

DCRB Historical Overview

Pre- 1979

- D.C. Police/Fire and Teacher retirement plans (the Plans) paid from the general revenues of the U.S. Treasury (Treasury) on a "pay-as-you-go" basis when members retired.
- Federal Government responsible for administration and funding Plan benefits.

1979

- Congress established D.C. Retirement Board (DCRB) with exclusive authority and discretion to manage and control newly created Funds for the Plans in accordance with fiduciary obligations modeled after ERISA (Retirement Reform Act).
- DCRB was only responsible for Plan investments and not Plan administration.
- The District performed administrative tasks such as recordkeeping, benefit administration, and calculating benefit payments.

1997

- Due to growing unfunded Plan liabilities inherited from the Federal government, Plan assets were split between the Federal and District Governments under the Balanced Budget Act (BBA).
- Federal Government assumed financial responsibility for Plan benefits accrued on or before June 30, 1997 (Federal Benefits). BBA gave Treasury responsibility for administration of Federal trust funds and Federal Benefits under Frozen Plans.
- District assumed financial responsibility for Plan benefits accrued after June 30, 1997 (District Benefits) and established "Replacement Plans" for District Benefits. The District continued to provide benefits administration for District Benefits.
- Treasury, the District, and DCRB entered into various MOUs to coordinate the transfer of Plan assets and benefits administration.
- Treasury delegated responsibility for Federal Benefits administration to the District (OPRS).

2005

- District law transferred certain benefits administration responsibility for District Benefits from the District to DCRB.
- 2005 MOU between Treasury, the District, and DCRB transferred benefits administration responsibility for Federal Benefits from the District to DCRB, effective Sept. 26, 2005.
- DCRB's benefit administration responsibilities include determining benefit eligibility, calculating benefits, timely processing of benefits, annuitant communications, quality review, and establishing processes to administer benefits under the terms of the Plans.

Present

- DCRB is custodian of Replacement Plan assets for District Benefits.
- DCRB is Benefits Administrator for District and Federal Benefits. Treasury has final authority over Federal Benefits issues.
- Treasury (ODCP) provides payroll services (STAR) for payment of District Benefits to Plan members.
- Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service (BFS) disburses "one benefit check" for Federal and District Benefits. DCRB reimburses ODCP monthly for District Benefits paid.
- DCRB is developing its own pension information system for processing and payment of District Benefits.