



NEPC, LLC

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION

NEPC has been providing Consulting Services to Defined Contribution Plans since 1987

NEPC is regarded as one of the nation's premier consulting practices to defined contribution plans. We partner with plan sponsors, as a co-fiduciary, to control the business risks associated with operating retirement programs. We apply our expertise to every aspect of the program: plan design, investment policy development, manager due diligence and searches, selection of an administrative service provider, performance reporting, and fee review.

For years we have advocated to clients, and testified in Washington, that defined contribution plans should offer fewer funds, lower fees, better target-date funds, and retirement-income solutions. We are a strong proponent of auto features such as automatic enrollment and deferral-rate escalators, because we believe they are critical in encouraging participants to save early, save more, and diversify.

Original Research on the Defined Contribution Market

NEPC is a thought leader in the institutional marketplace, and an active member of DCIIA, the Defined Contribution Institutional Investment Association. The DCIIA fosters dialogue among leaders in the defined contribution community who are passionate about improving plan design. Our consultants and analysts stay abreast of the latest industry trends, legislation, investment products, and services. Furthermore, we share our research findings and analytic insights with clients—on site, online, and at NEPC-hosted client conferences. Recently published research includes:

- *TIPS for Defined Contribution Investors*
- *A Closer Look at the Capital Preservation Funds Used in Defined Contribution Plans*
- *Stable Value On The Brink, But Surviving*
- *Roth 401(k) Revisited*
- *Mapping - What the New Regulations Suggest for Defined Contribution Plans*

Annual Defined Contribution Plan and Fee Survey: A Vital Resource

NEPC's Plan and Fee Survey is unique within the industry. Since the yearly series began in 2005, we have heard consistently from clients and their attorneys that the Surveys have been extremely useful in benchmarking



Our consulting experience and original research allow us to deliver proactive, strategic consulting and leadership to clients.

We provide expert guidance on key decisions facing plan sponsors today.

- Target-date fund selection and evaluation
- Creation of custom target-date funds
- Adding non-traditional products as investment options
- Mapping, auto enrolling, and re-enrolling to the QDIA
- Stable value fund design, and alternatives to stable value
- Evaluating the adequacy of participants' retirement income
- Using insights from behavioral finance to restructure plan investment choices
- Retirement-income products
- Evaluating and benchmarking plan expenses


plan fees. NEPC undertakes the Survey as a due diligence exercise to encourage fee transparency, improve our clients' understanding of fees, and assist clients in fee negotiations. Given the lack of clarity about types of fees and the variety of ways in which they are charged, the NEPC Survey focuses on delivering data from a wide range of service providers in an easy-to-understand format. The Survey provides industry data on key metrics such as utilization rates of auto-features and the number and types of investment options offered by plan sponsors.

Close Working Relationships with Clients and an Ability to Lead

We strive to maintain a level of service that is unique in the industry. Our relationships with defined contribution clients date back many years, to the pre-Internet days of balance-forward record keeping, monthly-valued investments and paper-based enrollment. Terms such as "QDIA," managed accounts, and 404c-5 mapping did not even exist five years ago. To maintain a successful retirement plan, a plan sponsor must sensibly adapt to the times, and this requires a great deal of education and consulting. We help keep our clients at the forefront.

Seasoned Consultants Well Versed in the Complexities of Defined Contribution Plans

NEPC's long-tenured consultants provide continuity, integrity, and technical expertise to support our clients' defined contribution programs. In a defined contribution plan, investment risk and investment rewards are meant to be assumed by each individual worker and not by the sponsor/ employer. But the risks and responsibilities of these programs are evolving as they become the primary retirement-savings vehicle for tens of millions of American workers. Defined contribution plans are complex and demand a high level of specialized knowledge. Please call us for references and for more information about how we can partner with you.



We take great pride in developing programs that deliver a more secure retirement to more than one million plan participants across our client base.

YOU DEMAND MORE. So do we.SM

ONE MAIN STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02142

TEL: 617.374.1300
FAX: 617.374.1313

www.nepc.com



NEPC, LLC