

ENROLL
TODAY

MERS 457 Supplemental Savings Program



About the Program

The MERS 457 Supplemental Retirement Program offers you a flexible retirement account you manage. You decide how much to contribute, how to invest the assets, and how to plan for the future. One of the benefits of the program is that you have access to your account when you leave employment, even if that's before age 60.

Contributions

The MERS 457 Program is flexible because you determine how much you want to contribute, either a flat dollar amount or a percentage of pay, and you can start, stop, increase or decrease your contributions, without fees or penalties. Your contributions can be made pre-tax or Roth (if your employer has adopted this option). *So how do you decide? Let's start with the basics.*

With a **pre-tax** election you make contributions with pre-tax dollars, so you get a tax break up front, helping to lower your current income tax bill. Your money—both contributions and earnings—grow tax-deferred until you withdraw them. At that time, withdrawals are considered to be ordinary income and taxed at your current tax rate.

With a **Roth** contribution, it's basically the reverse. You make your contributions with after-tax dollars, meaning there's no upfront tax deduction. However, withdrawals of both contributions and earnings are tax-free at age 59½, as long as you've held the account for five years.

So it all comes down to deciding when it's better for you to pay the taxes—now or later. You can access online calculators on the MERS website to help you determine the best option for your goals.

Why Should You Enroll?



Help meet your retirement goals

Experts suggest that you should plan on needing at least 80% of your current income in retirement, so chances are you're going to need to rely on personal savings, over and above your Social Security and other retirement benefits.



Low cost

As a nonprofit organization, the MERS program is the most cost-effective way of saving – putting more of your money to work for you.



It's easy!

You contribute through the convenience of automatic payroll deduction.



One-stop planning

Experienced retirement educators are available to help with any questions you may have.



Our convenient online calculators enable you to estimate what your financial future may look like and help you decide what makes the most sense to reach your goals. Find the *457 Savings Calculator* under Resources at www.mersofmich.com.

Who is MERS?

MERS is an independent, professional retirement services company that serves local units of government across the state of Michigan. MERS listens and works in partnership with our members to deliver a superior value that meets our members' needs.

Invest Your Money

While you can't control the markets, you can control where your money is invested. Initially, your money will be invested in an age-appropriate **Retirement Strategy** fund to help you work toward your retirement goals.

How the Retirement Strategy Fund Works

First, you select the year you expect to retire.



Early Career

The fund starts out in mostly stocks where higher gains are expected and the risk of losses can be absorbed over time.

Nearing Retirement Age

The fund automatically shifts to more bonds. They earn less, but the risk of sudden losses is reduced.

During Retirement

Your money stays invested where stable earnings can help offset your withdrawals over time.

You can change your investment allocation online after you sign-up for your myMERS account. For more information on your investment options, please visit our website.



Name Your Beneficiaries

Once your enrollment has been processed, you will be able to designate beneficiaries by logging into your *myMERS* account. This is an important step to ensure your funds are handled appropriately should something happen to you. You may name a spouse, non-spouse, child(ren), a trust and/or charity as a beneficiary.

MERS Helps You Become Retirement Ready

myMERS Online Account

offers you a secure login that connects you to your account information, calculators, webinars, and other resources to help you stay on the right retirement track. Visit our website today at www.mersofmich.com.

MERS Service Center

is available to assist you with your questions at **800.767.MERS (6377)** or send us a private message through Facebook.



Free, Local Seminars, called *Pizza & Planning*, are held throughout the state during the year. These, along with webinars and Facebook Live events, can provide important information on your MERS plans.

Sign up by visiting the MERS website.

This publication contains a summary description of MERS benefits, policies or procedures. MERS has made every effort to ensure that the information provided is accurate and up to date (as of the date of publication 09/19/2019). If this publication conflicts with the relevant provisions of the Plan Document, the Plan Document controls. MERS, as a governmental plan, is exempted by state and federal law from registration with the SEC. However, it employs registered investment advisors to manage the trust fund in compliance with Michigan Public Employee Retirement System Investment Act. Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns. Please make independent investment decisions carefully and seek the assistance of independent experts when appropriate.



457 Supplemental Savings Program Quick Enrollment Form

For Employer Use Only

Name of Employer	Division number (6 digits)* 4 _____	Date of hire/participation (mm/dd/yyyy)* Rehire?
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Personal Information

Last name*	First name*	MI	Full SSN*
Mailing address*		Gender* <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy)*
City*	State*	Zip code*	Daytime phone number (with area code)*
Email address			Marital status* <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married

! Your email address ensures you get important information about your plan(s). Please provide a personal email so we can reach you if you change employment or retire. MERS will never share your personal data for use beyond administration of your benefits.

Contribution Information

All contribution changes will be effective as of the first pay period of the month following the date you submit this form to your employer, or as soon as administratively possible thereafter.

Pre-tax: Amount to be deducted from each pay period _____ % OR \$ _____ .00	Roth/after-tax: Amount to be deducted from each pay period (only available if your employer's program has this option) _____ % OR \$ _____ .00
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Signature

My signature acknowledges that I have received, read, understand, and agree to this *457 Quick Enrollment Form* and affirms that all information I have provided is true and correct. I have also received all informational material detailing the general program features, the investment options offered, and any and all administrative charges and fees which may be deducted from the account(s) maintained on my behalf. I understand that my rights under the program shall be governed by the terms and conditions of the MERS Plan Document pursuant to all applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations.

I understand that my contributions will be placed in an age-appropriate Retirement Strategies fund. Once enrolled, I can make changes online or by phone.

Signature*	Last four digits of SSN*	Date (mm/dd/yyyy)*
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Please submit your completed form to your Human Resources representative.

***** To review other investment options, designate beneficiaries, or roll qualified funds into your account, please visit www.mersofmich.com.

* Required field

What's Next?

- 1 Complete the Enrollment Application**
After completing the above information, submit it to your employer.
- 2 Receive Welcome Email**
Once your employer enters your information, MERS will send you a welcome email with more information about your plan.
- 3 Set up your myMERS account**
After receiving your welcome email, visit www.mersofmich.com to log in to your myMERS account.

Enter **beneficiary information** and verify contact details (*including email*) are accurate and up to date.