

Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) Benefit Information Meeting

This presentation will begin shortly and is scheduled to last approximately 60 minutes

General questions will be addressed at the end of the presentation

The Benefits Counselor will be available to answer individual questions after the presentation





BENEFIT INFORMATION MEETING
IARSS SPRINGFIELD, IL NOVEMBER 6, 2024

What will be covered

- Retirement Benefits
- Death Benefits
- Retirement Timeline

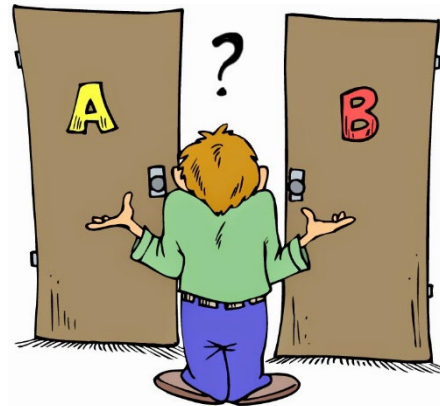
Tier 1 or Tier 2

TIER 1

First contributed to TRS or reciprocal retirement system **prior to January 1, 2011**

TIER 2

First contributed to TRS or reciprocal retirement system **on or after January 1, 2011**



RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Retirement Eligibility

TIER 1

Age 62 with a minimum of 5 years of service

Age 60 with a minimum of 10 years of service

Age 55 with a minimum of 20 years of service *

* Discounted retirement – the benefit will be reduced by 6% for each year, unless the member has 35.000 years of service credit OR meets **Rule of 85**

Rule of 85

- Must be Tier I
- Age + Service must equal to 85
- Must last contribute in TRS state-covered position prior to retirement for one year
- Must have a minimum of 5 years of service in a TRS state-covered position

Retirement Formula

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Service Credit} \\ \times & \text{ Formula Factor } \\ = & \text{Percentage} \\ & \text{Percentage} \\ \times & \text{ Final Average Salary } \\ = & \text{Annual Pension Benefit} \end{aligned}$$



Earned TRS Service Credit

- 170 paid days equal 1 year of service credit
 - Full-time, part time, and substitute teaching
- Only 1 year of service can be earned per school year
- 12-month employees attain full year of service in FEBRUARY

Days Worked	Service Earned
94 days	0.553
170 days	1.000
185 days	1.000
260 days	1.000

Service Credit from Sick Leave Days

Unused, uncompensated sick days reported to TRS by your employer upon termination or retirement

- Maximum of 340 sick leave days or 2.000 years of service
- Every sick day earns service credit
- Request Former Employer Sick Leave Certification (if not reported by the former district)
- RSS and ARSS earn SIX days per fiscal year (prorated for partial year)

Unused, uncompensated sick days	Service credit
1	0.006
67	0.394
170	1.000
213	1.253
340 +	2.000

Service Credit Purchase (Optional Service)

Types of optional service credit

- Out-of-system teaching (K-12 public)
- Leaves of absence
- Substitute teaching, homebound, part-time - prior to 1990
- Military service
- Previously refunded TRS service
- Illinois Private School (must apply by 6/30/2028)



Service Credit Purchase

Service Verification

- Call TRS for appropriate form(s)
- 8 weeks for verification
- TRS will notify you about cost
- No obligation to purchase verified service



Methods of payment

- After-tax dollars
 - Checks only
 - Must pay a minimum of \$50
- Rollover
 - Tax-deferred dollars from a qualified pre-tax plan (IRA, 403(b), etc.)
 - Request a rollover certification which must be completed by your financial institution

Reciprocal **Service Credit**

- IMRF, SURS, SERS, CTPF, others
- Must have at least 1 year of non-concurrent service credit to use reciprocal service
- Teacher's aide under IMRF may use less than one year
- Combined service credits must meet the minimum vesting requirements in each system



Formula Factor - 2.2 Upgrade

$$\text{Service Credit} \times \text{Formula Factor} \times \text{FAS} = \text{Pension}$$

Formula Factor is the percentage of your final average salary you earn for each year of service credit

- Since 7/1/1998, 2.2% has been the formula factor
- Prior to 1998, there were multiple factors used, resulting in a lower pension or requiring more years of service to maximize your pension
- Years of service prior to 1998 can be “upgraded” to 2.2% by paying an upgrade cost, through “3 for 1 forgiveness”, or a combination of these

Your 2.2 upgrade cost is specific to YOU. Call TRS to ask if you have a cost.

Final Average Salary (FAS)

Service Credit x Formula Factor x FAS = Pension

TIER 1

- Average of highest FOUR consecutive* salaries out of last 10 years of service

- “Salary” includes regular pay, extra-duty stipends, overtime, and TRS contributions paid by the employer
- Salary increases up to 20% with same employer will count towards average
 - Employer bears a cost for year-to-year increases over 6%

*Non-consecutive years can be used in some instances

Retirement Formula

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Service Credit} \\ & \times \text{ Formula Factor } \\ = & \text{Percentage}^* \\ & \text{Percentage}^* \\ & \times \text{ Final Average Salary } \\ = & \text{Your Yearly Pension Benefit} \end{aligned}$$

*Maximum benefit of 75% of FAS is earned with 34 years of service (35 years if Tier I retiring before age 60 without Rule of 85) if pre-1998 service has been upgraded to 2.2%

Non-discounted Retirement Calculation Example

Member:

- **Age 60 (Tier I) or Rule of 85 (service + age = 85)**

Years of Service : 29

Average Salary: \$85,000

29 years of service

x 2.2%

= 63.8%

x \$85,000.00

= \$54,230 Annual Pension Benefit

= \$4,519 Monthly Pension Benefit

Discounted Retirement Calculation Example

Member:

- **Age 55 (Tier I)**
- **55 + 29 = 84**

Years of Service : 29

Average Salary: \$85,000

Age reduction: 30%

- Tier I (6% for each year under the age of 60)



29 years of service

x 2.2%

= 63.8%

x \$85,000.00

= \$54,230

- 30% (age reduction)

= \$37,961 Annual Pension Benefit

= \$3,163 Monthly Pension Benefit

Annual Increases

Tier 1

- 3% per year, compounded*
- 1st increase:
 - Must be retired at least 1 full year
 - Must be at least 61 years old
 - The following Jan 1 is your first increase, retroactive to the date you retired (3% x years retired)

*Unless Accelerated Annual Increase (AAI) was elected at retirement

Accelerated Annual Increase (AAI) Program

- Available only for Tier 1 retirees through 6/30/2026
- A new OPTIONAL program allows you to exchange the 3% per year compounded increases for:
 - 1.5% per year non-compounded increases beginning Jan 1 after your 67th birthday, plus
 - A one-time accelerated pension payment equal to a portion of your future annual increases
- Irrevocable election made at retirement
- Survivor Benefit amounts also affected by AAI

Benefit Estimates

TRS can prepare a benefit estimate if **YOU** can provide us with:

- Anticipated date of retirement
- Total reportable salary for current and future years
- Total sick leave that will be reported at retirement
- Information about district retirement incentives
- Reciprocal service (if applicable)

YOU can also prepare your own TRS estimate using your online account access at

<https://trsill.org>



DEATH BENEFITS



Beneficiary Designation Form

Section 1: Personal Information Member First Middle Last Name: Member Address 1: Member Address 2: City State Zip:	Member ID: Home telephone number: Work telephone number: Cell phone number: Email address:
Section 2: Marital Status <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married/civil union <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed Spouse's name:	
Section 3: Automatic Designation <i>(commonly selected by members with a spouse or civil union partner and/or minor children)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I elect that my dependent beneficiaries, as determined at my death, receive a survivor benefit and/or a beneficiary refund. If no dependent beneficiary survives, benefits will be paid to my estate. If the automatic designation is selected, do not complete the Survivor Benefit or Beneficiary Refund sections.	

- Commonly selected by members who have a spouse and/or minor children
- No need to list any names
- Death benefit is automatically paid to a surviving spouse and/or minor children

Survivor Benefits

Section 4: Survivor Benefit*			
Primary Beneficiary(ies) - receive survivor benefits first			
1	Name:		SSN: _____
	Address:		Birth date:
	City:	State:	Zip: Relationship:
2	Name:		SSN: _____
	Address:		Birth date:
	City:	State:	Zip: Relationship:
3	Name:		SSN: _____
	Address:		Birth date:
	City:	State:	Zip: Relationship:
Alternate Beneficiary(ies) - receive survivor benefits if no primary beneficiary survives			
1	Name:		Birth date: SSN: _____
2	Name:		Birth date: SSN: _____
3	Name:		Birth date: SSN: _____



- Funded through survivor benefit contributions made while active (1% of annual salary)
- Tier I – 50% of monthly benefit to a dependent beneficiary
- Lump sum to any beneficiary
- Refundable in retirement if no dependent beneficiary

Beneficiary Refund



Section 5: Beneficiary Refund*			
Primary Beneficiary(ies) - receive beneficiary refund benefits first			
1	Name:		SSN: _____
	Address:		Birth date: _____
	City:	State:	Zip: _____ Relationship: _____
2	Name:		SSN: _____
	Address:		Birth date: _____
	City:	State:	Zip: _____ Relationship: _____
3	Name:		SSN: _____
	Address:		Birth date: _____
	City:	State:	Zip: _____ Relationship: _____
Alternate Beneficiary(ies) - receive beneficiary refund benefits if no primary beneficiary survives			
1	Name:		Birth date: _____ SSN: _____
2	Name:		Birth date: _____ SSN: _____
3	Name:		Birth date: _____ SSN: _____

- Lump-sum refund of unrecovered **pension** contributions to any beneficiary
- Paid only if you pass away before retirement or within first few years of retirement (declining balance)

SEGIP Life Insurance

- Basic Life Insurance is provided at no cost to all active members, retirees and annuitants.
- Active employees receive an amount equal to their annual salary.
- Retirees and annuitants **under** age 60 receive an amount equal to their annual salary on their last day of active employment.
- Retirees and annuitants age 60 or older receive a \$5,000 benefit.

Optional Term Life Rate	
Member Age	Monthly Rate Per \$1,000
Under 30	\$0.03
30-39	\$0.05
40-44	\$0.09
45-49	\$0.12
50-54	\$0.19
55-59	\$0.36
60-64	\$0.56
65-69	\$1.26
70 and Over	\$2.06

Spouse Life Monthly Rates	
Spouse Life \$10,000 Coverage (Members, retirees, and annuitants under aged 60)	\$5.70
Spouse Life \$5,000 Coverage (Retirees and annuitants aged 60 and older)	\$2.85

RETIREMENT TIMELINE



Throughout Your Career

Regularly: Review your status

- Review your annual TRS statement online
- Verify beneficiaries
- Upload Proof of Birth
- Prepare updated benefit estimates (includes “AAI” program if retiring by 6/30/2026)
- Meet with a TRS Counselor
- Check in with your financial planner
 - Monitor DC plan performance [457(b), IRA, etc.]
 - Make changes as needed (plan limits change as you age)

6-12 Weeks from Retirement

Contact TRS for Personalized Retirement Interview (PRI)

- Takes about 10 minutes and does not require an appointment

Questions

1. Are you interested in AAI lump sum, if retiring by 6/30/2026 (yes or no)?
2. Do you want a Standard or Reversionary Retirement?
3. What would you like for your federal tax withholding status?
4. Are you receiving or are you eligible to receive a public pension from another state?
5. Does your district know you are retiring this year?

*** If you retire reciprocally, you must contact each system and start retirement process with them as well.**

FY2024 State Insurance Benefits (SEGIP)



State Insurance Enrollment

- Eligible with 5.000 years of state service credit
- Enrollment opportunities
 - Within 30 days of retirement date if enrolling at retirement
 - Medicare becomes available (age 65 in most cases)
 - Involuntary termination of previous insurance coverage
 - Benefit Choice Period – Typically May with coverage starting July 1
 - Dependents may enroll at same opportunities
- Coverage always starts on the first of a month

SEGIP Member Premiums

There are THREE premium considerations for RSS and Assistant RSS

- 1) Premium-FREE insurance for those with EIGHT years of service as RSS or Assistant RSS
- 2) With FIVE years in a State position, 5% premium subsidy for each year of TRS service (including district service)

Years of service	Premium reduction/subsidy
5 years	25%
10 years	50%
15 years	75%
20+ years	100% (FREE)

- 3) If less than five years in a State position, but at least EIGHT with a school district, regular TRIP enrollment is available at 75% subsidy.

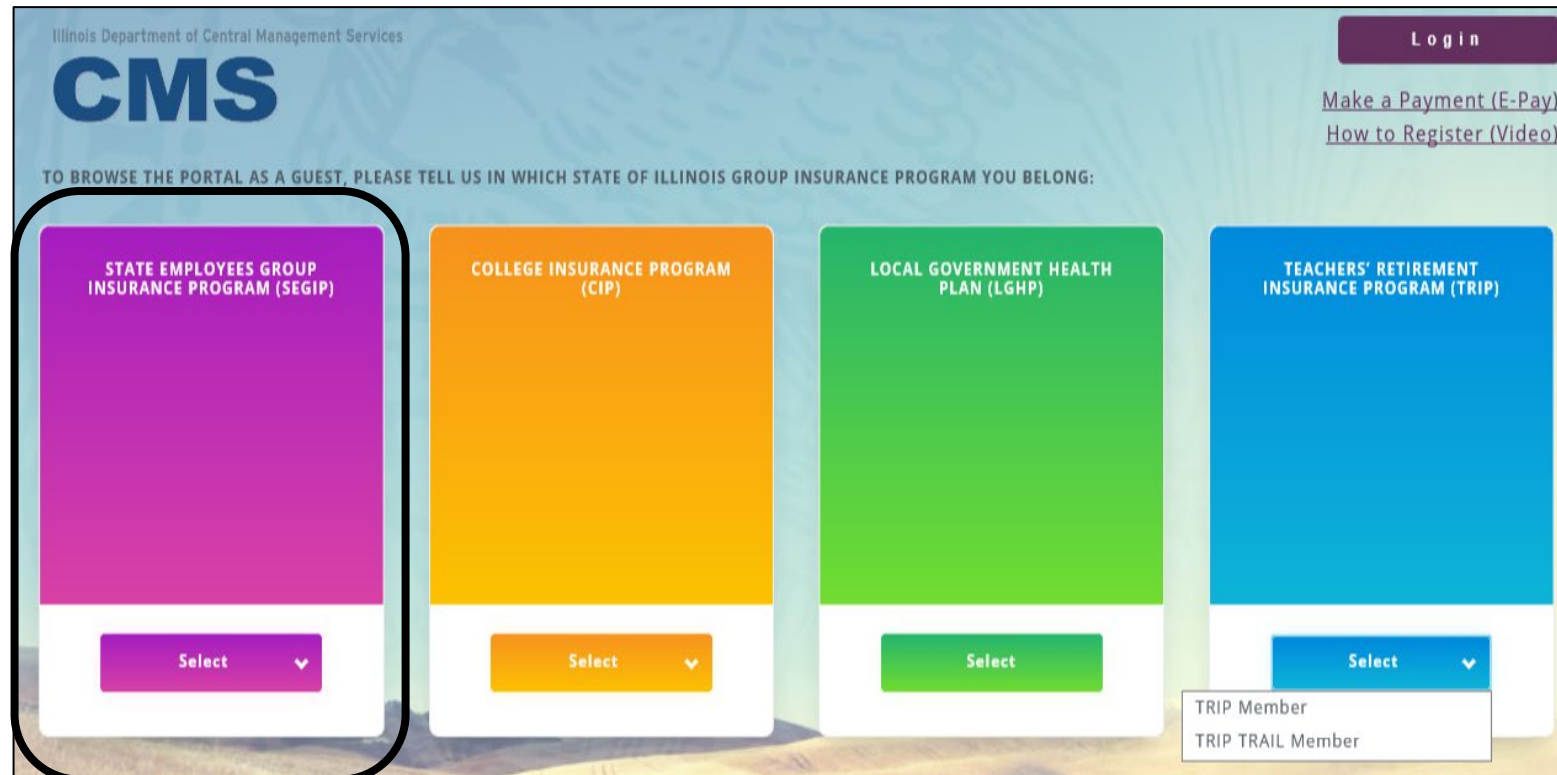
SEGIP Dependent Premiums

Number of Dependents	Aetna HMO	Blue Advantage	Health Alliance Illinois	HMO Illinois	Aetna OAP	BCBSIL* OAP	HealthLink OAP	CDHP**	QCHP***
1 Dependent	\$195	\$158	\$195	\$162	\$186	\$186	\$204	\$169	\$291
2+ Dependents	\$240	\$194	\$241	\$201	\$231	\$231	\$257	\$213	\$329
1 Medicare A & B Primary Dependent	\$172	\$137	\$171	\$141	\$163	\$163	\$180	\$146	\$184
2+ Medicare A & B Primary Dependents	\$214	\$172	\$215	\$178	\$205	\$205	\$227	\$187	\$245

My Benefits Service Center

SEGIP health insurance administered through My Benefits Service Center:
<https://mybenefits.illinois.gov> or call (844) 251-1777

Enroll, change coverage, add, terminate and compare insurance coverage



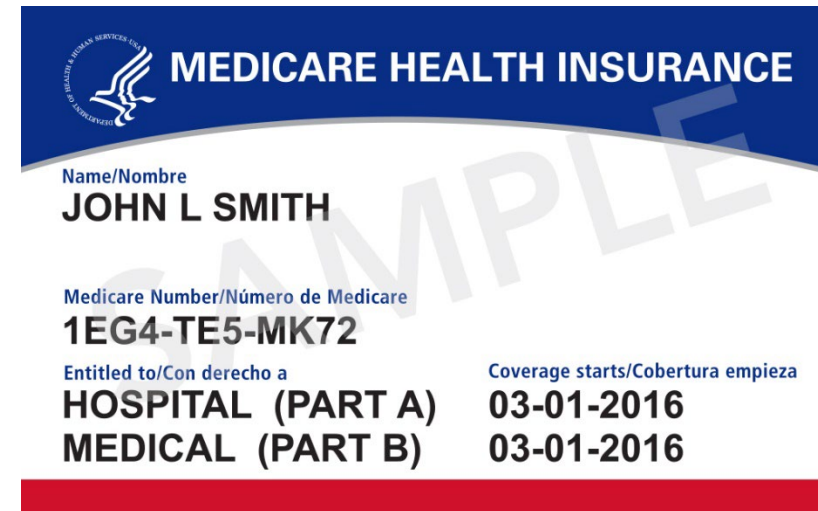
SEGIP Dental and Vision Insurance

Member Monthly Quality Care Dental Plan (QCDP) Contributions**		
Member Only	Member + 1 Dependent	Member + 2 or More Dependents
\$14.00	\$23.00	\$25.50

Vision coverage is provided at no cost to all members enrolled in a State health plan. The plan is administered by EyeMed.

Medicare

- Qualify through non-TRS employment
- TRS employment after March 1, 1986
- Qualify through spouse
- Medicare election in 2004
- Medicare (800) 633-4227
- www.medicare.gov



The image shows a sample Medicare Health Insurance card. At the top, there is a blue banner with the Illinois State Seal logo and the text "MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE". Below the banner, the cardholder's name is listed as "JOHN L SMITH". The Medicare Number is "1EG4-TE5-MK72". The card specifies coverage for "HOSPITAL (PART A)" and "MEDICAL (PART B)", both starting on "03-01-2016". A large, light-colored "SAMPLE" watermark is overlaid diagonally across the card. The bottom of the card features a red horizontal bar.

MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE	
Name/Nombre JOHN L SMITH	
Medicare Number/Número de Medicare 1EG4-TE5-MK72	
Entitled to/Con derecho a	Coverage starts/Cobertura empieza
HOSPITAL (PART A)	03-01-2016
MEDICAL (PART B)	03-01-2016

Mind Blown?

It's okay ... TRS is here to help with your individual situation



Contact TRS

Social Media



members@trsil.org



<https://trsil.org>



[Facebook.com/TRSillinois](https://www.facebook.com/TRSillinois)



@ILLTRS



trs_illinois

Phone & Hours

Toll free: (877) 927-5877

M-F: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Nick Stabler x2161

nstabler@trsil.org

www.trsil.org/IARSS

Thank you for coming!



Appendix

TRS Membership

Active TRS members: 169,889 (40.5% Tier II)

Inactive TRS members: 147,329

Benefit recipient: 131,017 (retirement, survivor, and disability)

Average length of active career: 25 years

Average annual retirement benefit: \$60,324

Oldest retiree: 105+ years old

Oldest full-time teacher: 84 years old

*Data as of June 30, 2023

FY 2024 TRS Contributions

Members, employers and the state of Illinois make contributions to TRS to provide for your retirement, disability and death benefits.

Members Contributions	9.0% of gross creditable earnings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7.5% for retirement benefits• 0.5% for automatic annual increases in retirement• 1.0% for death benefits
Member THIS Fund Contributions	0.9% for subsidized premiums for retiree insurance
Employer Contributions	0.58% for retirement benefits
Employer THIS Fund Contributions	0.92% for subsidized rates for retiree insurance

Age Reduction

TIER 1

If less than 35.000 years of service credit, the annuity will be reduced by 6% for each year* under the age of 60.

Age 60	No reduction
Age 59	6% reduction
Age 58	12% reduction
Age 57	18% reduction
Age 56	24% reduction
Age 55	30% reduction

*Actual age at retirement calculated to three decimal places

Reciprocal Retirement Systems

CEABF	County Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Cook County	www.CookCountyPension.com	(312) 603-1200
CTPF	Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund	www.CTPF.org	(312) 641-4464
FPEABF	Forest Preserve District Employee's Annuity Benefit Fund of Cook County	www.CookCountyPension.com	(312) 603-1200
IMRF	Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund	www.IMRF.org	(630) 368-1010
JRS/GARS	Judges' & General Assembly Retirement System	www.srs.Illinois.gov	(217) 782-8500
LABF	Laborers' Annuity & Benefit Fund	www.labfChicago.org	(312) 236-2065
MEABF	Municipal Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund	www.MEABF.org	(312) 236-4700
MWRD	Metropolitan Water Reclamation District	www.MWRDRF.org	(312) 751-3222
PEABF	Park Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago	www.ChicagoParkPension.org	(312) 553-9265
SRS	State Employees' Retirement System	www.srs.Illinois.gov	(217) 785-7444
SURS	State Universities Retirement System	www.SURS.org	(800) 275-7877
TRS	Teachers' Retirement System (of Illinois)	www.trsil.org	(877) 927-5877

Retirement Process Responsibilities

TRS MEMBER

- Contact TRS 6-12 weeks prior to your last day of work (by phone or online)
- Complete and submit all necessary retirement forms
- Contact each reciprocal system for retirement application, if applicable
- Submit retirement application to reciprocal system(s), if applicable
- Pay off all optional service and 2.2 balances

EMPLOYER

- Submit the supplementary report on or after the last day of work (electronically)
- Submit the sick leave certification on or after the last day of work (electronically)

AAI Program

3% COMPOUNDED ANNUAL INCREASE

- 3% increases effective January 1 following age 61, or the January 1 following the first anniversary of the member's retirement, whichever is later
- Monthly survivor benefits would continue to receive 3% increases

1.5% NON-COMPOUNDED ANNUAL INCREASE

- 1.5% increase effective January 1 following age 67, or the first anniversary of the member's retirement, whichever is later
- Receive a lump-sum "accelerated pension benefit payment" that equals 70% of the Present Value difference of the 3% and 1.5% annual increase.
- Lump-sum can be in the form of "roll-over" to a qualified retirement plan and/or cash payout
- Lump sum payment reduces beneficiary refund
- Monthly survivor benefits would continue to receive 1.5% increases

Salary Increases Affecting Final Average Salary

- The 6 percent salary threshold applies to year-to-year raises in salaries paid to TRS members by the SAME employer in the years used to calculate the member's final average salary
- Members should contact his/her school district or union representative for questions regarding his/her Collective Bargain Agreement, individual contract, or retirement incentive
- Exceptions: an educator leaves one district and receives an increase when he/she starts with another district or educators whose jobs and salaries are affected by school district consolidations or annexations

Social Security

Illinois teachers do not contribute on TRS-covered employment

Earned SSA benefits may be reduced under Windfall Elimination Provision and/or Government Pension Offset

Social Security (800) 772-1213

www.socialsecurity.gov

