IRS rules to take a distribution.

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**Leaving funds in your State ORP account**

- Can leave your funds in your State ORP account until choosing to take withdrawals.
  - If younger than age 59½, must separate from all covered employment before taking a withdrawal.
- May leave funds in your account until required by IRS rules to take a distribution.
- Your account balance may:
  - Increase from investment earnings; or
  - Decline from investment losses and administrative fees.
- Can generally roll over funds into eligible retirement savings account.

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