

In this issue

Moving your money can make life simpler

Fee structure changes coming in 2016 to OPERS Member-Directed and Combined Plans

Saving and investing at each stage of your life

Moving your money can make life simpler

If you have retirement assets in different places, did you know that you can consolidate them in your OPERS account?

The Member-Directed and Combined Plans both accept rollovers. A rollover is the transfer of money from one retirement plan account to another following IRS rules.

Maybe you left money behind when you changed jobs. In that case, rolling over assets from another qualified pre-tax account, such as a 457(b) plan, 403(b) plan or Traditional IRA, directly into your OPERS account might offer you several advantages.

Easier to manage

Managing a single account is easier than keeping track of investments scattered among separate employer plans and IRAs. You can get a more complete picture of your retirement assets and cut down on the number of account statements you receive.

Low investment fees

Compare the OPERS investment options and fees with those available from your other retirement plans. OPERS gives you access to low, institutional pricing on investment management services. Low fees help keep more of your money working for you, which may make a difference in your account's long-term growth potential.

Investment choices

The OPERS investment lineup includes a range of investment options to help you meet your retirement goals. The choices span the risk-return spectrum so you can diversify your account based on the type of investor you are and your personal situation. You should carefully read and review all investment information prior to making any investment decisions.

Convenience and helpful services

OPERS provides support and services to help you plan and invest for retirement. You can access and manage your account online any time. The www.opers.org website is a 24/7 resource for information about the Plans, investment options, education, services and more. The toll free OPERS Help Line **(866) 673-7748** makes it easy to get answers to your questions and personal assistance.

How to make your move

1. Contact the administrator of the retirement plan currently holding the funds to arrange for a distribution of your account. Ask if they require a Letter of Acceptance from OPERS.
2. Obtain a *Voluntary Deposit Form* from www.opers.org or call **(866) 673-7748** to request the form and follow the instructions on the form. ●

Fee structure changes coming in 2016 to OPERS Member-Directed and Combined Plans

In February, the OPERS Board of Trustees approved changes to the fee structure of the OPERS Member-Directed and Combined Plans. These changes will go into effect Jan. 1, 2016. To learn more, visit www.opers.org to view a summary chart of the changes and a list of frequently asked questions. Detailed information can also be found in the Spring 2015 issue of *Ohio PERS News: Your Benefit Connection*. ●

Saving and investing at each stage of your life

How you spend, save and invest money is unique to you. Your experiences, temperament and the major events in your life all affect the financial decisions you make.

At each stage of life, your goals, priorities and financial needs change. You probably won't spend and invest the same way when you're single and 25 as you will when you are 40, especially if you are married with children.

Saving and investing strategies that are right for one stage of life may not be right for another. The key is to establish a sound yet flexible plan that changes along with your life.

While certain investment decisions are based on your current situation, some basics will apply throughout your lifetime. These include considerations such as:

- Keep a cash reserve for emergencies.
- Invest a portion of your portfolio in stocks or stock funds to potentially hedge against your savings from being devalued by inflation.
- Schedule annual reviews with a financial professional to assist you with reviewing whether your investment strategy is up to date.
- Understand how taxes affect your investments. You want to be aware which earnings are taxed annually, tax-deferred or tax-free in certain circumstances when qualifications are met.



Investment strategies will likely change as you move through life's stages.

Your career. Wherever you work, take full advantage of the retirement plans offered by your employers and make regular contributions. Saving and investing in tax-deferred accounts can help you build assets to generate income for your retirement.

Marriage. Tying the knot means tying your finances together, too. Determine your retirement plan contributions and asset allocations based on your combined income and expenses. You should consider designating your spouse as your beneficiary for your retirement accounts, insurance policies and other important documents.

Buying a home. Consider reallocating some of your non-retirement savings to a short-term investment to help fund your down payment, closing and moving costs.

Raising children. Try to keep saving for your own retirement, but also think about increasing your cash reserves and start a college saving fund.

Nearing retirement. Review your investments and asset allocation strategy to accommodate for a shorter time frame.

Retirement. When you're ready to rely on your lifetime of saving, discuss your retirement plan withdrawal options with a financial adviser. Review your total potential income and perhaps reallocate investments to help you provide what you'll need. Keep investing to help offset inflation and hopefully generate assets for later years.

Throughout your life, your investment choices will reflect your current priorities and life stages. With a sound and flexible personal plan, you can continue making financial decisions no matter how your situation changes. ●



Program website: www.opers.org

Benefits questions and personal data changes: (800) 222-PERS (7377)

Account information and management: (866) OPERS-4-U (866-673-7748)

Information from registered Plan Service Representatives is for educational purposes only and is not legal, tax or investment advice. Local Plan Service Representatives are registered representatives of Voya Retirement Advisors, LLC (member SIPC).

This newsletter is intended for the use of plan participants and is not intended to constitute legal, tax or investment advice. Comments on investment strategies or on the performance of various investments or markets in this report are intended to provide general information only. They should not be interpreted as encouraging participants to make any particular investment decision. You should consult a financial adviser or attorney as to how this information affects your particular circumstances. © 2015 Voya Services Company. All rights reserved.



quarterly calendar

Transactions made on this day when the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is closed will be processed the following business day that the NYSE is open.

- Monday, Sept. 7, 2015