

Service Credit Purchase Process is Changing

Based on customer feedback and the unique needs of each municipality, we are implementing a new process for service credit purchases effective January 3, 2017.

A letter detailing the updated process was recently mailed to HR contacts at municipalities affected by these changes. If you have any questions about the updated process, or did not receive a letter, please contact the MERS Service Center at 800.767.MERS (6377).

MERS is the Sole Fiduciary

MERS provides you with the peace of mind that comes with knowing that our retirement board takes on the sole fiduciary responsibility for your MERS plans. As such, MERS assumes the liability for the core functions of the plan, including: establishing the plan document, selection of the investment options, monitoring fund performance, and ensuring fees are reasonable.

Learn more about how MERS' role as sole fiduciary for our retirement plans protects you from potential liability at www.mersofmich.com.



Do you offer MERS Health Care Savings Program?

In 2015, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) introduced new tax filing requirements for individuals, employers and health insurance providers. While the MERS Health Care Saving Program is not specifically addressed in the ACA, it does share some similarities with plans such as Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA) or VEBA's, which are addressed. The IRS requires retiree-only HRAs to be reported, so it is likely the IRS may require employers to report the HCSP for any month a terminated / retired employee has a Health Care Savings Program balance.

We urge you to contact your tax or health consultant to determine whether your municipality will be filing for this benefit as the employer sponsor. If so, MERS will make available the data employers need to complete the 1095-B form – the forms must be post marked to terminated employees on/ before January 31, 2017. The corresponding employer transmittal form 1094-B and copies of participant 1095-B forms are due on/before February 28, 2017 if mailing paper and March 31, 2017 if filing electronically.

**1094-B and
1095-B Form
Filing Notice**

