



Nationwide[®]
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Fund Window

Guide

Help satisfy participant investment needs

APPROVED FOR ADVISOR USE WITH PLAN SPONSORS

Choosing a plan's investment lineup impacts everyone

Plan fiduciaries are responsible for investment selection and monitoring. This puts them under heavy scrutiny from the Department of Labor (DOL) to remain compliant with ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act) requirements. Although ERISA recommends a simple core lineup, that lineup may not satisfy the needs of every participant.

Plan fiduciary options

When faced with this situation, plan fiduciaries may consider:

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| 1. Offering specialty funds within the core lineup to satisfy the requests of savvier participants | 2. Keeping the core lineup basic and offering participants access to a self-directed brokerage window |
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Why this matters to plan sponsors and plan participants

Offering alternate funds may compromise the integrity of the core lineup:

- Participants may not invest in the plan because they are overwhelmed or confused by having too many fund options
- Participants are more susceptible to selecting funds that aren't appropriate for their goals
- Poor decisions by participants could reflect on the plan sponsor if he or she has fiduciary responsibility for the core lineup

Although self-directed brokerage windows are an added benefit, they should be carefully considered:

- Additional charges will apply to the participant
- The plan fiduciary maintains responsibility over the selection of the brokerage window provider



“While offering a brokerage window may relieve the fiduciaries of some exposure to liability and some disclosure requirements, it is not an option that the fiduciaries may ‘set and forget.’ ”¹

— Fred Reish and Bruce Ashton,
leading ERISA attorneys

But what if you could satisfy both fiduciary and participant needs?

Get the benefits of **Fund Window**, a unique solution from Nationwide[®]

With Fund Window:

- Participants gain access to any investment option available within the Nationwide platform, selectable by Morningstar rating, performance, expense ratio and more
- There is no additional plan or participant cost
- Helps reduce fiduciary liability for plan fiduciaries because investments chosen by participants through Fund Window aren't considered designated investment alternatives; this means that plan fiduciaries don't have the same requirements for prudent selection and monitoring of Fund Window investments as they do for the plan's core fund lineup
- Participants receive one combined statement that includes investment details from both Fund Window and core-lineup investments

Keep the integrity of your core fund lineup while giving participants options to satisfy their needs.



To learn more about Fund Window, call your plan's financial advisor or Nationwide at 1-888-262-401K.

¹ “Offering a brokerage window: a discussion of the fiduciary considerations,” Fred Reish and Bruce Ashton, tdainstitutional.com (August 2017).



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Options offered in Fund Window may require investment expertise and/or professional management advice to prudently manage. In addition, some of these investment options may have higher Nationwide asset fees than the designated investment options. Please note that the investment options offered through Nationwide's Fund Window have not been individually selected and are not monitored by the Plan Representative. Nationwide does not monitor the funds offered through Fund Window.

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