

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Public Retirement Research Database Reaches Critical Mass

*More than 100 public plan sponsors will share data to build first-ever comprehensive participant-level database of public sector defined contribution plans*

**WASHINGTON, DC, August 19, 2020**—The Public Retirement Research Lab today announced that more than 100 public plan sponsors have agreed to share plan- and participant-level data in response to its campaign to build the Public Retirement Research Database, the first-ever comprehensive participant-level database specific to public sector defined contribution plans.

The Public Retirement Research Lab (PRRL) collects and analyzes public sector defined contribution retirement plan data to provide unbiased, actionable findings to better inform public plan administration, participant engagement, innovation, and legislation. The PRRL is a retirement industry-sponsored collaborative effort of the Employee Benefit Research Institute ([EBRI](#)) and the National Association of Government Defined Contribution Administrators ([NAGDCA](#)).

To date, 105 public plan sponsors from across the US have committed to share data from 194 retirement plans. An infographic depicting the breakout of sponsors and plans may be accessed [here](#).

“We’re thrilled by the robust response we’ve received from plan sponsors to so quickly reach this level of participation,” stated Matt Petersen, NAGDCA Executive Director. “We’re especially grateful to NAGDCA members for their enthusiastic engagement and to PRRL Founding Partners—Capital Group, Invesco, Nationwide—and Supporting Partners—ICMA-RC, Prudential, and Voya—for their contribution to this data collection effort.”

Participation in the Public Retirement Research Database (PRRD) is ongoing. Plan sponsors need only complete a [simple form](#) authorizing their record keeper to transfer their plans data to the PRRD. Data security is paramount and assured; a detailed description of the process is available [here](#). Plan sponsors wanting additional information and assistance, including help navigating statutes prohibiting data sharing, are asked to contact NAGDCA Executive Director Matt Petersen at [mpetersen@nagdca.org](mailto:mpetersen@nagdca.org).

It may still be possible to contribute 2019 data enabling independent plan sponsor assessment and comparison, and inclusion in PRRL analysis. Plan sponsors are requested to check with their record keeper about sharing 2019 data.

“The Employee Benefit Research Institute has been conducting research on 401(k) participant data—such as the size of the private-sector retirement deficit—for decades,” said Lori Lucas, EBRI President and CEO. “We are excited about the opportunity to extend this research in conjunction with NAGDCA through the PRRL to the public sector in a way that will lead to better and more informed decision-making.”

Plan sponsors that share their data with the PRRL receive:

- free access to the PRRL Benchmarking Tool enabling independent assessments and comparisons according to select variables
- a “You vs. the Universe” report comparing their retirement plans with aggregated data from other plans in the database
- access to exclusive public sector-focused research from EBRI, NAGDCA, and PRRL Founding and Supporting Partners

Intelligence garnered from PRRL analysis of government defined contribution plans data will also yield invaluable insights for a variety of public sector retirement industry stakeholders. Among these are public sector retirement plan providers, which will gain the means to craft retirement plans and programs tailored specifically to the needs of public sector employees—versus those based on assumptions based on analysis of private-sector 401(k) data. Additionally, organizations, such as NAGDCA, will have access to information essential to legislative efforts supporting improvement of public sector defined contribution plans.

### **About PRRL**

The Public Retirement Research Lab mines data from its Public Retirement Research Database, the first-ever comprehensive database specific to public sector retirement plan data, to produce research aimed at enhancing understanding of the design and utilization of public sector defined contribution retirement plans. To learn more, visit [www.prrl.org](http://www.prrl.org).

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