NAGDCA
2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 15-18 • THE SHERATON PHOENIX DOWNTOWN

The conference agenda is subject to change.
All activities held at the Sheraton unless otherwise noted.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

12:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Alhambra (2nd floor)

NAGDCA Executive Board Meeting

2:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Phoenix Foyer (3rd floor)

Registration Desk Open

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Phoenix AB (3rd floor)

Introduction to Governmental Defined Contribution Plans

Speakers: Sandy Blair, State of California
Rasch Cousineau, Hyas Group
Steve Rose, County of Nevada

This session offers an introduction to public sector defined contribution (DC) plans, tailored for new and experienced professionals alike. The panel will review the foundational elements of DC plan design, governance, and best practices, ensuring you have a solid grasp of these critical components. Additionally, discover how to leverage NAGDCA's extensive resources to enhance your plan management and stay ahead of industry trends. Whether you're looking to bolster your knowledge or seeking new insights, this session will equip you with tools and information to excel in managing public sector DC plans.

This session is free of charge for all attendees. For planning purposes, please let us know you'd like to attend by RSVPing on the registration form.

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Maryvale (2nd floor)

Committee Members' Meet-and-Greet and Headshots

Committee members are invited to have a headshot taken by the conference photographer.

Open to 2024-2025 NAGDCA committee members.

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Laveen (2nd floor)

First Responders Reception

First responders are invited to a private reception offering a unique opportunity for fire and safety professionals to network and build valuable connections within the NAGDCA community.

Open to First Responders only.

5:00 – 6:30 pm	**Welcome Reception**
Valley of the Sun (2nd floor)	A can't miss event! Connect with the NAGDCA community over drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres during this conference kick-off reception.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. *Phoenix Foyer (3rd floor)*	**Registration Desk Open**

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. *Phoenix CDE (3rd floor)*	**Breakfast** Join your colleagues for a buffet breakfast, coffee, and informal networking.

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Phoenix CDE (3rd floor)

CONFERENCE OPENING & KEYNOTE SPEAKER

(re)Discovering Happiness at Work | Jennifer Moss

We've come through a crisis and for better or worse – it changed us. We gained plenty of skills – how to pivot on the fly, work from anywhere, adopt new tech, build resiliency. We might be feeling hopeful, but we have a long way to go – Gallup says that less than 1 in 4 people are thriving at work.

If the dust is settling and our well-being is (re)booting in our personal lives, why does work still feel so "meh"? We feel less confident, less effective, less connected – blame that on chronic stress – but we're also hungry for purpose and meaning. We want our spark back!

In her newest keynote offering (re)Discovering Happiness at Work, award-winning author and journalist, Jennifer Moss, will engage audiences with novel ways to bring that lost sense of purpose back to work and life. With the latest behavioral and economic sciences research, Jennifer explains what makes us want to show up at work and how to tear down the psychological barriers that are holding us back. This is a high energy, future-focused, entertaining, data-backed discussion. It will have the audience nodding, "you get me," while feeling like, "I can do this!"

We've changed and so has our relationship with work. To make it the best it can be, we must come together – leaders and teams – to (re)Discover Happiness at Work.

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. **Break**

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Phoenix AB (3rd floor)

Harnessing AI: Risks, Engagement, and Opportunity

Moderator:	Amy Timmons, Segal
Panelists:	Nicholas Amaral, Fidelity Chris DiPrimio, BlackRock

Discover the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in public sector defined contribution (DC) plans. This session will cover the importance of AI governance, emphasizing the need for audits and comprehensive policies to mitigate risks such as bias, transparency, and security concerns. Learn how AI can significantly enhance participant engagement and improve retirement outcomes by personalizing experiences and targeting specific demographics. The panel will also explore the integration of AI in investment strategies, illustrating how data science and natural language processing (NLP) are reshaping the financial landscape.

Valley of the Sun ABC (2nd floor) **Mastering Strategic Contract Negotiations to Maximize Plan Success**

Moderator:	Andrew Ness, SageView Advisory Group
Panelists:	Marla Kreindler, Morgan Lewis
	Alice Palmer, Lincoln Financial Group

Navigating the complexities of contract negotiations for public retirement plans can be challenging. This session provides an in-depth look at the critical aspects of contracting, aimed at achieving alignment and mitigating risks in plan operations. Our expert panel will guide you through the entire process, from understanding the fundamental goals of contracting to the nuances of preparing effective RFPs and selecting appropriate contracting documents.

You will learn about the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, essential components of contracts, and strategic tips to ensure successful negotiations. Real-life examples will illustrate common pitfalls and best practices. By the end of this session, attendees will understand how to approach contract negotiations to safeguard their plans and optimize outcomes.

Encanto (2nd floor) **Target Date: The Right Answer to the Wrong Question?**

Moderator:	Kevin Kneafsey, Allspring Global Investments
Panelists:	David Blanchett, PhD, CFA, CFP, PGIM
	Charles Mansfield III, CFA, MissionSquare Retirement
	Paul Matson, Arizona State Retirement System

This session focuses on how a defined contribution (DC) plan can best complement a defined benefit (DB) plan in a government retirement program. The panelists will begin by contrasting DB and DC investing across a few key dimensions including investment horizon, governance, accumulation and decumulation phases, information asymmetry, and investment skill. Next, given the ubiquitous nature of target date strategies within DC plans, the speakers will debate the benefits and shortcomings of these strategies. Building on these insights, the panel will then move to how best to complement DB benefits with DC savings. The session will provide practical recommendations for improving or replacing target date funds (TDFs) to better suit the unique needs of government plan participants.

11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.	**Opening Luncheon**
Phoenix CDE (3rd floor)	*Open to attendees only.*

1:30 – 2:15 p.m.	**Industry Members' Business Meeting**
Phoenix AB (3rd floor)	*Industry members only.*

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. **GOVERNMENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS BY ASSET SIZE**

Government members only.

Join your peers from plans of a similar size to discuss common issues.

Camelback A (2nd floor) **$100 million or less**

Moderator: Thai Walty, Anchorage School District

Camelback B (2nd floor) **$101 million - $250 million**

	Moderator: Christine Briceno, County of Napa
Valley of the Sun ABC (2nd floor)	**$251 million - $499 million**
	Moderator: Denise Gaffor, State University of New York (SUNY)
Deer Valley (2nd floor)	**$500 million - $999 million**
	Moderator: Corey Robey, City of Baltimore
Encanto (2nd floor)	**$1 billion - $3 billion**
	Moderator: Arvella Collins, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board
Valley of the Sun D (2nd floor)	**> $3 billion**
	Moderator: *TBD*
Valley of the Sun E (2nd floor)	**First Responders (Police/Fire)**
	Moderator: Brian Moore, Arizona Public Safety Personnel Defined Contribution Plan

2:30 – 3:00 p.m.	**Break**
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	**GENERAL SESSION**
Phoenix CDE (3rd floor)	**Retirement Insights Across Public Sector Segments: Strategies for Success**

Moderator:	Ted Grigsby, Hyas Group
Panelists:	Dan Morrison, Empower
	Chris Nikolich, AllianceBernstein
	Jessica Sclafani, T. Rowe Price

This session will explore the diverse landscape of retirement plans within the public sector, providing a comprehensive overview of how different segments—state governments, local governments, and special districts—navigate unique challenges and opportunities. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the strategies employed by various public sector entities to enhance retirement readiness, manage plan costs, and comply with evolving regulatory requirements. The panel will discuss best practices, share case studies, and offer practical advice for plan administrators aiming to optimize retirement outcomes for their participants. This session will offer actionable takeaways to improve plan performance and participant engagement.

4:15 – 5:00 p.m.	**Leadership Awards Photos**
Maryvale (2nd floor)	2024 Leadership Award Winners, pick up your plaque and have a group picture taken.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. *Phoenix Foyer (3rd floor)*	**Registration Desk Open**

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. *Phoenix CDE (3rd floor)*	**Breakfast** Join your colleagues for buffet breakfast, coffee, and informal networking.

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Phoenix CDE (3rd floor)

GENERAL SESSION

Washington Update

Moderator: Matt Petersen, NAGDCA

Panelists: Michael Kreps, Groom Law Group
David Levine, Groom Law Group
Irica Solomon, MissionSquare Retirement

Join members of NAGDCA's Legislative Committee and attorneys from Groom Law Group, the association's legislative affairs firm, for a discussion around SECURE 2.0 challenges, opportunities, and the latest implementation guidance as well as current and future federal legislative and regulatory priorities.

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:15 – 11:15 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS |** *Sessions Repeat in Afternoon*

Phoenix AB (3rd floor)

Effective Governance and Fiduciary Excellence in Public Sector DC Plans

Moderator: Ben Hensarling, State of Florida

Panelists: Joe Carter, Mariner Institutional
Jay Castellano, County of San Mateo
Hannah Schriner, Meketa Investment Group

This session explores the critical aspects of governance and fiduciary responsibilities for public sector defined contribution (DC) plans. The panel will examine the nuances of fiduciary classifications under ERISA and state laws, the importance of establishing robust governance structures, and the role of fiduciary insurance. Learn about the creation and enforcement of by-laws and charters, the significance of diligent and consistent governance practices, and methods to systemize fiduciary education and best practices. Additionally, the session will cover the evaluation of plan fees and investment expenses, offering insights into benchmarking and industry best practices.

Valley of the Sun ABC (2nd floor)

Demographic Dynamics and Spending Behaviors Impacting Retirement Readiness

Moderator: Sue Walton, Capital Group | American Funds

Panelists: Michael Conrath, CFP, CPRC, J.P. Morgan Asset Management
Bridget Bearden, PhD, EBRI
Bonnie Orlowski, CAIA, Ariel Investments

Unlock the full potential of your retirement plan by understanding the dual impact of demographic data and spending patterns on participant outcomes. This session explores how leveraging demographic insights, including generational perspectives and gender differences, can illuminate the specific needs of your participants. Additionally, we will delve into the implications of household spending spikes on retirement readiness and how in-plan provisions, such as emergency savings, can mitigate these impacts. By integrating data-driven strategies from the Public Retirement Research Lab (PRRL) and recent research collaborations, the panel will discuss how to enhance plan design, boost participant engagement, and ultimately achieve better retirement outcomes.

Encanto (2nd floor) | **Shared Responsibility in Cybersecurity: Protecting Retirement Plans in the Digital Age**

Moderator: Doug Peterson, Empower

Panelists: Duke Alden, Alight
Robert Boehmer, Nevada Public Employees' Deferred Compensation Program

In today's digital landscape, safeguarding retirement plans against cyber threats requires a collaborative effort between plan sponsors, recordkeepers, and participants. This session delves into the shared responsibility model of cybersecurity, offering insights into best practices for drafting and implementing robust cybersecurity policies. Attendees will learn how to critically evaluate recordkeepers' security measures, ensure participant compliance, and navigate the evolving threat landscape, including the impact of AI and new fraud schemes. By the end of this session, participants will be equipped with practical strategies and tools to enhance their organization's cybersecurity posture and protect their members' data.

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. | **Government Members' Lunch and Business Meeting**

Phoenix CDE (3rd floor) | *Government members only.*

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. | **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION DECKS**

Please check the bottom of your name badge for your group assignment.

Phoenix AB (3rd floor) Group 1 | Moderator: *TBD*
Encanto (2nd floor) Group 2 | Moderator: Ken McRay, Nuveen
Valley of the Sun ABC (2nd floor) Group 3 | Moderator: Stephanie O'Dear, Empower

Crafted exclusively for the conference, this interactive session encourages thoughtful conversation in a roundtable discussion format. Each group discussion is unique and allows members to learn from each other by discussing a range of engaging and interesting questions. You don't want to miss this enriching networking session.

2:00 – 2:15 p.m. | **Break**

2:15 – 3:15 p.m. | **BREAKOUT SESSIONS |** *Sessions Repeated from Morning*

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Panelists:	Joe Carter, Mariner Institutional
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3:15 – 3:45 p.m.	**Break**

3:45 – 4:45 p.m.	**GENERAL SESSION**
Phoenix CDE (3rd floor)	**Empowering Retirement Readiness: Bridging Expectations with Realities**

TUESDAY

Moderator:	Jenny Glowacki, Corebridge Financial
Panelists:	Dick Friedman, Creative Planning
	Hank Levy, Alameda County
	Cathy Marasco, Nationwide

This session explores the multifaceted landscape of retirement planning, focusing on the diverse experiences and needs of retirees. Attendees will gain insights into the impact of various pre-existing retirement income solutions on retirees' satisfaction and decision-making. We will delve into a plan sponsor's perspective and specific plan retiree data. The panel will explore multiple sides of the current landscape – including perceived drawbacks to current solutions, how solutions have evolved and the role of institutional fiduciaries to aid the plan sponsors in the decision-making process and how plan sponsors can quickly view the income replacement for their plan participants. This session aims to bridge the gap between retirement expectations and realities, ensuring participants are well-prepared for their retirement years.

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.	**OFF-SITE NETWORKING EVENT**

Arizona Science Center

Conference name badge is required to attend.

Join your fellow attendees for food and drinks as you enjoy a night out at the Arizona Science Center. Transportation is provided to and from the Sheraton.

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

8:00 – 10:30 a.m. *Phoenix Foyer (3rd floor)*	**Registration Desk Open**

8:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. *Laveen AB (2rd floor)*	**Luggage Storage** Please note, luggage must be picked up by 12:00 p.m. If you cannot pick up luggage by 12:00 p.m., please store it at the hotel front desk.

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. *Phoenix CDE (3rd floor)*	**Breakfast** Join your colleagues for buffet breakfast, coffee, and informal networking.

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	**BREAKOUT SESSIONS – NAGDCA Case Studies**

Phoenix AB (3rd floor)

Moving the Needle: Effective Collaborative Program and Outreach Efforts | City of Milwaukee

Speakers: Beth Conradson Cleary, City of Milwaukee Deferred Compensation Plan
Christelle Ngnoumen, PhD, Voya Behavioral Finance Research
Joshua Parish, City of Milwaukee Deferred Compensation Plan

Explore how the City of Milwaukee enhanced employee engagement and financial literacy through collaboration among trustees, administration, departments, and their recordkeeper. This case study will cover targeted outreach in the Fire Department, including financial wellness presentations, new employee orientations, and testimonial videos. Learn about using data analytics to benchmark enrollment trends, participation, and contributions. Gain insights into replicable strategies for boosting engagement and participation.

Valley of the Sun ABC (2nd floor)

Enhancing Retirement Security: Effective Campaigns and Rollouts | Missouri State Employees' Retirement System (MOSERS) and Nassau County

Speakers: Kelsey Harris, MOSERS
Brooke Rowden, MOSERS
Glen Tuifel, Nassau County
Rachel Molina, Empower

This session will showcase the award-winning initiatives of the Missouri Deferred Compensation Plan and Nassau County. Discover how Missouri's "Retirement Security. It Starts With You." campaign educated state employees on safeguarding their retirement savings against cyber threats. Learn about Nassau County's successful rollout of the Roth source, highlighting the importance of on-site education and comprehensive communication strategies. Gain valuable insights and practical takeaways from these case studies to enhance your own retirement security efforts.

Encanto (2nd floor)

Enhancing Retirement Readiness: Innovative Tools and Engagement Strategies | Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) of Michigan and State of North Carolina

	Speakers: Allison Buhs, MERS of Michigan
	Christy Farrelly, State of North Carolina
	Jessica Quimby, Empower

Discover how MERS of Michigan and the State of North Carolina are enhancing retirement readiness for public sector employees. MERS will present the myMERS app, providing real-time access to retirement plan information. North Carolina's myNCRetirement Journey campaign encourages proactive retirement planning, increased contributions, and completed beneficiary designations. Learn from their experiences and gain actionable strategies to improve participant engagement and retirement outcomes.

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.   **Break**

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.   **GENERAL SESSION**

Phoenix CDE (3rd floor)   **Engaging a Diverse Workforce: Effective Communication Strategies for Retirement Plans**

Moderator: Greg Jenkins, Invesco

Panelists: Hunter Bethea, Tennessee Treasury Department
                Emily Boesen, Indiana State Comptroller
                Angela Harrell, Voya Financial

Effective communication is crucial for engaging participants in retirement plans, especially in the diverse and dynamic public sector workforce. This session will explore innovative strategies and best practices for crafting messages that resonate with different groups, from state employees to high-need participants. Attendees will gain insights from case studies on how personalized communication and targeted campaigns can drive participation and improve retirement readiness. The session will also highlight the importance of incorporating a diversity lens into communications to ensure inclusivity and relevance. By the end of this session, participants will be equipped with practical tools to enhance their communication efforts and better serve their diverse participant base.