Social Security Administration (SSA) Offsets
Friendly reminders

• This presentation contains general information.
• It is meant to be used as a guide during the webinar.
• All participants are muted during the webinar.
• Have a question?
  » Type your question in the Questions area during the webinar. The moderator will see it and respond.
• There will be a question-and-answer period at the end of the webinar.
• Please maximize your screen size to have full use of the webinar’s features.
Go To Webinar features

Type your question here.
Agenda

• Types of Social Security benefits:
  » Spouse’s or widow(er)’s benefit
  » Earned benefit

• Types of offsets:
  » Government Pension Offset (GPO)
  » Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)

• SSA website tools and calculators

• Questions to ask Social Security
TRSL and Social Security

• Louisiana does not pay into Social Security for the majority of its public employees.

• However, you may still be eligible for Social Security through other employment or through your spouse’s employment.

• The type of Social Security benefit you are eligible for determines which offset provision applies to you.

• Your TRSL benefit will not be reduced by an SSA offset.
Social Security benefits

- **Spouse’s or widow(er)’s benefit:**
  Paid to spouses or surviving spouses who did not work long enough to earn their own SS benefit or whose earned benefit is less than the pensioner’s benefit

- **Earned benefit:**
  Paid to individuals who worked a job that paid into SS and earned enough quarters to receive a SS benefit
Offset provisions

• **Government Pension Offset (GPO)** – 1982

• **Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)** – 1985
Social Security offsets

**Government Pension Offset (GPO)**

- Social Security spousal benefits are reduced by two-thirds of your government pension (TRSL benefit).
- The law requires that a person’s benefit as a spouse or widow/widower be offset dollar for dollar by the amount of his/her own retirement benefit.
- May completely eliminate SS spousal benefit.

**Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)**

- Reduces your own SS benefit if you receive a government pension.
- Uses a modified formula to compute SS benefit, based on average monthly earnings adjusted for inflation.
- Does not completely eliminate SS earned benefit.
SSA homepage: www.ssa.gov
Create a “my Social Security” account

Set yourself free.

Open a my Social Security account today and rest easy knowing that you’re in control of your future.

Sign In or Create an Account

Learn How to Protect Your Social Security Information from Unauthorized Access.
The best way to start planning for your future is by creating a my Social Security account online. With my Social Security, you can verify your earnings, get your Social Security Statement, and much more—all from the comfort of your home or office.

We have a variety of calculators to help you plan for the future and for what you may need now.

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<th>Retirement Age Calculator</th>
<th>Retirement Estimator</th>
<th>Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) Calculator</th>
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<td>Find your full retirement age and learn how your monthly benefits may be reduced if you retire before your full retirement age.</td>
<td>Estimate monthly benefits based on your Social Security earnings record.</td>
<td>Estimate if you are eligible for a pension based on work that was not covered by Social Security.</td>
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<tr>
<th>GPO Calculator</th>
<th>Detailed Calculator</th>
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<td>Estimate of spouse benefits for yourself if you receive a pension from a government job in which you did not pay Social Security taxes. Your benefit may be offset by the Government Pension Offset (GPO).</td>
<td>Get the most precise estimate of your retirement, disability, and survivors benefits. The estimate includes WEP reduction. Must be downloaded and installed on your computer.</td>
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<th>Early or Late Retirement Calculator</th>
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<td>Compute the effect on your benefit amount if you file for early or delayed retirement benefits.</td>
<td>Learn how your earnings may affect your benefit payments if you are currently working and are eligible for retirement or survivors benefits this year.</td>
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Please beware of individuals impersonating Social Security employees over the phone. Reports about fraudulent phone calls from people claiming to be from SSA continue to increase, and recent reports have indicated unknown callers are using increasingly threatening language in these calls. If you suspect you have received a scam call, you should hang up, and then report details of the call to the Office of the Inspector General at 1-800-269-0271 or online at https://oig.ssa.gov/report - Read more...
To see how GPO/WEP may affect you, bring your TRSL benefit estimate with you to your SSA appointment.
Questions to ask Social Security

• At what age can I receive my full SS benefit, and how much will it be?
• What is the earliest age I can receive SS benefits, and will this amount be reduced?
• Are there earnings limits if I collect SS while I am still working and paying into TRSL?
• Do I qualify for an exception to GPO or WEP?
• If GPO or WEP does apply to me, how much will my SS benefit be?
• YES, it’s possible to draw both TRSL and Social Security in retirement.

• Federal provisions reduce the benefits provided by the Social Security Administration.

• TRSL benefits are not reduced.

• For detailed information about your Social Security benefit, please contact the Social Security Administration.
  
  • Website: www.ssa.gov
  • Toll-free: 1-800-772-1213 (Mon - Fri, 7 am - 7 pm)
  • Contact your nearest SS office
Things to do now

• Register for **Member Access**.

• Submit copies of important documents:
  » Social security cards (member and beneficiary/ies)
  » Birth certificates (member and beneficiary/ies)
  » Legal documents (divorce decrees, judgment of separation, and/or community property settlements)

• Update address & beneficiary/ies.

• Get a retirement estimate:
  » Use Member Access or
  » Submit Form 10
Create a benefit estimate

Online calculators loaded with your account information

1. Log on to Member Access.
3. Enter your desired retirement date and click “Create Estimate!”

Register for MEMBER ACCESS @ www.TRSL.org

For technical assistance with Member Access, contact support@trsl.org.
Questions?
### Find it online…

- Forms
- Brochures
- Newsletters & more!

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<td>Retiree Change of Address Authorization (Form 15C) - Survivors, beneficiaries, and alternate payees can also use</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORP Member Change of Address Authorization (Form 16AC)</td>
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<td>ORP Member Name Change Request (Form 16NC)</td>
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### April 2018

**2018 legislative session**

The 2018 regular legislative session began Monday, March 12. We’re monitoring a number of bills affecting TRSL, ranging from the creation of a new benefit structure to changes to the return-to-work laws.

You can view a list of all bills impacting the system, along with the positions taken by the TRSL Board of Trustees for each, by visiting the Legislation page of our website.

**Stay Informed**

You can also receive updates about bills and issues that impact TRSL and its members delivered straight to your inbox through eNews.

Click “manage your preferences” at the bottom of this email, and then select “legislation” as a topic of interest.
Member Access

A secure website where you have all the tools you need to plan for retirement!

- Preloaded benefit estimate calculator
- Update your name
- Update your address
- Apply for retirement
- View DROP Account
- View beneficiary designations
We are here for you!

Local phone: (225) 925-6446
Toll free (outside Baton Rouge): 1-877-ASK-TRSL (1-877-275-8775)

Website: www.TRSL.org
Email: web.master@trsl.org

Like us on Facebook! Follow us on Twitter!