



## NMI SETTLEMENT FUND

POST OFFICE BOX 501247, SAIPAN, MP 96950

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#### **When are retirees paid their benefits?**

Retirees and survivors are paid on the 15<sup>th</sup> and last day of every month. If the 15<sup>th</sup> or the end of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, benefits will be paid on the preceding business day. For example, if August 31, 2025 falls on a Sunday, then benefits will be paid on Friday, August 29, 2025.

#### **Why did I not receive my benefits?**

If you did not receive your benefits on any given pay period, please contact the Settlement Fund immediately. Your benefits can be withheld due to one or more of the following reasons:

- As a retiree or survivor, you failed to submit the annual Annuity Recipient Information Update (Form SF-200);
- The Settlement Fund discovered that you returned to government service;
- As a surviving spouse, the Settlement Fund discovered that you have re-married;
- As a surviving child, you turned 18 years old and are no longer in high school or are not attending an accredited college or university;
- As a surviving child attending an accredited college or university, you: (1) failed to comply with the Settlement Fund qualification requirements, or (2) turned 22 years old.

#### **What is an adverse decision?**

An adverse decision is a notice that you have been overpaid benefits. Under the Settlement Fund's Appeal Rules and Procedures, you have 30 days to appeal by filing a Notice of Review with the Settlement Fund. See <https://www.nmisf.com/rfp/notice-of-appeals-rules/>.

#### **What is a notice of underpayment of benefits?**

A notice of underpayment of benefits informs you that you are entitled to payments due to prior underpayment of benefits due to you.

#### **What is the Settlement Fund's Administrative Appeals Process?**

The Settlement Fund's administrative appeals process is triggered when a member receives an adverse decision letter and appeals the decision within 30 days of the decision. The process begins with mediation before District Court appointed mediator Daniel Collins, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Arizona. If a matter remains unresolved at mediation, the parties have an opportunity to litigate the case before a hearing officer. If a party is dissatisfied with the hearing officer's decision, the party may appeal the matter to the arbitrator, which serves as the final decision in the case. The Appeal Rules can be found on our website at: <https://www.nmisf.com/rfp/notice-of-appeals-rules/>.

**Why am I required to submit the Annuity Recipient Information Update (Form SF-200) every year?**

The *Johnson* Settlement Agreement authorizes the Trustee to obtain information from Settlement Class members to maintain current retiree information to carry out duties.

**What is the Application for Beneficiary of Death Benefits/Refund of Contributions Form (SF-1A)?**

This form ensures that benefits after your death, such as the one-time lump sum death benefit, will be distributed to your primary beneficiaries. If your primary beneficiaries predecease you, any benefits after your death may be distributed based on your contingent beneficiaries listed. If you have no survivors or have not identified beneficiaries, your benefits will be distributed according to 1 CMC §§ 8348 and 8349, in the following order of priority: first, to surviving spouse if no surviving children; second, to surviving children if no surviving spouse; third, to surviving spouse and surviving children; fourth, to surviving parents; fifth, to surviving siblings, and sixth, to the member's estate.

**When does the Fund initiate audits of Member files?**

An audit of a Member's benefit will commence when one of the following triggering events occur: (1) the death of a retiree, (2) an application for benefits as a new retiree or survivor, (3) a retiree's return to government service or reinstatement of retirement benefits, (4) a new or pending administrative appeal, and (5) a probate action is initiated.

**What documents are needed to compute a Member's benefits?**

- Certified Length of Service, and corresponding Notice of Personnel Action ("NOPA")
- All W2 Statements issued by all government employers
- Certified Accumulated Sick Leave balance at date of separation, or final pay stub
- Total Overtime/Compensatory hours worked (certified), for vesting credit only
- Contribution records, if Fund records are incomplete
- Evidence of early retirement bonus received and corresponding employee contributions paid