

What is IMRF?

IMRF is a "multi-employer public pension fund" that administers a program of disability, retirement, and death benefits for employees of local government in Illinois (excluding the City of Chicago and Cook County). IMRF began operations in 1941. IMRF is governed by Article 7 of the Illinois Pension Code (40 ILCS 5/).

IMRF Snapshot

- IMRF is not funded by the state of Illinois
- IMRF is not related to local police and fire pension funds
- IMRF is managed by an independent Board of Trustees elected by IMRF employers and members
- IMRF is funded by member and employer contributions and primarily by investment income
- \$50.3 billion in assets
- 94.1% funded on an actuarial basis
- More than 440,000 active, inactive, and retired members
- More than 3,030 participating units of local government

IMRF Funding

IMRF is not funded by the state of Illinois. IMRF is funded by three sources: employee contributions, employer contributions, and investment returns.

Investment returns fund the greatest portion of pension costs: more than 60 percent.

As of December 31, 2020, IMRF had more than \$50.3 billion under management. These assets are held in trust; they are not public money to be spent for any other purpose other than for IMRF members' disability, retirement, and death benefits.

Each IMRF employer builds its own account to fund the pension benefits of its own employees. Each IMRF employer has its own unique contribution rate, which is calculated annually. An employer's contribution rate is based upon its employees' salaries, ages, years of service credit, etc., as well the return on IMRF's investments.

Most IMRF members participate in the Regular plan; these members contribute 4.5% of their salary toward their future pension. Members do not contribute toward the cost of their IMRF disability or death benefits.