

TIAA-CREF Advisor Services

Working with an Independent Fiduciary Advice Model

TIAA-CREF recognizes the importance of independent financial advisors and the value they bring to clients who are saving for retirement and other life needs. Our Independent fiduciary advice model offers employees the opportunity to choose from a wide range of advisors. This service also supports the plan sponsors fiduciary responsibility to provide participants with access to independent financial advice.

What Is An Independent Fiduciary Advice Model?

Participants in an employer-sponsored retirement plan want to make sure that the funds they contribute to their retirement savings are working as hard as they are. Guidance from an independent Registered Investment Advisor (RIA) can help them manage their retirement portfolio to ensure they achieve the best possible outcomes. TIAA-CREF's Advisor Service's offers a platform for independent registered investment advisors that allows plan sponsors to offer their employees the opportunity to consult with an independent RIA of their choice to receive investment management services at a reasonable cost.

How Does TIAA-CREF's Advisor Platform Work?

The service is an additional retirement benefit that the plan administrator can offer their employees. Once the plan has adopted the service, participants in the plan are free to work with an advisor of their choice as long as the advisor is an SEC or State Registered Investment Advisor. The Participant provides the advisor with the appropriate authorization to manage their account and can pay for the advisors services directly out of their retirement plan accumulations.

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What is a Registered Investment Advisor?

Registered Investment Advisor (RIA) is an individual or firm who has registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or state regulatory agency(s) for the purpose of providing financial advisory services for others. A Registered Investment Advisor is held to a high standard as a fiduciary to their clients and is generally compensated on a fee basis, such as a percentage of assets



How Do Plan Participants Benefit From Access To Independent Advice?

Choice and flexibility in how to receive advice:

Participants may choose from three different ways to access advice. They may work directly with TIAA-CREF for advice services, they may choose the direct method by using web based advice tools, or they may decide to hire a trusted independent advisor. Either way TIAA-CREF can support their advice needs by offering a platform that is flexible and can accommodate the needs of all.

Creates opportunity to optimize:

TIAA-CREF's advisor platform provides participants with a way to access an independent professional advisor who can help structure their retirement portfolio while seeking to achieve the best possible savings outcomes.

Provides participants with access to advisors having the expertise they need:

SEC-registered RIAs have a wide range of certifications and experience regarding investments, insurance, retirement accumulations, distribution planning and taxation. The program is designed to give participants greater control and flexibility in choosing and working with the advisor of their choice.

Offers opportunity to consolidate all assets with one advisor:

The RIA works with the participant to provide personalized expert advice for all of his or her investments. After developing a comprehensive understanding of the participant's current and future needs, the RIA takes a systematic approach toward creating a personalized investment plan, which is based on serving the participant's long-term goals.

Save on fees:

The program allows participants to pay with pretax dollars for the services of an RIA to manage their TIAA-CREF retirement plan accumulation, thereby reducing the overall cost of advice. TIAA-CREF's Institutional Fee Billing Service does not generate any tax reporting for the participant.*

What is a Fiduciary?

An RIA held to a Fiduciary Standard occupies a position of special trust and confidence when working with a client. As a fiduciary, the RIA is required to act with undivided loyalty to the client. This includes disclosure of how the RIA is to be compensated and any corresponding conflicts of interest.

* Please note: The tax information is not intended to be used and cannot be used by any taxpayer for the purpose of avoiding tax penalties. It was written to support the promotion of Institutional Fee Billing. Taxpayers should seek advice based on their own particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor.

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TIAA-CREF products may be subject to market and other risk factors. See the applicable product literature, or visit tiaa-cref.org for details.

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