

Center for State and Local Government Excellence

Research and Resources

Mission: To promote excellence in state and local governments so they can attract and retain talented public servants. The Center identifies best practices and conducts research on pensions, health benefits, compensation, competitive employment practices, demographic trends, and financial planning.

In 2011, the Center's research has been covered by the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, National Public Radio, CNBC, Bloomberg News, Fox Business, and many other outlets and trade media. State legislators and agencies, local governments, and federal and congressional entities rely on and cite Center research regularly.

All Center publications and tools are available free of charge at www.slge.org.

Research on pensions

Over the past four years, the Center has partnered with the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College (CRR) to produce highly respected research on local and state government retirement plans. Recent publications include:

A Role for Defined Contribution Plans in the Public Sector:

How states are incorporating DC plans into their retirement offerings.

The Impact of Pensions on State

Borrowing Costs: How pensions affect municipal bond rates and ratings.

Unions and Public Pension Benefits:

How unions and other factors affect benefit levels, wages, and employment.

Public Plans Database: Comprehensive financial, governance, and plan design information for more than 120 state and local defined benefit plans, developed jointly by the Center and CRR.

What are Hybrid Retirement Plans?

A quick reference guide to the range of hybrid retirement plans governments offer, with examples and links to additional resources.

The Center gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the ICMA Retirement Corporation to undertake these retirement research projects.

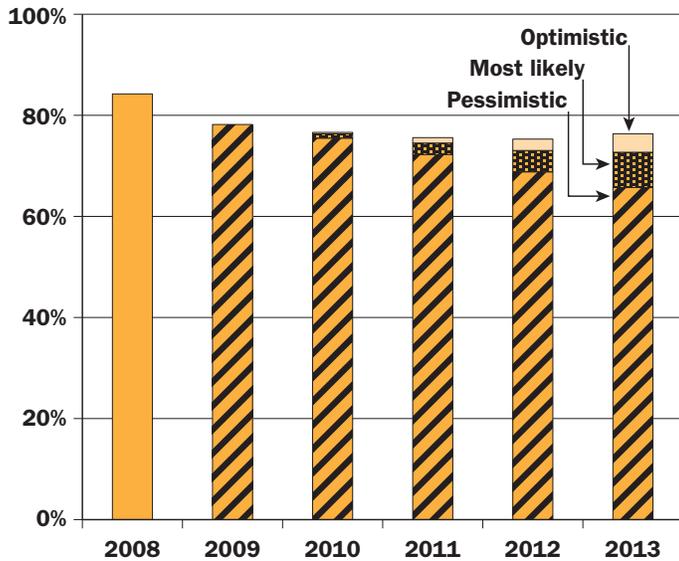
Other tools and publications

Pension reforms map: An interactive map that offers examples of state and local governments that have made changes in pension plans.



State & Local Pensions: An Overview of Funding Issues and Challenges: A primer on how the 2008 economic downturn affected pension funding levels and what to expect in the future.

Projected State and Local Pension Funding Ratios Under Three Scenarios, 2008–2013

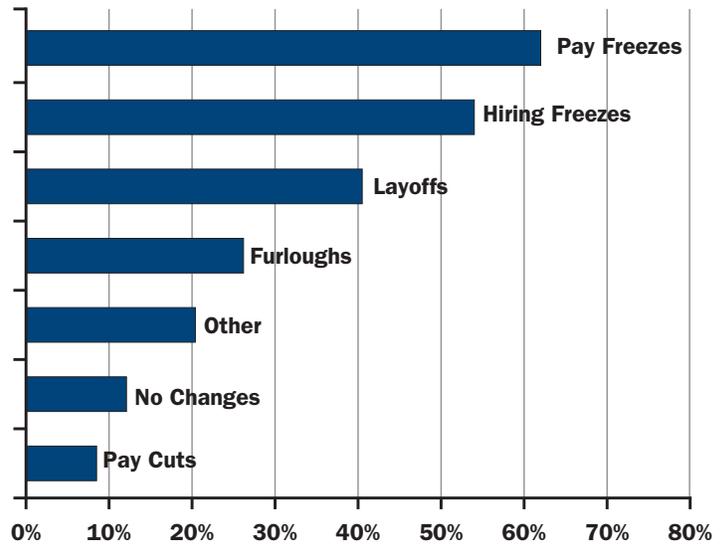


Pension funding case studies: How four plans (Delaware, Illinois Municipal, Iowa, and North Carolina) have maintained a funding ratio of more than 80 percent in their defined benefit plans, even after the 2008 economic downturn.

Fact sheets: Overview of a sample of states that have defined benefit pension plans and states that have created defined contribution plans for their employees.

Research on workforce & health care issues

State and Local Government Workforce: 2011 Realities: An online survey of human resource managers examines how governments have coped with fiscal constraints, a shrinking workforce, and a growing number of retirements.



Health Reform Brings Workforce Challenges for States:

A report authored by researchers at the Center and the Kaiser Family Foundation found that state officials say they have the expertise but not enough employees to meet federal guidelines.

To access the Center’s research and databases or to sign up for its e-newsletter, visit slge.org.
Elizabeth K. Kellar, President and CEO; Joshua M. Franzel, PhD, Vice President, Research



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