



Define your journey.

Start the Year With a Fresh Look at Your Road to Retirement

The State of Illinois wants to give you peace of mind this year by helping you improve your financial wellness and refresh your commitment to saving in the Deferred Compensation Plan. Below are some steps you can take right now and throughout the year to fuel your journey.



RIGHT NOW

1. Key In on the Details

What to Do:

- If you aren't already enrolled, **set up an account and enroll** in the Plan by visiting rps.troweprice.com or calling **1-888-457-5770**.
- **Name your beneficiary**, or if it's been a while—double check that your beneficiary information is current.
- **Update your email address** and get access to automated newsletters and valuable saving insights.
- **Review your investment options** to ensure that you're contributing to the portfolio that's right for your goals. The Plan offers two paths:
 - *Age-Based Investment Path:* Automatically adjusts and rebalances the mix of stocks, bonds, and other investments over time.
 - *Build-Your-Own Portfolio Path:* Allows you to build your own investment mix, and the rebalance features can help you maintain your intended and original investment mix over time. Consider the **rebalance feature** which allows you to revert back to your original investment allocation.

Why It Matters: These easy steps are critical for you to stay up to date on your retirement savings and to ensure that your money goes where you want.

Take action today.

T. Rowe Price can help you make the most of the Plan and help with all stages of your financial journey. Visit us online at rps.troweprice.com. Or give us a call at **1-888-457-5770**.

2. Start Small and Build Momentum

What to Do:

- Plan to build an **emergency fund**, such as a separate savings account, so you're prepared for unexpected expenses.
- Make a **household budget** so you can have a better picture of your ongoing and future financial needs.

Why It Matters: Taking control of your day-to-day budget can allow you to focus on the long term.



THIS YEAR

3. Free Yourself From High-Interest Debt

What to Do:

- Make a plan to **pay down credit card debt**; paying off small balances first can keep you motivated to keep going.
- **Use your emergency fund** instead of credit cards to offset any surprise costs.

Why It Matters: Eliminating high-interest credit card debt frees up money to save each month.

4. Aim for Higher Savings Goals

What to Do:

- Decide when to pay **taxes on your contributions**—now (Roth contributions) or in retirement (before-tax contributions).
- **Increase your deferrals** by at least \$10 per pay period, or consider contributing an additional 1% of your annual pay. Establish an annual increase in your deferral amount, such as \$20 per pay period or 1% of your annual pay.
- Keep in mind that the **contribution limit** set by the IRS for 2021 is \$19,500. If you're over 50, consider making **catch-up contributions** up to \$6,500 allowed above the 2021 IRS limit.

Why It Matters: Increasing your savings to a level that **meets your long-term needs** can **better** prepare you for the future you imagine.



DOWN THE ROAD

5. Tackle Long-Term Debt

What to Do:

- **Look into refinancing** your mortgage, student loans, or auto loans to lower interest rates.
- **To help reduce the burden of future debt**, consider contributing to a tax-advantaged 529 college savings plan.

Why It Matters: Better managing long-term debt can help you maximize your savings potential.



Get even more tips and insights—personalized for your savings journey.

Access the latest tools and resources at **rps.troweprice.com** to see how your current savings stack up against your goals and how you can do even better.

- Explore the **Education Library** for a range of helpful articles, podcasts, blogs, and more.
- Make informed saving decisions with tools such as the **Roth Comparison Calculator, Paycheck Impact Calculator, and Contribution Maximizer**.
- Access financial wellness tools to **build a budget, manage debt** and learn how to **pay off student loans**.
- Combine all your accounts so you can see your whole financial picture with the **360-Degree Account View**.
- Compare your progress with your retirement goals by viewing your **Confidence Number** score.

Even when you're on the go, you can find all these resources and more on our mobile-friendly website at **rps.troweprice.com**. Or download the T. Rowe Price Personal® app, available on Google Play and the Apple Store.

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