

Connections: Linking not-for-profit institutions with an efficient retirement plan solution



Seeking better outcomes for growing institutions

In today's financial environment, numerous not-for-profit organizations are reviewing their benefit plans to ensure they're offering the best possible solutions to their employees while complying with regulatory mandates. As the leader in the not-for-profit retirement plan market,¹ TIAA-CREF is helping plan sponsors manage the increasing complexity and cost of managing a retirement plan.

The *Connections* solution

TIAA-CREF is connecting smaller not-for-profit institutions with an easy-to-administer, competitively priced retirement program. *Connections* allows plan sponsors to:

- Reduce the costs of running the plan.
- Simplify administration while managing risk.
- Maintain a flexible investment platform.
- Offer communication and education programs that promote participants' retirement readiness.

Connections may be the right solution for participants and plan sponsors alike.

Benefits include:

- **Ease of administration:** Electronic plan administration and standard plan document services enable plan sponsors to more efficiently manage their plans. Assets from existing plans are transferred into an age-appropriate TIAA-CREF Lifecycle Fund (the fund with the target date closest to when the participant turns age 65).
- **Investment choice:** Plan sponsors select an investment menu from more than 250 mutual funds from TIAA-CREF and other well-known fund families including T. Rowe Price and American Funds.
- **Regulatory support:** A suite of compliance and fiduciary services helps plan sponsors comply with regulatory requirements, including contribution monitoring and testing.
- **Flexible communications:** Access to TIAA-CREF's online and call center resources and 70+ local offices allows participants to contact us at their convenience.
- **Advice services:** Plan sponsors have the option to work with a local independent financial advisor who is a member of TIAA-CREF's Advisor Network for more in-depth plan-level fee-based services and participant advice.
- **Fiduciary support:** Plan sponsors can work through their financial advisor to build and manage their investment menu. We also offer fee-based access to investment menu advice through our relationship with Ibbotson Associates.

Retirement outcomes with an administratively simple, effective plan

Plan sponsors can more efficiently deliver key benefits, including:

- **Retirement planning:** Participants have access to tools, guidance and client services that can help them prepare for retirement. In addition to mutual funds, we offer fixed annuity products backed by our highly-rated insurance company, TIAA,² which offer participants the security of retirement income they cannot outlive.³

- **Third-party guidance:** A local independent financial advisor provides plan sponsors with regulatory guidance and participants with the added benefit of fee-based personalized advice.
- **Value:** TIAA-CREF has low administrative fees and low-cost investments⁴ to help put more of participants' money to work for them, without front-end fees or surrender charges.⁵
- **Confidence in your provider:** TIAA-CREF has been a leading provider of retirement plans for nearly a century. TIAA has received the highest possible rating for its stability, claims-paying ability and overall financial strength from all four major insurance rating agencies.²

TIAA-CREF: Uniquely committed to retirement

Today our commitment to retirement readiness is stronger than ever. Financial advisors who team with us know that serving the needs of their clients is not only our highest priority, but the reason we exist.

We would like you to learn more.

We are confident that selecting TIAA-CREF as your retirement plan provider is a wise decision. We believe our combination of capabilities surpasses what is available from many other financial services providers. For more information, please call your local financial advisor or TIAA CREF Advisor Services at **888 842-0318**.

¹ Source: LIMRA Secure Retirement Institute, Not-for-Profit Market Survey, third-quarter 2014 results. Based on a survey of 27 companies. TIAA-CREF ranked first in total assets. Ranking does not reflect investment performance.

² For its stability, claims-paying ability and overall financial strength, TIAA is one of only three insurance groups in the United States to currently hold the highest possible rating from three of the four leading insurance company rating agencies: A.M. Best (A++ as of 9/14), Fitch (AAA as of 10/14) and Standard & Poor's (AA+ as of 10/14). It currently holds the second highest possible rating from Moody's Investors Service (Aa1 as of 10/14). Per S&P criteria, the downgrade of U.S. long-term government debt limits the highest rating of U.S. insurers to AA+ (the second-highest rating available). There is no guarantee that current ratings will be maintained. Ratings represent a company's ability to meet policyholders' obligations and do not apply to variable annuities, mutual funds or any other product or service not fully backed by TIAA's claims-paying ability.

³ Subject to TIAA's claims-paying ability.

⁴ Based on Morningstar data, as of December 31, 2014, the expense ratio on all mutual fund products and variable annuity accounts managed by TIAA-CREF is generally less than half the mutual fund industry average.

⁵ Other fees and expenses do apply to a continued investment in the fund and are described in the fund's current prospectus.

For the latest quarterly data on TIAA-CREF, please visit www.tiaa-cref.org/public/about-us.

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You should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. Go to tiaa-cref.org for product and fund prospectuses that contain this and other information. Please read the prospectuses carefully before investing.

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