

## WORKPLACE BENEFITS

# Advisor Alliance

## Helping make financial lives better

In running a successful business, one way to stay ahead is continuous improvement — it's the same with your company's retirement plan. Your plan can be a valuable asset in helping you attract and retain the best employees, giving you a competitive edge that keeps your company on a strong growth track.

### When it comes to getting the most from your retirement plan, Bank of America offers a powerful solution

Simply put, Advisor Alliance combines Merrill Lynch Wealth Management's investment and advisory services with a network of diverse, committed third-party providers that offer competitive recordkeeping and plan administration services for your business retirement plan needs. Advisor Alliance offers the following services/features to help you pursue better plan outcomes.

- Your Merrill Designated Advisor can help evaluate the platform appropriate for your plan needs and provide personalized guidance on an ongoing basis. By combining our consultative approach with experienced service provider capabilities, our goal is to make it easy for you to make appropriate decisions to help your employees and company pursue financial wellness.
- Our providers are nationally recognized leaders<sup>1</sup> in the industry that offer competitive, value-added products and services. Bank of America utilizes a thorough and structured process for service provider selection, and potential providers must be experienced leaders in the small- and middle-market segments with strong product, platform and service capabilities.
- Through our Fiduciary Advisory Services, we can help you construct and maintain an investment menu and act as an ERISA fiduciary for the investment advice provided.
- Our Education and Plan Services encompass nonfiduciary services<sup>2</sup> available to the plan including, but not limited to, employee education and relationship management.

**Our comprehensive approach starts with a broad range of plan types.** Advisor Alliance offers the following types of retirement plans:

401(k)	403(b)
401(k)–Safe Harbor	Profit Sharing
Roth 401(k)	Money Purchase
Multiple Employer Plans (MEP)	Thrift Savings

### ADVISOR ALLIANCE PROVIDERS

Advisor Alliance has become one of the largest and most successful benefit plan programs of its kind, serving more than 18,000 businesses and with \$66 billion in client balances.<sup>3</sup>



#### For plan sponsor use only.

Workplace Benefits is the institutional retirement and benefits business of Bank of America Corporation ("BoFA Corp.") operating under the name "Bank of America." Investment advisory and brokerage services are provided by wholly owned non-bank affiliates of BoFA Corp., including Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (also referred to as "MLPF&S" or "Merrill"), a dually registered broker-dealer and investment adviser and Member SIPC. Banking activities may be performed by wholly owned banking affiliates of BoFA Corp., including Bank of America, N.A., Member FDIC.

Investment products:

**Are Not FDIC Insured**

**Are Not Bank Guaranteed**

**May Lose Value**

## One of the greatest assets of Advisor Alliance is the guidance of your dedicated Merrill Designated Advisor

You can look to us to think strategically — keeping in step with your company as it grows. Your Merrill Designated Advisor will work with you through the process — evaluation, design, implementation and ongoing management — of your retirement plan, helping bridge the gap between your current plan and a plan that anticipates future growth. Each step of the way, our focus stays the same: making sure the plan continues to help you and your employees pursue your retirement goals.

### Our disciplined plan management process is focused on your goals. Elements of a successful plan include:

- **Plan design.** Creating a plan that aligns with your benefits philosophy, makes the most of your budget and helps your employees prepare for retirement.
- **Investment and fiduciary risk management.** Helping you fulfill your responsibilities for investment selection and fiduciary risk mitigation.
- **Employee engagement.** Delivering innovative, tailored messaging for key life stages.
- **Regulatory conformance.** Providing resources and ongoing education, such as the Plan Sponsor Compliance Resource Guide and the Fiduciary Compliance Checklist, to help you understand your fiduciary responsibilities.
- **Expense control and disclosure.** Helping you ensure plan fees are reasonable and you get the most out of your benefits budget.
- **Recordkeeper plan administration.** Resources and experiences to help manage your plan effectively.

The value of a Merrill Designated Advisor, flexibility, a sound provider network and continuous enhancements make this retirement solution stand out for small-and mid-sized businesses.

Visit [Workplace Benefits for Business Owners and Entrepreneurs](#) for more information.

Fiduciary Advisory Services is an investment advisory program sponsored by Merrill. Merrill offers a broad range of brokerage, investment advisory and other services. There are important differences between brokerage and investment advisory services, including the type of advice and assistance provided, the fees charged, and the rights and obligations of the parties. It is important to understand the differences, particularly when determining which service or services to select. Please refer to the Fiduciary Advisory Services Brochure for information on the program, including a description of the series and related fees.

<sup>1</sup> 2023 PLANSPONSOR Defined Contribution Survey.

<sup>2</sup> Education and Plan Services are nonfiduciary services required for Advisor Alliance clients.

<sup>3</sup> Bank of America. Advisor Alliance is part of Global Wealth and Investment Management ("GWIM"), the wealth and investment management division of Bank of America Corporation. As of December 31, 2023, Advisor Alliance had client balances of \$66 billion. Client balances consists of assets under management, client brokerage assets and deposits.

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