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# ***A Forum on Defined Contribution Plans***

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*Offices of Arrowpoint Capital - Charlotte*

*April 25, 2013*

*Prepared by: Hubbell Consulting, LLC*

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# Today's Agenda – April 25, 2013

- Introductions and Logistics
- Target Date Fund Approaches - Various Investment Managers
- Roth 401(k) Feature – a Second Wave
- Participant Outcomes Based Communication
- Wrap-up

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## **Target Date Fund Approaches - Various Investment Managers**

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# Structure and Characteristics of Target-Date Funds

- A comprehensive single investment option that allows investors to hold a mix of asset classes that both rebalances periodically and shifts allocations over time.
- Invests more aggressively in the decades before retirement and shifts to a more conservative asset mix in the years immediately preceding retirement. This shift in assets is called the “glide path.”
- Not a uniform investment type. Depending on the glide-path philosophy, the sub-asset classes used, and the nature and quality of the underlying investments, target-date funds can display markedly different risk and return characteristics.
- Longer-dated funds are predominantly invested in equities, and the percentage of equities declines over time.
- While stocks and bonds may account for a large portion of these funds, target-date funds also allow for exposure to alternative asset classes.

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# Three Mutual Fund Managers

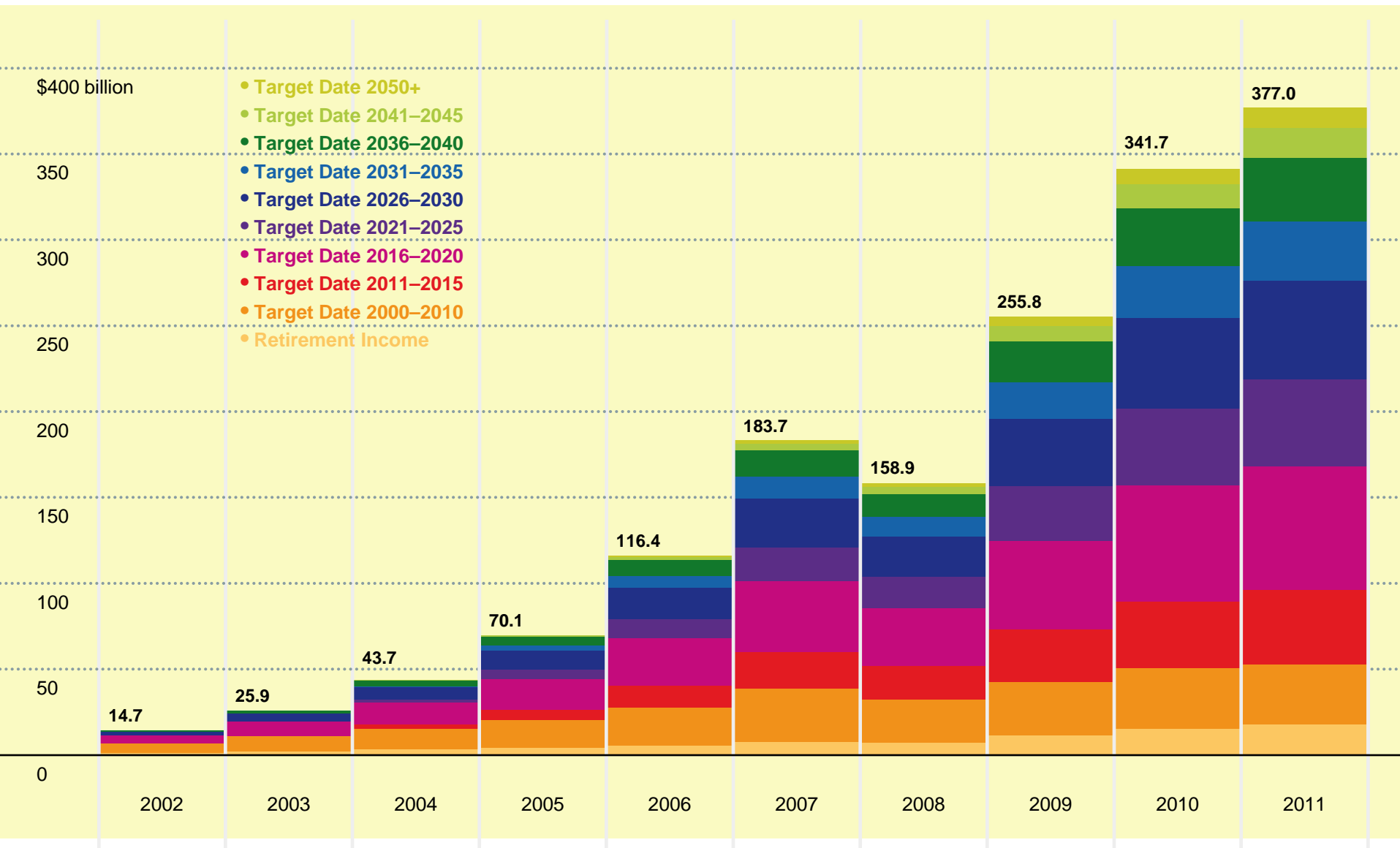
Hold Over 65% of TDF “Mutual Fund” Assets

<b>Mutual Fund Family</b>	<b>Asset as of 12/31/2012 (billion)*</b>
1. Fidelity Investments	\$143.3
2. Vanguard	111.9
3. T. Rowe Price	74.8
Total (all mutual funds)	\$484.8

\* Source: Morningstar Direct

# Target-Date Fund Assets Continue to Rise

Total net assets by category, 2002–2011\*



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# DOL Initiatives - TDFs

## Disclosures and Fiduciary Duties

- DOL Proposed Regulation “TDF Disclosure” – Nov 2010
  - Additional participant disclosure under ERISA 404(a)-5
    - Explain asset allocation, how it changes over time, the point the most conservative allocation is reached, including a “chart or graphic” illustration of these changes over time,
    - Explain that the age group TDF vintage is designed to be “retirement-as of date” and include any assumptions about participants contribution/withdrawal intentions ON or AFTER such date, **and**
    - Clearly state that: participants may lose money, (including losses near and following retirement) and there is no guarantee the fund will provide adequate retirement income.
  
- DOL Tips for ERISA Plan Fiduciaries – Feb 2013
  - Establish process for comparing/selecting TDFs
  - Periodic review of selected TDFs
  - Understand investment of asset allocation, individual investments, changes over time
  - Review fees and expenses
  - Inquire whether “custom” or “non-proprietary” TDF is a better fit
  - Develop effective employee communications
  - Document your process (selection, review, decisions)

# SEC – Recommendations

## Investment Advisory Committee Study – April 2013

### ■ Findings

- TDFs total \$485 billion end of 2012 (29% increase over 2011)
- Well designed TDFs provide cost effective long term investment solution for many
- Precipitous drop in values in 2008 of TDF vintage close to reaching “target date” brought attention to significant differences in risk levels among different funds with same vintage
- Investors ill-equipped to identify risk disparities among similar seeming funds
- Many pension consultants under-estimate the degree of risk among funds
- 65% of TDF assets in 2012 held in mutual funds concentrated among three fund managers – Fidelity, Vanguard, and T. Rowe Price

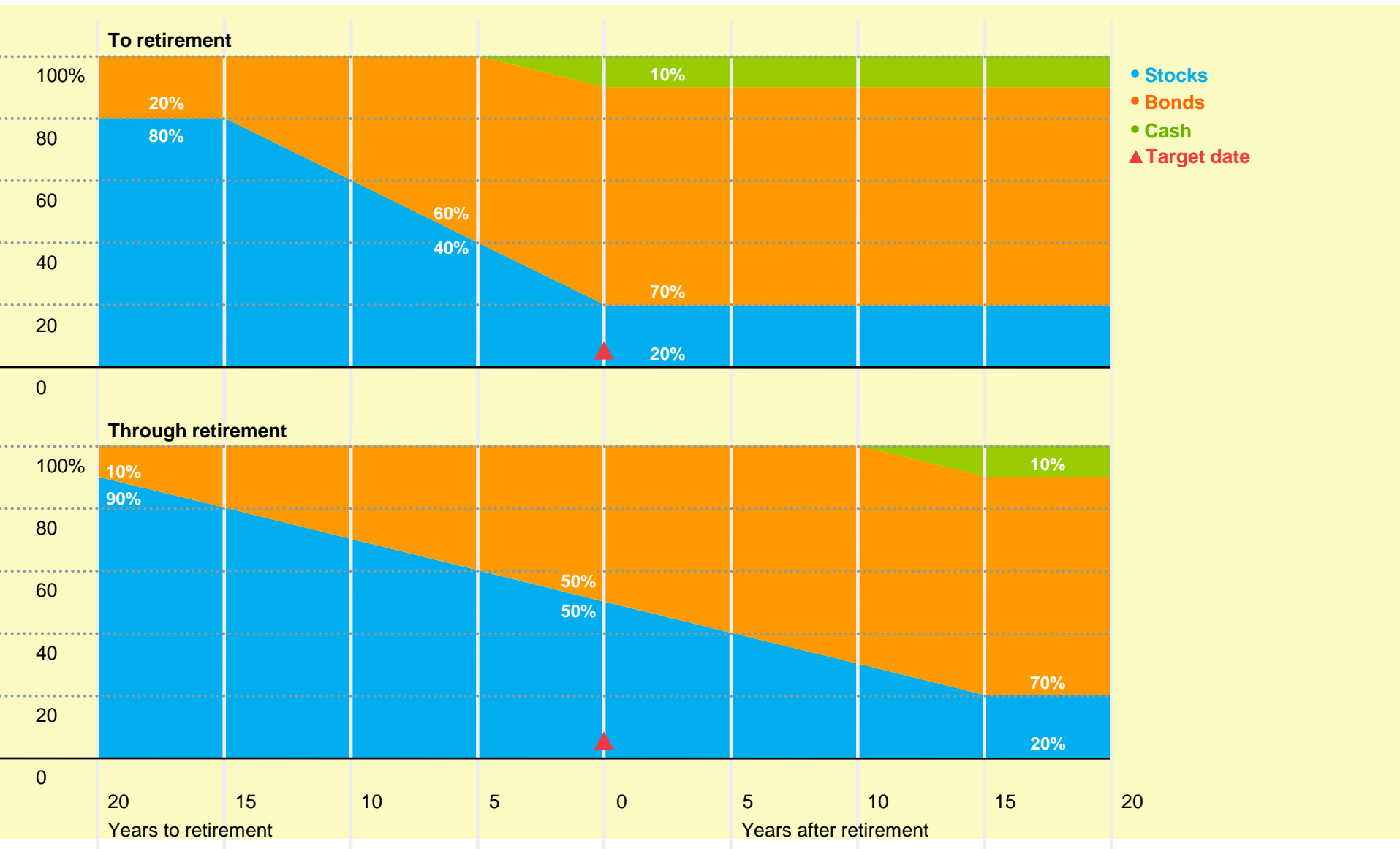
### ■ Recommendations to SEC

- Develop “glide path” illustrations that include standardized measure of risk
- Adopt standard methodology (or methodologies) for both risk-based and asset allocation glide path illustrations
- Required TDF prospectus to disclose and clearly explain policies/assumptions to design/manage TDF vintages risk level over life of the fund
- Supports SEC proposal to required TDF marketing material to include warning that fund is not guaranteed and losses are possible at or after the target date



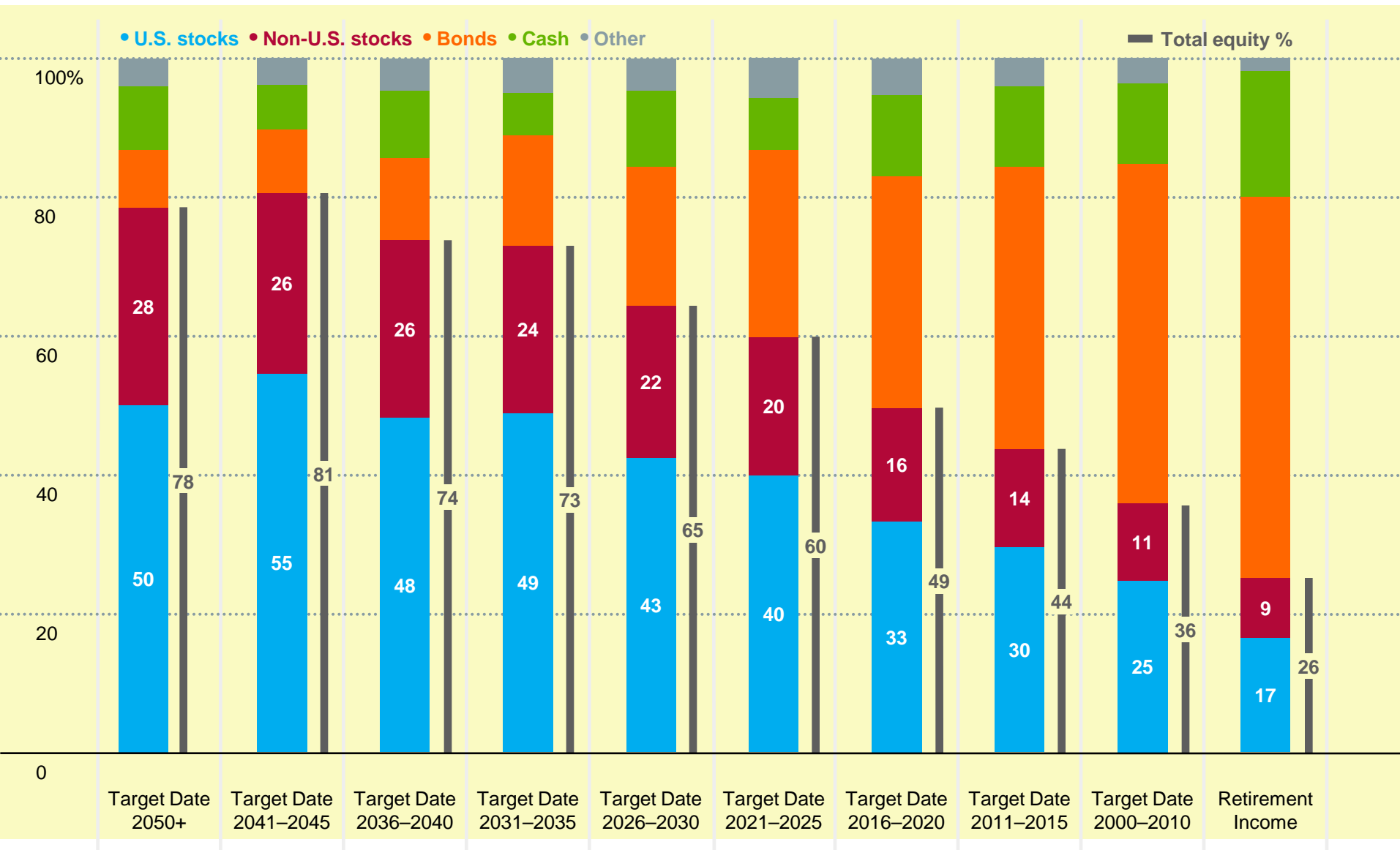
# Risk Level at Retirement

## Comparison of “to” versus “through” funds



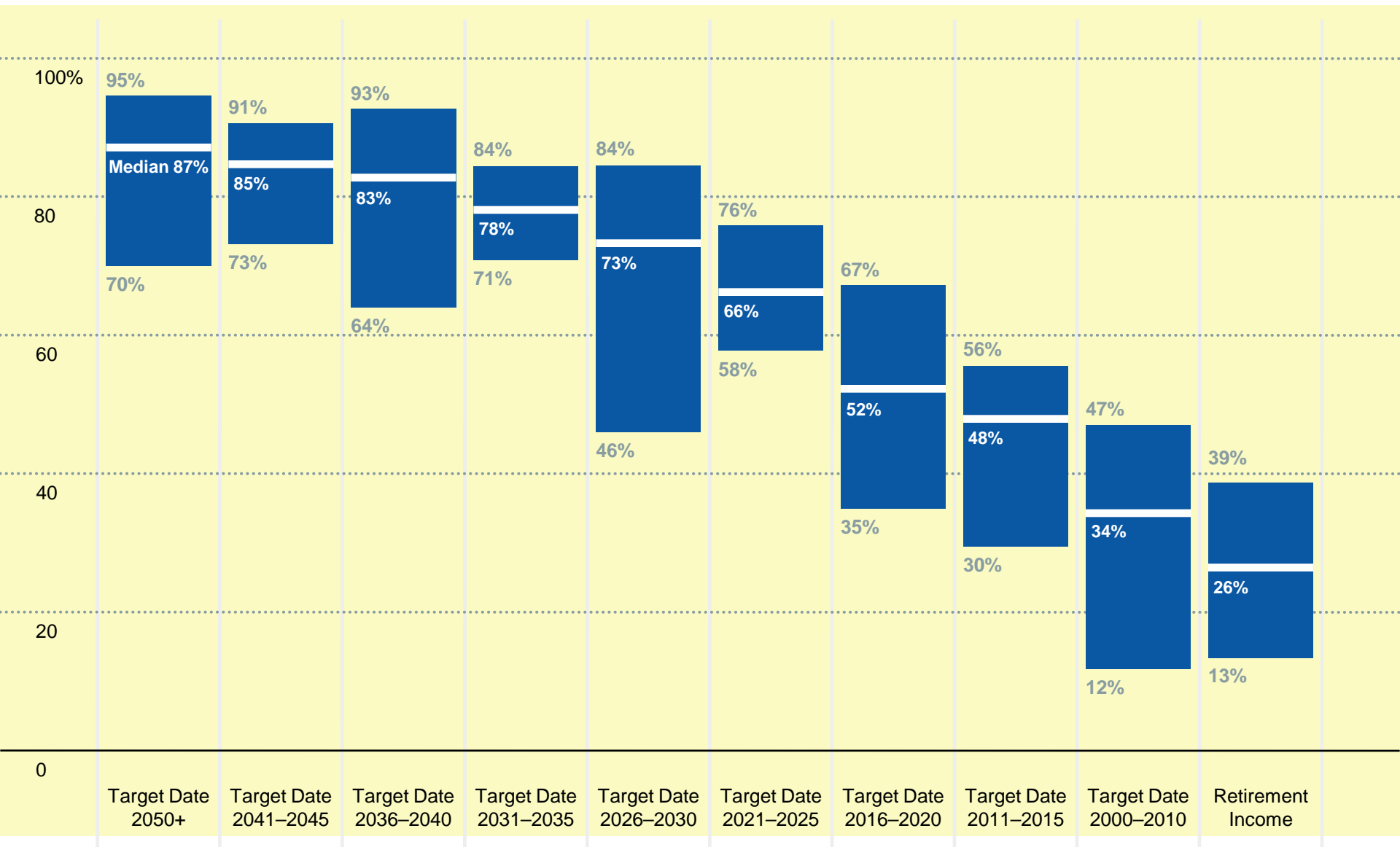
# Target-Date Funds Alter Allocations Over Time

Average allocations to stocks, bonds, cash, and other investments



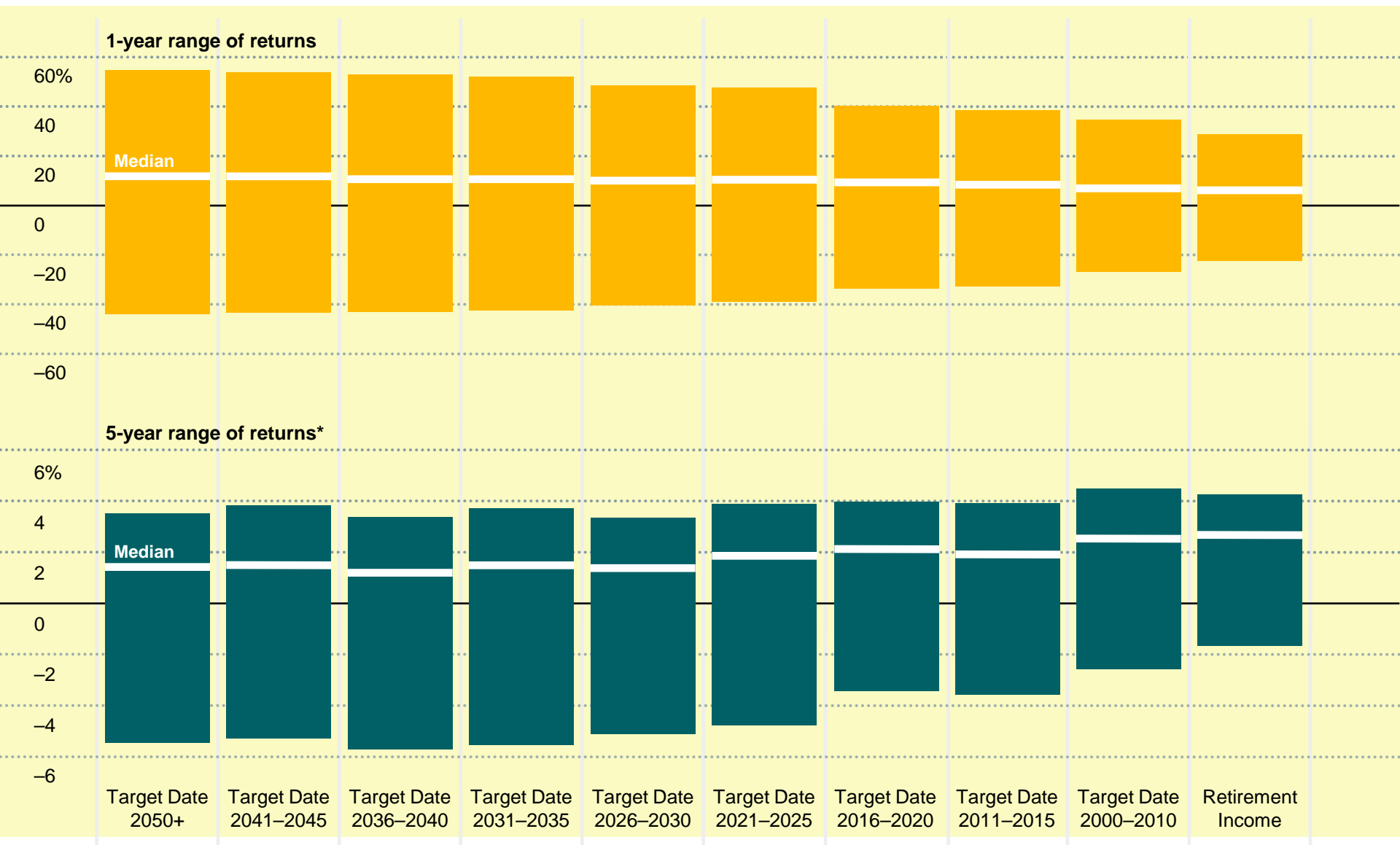
# Target-Date Funds Display Lack of Consistency in Allocations

Range of allocations to equities as of November 2011



# Risk Levels Differ by Target-Date Category

Rolling returns over 1- and 5-year periods, November 2003–December 2011



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# Plan Sponsor Questions – Evaluating TDFs

- What is the shape of the fund's glide path?
- How does the glide path compare to other funds in the same target-date category?
- What happens to the glide path at retirement?
- Is the fund intended to get investors “to” or “through” retirement?
- Is the fund diversified beyond stocks and bonds to include other alternative assets such as real estate, commodities, TIPS, etc.?
- What are the costs associated with the fund?
- Does the fund take a strategic or tactical asset allocation approach?
- What is the appropriate “benchmark” – Third party index provider? Custom index?

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## **Roth 401(k) Feature – a Second Wave**

*Carrie Teague - Principal (cteague@hubbell-llc.com)*

*Brian Hubbell – Principal (bhubbell@hubbell-llc.com)*

# American Tax Payer Relief Act of 2012 (“ATPR”)

## Expanded “In-Plan” Roth Conversion Option

- Overview of ATPR Conversion Provisions
  - Plans covered – 401(k), 403(b), and 457(b). Plan sponsor choice to offer.
  - Participants may transfer “vested” amounts into existing Roth Account e.g. 401(k), Matching, Profit-Sharing balances plus earnings thereon
  - Effective for transfers post 12/31/2012
  - Participants subject to income tax in year of transfer on “taxable” amount
    - Not subject to 10% excise tax
    - Not subject to 20% to mandatory federal income tax withholding
  - Plan must provide for “Directed Roth” feature
  - Plan must add “In-Plan” Roth Conversion option
  - Converted amounts/earnings are tax free upon “qualified distribution”
    - If converted amount is withdrawn prior to 5 years from conversion or attainment of age 59 ½, such amount/earnings subject to 10% excise tax. New 5 year holding period applies to each conversion. The 5 year “starting clock” for contributing to “Directed Roth” account does not apply.



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# In-Plan Roth Conversion

## Participant Advantages/Considerations

- Participant Advantages (if withdrawn as a “qualified distribution”)
  - Eliminates concerns of future tax rates – all earnings “tax free”
  - Diversifies “taxable” vs. “non-taxable” accumulations at retirement
  - May change “risk profile” of long term investing
  - Stage conversions over several plan years
  
- Participant Considerations
  - Expect their tax rate to be the same or higher in the future?
  - Can pay the conversion taxes out of nonretirement money?
  - Plan to keep the money invested for the long term?
  
- Qualified Distribution (requirements)
  - Designated Roth “established” for 5 years (first tax year deposit made)
  - AND – and attainment of age 59 ½, or upon death or disability

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# In-Plan Roth Conversion

## Plan Sponsor Evaluation/Questions

- Is this a feature participants will find attractive?
- May a plan limit the conversion election e.g. frequency, amount?
- Is your plan recordkeeper able to handle recordkeeping e.g. tracking 5 year holding requirement on **each** conversion?
- Effective employee communication critically important
- Legal matters to consult your ERISA attorney:
  - Plan amendment(s)
  - Impact on annual “safe harbor plan” notices, if any
  - Drafting “conversion election” forms (is 402(f) notice required?)
  - Can option be removed from the plan (anti-cutback rules?)

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## **Participant Outcomes Based Communication**

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# Participant Outcomes Based Communication

– What does this mean?

- 401(k) Plans exist for a reason
  - Attract, Retain and Reward Employees
  - Plans which are not used miss the key purpose
  - Plans which are used are correlated with better retention
  - Engaged participants are engaged employees
  
- Plan sponsors should look back from the Participants' Lens
  - Help me understand why I should contribute?
  - Make it easier for me to determine a good path forward
  - Keep me from making a dumb decision
  - Inform me where you can to make me a better investor
  - Don't confuse me with too many and too much

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If a plan sponsor knows most of his/ her employees do not have enough basic knowledge to be successful and decides to forego communication, is that decision in the best interest of participants?

*Dennis Ackley, CEO of Ackley Associates, Missouri*

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# Help me understand why I should contribute?

– Some context per EBRI

- Retirement savings may be taking a back seat to more immediate financial concerns, as follows:
  - Job uncertainty is more pressing – 30%
  - Making ends meets is next – 12%
  - Saving and planning for retirement trails – 2%
  
- Cost of living and day-to-day expenses head the list of reasons why workers do not contribute (or contribute more) to their employer's plan - 41%
  
- Debt may be another factor standing in the way:
  - Workers having problem with debt – 55%
  - Could you come up with \$2,000 for an emergency – 50%

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# Help me understand why I should contribute?

– Change the focus

- Many employees see the big numbers and don't think they can get there
  - Show the short and long term aspects of savings
  - Improve financial security in case something happens
  - Reiterate this is your money – you can take it to your next job
  - State the obvious – you will retire someday, so you better save now
  
- More savings now means much more later
  - Power of compounding is very powerful (don't undersell it)
  - Financial pros say 17% of pay now, but 31% if start at age 45
  
- Don't throw money away – match, match, match
  - If you have a match, play that up and play it up a lot
  - Show their payroll contributions, but total assets at 1, 2 , 5, 10, 20 years
  - Men love to compete, so personalize how can get left behind

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Doing nothing is improper education. The state of financial literacy today is so low that almost anything helps. Of course, plan sponsors should aspire to more than that.

*Duane Thompson, Sr. Policy Analyst fi360, Pennsylvania*



# Make it easier for me to determine a good path forward

- Auto enroll will leverage inertia
  - Auto enrolling companies see much-improved participation
  - Employees are consumed with choices, so they fail to act
  - Do not make auto enrollment too aggressive, as it will cause more changes than if a reasonable goal is set
  
- Auto escalation is more rare, but is a good tool
  - Some view it as more Big Brother-ish, even sponsors
  - Communicate why you are doing it
  - Communicate it up front, communicate when changed and for a period
  
- Default Target Funds vs. Specified Funds vs. Models

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Passing out enrollment booklets and expecting folks to read the material and fill out forms is not the answer...that booklet will end up in a pile on the kitchen table never to be revisited again.

*Courtenay Shipley, CEO of Shipley Capital, Tennessee*

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# Keep me from making a dumb decision

- Keep investment choices to a reasonable number
  - Cover asset classes, but don't duplicate
  - Provide me with models I can easily follow
  - Don't let me align my employment risk too much with my investment risk
- Don't design fund choices for a limited few
  - Avoids risk of inappropriate investing
  - Limits communication risk
  - Reduces cost of administration
- Default investment choices have a place

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We need to stop trying to teach people as much to become better investors and teach them more to become better savers.

*Multiple parties from multiple venues*

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# Inform me where you can to make me a better investor

- Left brain thinkers vs. Right brain thinkers
  - Keep it simple and let more detailed folks drill down
  - Think structured flexibility to tailor
- Use models or target funds
  - Models offer structured flexibility
  - Target fund offer a turn-key approach
  - Only 63% of 401(k) funds are in equities, which is the average for an age 63 old investor
- Make me save more per pay period
  - Dollar averaging cures market timing risk
  - Most market timers miss the market

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Create motivated learners using messages for the beginners, not the financial pros. If they cannot explain it, they did not learn it.

*Dennis Ackley, CEO of Ackley Associates, Missouri*

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# Don't confuse me with too many and too much

- Know your audiences
  - Companies are a confederation of audiences
  - Marketing, accounting, distribution, manufacturing, sales
  - Demographics may vary within each group and group to group
  - Employees learn differently; give them choices and direction
- Think, Plan, Do
  - If I need to do something, tell me quickly
  - If I need to plan something, make it easier for me to talk
  - If I just need to think about something, let me know I have some time
- Do not give me too many choices – there is a diminishing return

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# Critical Elements of a Successful 401(k) Plan Education Program – Christopher Carosa of Fiduciary News

- Element 1: Determine measures of success
  - Could be as simple as increasing levels of contributions
  - Could be increasing participation numbers
  - Could be the use of investment tools
  
- Element 2: Be consistent and regular
  - Do written communications jive with web communications?
  - Have a continual communication mindset
  - Define communication strategy – new enrollees, ongoing
  
- Element 3: Tie in with investment policy
  - Pains were taken to codify a strategy to determine asset classes, select manager and monitor performance
  - Communicate with employees this governance mindset and link their communications to the strategy

# Critical Elements of a Successful 401(k) Plan Education Program – Christopher Carosa of Fiduciary News (cont.)

- Element 4: Cover both administration and investment
  - Must communicate fees, so define clearly what they pay for and why it is important
  - Link investment performance to fees and contrast both to benchmarks
  - Know this stuff is complex, so simplify where possible
  
- Element 5: Customize to the plan's audiences
  - Provide direction, but allow employees to seek their best path to learn
  - Measure what tools and media they use; desist less used tools if added cost; sell better avenues for learning
  - Think structured flexibility; key messages for all, but allow tailoring without undue administration
  - Balance cost and effectiveness; use your vendor budget wisely

# Questions?

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