

INFORMATION FOR RETIREES



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ETF has made every effort to ensure that this brochure is current and accurate. However, changes in the law or processes since the last revision to this brochure may mean that some details are not current. Visit etf.wi.gov to view the most current version of this document. Please contact ETF if you have any questions about a particular topic in this brochure.

ETF complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex in the provision of programs, services or employment. For more information please view ETF's *Notice of Nondiscrimination (ET-8108)* available at etf.wi.gov. To request this information in another format, call 1-877-533-5020. We will try to find another way to get the information to you in a usable form.

Cover photo courtesy of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism.

Who May Access Your Account

Privacy and Security

Information about your Wisconsin Retirement System account is confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone, including your spouse or domestic partner. With proper identification, the Department of Employee Trust Funds will provide information about your WRS account to you by telephone.

At your direction, ETF will also release your personal information to an authorized third party for a designated period of time if you complete the [Authorization to Disclose Non-Medical Personal Information \(ET-7406\)](#) form and return it to ETF.

The only way a third party can make changes to your account without your express authorization is with a valid financial power of attorney, a court-appointed guardian, or a conservatorship.

ETF is committed to protecting the privacy and security of your information in digital and paper format. ETF uses your information only for the purposes for which it was provided. ETF ensures strong privacy and security policies and educates staff on proper handling of your identifying information.

Your electronic information is protected by safeguards such as firewalls and ETF employs numerous tools to ensure the quality and integrity of your digital information.

Financial Power of Attorney

You can submit a durable financial power of attorney (POA) document to ETF, which will allow your designated agent(s) to act on your behalf with the specific authority you grant them. You can rescind a POA document by sending a signed letter to ETF, or the powers granted to your agent(s) will automatically end upon your death. ETF cannot accept power of attorney for health care documents because they relate to making medical decisions.

Court-Appointed Guardian or Conservatorship

A guardian of the estate is an individual or corporation appointed by a court to manage the financial affairs of another person who the court has determined is either incompetent or a spendthrift.

The papers must be for the individual's *estate* and not for the individual's *person* because guardianship of the person deals with personal and health care issues, not finances. Wisconsin statutes require the court to grant specific additional authority to guardians before they can make changes to an individual's *estate*, such as retirement or insurance accounts.

A conservatorship is a court-supervised arrangement under which a person voluntarily chooses to allow another individual to manage their estate. Guardianship or conservatorship documentation must be provided to ETF before a guardian's or conservator's authority can be recognized.

See etf.wi.gov/financial-power-attorney and etf.wi.gov/guardianship for more information.

Update Your Contact Information

ETF sends important materials such as benefit change notices, tax statements, and the *WRS News* to your home address. It is very important that you notify ETF if your home address or telephone number changes, especially if you are terminating WRS-covered employment but decide not to apply for benefits.

You may update your contact information by completing an [Address/Name/Gender Change \(ET-2815\)](#) form, which is available on the ETF website or by calling ETF at 1-877-533-5020. Please allow up to 30 days for a change of address to be effective.

Payment Information

Direct deposit is the most secure, reliable, and convenient method of receiving payments and is generally the only payment method used by ETF. Annuity payments can be deposited into your checking, savings, or money market account at the financial institution of your choice.

Your annuity payment will be made available to you by the first business day of each month.

Changes to your payment amount

Whenever a change is made to your monthly benefit, ETF will send you an *Annuity Payment Statement* (ET-7211). Possible adjustments to an annuity payment may include:

- Final annuity calculations.
- Annual Core and Variable Fund adjustments based on the actual investment experience. These adjustments are reflected on the May 1 payment.
- Wisconsin and federal tax withholding changes, which are subject to change every year.
- Changes made to the state group health or life insurance premiums.

How long will my annuity payments be based on my annuity estimate?

Annuity payments begin with an estimated payment amount because ETF does not always have final information about earnings, service, and contributions from your employer when a retirement benefit begins.

Annuity payments are typically finalized 6 to 12 months after you retire. ETF will send you a *Notice of Final Retirement Annuity Calculation* (ET-4820), which recalculates your annuity benefit based on the final information submitted by your employer. The final amount may be higher or lower than the original estimate. Any retroactive adjustments necessary will be made to your subsequent payment(s).

Will my retirement checks increase after I retire?

Each year, ETF reviews investment results as of December 31. The following year, the monthly payments to annuitants may remain the same, increase, or decrease based on this review.

This is not a cost-of-living increase; it is an adjustment based on the investment results of the Core and Variable Trust Funds. Your May 1 payment will reflect this change, and it will apply until the next adjustment is made. You can see if you are in the Core or

Variable fund by looking on your annuity payment statement that you receive each May.

Annuity adjustments can be either positive or negative. Positive adjustments can be taken away by market losses in a future year. However, if you participate solely in the Core Trust Fund, your annuity payment will never drop below your final calculation. There is no limit to the amount the Variable portion of your annuity can be reduced.

The Core annuity adjustment paid on May 1 during the first year after you retire is prorated based on the number of months you were retired during the calendar year you retired. You will receive the full Core annuity adjustment in subsequent years. If you participate in the Variable Fund, you will receive the full Variable adjustment to the Variable portion of your annuity every year.

I am in the Variable Trust Fund. Do I receive adjustments? Can I transfer to the Core Trust Fund after retirement?

Every May 1, an adjustment is applied to the Variable portion of your monthly benefit, based on the investment results of the Variable Fund. The Variable portion of your annuity can increase or decrease each May 1. There is no limit to the amount the Variable portion of an annuity can change in response to investment gains or losses.

It is important to periodically review your financial situation and understand your risk tolerance for market fluctuation. Remaining in the Variable Fund after retirement may or may not be the best option for your situation.

You may transfer to the Core Fund by submitting a completed *Canceling Variable Participation* (ET-2313) form to ETF. It becomes effective on the January 1 after it is received by ETF. Once you cancel participation in the Variable Fund, you cannot rejoin.

Where can I learn more about investment results?

For more information on the Core or Variable Trust Fund investments or investment performance, visit the State of Wisconsin Investment Board's website at www.swib.state.wi.us.

Payment Information (continued)

Can my payment be deposited to a joint checking or savings account?

Yes. However, if the payment is deposited to a joint account, the non-annuitant joint party must notify ETF and the financial institution immediately upon your death. Monies received after your death are a legal liability and must be returned to ETF.

What if I have multiple accounts at ETF?

If you receive more than one monthly benefit payment from ETF, each will be a separate direct deposit transaction. ETF can deposit each of these payments into the same or different accounts. ETF cannot split a single benefit payment between multiple accounts.

How will I know if my annuity payment is deposited?

Contact your financial institution directly to discuss the notification options available to you.

What if my direct deposit is not credited?

Contact your financial institution to verify that your deposit was received but has not yet been processed.

If your financial institution indicates that your payment was not received via direct deposit, contact ETF to verify your account information. If your payment is rejected from your bank due to a closed or frozen account, ETF will contact you as soon as the payment is returned to us.

What if I want to change financial institutions or account numbers?

- If you want to change to a different financial institution, you must submit a new *Direct Deposit Authorization (ET-7282)* form.
- If you want to change your deposit to a different account within the same financial institution, you may submit a new *Direct Deposit Authorization (ET-7282)* form or you may make this change by contacting ETF by telephone.
- To avoid delays in receiving your payment, **do not close your old account** until ETF deposits start posting to your new account.
- ETF will contact you if the direct deposit was unsuccessful due to an incorrect routing or account number or if your account is closed or frozen. After ETF processes your direct deposit change request, ETF will mail you a letter confirming the change.

How are international annuity payments handled?

ETF cannot electronically transfer funds to a bank located outside of the United States. If you are a retiree living abroad, you can either receive a paper check sent to your home address, or you can establish a bank account in the United States that allows international transfers to a bank in your country of residence.

If you have any questions, contact ETF at 1-877-533-5020.

Insurance Premiums

Health Insurance: *State and Wisconsin Public Employee Group Health Insurance Programs*

Continuation of Coverage

If you were an insured state government employee when you retired or began a WRS disability benefit, you are entitled to continue your health insurance for life.

Your insurance will automatically continue and you will be responsible for the premiums until ETF receives a signed request from you to cancel. This cancellation request will go into effect on the first of the month after ETF receives it (unless a future date is specified). You may be able to re-enroll in the group health insurance program during any annual health benefits open enrollment period for coverage beginning the first of the new year.

Former Wisconsin Public Employer (WPE) group employees, or “local” employees, who were insured on the day prior to retirement and who took an immediate annuity from a local employer who continues to participate in the WPE Group Health Insurance Program, may be eligible to enroll during the annual open enrollment period. You must be receiving a retirement annuity (or have received a lump-sum retirement benefit). Coverage will begin the following January.

Premium Rates

Premium rates for the next year are published before each annual open enrollment period and are available online at etf.wi.gov.

Retirees enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B, and their Medicare-enrolled spouses and dependents who are insured on a family plan, have lower premium rates. If you and/or your insured dependents are eligible for coverage under Medicare and you are retired, you **must** immediately enroll in both Part A and Part B in order to have your claims covered by Medicare. If you do not sign up for Parts A and B, *you will be responsible for the amounts Medicare would have covered.*

ETF will contact you 90 days before you or your dependent(s) turn age 65. If you neglect to enroll in Medicare, you will be liable for the claims Medicare would have paid. Complete and send ETF the [Medicare Eligibility Statement \(ET-4307\)](#), available online or by contacting ETF.

When you are Medicare eligible, visit ETF’s website for more information about your health care options.

Changes

The annual health benefits open enrollment period allows you to make a variety of benefit changes, including changing your health plan. Changes made during open enrollment are effective the following January 1. See the health benefits materials for more information.

Notify ETF promptly to add or remove dependents to update your premium and coverage.

State Retirees Only

After you retired, if you met the sick leave program requirements, your employer sent a certification of your remaining sick leave credits (if applicable) to ETF. Your premiums are paid in the order shown below:

1. Sick leave credits: If you were eligible for the Sick Leave Credit Conversion Program and had accumulated sick leave credits, they will be used to pay your premiums.
2. Deductions from your annuity: After any sick leave is used up, premiums are deducted each month from your annuity payment if it is large enough.
3. Direct billing: If the annuity amount after other deductions is not large enough to cover the premiums, or you are only receiving long-term disability insurance (LTDI) or a duty disability benefit, the insurance carrier will bill you for premiums, and you will pay them directly.

If you are retired and have life insurance coverage through the WRS, are at least age 66, and have used up all of your sick leave credits, you may elect to convert your life insurance to pay for health insurance premiums. See the [Converting Your Group Life Insurance To Pay Health or Long-term Care Insurance Premiums \(ET-2325\)](#) brochure or contact ETF.

Insurance Premiums (continued)

Sick Leave Escrow for State Employees

If you are considering canceling your State of Wisconsin Group Health Insurance Program coverage because you have comparable coverage elsewhere, be sure to apply to escrow (save for the future) your sick leave credits. ETF will determine if your other insurance coverage is comparable.

If you cancel your coverage without properly escrowing your credits, you may lose your sick leave credits.

To escrow your sick leave for an indefinite time, you must file the *Sick Leave Credit Escrow Application (ET-4305)* with ETF.

If your spouse was also a state employee and has family coverage, your credits were automatically saved while you remained covered as a dependent under your spouse's state plan.

Sick leave credits may only be used to pay group health insurance premiums for coverage under the State of Wisconsin Group Health Insurance Program. Your employer will compute your sick leave credits and certify the value on a form submitted to ETF. Each December, you will receive a statement showing your sick leave credit account balance.

For more information, see the *Sick Leave Credit Conversion Program (ET-4132)* brochure available online.

Local Retirees Only

Your premiums will be paid in one of the following ways:

1. Through your employer: Some local employers offer post-retirement health insurance payments.
2. Deductions from your annuity: Premiums will be deducted each month from your payment if it is large enough.
3. Direct billing: If the annuity amount after other deductions is not large enough to cover the premiums, or you are only receiving long-term disability insurance (LTDI) or a duty disability benefit, the insurance carrier will bill you for premiums and you will pay them directly.

Local Annuitant Health Program

The Local Annuitant Health Program (LAHP) may be an option if you need health insurance and were a local government employee or retiree whose health insurance needs are not met. See the local annuitant health program decision guide, available online or from ETF. Contact ETF for more information.

If you do not qualify for LAHP and are seeking health insurance coverage, you may want to visit the Affordable Care Act health insurance marketplace online at www.HealthCare.gov or call 1-800-318-2596.

Life Insurance

If you were insured under the Wisconsin Public Employee Group Life Insurance Program and have continued your coverage after retirement:

- Premiums will be deducted from your monthly benefit payment.
- ETF will send you a *Group Life Insurance Certification of Coverage (ET-4802)* form after you retire that provides your coverage details.
- Premiums are deducted one month in advance and are payable through the end of the month prior to the month in which you reach age 65.
- No further premiums are required after you reach age 65. The insurance coverage continues for your lifetime in reduced amounts according to the policy terms.

Life insurance coverage may also continue if you are receiving a disability benefit. Premiums may be waived if you are unable to perform work in any occupation due to an illness or injury. Ask your employer to file a *Request for Disability Premium Waiver (ET-5306)* if you think you may qualify.

Tax Information

Taxation of Monthly Annuities

If you do not specify how you want federal taxes withheld, ETF is required to withhold according to the tax tables as if you are single with no adjustments.

Wisconsin state income tax withholding is voluntary. If you do not specify how you want Wisconsin taxes withheld, ETF will not withhold any Wisconsin income tax.

ETF cannot tell you how much to withhold.

To change your withholding:

1. State: Complete the [Wisconsin Tax Withholding Election for WRS Annuity Payments \(ET-4337\)](#) and return it to ETF.
2. Federal: Complete the [Withholding Certificate for Periodic Pension or Annuity Payments \(IRS Form W-4P\)](#) and return it to ETF by fax or mail.

You can use ETF's Income Tax Withholding Calculator (available online at etf.wi.gov/calculators) to help you determine how much to withhold from your monthly annuity payment.

If you are not a U.S. citizen and do not reside in the United States, you must submit a completed "W-8BEN Certificate of Foreign Status of Beneficial Owner for United States Tax Withholding and Reporting (Individuals)" form. This document is available from the IRS.

For more information about the tax implications of your benefit, please refer to the [Tax Liability on WRS Benefits \(ET-4125\)](#) brochure or the [Tax Withholding for Retirement Payments](#) web page.

Taxation of Lump-Sum Benefits

If you do not roll over your eligible lump-sum payment to another qualified plan, in most cases ETF must withhold 20% of the taxable portion of your payment for federal income tax. If you wish to withhold more than 20%, you must complete IRS W-4R and return it to ETF.

ETF does not withhold Wisconsin state taxes from lump-sum payments unless you voluntarily elect withholding.

Retired Public Safety Officers

The Retired Public Safety Officer Insurance Premium Deduction Program allows eligible, retired public safety officers to use distributions from their annuity to pay qualified health or long-term care insurance premiums as defined in Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 7703B(b) and exclude up to \$3,000 of those premiums on their annual tax return, if eligible for and in accordance with IRC.

For annuity distributions made on or after January 1, 2023, eligible retired public safety officers (PSO) may now self-certify their eligibility for the PSO Program on their taxes. They are no longer required to apply for and have their insurer approve their eligibility or amount of their deduction.

A "public safety officer" is defined by federal law [26 USC 402 (l) (4) (c)] as an individual serving a public agency in an official capacity, with or without compensation, as a law enforcement officer, a firefighter, a chaplain, or as a member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew. ETF does not determine who is and who is not eligible for this federal tax exclusion.

See the ETF website at etf.wi.gov/retirees/public_safety_officers.htm for more information about this program.

Annual Tax Documents

IRS Form 1099-R:

If you are a U.S. citizen or a resident alien, ETF will send you IRS Form 1099-R annually by January 31, providing information necessary to complete your tax return. You do not need to request this information.

The 1099-R will provide:

- The annual gross amount of your benefit payment(s).
- The taxable portion of your WRS distribution(s).
- The total amount withheld for health and life insurance premiums, and federal and Wisconsin state income taxes, if any.

If you have multiple WRS annuity accounts, you will receive a separate annual IRS Form 1099-R for each of your annuity accounts. It is important that you file copies of all your 1099-R forms with your annual tax returns, if required by the taxing authority.

Tax Information (continued)

If you are receiving monthly payments in the year in which you turn age 59½, IRS regulations require ETF to provide you with two 1099-R statements for that calendar year. One will reflect the income you received for the time you were under age 59½. The other will reflect the income you received after you turned age 59½.

IRS Form 1042-S:

If you are not a U.S. citizen and do not reside in the United States, ETF will send you IRS Form 1042-S annually by March 15, in lieu of IRS Form 1099-R.

IRS Form W-2 Wage and Tax Statements

You may receive a W-2 from ETF if you are covered under the state's group health insurance program and:

- You and/or your spouse receive a wellness incentive from your health plan or Well Wisconsin program administrator; these incentives are taxed as income. Although ETF will provide you with the W-2, if you have questions or concerns about the incentive amount or the taxable portion, you will need to contact your health plan or WebMD (the vendor for Well Wisconsin) directly at 1-800-821-6591 or visit <https://webmdhealth.com/wellwisconsin>.
- You cover a non-tax dependent on your health insurance contract and use sick leave credits to pay your premiums. The portion of the premium that covers non-tax dependents is considered imputed income and is taxable. This does not apply to you if your premiums are deducted from your annuity because those premiums are paid post-tax.

Additional Resources

For more information on the taxation of your monthly or lump-sum benefit, speak with your tax advisor, see the [*Tax Liability on WRS Benefits \(ET-4125\)*](#) brochure, or view *Taxes and My Benefits* information in the Benefits section of the ETF website.

Required Minimum Distribution

Once you stop working for a Wisconsin Retirement System employer, federal law requires you to begin receiving your benefit payment(s) by a certain date, depending on your age. This is called a required minimum distribution (RMD). Visit etf.wi.gov for detailed information about current RMD requirements, and the potential impact a RMD may have on your WRS benefits and tax liability. You may also want to consult with your tax advisor.

It is important for you to contact ETF before a forced distribution is required. Once a forced distribution begins, your ability to choose a different payment option, if available, will be very limited. Your WRS account will be closed and you will not be able to return your payment(s).

Work After Retirement

After I retire, can I take a job with a private employer (non-WRS participating employer)?

As a retiree, you can work in private employment and your benefits administered by ETF (retirement and health/life insurance) will not change.

After I retire, when can I take a job that is covered by the WRS?

A break in service is required before returning to WRS-covered employment. A valid break in service is the time between your WRS retirement date and when you can return to WRS employment.

Annuitants cannot return to WRS employment for at least 75 days. Before a 75-day break in service is met, WRS eligibility is based on your original enrollment date in the WRS. If you return before 75 days have passed, your annuity will be canceled and you will have to pay back any payments that you have received. After a 75-day break in service, your WRS eligibility criteria is based on the new WRS eligibility rules outlined in the [Rehired Annuitant Form \(ET-2319\)](#). For more information, see the [Information for Rehired Annuitants \(ET-4105\)](#) brochure, available at etf.wi.gov or from ETF.

How can I tell if a job I want to take as a rehired annuitant is covered by the WRS?

The payroll/benefits office of your prospective employer can tell you if the job you are considering is eligible for coverage under the WRS. You must have met the requirements to become a rehired annuitant. If you did not meet the requirements, rehired annuitant rules do not apply to you.

Both you and your employer are responsible for knowing the conditions of your employment and how they may impact your WRS benefits. Even if you were to meet WRS participation requirements unknowingly, your annuity would still be suspended.

What happens if I take a job that is covered by the WRS after I meet my break-in-service requirement?

The impact of taking a position covered by the WRS depends on when you last terminated WRS employment.

If You Last Terminated WRS Employment Before July 2, 2013:

If you return to work for any WRS employer in a qualifying position, you must file the [Rehired Annuitant Form \(ET-2319\)](#) with your employer to indicate your decision to either remain an annuitant or elect coverage under the WRS. Your employer will send this form to ETF.

- Remain an annuitant. If you decide to continue receiving your WRS annuity payments, you may elect active WRS coverage in the future, depending on eligibility.
- Elect coverage under the WRS. You can elect to become covered under the WRS, if the position is WRS eligible, at any time. Your annuity will be suspended and your WRS coverage will begin on the first of the month after ETF receives your completed election form.

If You Last Terminated WRS Employment On or After July 2, 2013:

If you return to work for a WRS employer in a position in which you are expected to work at least 1,200 hours (880 hours for teachers and educational support staff) and at least 12 months after your required 75-day break, your annuity will be automatically suspended. It will be re-established when you retire again.

If you work less than 1,200 hours (880 hours for teachers and educational support staff) and at least 12 months in your new position, what happens to your annuity depends on when you were first employed in a WRS position.

- If you first began work under the WRS before July 1, 2011, and you return to work for a WRS employer in a position that is at least 600 hours (440 hours for teachers and educational support staff) and for at least 12 months, you may choose whether you want to continue or stop your annuity.
- If you first began work under the WRS on or after July 1, 2011, and you return to work for a WRS employer in a position that is less than 1,200 hours (880 hours for teachers and educational support staff) and for at least 12 months, you may not become a participating employee; your annuity will continue.

Work After Retirement (continued)

Note: Retirees receiving a disability retirement benefit may have different rules and should contact ETF to speak to a disability specialist.

After I retire and I met the requirements to become a rehired annuitant, when can I take a job with a WRS employer that is not covered by the WRS?

Your break-in-service requirement (see page 10) depends on whether the employment position meets WRS eligibility requirements based on your original enrollment date in the WRS.

- If your WRS employer is the same employer from which you retired, the break-in-service requirement applies even if your new job does not meet WRS participation standards.
- If you are going to work for a different WRS employer and your position meets WRS eligibility requirements, you must satisfy a break-in-service requirement.
- If you are going to work for a different WRS employer and your position does not meet WRS eligibility requirements based on your original enrollment date in the WRS, you do not have to satisfy a break-in-service requirement.
- You can take a non-WRS job at any time.
- After you meet the 75-day break in service requirement, then you will be evaluated under the two-thirds requirement as outlined on the *Rehired Annuitant Form (ET-2319)*.

Effects on Health Insurance

The following information applies to annuitants insured under the State of Wisconsin Group Health Insurance Program, the Wisconsin Public Employers Group Health Insurance Program, and the Local Annuitant Health Program (LAHP).

- If you do not participate in the WRS in your new job, your health insurance coverage will not be affected.
- If you participate in the WRS in your new job, you become eligible for the coverage offered to active employees by your employer. You also are no longer eligible for the coverage you had as an annuitant (if different).

Your payroll representative at your new employer will notify ETF of your new coverage and your coverage as a retiree will automatically be terminated.

What happens to my sick leave if I am a state retiree returning to state employment covered by the WRS?

Your unused sick leave account balance will automatically be placed on hold by ETF if your retiree health insurance coverage ends until you re-retire.

If you return to work, you will earn more sick leave. When you re-retire, that new amount will be added to your existing sick leave account. The add-on amount is based on your highest rate of pay as a state employee. You can use your entire account to pay your state group health insurance premiums after your new retirement.

What happens to my sick leave if I am a state retiree taking a job with a local employer?

If you take a job as a local WRS participant and you have been using state sick leave credits to pay for your health insurance premiums, you can escrow the credits to use later. You must have comparable coverage elsewhere to escrow sick leave credits. If your credits are already escrowed, you cannot access them until you retire again.

When you re-retire, you may also be eligible for the Local Annuitant Health Program (LAHP). You may be eligible to enroll if you apply for both your annuity and for this health coverage within 60 days of termination.

Effects on Life Insurance

I continued my life insurance coverage when I retired, but now am returning to work. What coverage will I have?

Your life insurance coverage depends on whether or not you participate in the WRS.

- If you do not participate in the WRS, you will retain your retiree coverage.
- If you participate in the WRS, you will have a choice of either continuing your retiree coverage or applying for coverage as an active employee.

If you apply for coverage as an active employee, your coverage will be based on your estimated earnings at the time you elect WRS participation.

If you choose coverage as an active employee, your premiums will be deducted from your salary. If you choose to continue your retiree coverage, premiums must be paid directly to the insurance company.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will ETF send me a statement every month?

No. ETF sends an Annuity Payment Statement only when there is a change in your annuity payment amount (including tax withholding and insurance deduction changes). You will not receive a monthly statement from ETF.

When I approach age 62, does ETF contact the Social Security Administration about starting my benefit under their program?

No. It is your responsibility to contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) about starting your benefit, normally about three months before you are age 62. Call the SSA at 1-800-772-1213 for more information or visit their website at www.ssa.gov.

After I retire, can I change the annuity option that I chose?

ETF must receive your request to change your annuity option within 60 days after the date of your first payment or the date your lump-sum payment was issued. For more information, see the [Choosing an Annuity Option \(ET-4117\)](#) brochure.

What happens to my health insurance when my spouse or I reach age 65? Are we required to enroll in Medicare? Will I be notified?

As a retiree, when each of you reach age 65, you each must enroll in Medicare (both Parts A and B). If you do not sign up for Parts A and B, *you will be responsible for the amounts Medicare would have covered*. We will automatically mail you a reminder before your 65th birthday and your spouse's birthday. Your premiums decrease when either of you are eligible for Medicare (both Parts A and B). You will need to complete and return the [Medicare Eligibility Statement \(ET-4307\)](#) and provide a copy of your Medicare card(s) to ETF.

You do not need to enroll in a separate Part D policy because the state's group health insurance plan includes pharmacy coverage.

You **must** notify ETF when you or **any** insured person covered on your family plan is eligible for Medicare before age 65 (i.e., has End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) or received 24 months of Social Security disability benefits).

How do I prepare to enroll in Medicare?

1. Contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or visit www.ssa.gov.
2. Complete and submit the [Medicare Eligibility Statement \(ET-4307\)](#) to ETF. This form is available online or by contacting ETF.

Additional information is available in the [Medicare Enrollment for Retiring Employees \(ET-4109\)](#) publication or by contacting ETF.

When you are Medicare eligible, visit ETF's website for more information about your health care options.

What happens if payments are issued after my death?

Annuity payment(s) issued after your death must be returned promptly to ETF (even if you elected a benefit option where payments continue to a named survivor after your death). Any checks cashed or deposits removed from your bank account after your death will become a legal liability for the individual cashing the checks or withdrawing the deposits.

It is important that ETF is notified of your death as soon as possible. We will review your account to determine if any death benefits are payable to your named survivor or beneficiary(ies).

Can I change my health insurance if I move to a different area?

Yes, if you move from the service area for at least three months, you can change to a health plan offered in your new service area. If you move out of state, you may select the Access Plan if you do not have Medicare or Medicare Plus or IYC Medicare Advantage (for Medicare retirees).

- You must complete a [Health Insurance Application/Change for Retirees \(ET-2331\)](#) form if you are changing plans. ETF must receive your application within 30 days before or after the date of your move. If you are only changing your address, and making no health insurance changes, you must submit the [Address/Name/Gender Change \(ET-2815\)](#) form to ETF in order to notify the plan of your new address.

Contact ETF



etf.wi.gov

Find ETF-administered benefits information, forms, brochures, benefit calculators, educational offerings and other online resources. Stay connected with:

✉ ETF E-Mail Updates

🐦 @wi_etf



1-877-533-5020

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Benefit specialists are available to answer questions.

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