

Winners of PLANSPONSOR 401(k) Survey announced

By Editor Test Wed, Jan 11, 2012

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From the perspective of customers, who are the best 401(k) providers?

Three service providers stood out in PLANSPONSOR's annual Defined Contribution Survey this year: Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Diversified Retirement Corporation, and BMO Institutional Trust Services. Those providers won the greatest number of service "cups" in the survey's five main asset classes, based on the evaluations of nearly 7,000 employers of all sizes across the United States.

PLANSPONSOR is the nation's leading source of retirement plan information for employers.

Other standout rankings were earned (in alphabetical order) by American Trust, Ascensus, DailyAccess Corp., J.P. Morgan, MBM Advisors, Milliman Inc., The Newport Group, TIAA-CREF, Transamerica, and Vanguard.

The survey results — and rankings of 47 providers by their plan sponsor clients — were profiled in a recent issue of PLANSPONSOR magazine. The winners will be honored in New York City on March 29th, 2012 at Pier 60 of the Chelsea Piers.

Quinn Keeler, senior vice president and head of Research at Asset International, Inc., parent company of PLANSPONSOR, said providers are awarded "Best in Class" status based on top-quartile performance in five designations defined by plan size. Providers who won the most "cups" in each asset category were designated this year as Gold, Silver, or Bronze Cup winners.

The top providers in each asset category were:

Plan size/assets	Provider	Designation	Cups
Micro (<\$5 million)			
	BMO Instit Trust Svcs	Gold	22 cups
	Ascensus	Silver	21 cups
	DailyAccess Corp.	Silver	21 cups
	T'america Ret Svcs	Bronze	19 cups
Small (\$5 m-\$50 m)			
	BMO Instit Trust Svcs	Gold	23 cups
	American Trust	Silver	22 cups
	MBM Advisors	Bronze	20 cups

Mid (>\$50 m-\$200 m)			
	BMO Institutional Trust Svcs	Gold	23 cups
	The Newport Group	Silver	20 cups
	Milliman, Inc.	Bronze	16 cups
Large (>\$200 m-\$1 bn)			
	Diversified Ret. Corp	Gold	21 cups
	The Newport Group	Silver	18 cups
	Vanguard	Bronze	16 cups
Mega (>\$1 billion)			
	BofA Merrill Lynch	Gold	14 cups
	J.P. Morgan	Silver	10 cups
	TIAA-CREF	Bronze	8 cups

Other 401(k) providers cited by PLANSPONSOR across 23 categories can be found at http://www.plansponsor.com/2011_DC_Survey.aspx