



PENTEGRA RETIREMENT SERVICES INTRODUCES “PENTEGRA SMARTPATH™” TO PROMOTE GREATER RETIREMENT READINESS

New brochure features progressive plan design ideas to help increase successful 401k outcomes

White Plains, NY September 3, 2014 Today Pentegra Retirement Services introduced the “Pentegra SmartPath™,” a new brochure which details recommended progressive plan design best practices that can best ensure successful retirement outcomes for 401(k) plan participants and sponsors. Pentegra advocates that automatic plan features better meet the needs of plan participants and plan sponsors, and can drive more successful outcomes. The Pentegra SmartPath™ offers plan sponsors a guide to implementing these 401(k) plan design best practices.

According to Rich Rausser, Senior Vice President, “With the 401(k) plan becoming the sole retirement plan for many employees, it is more important now than ever before to ensure that it is designed to help participants meet their goals. Plan success should be measured in terms of how well your plan is able to help participants meet their retirement goals for financial security. Real plan effectiveness should be measured in terms of whether participants are on track to succeed. Staying on track is the key, which was the impetus to create our new Pentegra SmartPath™.”

Plan effectiveness, according to Pentegra, is supported by automatic features, which, as the SmartPath™ brochure lays out, can include automatic enrollment, automatic escalation of salary deferrals, auto rebalancing and utilization of qualified default investment vehicles.

Such features help plan participants set a reasonable level of salary savings, increase their contributions over time, achieve proper investment diversification, and make better use of a plan's investment alternatives. Placing participants in an appropriate investment option at a pre-selected contribution rate that increases annually essentially replaces some of the most important features of a defined benefit plan such as automatic coverage and professional investment management.

Pentegra explains in SmartPath™, that in order to achieve best-in-class results in terms of participant retirement readiness, plan sponsors will continue to add more automatic plan features, which can help achieve the all-important 10% savings rate that Pentegra believes is crucial to success.

Rausser explains, "Good providers know that successful plan design is a partnership between the sponsor, advisor and the retirement plan provider. The industry has learned that education alone does not drive participant behavior. Ensuring successful participant outcomes begins with progressive plan design that maximizes positive participant behaviors. Progressive redesign of the 401(k) plan can only help participants achieve higher levels of retirement readiness and success."

Pentegra plans to promote the SmartPath™ with its clients and advisor partners over the coming months. For more information and to view the SmartPath™ brochure, Click on the following link http://www.pentegra.com/media/52263/Pentegra_SmartPath.pdf.

About Pentegra

Pentegra Retirement Services is a leading provider of retirement plan and fiduciary outsourcing solutions to organizations nationwide. Founded by the Federal Home Loan Bank System in 1943, Pentegra offers a broad array of retirement plan solutions, including Multiple Employer plans and Group Trusts, as well as single employer 401(k) plans, Defined Benefit Pension plans, Cash Balance plans, 412(e)(3) Fully Insured Defined Benefit plans, Split Funded Defined Benefit plans, KSOPs, ESOPs, Profit Sharing plans, Age-Weighted plans, New Comparability plans, 457(b) and 457(f) plans, 403(b) plans, 401(a) plans, Section 79 plans, Non-qualified Executive Benefit and Director plans, benefits financing solutions using BOLI and a broad array of TPA services. In addition Pentegra also serves the needs of institutional investors, offering partial or complete investment outsourcing capabilities. For more information, go to www.pentegra.com.

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