

Forest Service Offers VERA and VSIP
June 6, 2026

Forest Service announced it is offering separation incentives to employees in the form of Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA) and voluntary separation incentive Payments (VSIP). This comes ahead of the agency reorganization that will move hundreds of positions across the country.

While we believe VERA and VSIP are a good first step prior to a major reorganization, we caution employees to carefully evaluate their personal situation and the benefits - and costs - of resigning or retiring, such as the need to continue federal health benefits (not an option if you resign) or plans to return to federal service within 5 years (must repay the VSIP).

The maximum incentive amount that agencies can offer is \$25,000, which is reduced considerably by income tax withholding. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee advanced a bill in February that would raise the VSIP maximum amount to six months of a federal employee's pay, but the bill has not yet been passed into law.

Visit the [NAFSR Employee Care](#) page with frequently asked questions on [VERA and VSIP](#).