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Agency Broadcast

Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Deferred Resignation

The Department of Commerce has received approval from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA) for employees that are eligible for VERA **and** have elected to accept the OPM offer of deferred resignation.

Background

VERA allows agencies that are undergoing substantial restructuring, reshaping, downsizing, transfer of function, or reorganization to temporarily lower the age and service requirements to increase the number of employees who are eligible for retirement. By offering these short-term opportunities, the Department can make it possible for employees to receive an immediate annuity years before they would otherwise be eligible.

Eligibility

To be eligible for VERA, an employee must be at least age 50 with a minimum of 20 years of creditable Federal service or be any age with at least 25 years of creditable Federal service.

Questions

For questions about your eligibility for VERA, please contact the USPTO's Compensation, Benefits, and Worklife Division at RetirementTeam@uspto.gov.

For questions about Deferred Resignation please visit the [OPM website](#).

To take advantage of VERA, please respond to OPM's "Fork in the Road" email by the February 6 deadline, complete the [VERA application](#), and provide the application to the USPTO's Compensation, Benefits, and Worklife Division at RetirementTeam@uspto.gov.



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