State of Kansas Post-Extension Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

NOTE – Please see the FAQ's that were provided to employees as part of the initial announcement of the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program as well as the Supplemental FAQs posted on August 19, 2011 for information on eligibility, the incentives provided and other general questions.

Has the State's Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program really been extended? Yes. The VRIP has been extended to allow for employees who are eligible to retire under KPERS Regular Tier 1 or Tier 2, on or before October 31, 2011. All other eligibility criteria and exclusions continue, but employees will have until October 14, 2011 to submit a Revised General Release Agreement to the HR office of the agency in which they work and agree to retire on or before October 31, 2011.

I already turned in my signed and notarized General Release Agreement for a retirement date of September 19, 2011 and I still want to proceed with that date. Does this extension prevent me from retiring as I had planned? No. The extension of the VRIP eligibility period announced on August 31, 2011 has no impact on your previously submitted application to retire under the VRIP. If you still want to proceed with a retirement on or before September 19th, you may still do so.

I already turned in my signed and notarized General Release Agreement for a retirement date of September 19, 2011 but now that I have more time, I would like to wait to retire until October 31, 2011. Can I do that? Yes. You will need to fill out a copy of the Revised General Release Agreement with the new dates and submit that to the HR Office in the agency in which you work just like you did previously. When you submit the new form, the HR staff will dispose of the General Release Agreement that you previously submitted. Please understand that once you submit a Revised General Release Agreement, you will be committed to the newly selected date and timelines, and you will not have an opportunity to change your mind and "go back to" the previous retirement date.

I already submitted my retirement paperwork to KPERS for a retirement date of September 19, 2011 but now I want to change my retirement date to October 31, 2011. What do I do? You need to contact KPERS immediately and inform them of your intent to change your retirement date. In all but the most last minute of circumstances, there should be no problems with changing your retirement date. Please understand that once you change your retirement date with KPERS, you will be committed to the newly selected date and timelines, and you will not have an opportunity to change your mind and "go back to" the previous retirement date. My application to participate in the VRIP with a retirement date of September 19, 2011 was declined. Can I apply to participate in the VRIP with a retirement date of October 31, 2011? Yes. Given the multiple factors that were considered in determining whether to approve or decline offers to retire on or before September 19, 2011, it is entirely possible that the factors may be different with a retirement date of October 31, 2011 so you may apply for the VRIP again.

Will the deadlines to apply for the VRIP be extended again? As indicated in the Announcement of the program, the VRIP may be modified or extended, with or without notice, at the discretion of the Governor. However, at this time, there is no intent to make a further extension of the timelines associated with the VRIP, so employees should not count on a subsequent extension.

One of the FAQs that was a part of the initial General Release Agreement said that if I accept the voluntary retirement incentive, I would not be eligible to be employed by the State of Kansas for five years from the date of my retirement. Would this restriction apply if I ran for office and was elected? No. The restriction on returning to employment with the State of Kansas does not apply to elected positions.