

Collect more savings with DCP

The IRS has increased the 2019 amount you can save for retirement through the Deferred Compensation Program (DCP). To ensure you are meeting your retirement goals, you can increase your contributions to the following maximum amounts:

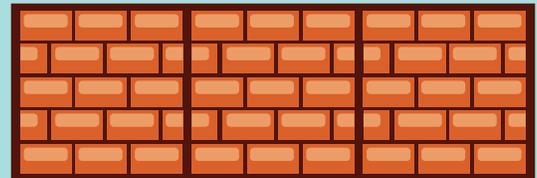
- \$19,000 annually if you are under age 50
- \$25,000 annually if you are over age 50

DCP is a terrific way to save for retirement. If you're already a DCP participant, now's a great time to consider increasing your contributions. If you are not a participant (and your employer participates in DCP), consider signing up. Even a minimum monthly contribution of \$30 adds up to big savings over time. Depending on your employer's payroll, it can take up to 30 days for your account changes to go into effect. So for the new year, you might want to start your changes now!



\$ x 19,000

Also, you can make contributions to DCP based on a percentage of your paycheck in addition to a set dollar amount. Percentage contributions mean your monthly contributions to DCP increase when your paycheck increases. To find out more, visit the [DCP section](#) of the DRS website.



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Protect your personal information

DRS encourages you to follow recommended practices for protecting your personal information and safeguarding yourself against identity theft. One of the easiest ways for an identity thief to steal your personal information is to simply ask you for it.

Email, text and phone call scams (known as “phishing” or “vishing”) increase around the holidays and certainly as we enter tax season at the beginning of the new year. Help avoid identity theft by watching for these scams. Phishing scams often use emails, texts or phone calls to gather important data.

Clicking on a link in these emails can be harmful to your computer. Some emails link to dangerous software that may infect your computer and capture your personal data.

Scammers often try to pose as financial institutions to scare you into providing information. The safest way to check the legitimacy of a request is to access the company or organization directly, using an address or phone number from the organization’s contact information, such as that listed on its website.

If you have an online account through the organization, log into your account directly to make any requested changes or updates. Oftentimes, if an organization is requesting information, they will post a message about it inside your account so you know it’s official.



For resources to protect you from tax-related scams, visit the [IRS website](#). For tips and guidance on protecting your personal information, see the state Attorney General’s [Consumer Protection website](#).

How secure are DRS accounts?

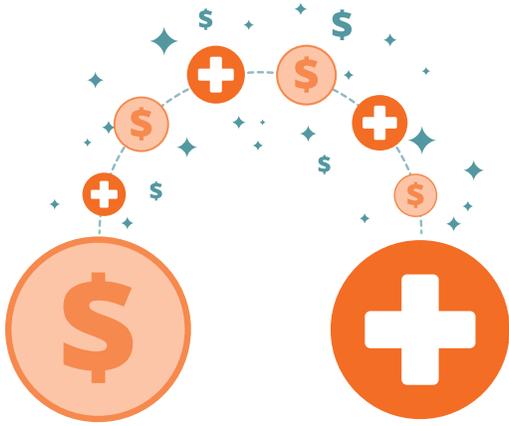
The state of Washington takes **security standards seriously, as does DRS**.

Computer networks are continuously monitored by security experts who watch for any sign of vulnerability.

The computer networks used to send and receive your retirement account information have a full range of security controls (multiple firewalls, anti-virus protections and others) to ensure your data is protected. Likewise, your login credentials (such as your ID and password) and the information within your account are encrypted.

All DRS employees are trained in best practices for securing your account information and understanding the threats to your personal information.





New online tool lets patients compare health care costs

The state's **HealthCare Compare** website was created to help Washington residents make better health care decisions. In addition to information on providers and facilities, you can compare cost and quality for medical procedures.

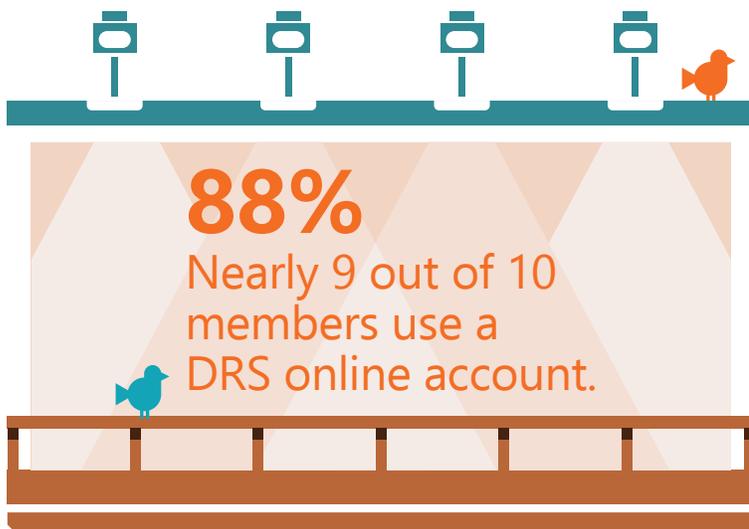
To learn more, visit the **HealthCare Compare** website or [check out this article](#) on the Governor's Medium website.

Contribution rate changes coming in 2019



Updated contribution rates for members of the state's retirement plans will take effect in July 2019. The rates, which are subject to change by the Legislature, are established every two years. To see the upcoming rate schedule and learn more about the rate-setting process, see the **What's New** article on the DRS website.

Your online account makes it easy to track savings and make changes



Have you signed up for your **online account** yet? If not, consider doing so. You can sign up or log in on the DRS home page. Your online account is a convenient way to get up-to-date information on your retirement savings, and make updates to contact information like your address or phone number or beneficiary information.

You can also easily switch to your Deferred Compensation Program (DCP) account and track or make changes to your DCP savings.

Legislative updates

The 2019 legislative session begins Monday, Jan. 14. During the session, DRS maintains a list of pension-related bills as they are introduced. Visit [the legislation page](#) on the DRS website to learn more.

If you haven't yet signed up for [DRS email updates](#), be sure to do so and you'll be notified any time there's a change to the legislative page.



Retiring soon? Attend a planning seminar

DRS holds retirement planning seminars throughout the state of Washington.

If you're within a few years of retirement, consider attending one. Seminars are held from 9 am to 1:30 pm on Saturdays. To learn more or to register, visit the [Seminars page](#).



DRS financial report now available

The 2018 **Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)** is now available on the DRS website. The CAFR has detailed information on DRS membership, financial statements, investment performance and actuarial methodology.

City	Date
Kirkland	Jan. 26
Centralia	Feb. 2
Everett	Feb. 23
Mount Vernon	March 16
Port Orchard	April 13
Tacoma	April 27
Yakima	May 4
Spokane	May 18
Seattle	June 15
Tumwater	June 28
Tumwater	June 29



The Washington State Department of Retirement Systems publishes *Retirement Outlook* for active members twice a year.

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