

# **Target Date Fund Questionnaire**

## STEP 1

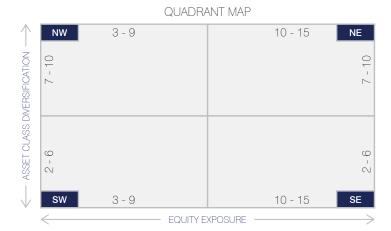
## **Understand Plan Goals and Participant Needs**

Plan decision-makers should answer the five questions below to assess the level of equity exposure at the target date and the asset class diversification desired for the plan's target date fund.

## STEP 2

## Determine the Plan's Target Date Type<sup>™</sup>

Compare the scores below for equity exposure and asset class diversification against the quadrant map. Target date funds in the quadrant matching the plan's scores may be best aligned with the goals and needs of the plan.



# What is the plan's primary outcome objective for its target date fund?

Help meet participants' income replacement goals at retirement

1 2 3 4 5

Help maximize participants' savings throughout their lifetimes

2 Based on reports received or other information, plan participants tend to...

1

1

save at less than sufficient levels; take a high number of loans or withdrawals; withdraw a significant amount or all of their assets within a few years of the target date 1 2 3 4 5

save consistently at sufficient levels; take few, if any, loans or withdrawals; retain a significant amount or all of their assets in the plan well beyond the target date

The plan prefers a target date fund that seeks to...

manage downside risk

2 3 4 5

maximize upside return potential



Add combined score from questions 1, 2, 3 to determine the EQUITY EXPOSURE\* score.

\*Percentage of equity exposure at target date



4 What is the plan's viewpoint on broad portfolio diversification?

Not likely to improve portfolio outcomes

1 2 3 4 5

Very likely to improve portfolio outcomes

What is the plan's preference for the type of asset classes to be included in a target date fund?

Use only traditional asset classes, such as stocks and bonds

2 3 4

5

Use traditional asset classes and others (e.g., emerging markets equity, high yield, commodities)



Add combined score from questions 4, 5 to determine the ASSET CLASS DIVERSIFICATION\* score.



\*Percentage of equity exposure at target date



# **Target Date Quadrants Defined**

NW

### QUADRANT CHARACTERISTICS

Lower level of equity exposure at the target date

> Higher number of asset classes—tend to include both traditional and extended asset classes

### INVESTMENT ORIENTATION

- Focus on ensuring income replacement at retirement
- Focus on managing volatility more efficiently
- > Believe higher diversification can potentially create more optimal portfolios

- Seek to help meet participants' income replacement goals at retirement
- > May have participants who exhibit typical savings behavior
- > Prefer target date funds that seek to manage downside risk
- > Believe broad diversification is likely to improve portfolio outcomes
- > Believe diversification can be achieved by extending beyond traditional asset classes

NE

### QUADRANT CHARACTERISTICS

- Higher level of equity exposure at the target date
  Higher number of asset classes—tend to include both traditional and extended asset classes

### INVESTMENT ORIENTATION

- > Focus on managing longevity risk post-retirement
- > Focus on managing growth more efficiently
- > Believe higher diversification can potentially create more optimal portfolios

- Seek to help maximize participants' savings throughout their lifetimes
- > May have participants who more closely exhibit optimal behavior
- > Prefer target date funds that seek to maximize upside return potential
- Believe broad diversification is likely to improve portfolio outcomes
- > Believe diversification can be achieved by extending beyond traditional asset classes

SW

### QUADRANT CHARACTERISTICS

- > Lower level of equity exposure at the target date
- > Lower number of asset classes—tend to maintain focus on traditional asset classes

### INVESTMENT ORIENTATION

- > Focus on ensuring income replacement at retirement
- > Focus on managing volatility
- > Believe lower diversification can provide appropriate levels of portfolio optimization

### PLAN PROFILE

- > Seek to help meet participants' income replacement goals at retirement
- > May have participants who exhibit typical savings behavior
- > Prefer target date funds that seek to manage downside risk
- > Believe broad diversification is not likely to improve portfolio outcomes
- > Believe diversification can be achieved primarily with traditional asset classes, such as

SE

### QUADRANT CHARACTERISTICS

- > Higher level of equity exposure at the target date
- > Lower number of asset classes—tend to maintain focus on traditional asset classes

### INVESTMENT ORIENTATION

- Focus on managing longevity risk post-retirement
- > Focus on managing growth
- > Believe lower diversification can provide appropriate levels of portfolio optimization

### PLAN PROFILE

- Seek to help maximize participants' savings throughout their lifetimes
- > May have participants who more closely exhibit optimal behavior
- > Prefer target date funds seeking to maximize upside return potential
  > Believe broad diversification is not likely to improve portfolio outcomes
- > Believe diversification can be achieved primarily with traditional asset classes, such as

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TARGET DATE FUNDS: Target date funds are funds with the target date being the approximate date when investors plan to start withdrawing their money. Generally, the asset allocation of each fund will change on an annual basis with the asset allocation becoming In the compass is not meant to replace the finding responsibility or choosing an investment decisions. The differences between travel to the following a take to the principal to the following a take to the principal to the following the fol highlight the differences between target date funds in order to make informed comparisons.

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## Questions?

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