



Serving Public Pensions Since 1941

2026 Public Pension Funding Forum

Research-Driven Solutions for Fiscal Sustainability

Explore practical tools to strengthen plan sustainability and engage in data-driven conversations about the future of public pensions.

[Register Now \(https://www.ncpers.org/events/public-pension-funding-f](https://www.ncpers.org/events/public-pension-funding-f)

[Hotel Information](#)

August 17-19, 2026 – Chicago, IL

About NCPERS Public Pension Funding Forum

From data analysis to real-world case studies, NCPERS Public Pension Funding Forum brings together trustees, administrators, finance professionals and leading academics to explore the factors shaping public pension fiscal health. Attendees will dive into current research, evaluate funding models, and examine case studies that reveal what's working — and what isn't — at plans across the country.

With a focus on collaboration and clarity, the forum equips participants with practical tools to strengthen plan sustainability and engage in data-driven conversations about the future of public pensions.

NCPERS 2026 Public Pension Funding Forum will be hosted August 17-19 at the David Rubenstein Forum at the University of Chicago. Book your stay at [The Study at University of Chicago](#) to save with the NCPERS room block rate!

- [Register](https://www.ncpers.org/events/public-pension-funding-forum/register) (https://www.ncpers.org/events/public-pension-funding-forum/register) by July 20 to save with early-bird pricing! Find registration details [here](#).
- [View the agenda](#). Attendees can earn up to 9 hours of Continuing Education credits.
- [Find answers](#) to frequently asked questions.
- [Explore sponsorship opportunities](https://www.ncpers.org/events/public-pension-funding-forum-sponsorship-opportunities) (https://www.ncpers.org/events/public-pension-funding-forum-sponsorship-opportunities) to increase your brand visibility and show support of the public pension community.
- [Reserve your room](#) at The Study at University of Chicago.

[Explore the Agenda](#)

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"Whether it's obtaining the necessary contributions from plan sponsors, adjusting actuarial assumptions and methods, or rethinking asset allocation strategies, this conference hits all of that. It's why I make it a staple of my annual educational plan." – 2025 Forum Attendee



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Monday, August 17

3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Registration Opens

University Foyer

4:30 PM – 4:45 PM

Welcome and Program Overview

University A

Speaker: Matt Eckel

4:45 PM – 5:30 PM

Preserving State Revenues to Fund Public Pensions in the Age of OBBBA

University A

Speaker: Neva Butkus

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Welcome Reception

City View Room

Tuesday, August 18

Wednesday, August 19



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Monday, August 17



Tuesday, August 18



6:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Registration

University Foyer

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

Breakfast

University A

8:00 AM – 8:15 AM

Opening Remarks

University B

Speaker: [Hank Kim](#)

8:15 AM – 9:00 AM

Good News in Public Pensions

University B

Speaker: [Jean-Paul Aubry](#)

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Tariffs and Economy

University B

Speaker: [Ina Simonovska](#)

9:45 AM – 10:30 AM

Does GENIUS Act Reduce Risk of Investment in Crypto?

University B

Speaker: [Mark Hays](#)

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Refreshment Break

University Foyer

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM

The AI Bubble and the U.S Economy

University B

Speaker: [Paulo Carvao](#)

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Private Equity and Health Care

University B

Speaker: [Robert Field](#)

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM



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University B

Speaker: Wen Fu Wu

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Staying the Course in Turbulent Times

Speakers: Thomas Lee, Timothy Reese, Joseph Salazar

3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Total Portfolio Approach

University B

Speaker: Steven Novakovic

4:15 PM – 4:30 PM

Refreshment Break

University Foyer

4:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Pension Lab NextGen Competition

University B

Winning Student Teams, Harris School, University of Chicago

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Networking Reception

Wednesday, August 19





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Monday, August 17



Tuesday, August 18



Wednesday, August 19



7:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Registration

University Foyer

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM

Breakfast

University A

8:00 AM - 8:15 AM

Welcome Back

University B

Speaker: Hank Kim

8:15 AM - 9:00 AM

Staying the Course: Actuarial Perspective

University B

Speaker: Gene Kalwarski

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM

Staying the Course: An Investment Perspective

University B

Speaker: David Wilson

9:45 AM - 10:00 AM

Refreshment Break

University Foyer

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Outlook for the U.S. Economy in 2026 and Beyond

University B

Speaker: David Altig

11:30 AM - 11:45 PM

Thank You & Closing Remarks

University B

Speakers: Hank Kim, Matt Eckel