## **GET (K)ONNECTED 401(K) PLAN NEWSLETTER**



## PUT YOUR PLAN ON AUTOMATIC BY ADDING TARGET DATE FUNDS

As companies have shifted away from defined benefit plans to defined contribution plans, participants are increasingly expected to direct their own investments. Unfortunately, most participants are ill-equipped to make sound investing choices. They are easily overwhelmed by the investment options within the plan and are often stymied by the lack of professional investment advice. If this describes the average

participant in your plan, there may be an easy answer for you.

With the passage of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, target date funds have become an increasingly popular option within 401(k) and 403(b) plans because they do the asset allocation work for the participant. Each target date fund is tied to a particular target retirement date. A participant chooses a target date fund based on their expected date of retirement. For instance,

a target date 2055 fund would be appropriate for participants who are approximately 30 years old because they will be retiring around the year 2055.

Each target date fund is invested in a mix of stocks, bonds, and cash equivalents and follows a pre-

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retirement date approaches.

These funds do for the participant what few participants do for themselves. First, they diversify among stocks,

> bonds, and cash equivalents through proper asset allocation. Second, they base their asset allocation at any particular time on the fund's investment time horizon and adjust that allocation over time-- the shorter the horizon, the more conservative the allocation. Finally, they rebalance their portfolio regularly to take into consideration any drift in the fund's asset allocation due to market conditions or other factors.

funds to your plan, you can provide an easy, reliable investment option that will help to ensure that your participant's portfolios are well diversified and age-appropriate and that they will stay that way as time passes.

determined "glide path". The mix of stocks, bonds and cash equivalents varies as the fund moves along its glide path, starting with a more aggressive mix and moving gradually into a more conservative mix as the fund's target

What Are Target Date Funds

## DO YOUR PARTICIPANTS NEED A HELPING HAND?

In our Plan, the investment menu is designed to meet the needs of every type of investor. For the more experienced investor, the investment menu includes top-tier funds in a variety of asset categories that span the risk/reward spectrum. For the average investor that would like some guidance, there are easy one-stop options that help ensure that their asset allocation is appropriate for their age and risk tolerance. Participants can pick the target date fund closest to their expected retirement date or pick a profile fund that matches their investor profile. Either way, a participant can pick a single fund and be done. For those participants who want a little help from an expert, our Plan offers participants an opportunity to talk directly with an independent investment advisor and is provided to participants at no additional charge.

If you would like more inform a plan consultation with a reti right move for your company.	rement specialist to hel			
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Form of Entity (check one):				
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LLC	LLP	Partnership		Other
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