



Thrift Savings Plan BULLETIN for Service TSP Representatives

Subject: Consolidation of Forms TSP-76, Financial Hardship In-Service Withdrawal Request (Civilian) and TSP-U-76 (Uniformed Services), and changes to TSP Financial Hardship In-Service Withdrawal Processing

Date: January 10, 2012

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (Agency) has made a number of changes to the TSP financial hardship in-service withdrawal process to provide for notarized spouse and participant signatures and to reduce the number of forms rejected because they are incomplete or invalid. Changes include the consolidation of Forms TSP-76, Financial Hardship In-Service Withdrawal Request (Civilian) and TSP-U-76 (uniformed services) into a single form, effective December 12, 2011. The combined form supercedes all prior versions of the Financial Hardship In-Service Withdrawal Request. Previous versions of the form must be discarded (recycled), and agencies/services that provide links to electronic versions of old forms should disable those links. Previous versions will not be processed. A copy of the consolidated Form TSP-76 is attached to this bulletin. The revised Form TSP-76 is available for download from the TSP website.

This bulletin describes the consolidated form along with other changes to the TSP financial hardship in-service withdrawal processing.

I. Purpose of Form TSP-76

Form TSP-76 allows civilian and uniformed services participants to request a TSP financial hardship in-service withdrawal by submitting the form by mail or by fax. Form TSP-76 **does not** pertain to beneficiary participant (spouse) accounts since beneficiary participants are not eligible to request a TSP financial hardship in-service withdrawal.

II. Changes to Form TSP-76

- A. This form is designed to be read by an optical scanner. When printing or reproducing the form, make sure that copies are not resized or distorted. Participants completing the form should print legibly, **inside** the boxes, using black or dark blue ink and simple block letters.

(continued on next page)

Inquiries: Questions concerning this bulletin should be directed to the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board at **202-942-1460**.

Chapter: This bulletin may be filed in Chapter 2, General Information.

- B. Section I (Information About You). This section should be completed in its entirety. However, if a participant neglects to check the box for “Civilian Account or “Uniformed Services Account,” but has only one TSP account, the financial hardship in-service withdrawal request will still be processed. If a participant has both a civilian and a uniformed services TSP account, and does not check the box for the account from which he/she is requesting the withdrawal, the request will not be processed. If a participant has both civilian and uniformed services accounts, and wishes to take a financial hardship in-service withdrawal from both accounts, the participant must submit a separate Form TSP-76 for each withdrawal request. A single form cannot be used for both requests.

Note: The new Form TSP-76 does not have address fields as did earlier versions. Any correspondence related to the form will be sent to the participant’s TSP address of record.

Also, unless the participant requests to have the financial hardship in-service withdrawal paid by direct deposit, a check will be sent to his/her address of record.

Participants should be educated by their agency/service on procedures to update their TSP address of record before submitting an application for a financial hardship in-service withdrawal.

- C. Section II (Married FERS and Uniformed Services Participants). Unlike previous versions of the form, the new TSP-76 does not include check boxes for marital status. This section must be completed by participants who are married or legally separated.

To request an exception to the spousal requirements, participants must provide the spouse’s Social Security number in Item 9, and submit a valid Form TSP-16, Exception to Spousal Requirements (Civilian) or a TSP-U-16 (uniformed services). If an exception has been granted within the past 90 days, participants must still provide the spouse’s Social Security number so that the TSP can verify the exception.

- D. Section III (Married CSRS Participants). The TSP must notify the participant’s spouse of his/her financial hardship withdrawal.

Note: For CSRS employees to request an exception to the spousal requirements, participants must provide the spouse’s Social Security number in Item 11, and submit valid Form TSP-16, Exception to Spousal Requirements. If an exception has been granted within the past 90 days, participants must still provide the spouse’s Social Security number so that the TSP can verify the exception.

- E. Section IV (Withdrawal Request). This section must be completed by the participant. The Worksheet to Determine Financial Hardship is included in the Form TSP-76 to assist participants when determining the amount of their financial hardship. The worksheet is for a participant's records only and is not to be submitted to the TSP.
- F. Section V (Tax Withholding). This section is optional. This section provides tax withholding information and options.
- G. Section VI (Direct Deposit Information). This information is optional.

Note: If a participant provides **invalid** direct deposit information, or does not provide all of the required information, the withdrawal request will still be processed, but payment will be made by mailing a check to the participant's TSP address of record.

- H. Section VII (Certification and Notarization). This section is mandatory and all information must be provided. Participants who do not provide information about their spouse in either Section II or Section III certify that they are unmarried by signing the form.

New requirement – The signature of the participant on the Form TSP-76, Financial Hardship In-Service Withdrawal Request must be notarized before the form is submitted to the TSP for processing. This is mandatory for all applicants, regardless of marital status or retirement coverage.



PAMELA-JEANNE MORAN
Director
Office of Participant Services

Attachment: [Form TSP-76](#)



Thrift Savings Plan

Form TSP-76

Financial Hardship

In-Service Withdrawal Request

December 2011

GENERAL INFORMATION

If you are a Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) participant and you are employed by the Federal Government as a Federal civilian employee or as a member of the uniformed services, you may be able to request a financial hardship in-service withdrawal.

To qualify, you must have an immediate and significant financial need that necessitates a distribution from your TSP account **and** your need must arise out of either a recurring negative monthly cash flow situation, medical expenses, legal expenses for separation or divorce, or personal casualty loss. You cannot request a financial hardship withdrawal for expenses that you have already paid or that are reimbursable to you. **In addition, the following conditions apply:**

- Your TSP account must contain at least \$1,000 of your own contributions and earnings on those contributions.
- You have not received a financial hardship in-service withdrawal from the same account within the previous 6 months.
- You do not have an application pending for an age-based in-service withdrawal or for a TSP loan.

Before requesting a withdrawal, you should read the TSP booklet *In-Service Withdrawals* and the TSP tax notice "Important Tax Information About Payments From Your TSP Account." If you do not have these materials, you can obtain them from the TSP website or from your agency or service. These materials provide detailed information about the **effect of a financial hardship withdrawal on your retirement savings and the tax consequences of your withdrawal**. For example, when you make a financial hardship withdrawal:

- The TSP will automatically stop your TSP contributions for 6 months. If you are a FERS employee, this means that you will not receive Agency Matching Contributions during that time. If you are a member of the uniformed services, this means that your contributions from incentive and special pay, including bonuses, will also stop.
- You permanently deplete your retirement savings by the amount of your withdrawal plus any future earnings you could have received on that amount.
- The withdrawal is subject to Federal income tax (and maybe to state and local tax, depending on your residence). An additional 10% early withdrawal penalty tax applies if you are younger than age 59½ when you make the withdrawal, unless you satisfy one of the Internal Revenue Service's exceptions to this penalty.

If you are in pay status and eligible for a loan, you might consider taking a loan rather than making a withdrawal.

SPOUSES' RIGHTS: If you are married (even if separated from your spouse), spouses' rights apply to the financial hardship in-service withdrawal from your account as follows:

Spouses' Rights for In-Service Withdrawals

Classification	Requirement	Exceptions
FERS and Uniformed Services	Spouse must provide consent to the in-service withdrawal. Your spouse's signature must be notarized.	Exception may be requested if whereabouts are unknown or exceptional circumstances exist.
CSRS	Spouse must be notified of the request for an in-service withdrawal.	Exception may be requested if whereabouts are unknown.

If you cannot obtain your spouse's signature (FERS and uniformed services) or you do not know your spouse's whereabouts (CSRS), provide your spouse's Social Security number on the form and submit Form TSP-16, Exception to Spousal Requirements (TSP-U-16, uniformed services), along with the required documentation.

Worksheet to Determine Financial Hardship

Use the instructions below to help you complete the worksheet. If you are married, please include financial information for your spouse.

SECTION I. Calculation for Negative Cash Flow

- A.** To determine your allowance for ordinary monthly household expenses, first determine your gross monthly income as explained in the instructions below and enter that amount on the line provided. Then, locate your income in the chart on the right and move across to choose the factor that correlates to your family size. Enter that factor on the line provided and multiply it by the amount of your gross monthly income. Enter the result (rounded to the nearest whole dollar) on Line A.

Gross Monthly Income	Factor for Family Size of:		
	1 or 2	3 or 4	5 or more
Less than \$1,250	.85	.90	.90
\$1,250 – 1,666	.70	.80	.80
\$1,667 – 2,499	.60	.65	.70
\$2,500 – 3,332	.50	.55	.60
\$3,333 – 4,166	.40	.50	.50
\$4,167 – 5,832	.40	.45	.50
\$5,833 or more	.30	.35	.40

_____ x _____ = _____
Gross Monthly Income Factor A

- B.** Enter your monthly scheduled household expenses (see instructions below): _____ **B**
- C.** Enter your total monthly household expenses by adding Lines A and B: _____ **C**
- D.** Enter the total net monthly income (see instructions below): _____ **D**
- E.** Subtract Line D from Line C to determine whether you have a negative cash flow. If Line C is the same as or less than Line D, you do not have a negative cash flow and should not complete Item F. _____ **E**
- F.** Multiply Line E by 6 months.
 This is the amount you can request due to negative cash flow: _____ x 6 = _____ **F**

SECTION II. Extraordinary Expenses

- G.** Total amount of allowed unpaid and unreimbursable medical expenses:
 (This is the amount you can request for medical expense reasons.) _____ **G**
- H.** Total amount due to unpaid and unreimbursable personal casualty loss:
 (This is the amount you can request due to personal casualty loss.) _____ **H**
- I.** Total amount of unpaid and unreimbursable legal expenses for separation or divorce:
 (This is the amount you can request to cover your legal expenses due to separation or divorce.) _____ **I**

SECTION III. Maximum Request Amount

- J.** Add Items F, G, H, and I. (This is the maximum financial hardship withdrawal you can request.) _____ **J**

INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE WORKSHEET:

To determine negative cash flow, complete Section I above. If you are requesting a financial hardship for another reason, complete Section II. Complete both sections if you have a negative cash flow and extraordinary expenses.

- **The allowance for ordinary household expenses (Item A)** takes into account ordinary monthly recurring expenses (e.g., food, clothing, household operations, education, health insurance premiums), including expenses frequently charged to credit cards.
 If you are in **pay status**, determine **gross** monthly income by adding your gross monthly pay and any other monthly income (such as child support) for you and, if applicable, your spouse. Your gross pay is your pay before taxes and any other deductions are taken out.
 If you are in **nonpay status**, determine your **gross** monthly income by using your annual salary shown on your earnings and leave statement. Divide this amount by 12 and then add any other monthly income for you and, if applicable, your spouse.
 If any income for you or your spouse is not monthly, you will need to calculate the monthly amount. For example, if you are paid 26 times a year (biweekly), multiply the biweekly amount by 26 and divide by 12.
- Your **monthly scheduled household expenses (Item B)** include your rent or mortgage, real estate tax, your homeowner's or renter's insurance, and monthly household utilities (if these items are paid separately from your mortgage or rent), dependent care (including necessary household help due to illness or injury) and any expenses you pay for alimony, maintenance, or child support. You should also include any installment loan payments other than those related to a TSP loan. Do not include credit cards or charge accounts or any interest charges on them. These items are considered in your allowance for ordinary monthly household expenses.
- To calculate the **net monthly income (Item D)** for you and your spouse, add the monthly amounts for Federal, state, and local income tax withholding, OASDI (Social Security)/Medicare, and monthly Federal retirement deduction (i.e., FERS, CSRS, or uniformed services). If your spouse has any other type of monthly retirement plan deductions or makes monthly TSP contributions, also add in those items. Subtract this total from the gross monthly income you provided on Line A and enter the result on Line D.

This worksheet is for your records only. Do not submit it with your form.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAGE 1

To ensure that your request is not delayed, carefully type or print the requested information using black or dark blue ink. If printing, please use simple block letters and numbers. Keep all letters and numbers **inside** the boxes.

Be certain to provide all the information requested on the form. If you do not, your form may be rejected.

SECTION I. Check whether you are withdrawing money from your civilian or uniformed services account in Item 1. You cannot withdraw from both accounts using one form.

SECTION II. If you are a FERS or uniformed services participant, your spouse must consent to your financial hardship withdrawal by providing his or her name and signature in Item 6, and by dating the form in Item 7. The signature must be notarized. Because the form will be filed with a Federal agency in Washington, D.C., the notary must complete the information in Item 8. No other acknowledgement is acceptable. If you cannot obtain your spouse's signature, provide your spouse's name in Item 6 and Social Security number in Item 9, and submit Form TSP-16, Exception to Spousal Requirements (TSP-U-16, uniformed services).

SECTION III. If you are a CSRS participant, the TSP must notify your spouse of your hardship withdrawal. Provide your spouse's name in Item 10. If your spouse's address is the same as your address in your TSP record, check "Yes" in Item 11 and go to Section IV on Page 2. If your spouse's address is not the same as yours, check "No" in the second box and complete Items 12-16. If you do not know your spouse's address, check the third box in Item 11, provide your spouse's Social Security number, and submit Form TSP-16, Exception to Spousal Requirements (TSP-U-16, uniformed services).

If your spouse has a foreign address, check the box in Item 12 and enter the foreign address as follows in Items 13-14:

First address line: Enter the street address or post office box number, and any apartment number.

Second address line: Enter the city or town name, other principal subdivision (e.g., province, state, county), and postal code, if known. (The postal code may precede the city or town.)

City/State/Zip Code Fields: Enter the entire country name in the City field; leave the State and Zip Code fields blank.

If your spouse uses an **Air/Army Post Office (APO) or Fleet Post Office (FPO)** address, enter that address in the two available address lines (include the unit designation). Enter APO or FPO, as appropriate, in the City field. In the State field, enter AE as the state abbreviation for Zip Codes beginning with 090-098, AA for Zip Codes beginning with 340, and AP for Zip Codes beginning with 962-966. Then enter the appropriate Zip Code.

Skip SECTIONS II and III if you are not married. You will certify that you are not married on Page 2 of this form.

PRIVACY ACT NOTICE. We are authorized to request the information you provide on this form under 5 U.S.C. chapter 84, Federal Employees' Retirement System. We will use this information to identify your TSP account and to process your request. In addition, this information may be shared with other Federal agencies for statistical, auditing, or archiving purposes. We may share the information with law enforcement agencies investigating a violation of civil or criminal law, or

agencies implementing a statute, rule, or order. It may be shared with congressional offices, private sector audit firms, spouses, former spouses, and beneficiaries, and their attorneys. We may disclose relevant portions of the information to appropriate parties engaged in litigation and for other routine uses as specified in the Federal Register. You are not required by law to provide this information, but if you do not provide it, we will not be able to process your request.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAGE 2

SECTION IV. Before you complete this section, read the following information carefully. After completing the form, you will have to sign it and certify that the information you are providing is true. Your signature must be notarized.

We recommend that you use the worksheet at the front of this package to determine the amount of your financial hardship.

To receive a hardship withdrawal from your TSP account, your need must arise out of **one or more** of the following situations:

- 1) On a recurring basis, your **monthly cash flow is negative**. That means that your net income is less than your ordinary monthly household expenses. This situation does not apply if you are in chapter 13 bankruptcy. (This is because the court has shielded you against a negative cash flow position.)
- 2) You have incurred (or will incur within the next 6 months) one of the following extraordinary expenses, which you have not paid and for which you will not be reimbursed (for example, by insurance):
 - **Medical expenses.** These expenses should be payable by you, your spouse, or your dependents and should be deductible by you for Federal income tax purposes without regard to any income limit on deductibility. They include, but are not limited to, expenses for physician visits, prescription drugs, hospitalization, and eyeglasses. Medical expenses also include the cost of structural changes to your home required for medical care, or the installation of special equipment necessary to accommodate an incapacitated person (for example, a wheelchair ramp or a chair lift). Medical expenses do not include health insurance premiums.
 - **Personal casualty loss.** This is the cost of making repairs to or replacement of property that would be deductible by you for Federal income tax purposes, but without regard to any income limit on deductibility, or the fair market value of the property, or the number of loss-producing events. Personal casualty loss includes — but is not limited to — damage, destruction, or loss of property resulting from a sudden, unexpected, or unusual event such as a flood, earthquake, hurricane, fire, tornado, or theft.
 - **Legal expenses for attorney fees and court costs associated with separation or divorce.** Note that court-ordered payments to a spouse or former spouse (e.g., alimony or property settlement, child support payments, costs of obtaining prepaid legal services, and other coverage for legal services) are not allowed.

Provide the amount of the withdrawal you are requesting in Item 17, and the reason or reasons for your financial hardship in Item 18. You can request an amount of \$1,000 or more of your own contributions and earnings on those contributions. However, the amount you request cannot be more than the amount of your hardship. If your employee contributions and earnings are less than your requested amount, but are at least \$1,000, you will be paid the lesser amount.

Note: If you have a uniformed services TSP account that includes tax-exempt balances, the percentage of taxable and tax-exempt portions in your withdrawal will be based on the proportion of taxable and tax-exempt balances in your account when the distribution is made.

SECTION V. This section is optional. Your withdrawal is subject to Federal income tax and, if you are younger than age 59½, a 10% early withdrawal penalty tax. (It may also be subject to state and local tax; check with your tax advisor or taxing authority.) We must withhold 10% for Federal income tax unless you waive withholding (or request more than 10% withholding) by completing the appropriate box in Item 19. (**Note:** If you complete Item 19 incorrectly, we will process your withdrawal using the standard 10% withholding.) For example:

Withdrawal requested:	\$ 3,000
Minus 10% Federal income tax withholding:	\$ -300
Payment to you:	\$ 2,700

For more information about tax withholding and the tax penalty, be sure to read the tax notice "Important Tax Information About Payments From Your TSP Account."

SECTION VI. Complete this section **only** if you want the TSP to send your financial hardship withdrawal directly to your checking or savings account by direct deposit. If you do not know the 9-digit ACH Routing Number or your checking or savings account number, contact your financial institution for this information. Direct deposits will be made only to financial institutions in the United States. **Note:** If the TSP determines that the direct deposit information you provided is incomplete or invalid, your request will be processed, but you will receive your payment in the form of a check mailed to your address of record.

SECTION VII. Please sign and date this form. Your signature must be notarized; otherwise your request cannot be processed. Because the form will be filed with a Federal agency in Washington, D.C., the notary must complete the notarization in this section. No other acknowledgement is acceptable.

The address you provide in Item 26 **will not be used to update the address in your TSP record**. We will use this address **only** to notify you if we cannot locate your account based on the information you provided on this form. If the address in your TSP record is not correct, contact your agency or service immediately — only your agency or service can change your address for your TSP account while you are employed by the Federal Government. If you are not sure what address is shown for your TSP account, check your most recent participant statement. It is available on the TSP website. To access your account record, you will need your TSP account number (or user ID) and your 8-character Web password. Correct your address before submitting your withdrawal request.

After completing the form, make a copy for your records.

Either mail the original to:

**Thrift Savings Plan
P.O. Box 385021
Birmingham, AL 35238**

Or fax to: 1-866-817-5023

Note: Do **not** mail **and** fax your request. The TSP will automatically cancel your second request. If you need to make a change or correction on your form, call the TSP to cancel your first request.

If you have questions, call the ThriftLine at 1-TSP-YOU-FRST (1-877-968-3778) or the TDD at 1-TSP-THRIFT5 (1-877-847-4385). Outside the U.S. and Canada, please call 404-233-4400 (not toll free).

FORM TSP-76 (12/2011)
PREVIOUS EDITIONS OBSOLETE

Name:

(Last, First, Middle)

TSP Account Number:

IV. WITHDRAWAL REQUEST — The amount you request cannot be more than the dollar amount that will relieve your hardship.

17. Amount you are requesting (cannot exceed the amount shown in the financial hardship worksheet):

\$, , .00 (amount must be \$1,000 or more)

18. Reason(s) you are requesting a financial hardship withdrawal. (See the instructions for this page, then check all that apply.)

- Negative monthly cash flow
- Medical expenses
- Personal casualty loss
- Legal expenses for separation or divorce

V. TAX WITHHOLDING — The IRS requires the TSP to withhold 10% of your withdrawal for Federal income tax. You can waive withholding by checking the box at the end of the first statement below or request additional withholding by providing the additional amount after the second statement.

19. I want to waive withholding on my financial hardship in-service withdrawal: OR

Withhold this additional amount for Federal income tax: \$, .00

VI. DIRECT DEPOSIT INFORMATION — Complete this section only if you want direct deposit to your checking or savings account.

20. Type of Account:

- Checking
- Savings

21.

Name of Financial Institution

22.

ACH Routing Number (Must be 9 digits)

23.

Checking or Savings Account Number

VII. CERTIFICATION AND NOTARIZATION — I agree to the conditions for a financial hardship withdrawal stated on this form. I certify that I have a financial hardship, as described in the instructions to this form, and that the dollar amount of this request does not exceed the actual amount of my financial hardship. In addition, I certify that if I did not complete Section II or III, I am an unmarried participant. I further certify that the information I have provided in this withdrawal request is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. **Warning:** Any intentional false statement in this application or willful misrepresentation concerning it is a violation of law that is punishable by a fine or imprisonment for as long as 5 years, or both (18 U.S.C. 1001).

24.

Participant's Signature

25.

Date Signed (mm/dd/yyyy)

26.

Participant's Address (We will use this address only to notify you if we cannot locate your account based on the information you provided on this form.)

27. **Notary: Please complete the following. No other acknowledgement is acceptable (see instructions).**

The person who signed Item 24 is known to or was identified by me and, before me, signed or acknowledged to have signed this form. In witness thereof, I have signed below on this _____ day of _____, _____.

My commission expires: _____
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Notary's Signature

Notary's Printed Name

() _____
Notary's Phone Number

[seal]

Jurisdiction

Do Not Write Below This Line