TIAA-CREF Institute

Public Policy Thought Leadership Program

Helping Policymakers Promote Financial Security
About the Institute

The TIAA-CREF Institute produces original research and insights on issues pertaining to financial security and organizational effectiveness for the educational, nonprofit and public sectors. We promote thought leadership, inform decision-making and facilitate key relationships across markets served by TIAA-CREF.

Informing Public Policy

The Institute is committed to addressing issues critical to federal, state, and local policy leaders and their staffs, including the financial well-being and retirement security of government and nonprofit employees. We do this by producing and commissioning in-depth, scholarly research; collaborating with leading public policy organizations; hosting thought leadership convenings of experts and policymakers; and implementing a comprehensive communications strategy to enhance the exchange of knowledge. In these and other activities, we strive to be a trusted source of nonpartisan insights and expertise on matters of public interest.
Institute Research

The Institute conducts and sponsors academic research to support policymakers and others interested in topics on the public agenda. We produce research through our on-staff senior economists and Institute Fellows, as well as in collaboration with premier organizations. Below are the major research themes we address.

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Convenings of Experts and Policymakers

Institute convenings, which bring together diverse constituencies with an interest in the policy dimensions of national issues, are a key component of our public policy program. Described below are events we have sponsored recently to promote knowledge and inform decision-making on matters of public importance.

• **Better Lifetime Income Options for Retirement Security: How Do We Get There?**
  The Institute joined forces with the AARP Public Policy Institute and the Urban Institute to co-host a research symposium on lifetime income options. The discussions centered on consumer attitudes and behaviors relevant to retirement planning. Held on Capitol Hill and attended by more than 60 policymakers, staffers and retirement security experts, the event featured discussions of groundbreaking research and presentations by leading authorities on the topic of lifetime income.
• **Public Sector Pension Reform: Addressing Pressing Fiscal Realities from a Long-Term Perspective**

Collaborating with the SUNY Rockefeller Institute of Government, the Institute co-hosted a forum attended by some 100 state and local officials, researchers, policy analysts and others concerned with pension reform in the public sector. Sessions addressed the fiscal constraints facing state and local governments; evolving public sector employment models and the implications for retirement plan design; and federal, state and city pension-reform efforts.

• **Towards a Policy Agenda for an Aging America**

The Institute held a joint colloquium with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to advance the policy agenda outlined in the National Academy of Sciences study “Aging and the Macroeconomy: Long-Term Implications of an Older Population.” TIAA-CREF CEO Roger Ferguson co-chaired the committee that produced the study. The colloquium, funded through a grant from Sloan, focused on national policies related to saving more and working longer. The event was held at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, D.C., and attendees included researchers, policy analysts, senior government officials and Hill staff.

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**Fellows Program**

The prominent scholars and higher education leaders who participate in the Institute's Fellows Program conduct research and present study findings at Institute convenings. Matters of public interest addressed by Fellows include:

- Annuities and annuitization
- Career and retirement patterns
- Defined contribution pension plan design
- Leadership and organizational effectiveness
- Lifelong financial security
- Retirement planning and saving attitudes and behaviors
Strategic Collaboration

To build and share knowledge, the Institute collaborates routinely with premier organizations on research and convenings. In 2013 we announced with the Pension Research Council at the University of Pennsylvania a competition to fund high-quality, innovative research on retirement policy in the shadow of the financial crisis. The studies to be funded are designed to help strengthen the U.S. retirement system through policy reforms that restore budget balance and address the needs of the 21st century workforce. We will share highlights of the research results at a Washington, D.C.-based convening for policymakers.

To address retirement security in the public sector, the Institute teamed up with the Center for State and Local Government Excellence (SLGE) on a survey of public sector workers’ confidence, expectations, and behaviors with respect to
retirement planning and saving. The “2012 Retirement Confidence Survey of the State and Local Government Workforce”—which found that most public sector workers, despite near universal participation in pension plans, are worried about saving enough to retire comfortably—included a representative sample of 1,251 state and local government employees. To disseminate the survey findings, the Institute and SLGE jointly produced an in-depth report and co-hosted a webinar.

Collaborative initiatives with AARP, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, SUNY Rockefeller Institute of Government and Urban Institute are described on the proceeding pages.

For More Information

To learn more about the TIAA-CREF Institute and our public policy thought leadership program, please visit our website at www.tiaa-crefinstitute.org.
About TIAA-CREF

TIAA-CREF is dedicated to serving the retirement needs of those in the academic, medical, government, cultural and research fields. With our strong nonprofit heritage, we subscribe to guiding principles directly influenced by the people we serve.