

WEST VIRGINIA EMPLOYEE BENEFITS



**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN RESOURCES**

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Introduction

Employees of the State Of West Virginia

A Great Place to Live and Work

Long-time employees of state government know and appreciate the exceptional quality of life in the "Mountain State". It's not perfect by any means, but West Virginia is a beautiful, safe, and forward-looking place to work, grow, and raise a family. You might say it's "almost heaven".

We offer challenging jobs with competitive benefits. But most of all, we offer opportunity. The opportunities to further your career, meet your personal goals, and make a real difference in people's lives.

Employees of the State of West Virginia receive a wide variety of financial and personal job benefits. The benefits package includes all financial rewards that are generally not paid directly to the employee. These benefits are a significant part of the employees "total compensation". The following is a brief summary of the highly competitive benefits which are available. The benefits listed apply to most permanent, full-time employees appointed to the merit system classified jobs.

If you receive an employment offer, you should request specific benefits information from the hiring agency; (Bureau or Office of Human Resources Management).

Salary and Wages
Medical/Life Insurance
Retirement
Deferred Compensation
Annual Increment Pay

Holidays
Vacation
Sick Leave
Leave Donation
Credit Union

Training Opportunities
Suggestion Awards
Flexible Work Schedules
Wellness Programs
Quality of Life

Salary and Wages

Most employees in the classified service are paid twice a month. State employees, with a specific leave balance, qualify to participate in direct deposit of their paychecks into the bank account of choice.

Base salary ranges are based on job classification. New employees may be considered for appointment above the minimum of the salary range if they meet specific requirements for exceptional training and experience. Employees are also eligible for salary and salary range adjustments authorized by the legislature.

Promotion Opportunities

With over 20,000 classified positions in state government, there are many opportunities to compete for transfer or promotional appointment. Employees may bid on jobs within their own agency or another agency.

Medical Insurance

The state offers a comprehensive indemnity health insurance plan which includes benefits for hospital, surgical, major medical, prescription drug, and other medical expenses. The state also offers medical insurance through a variety of plans. The state pays the major portion of the insurance premium. Additional information regarding medical insurance options and dental insurance plans can be found at PEIA's website. [www.peia.wv.gov]

Mountaineer Flexible Benefits (Optional Insurance)

The Mountaineer Flexible Benefits program allows tax-free deductions for dental, vision, and disability insurance, as well as medical expenses not reimbursed by regular insurance coverage (such as deductibles and co-payments) and child/dependent care expenses.

Life Insurance

The state provides a \$10,000 decreasing term life policy with accidental death and dismemberment benefits. Additional group rate insurance is available.

Retirement Plan

The state offers an outstanding defined benefit pension plan. The plan provides qualifying employees with a lifetime benefit in the years after their State service ends. Active employees with five or more years of contributing service are eligible for full retirement benefits at age 60, OR whether employed or not when the employee's age plus years of contributing service are equal to or greater than 80, with a minimum age of 55. Each employee contributes 4.5% of salary to the retirement system (tax-deferred). [www.wvretirement.com]

Deferred Compensation

West Virginia Retirement Plus is a supplemental retirement plan designed to provide an extra savings alternative for all state, county, city and other political subdivision employees. This retirement program is similar to a 401(k) plan in structure except that it is designed to supplement a participant's primary retirement plan.

Employee contributions to the plan are managed via convenient payroll deductions. There are a variety of quality investment options including one stable value fund and twenty-five mutual funds representing various asset classes. Employees can also roll over funds into WV Retirement Plus from a former pension or 401(k) plan. [www.wv457.com]

Annual Increment Pay

Employees with three (3) or more years of qualifying service receive annual increment pay in recognition of the value of their past and present service. The annual increment is \$60 for each full year of qualifying service, and is paid in July of each year. For example, an employee with 12 years of service would receive an additional \$720 before normal payroll deductions.

Holidays

The state offers 12 paid holidays in each year. The number of paid holidays is above the national average for both public and private sector employees. In addition, employees generally do not work on statewide primary and general election days.

[www.personnel.wv.gov/employees/benefits/Pages/Holidays.aspx]

Vacation

State employees receive a generous amount of annual or vacation leave based on length of service. The amount of leave an employee may carry forward to the next year also varies by years of service.

Service Category Accrual Rate/Carry-Forward Maximum

Years of Service	Accrual Rate	Carry-Forward
Less than 5 years	1.25 days/mo = 15 days/year	30 days
5 years, less than 10	1.50 days/mo = 18 days/year	30 days
10 years, less than 15	1.75 days/mo = 21 days/year	35 days
15 years or more	2.00 days/mo = 24 days/year	40 days

Military Leave

State employees who are members of the National Guard or the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible for paid military leave.

Paid Sick Leave

The state offers an outstanding paid leave benefit in the event of employee illness or injury. All full-time classified employees earn paid sick leave at a rate of hours equal to 1.5 days each month. This is equivalent to 18 paid days per year. There is no limit to the amount of sick leave an employee can carry-over year-to-year. Sick leave may also be used for

death in the immediate family or for family illnesses/injuries and medical appointments.

Family Medical Leave

The Federal Family and Medical Leave Act and the WV Parental Leave Act provide for up to 12 weeks of unpaid time off work during specific family/medical-related situations.

Leave Donation Program

The Leave Donation Program allows employees to voluntarily donate accrued annual leave to a designated fellow employee who is suffering an extended medical emergency.

Training and Developmental Opportunities

As a large and diverse organization, state government offers employees many opportunities for advanced training and education. Formal in-house training classes include basic job skills, communications skills, supervision/leadership, computers, and information technology. Many agencies also offer tuition reimbursement for job-related training and education provided by accredited technical schools and colleges. Many agencies operate in a work team environment. This allows significant employee flexibility in developing new skills, trying new work methods, and controlling project outcomes.

Suggestion Award Program

Employees may receive monetary award up to 20% of the first year savings for any approved and implemented work improvement suggestion.

Credit Union

Employees may participate in the West Virginia Credit Union. A wide range of financial services are offered, including: checking accounts, ATM cards, drive-through service, Christmas/vacation clubs, direct deposit, 24-hour banking, traveler's checks, and loans. All deposits in the credit union are insured up to \$250,000 by the National Credit Union Administration.

Flexible Working Hours and Alternate Work Schedules

Most state agencies offer employees the opportunity to adjust their hours or work schedule. At the discretion of the agency head and within certain guidelines, employees may be permitted a flexible starting and quitting time. In addition, some agencies may offer opportunities for compressed workweek, part-time work, or telecommuting.

Day Care

State approved child Day Care facilities are located at the Capitol Complex.

Wellness Programs

Many state agencies provide special wellness and health related services to employees. Examples include:

- Free health screening
- Seminars and presentations
- Organized health related activities
- Health contact information
- Wellness promotion events and
- Healthy lifestyle information

Websites:

Division of Personnel:

<http://www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/jobs/benefits.htm>

Retirement Board:

<http://www.wvretirement.com/>

Deferred Compensation:

<http://www.wv457.com>