



# horizons

## Looking for ways to soften the impact?

Many state employees like you are subject to recent salary reductions and looking for ways to reduce the impact. Consider these ideas as you examine your budget and make adjustments.

It's important to find a balance between meeting your current financial needs and maintaining your retirement goals. If you have questions, contact the Retirement Specialist in your area to schedule a review of your plan.



**Make contributions using our Percentage of Pay option.** With this method, you contribute a percentage of your gross salary and your contributions adjust along with your salary.

**Attend a budgeting webinar** for strategies to help you track spending, reduce debt, and save for the future. Visit our registration page for available dates and times.

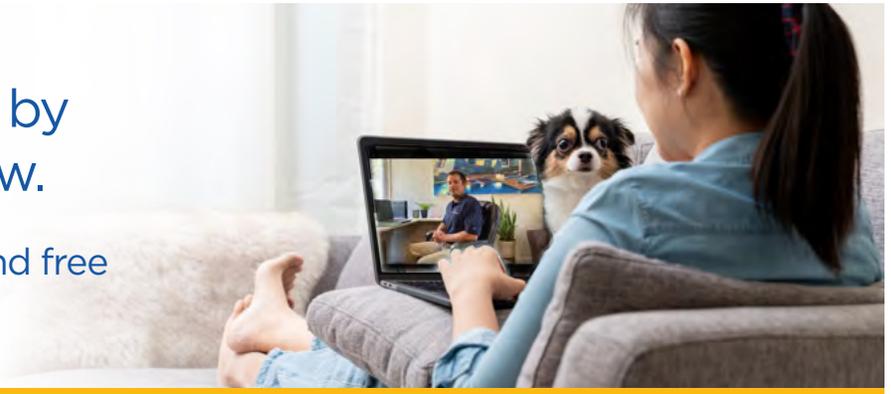
**Examine the interest rates on your debts.** You may have an opportunity to refinance your home and take advantage of lower mortgage rates. Compare credit card interest rates to see if a lower rate is available.

**Evaluate your family budget** to see where you might cut spending. An example may be making coffee at home more often instead of buying a cup from your favorite coffee shop every morning.

If you're having trouble covering monthly expenses, there are options available to you. Contact us at (855) 616-4776 or visit [savingsplusnow.com](https://savingsplusnow.com) to review your options.

# Enjoy some “me time” by learning something new.

Our webinars are educational and free



Join to learn more about:

- **Tax-Efficient Retirement Income (TERI)** Most investors save for retirement with a 401(k), 457(b) or other tax-deferred account, which may result in a hefty tax bill or higher tax bracket when you begin withdrawing your retirement savings — especially at age 72, when Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) begin. This course reviews tax basics and discusses the importance of having tax flexibility among various investments and accounts.
- **Women and Investing** As women prepare for and live in retirement, they are faced with specific challenges related to Social Security, health care and long-term care. Explore the changing financial landscape for women and walk away with actionable insights.
- **Finance 101** Discover the advantages of budgeting, eliminating debt, saving for emergencies, and investing to achieve and maintain a brighter financial future. By the end of this workshop you will:
  - Take the steps to create a budget
  - Find out how to tackle debt
  - Learn how to save for the future
  - Turn your debt payments into retirement contributions
- **Finance 2.0** Budgeting is an essential step towards creating financial freedom. This workshop is considered the next step in budgeting after Finance 101. It goes beyond talking about budgeting basics and asks you to accurately estimate your income and expenditures so that you can set realistic financial goals. By the end of this workshop you will:
  - Evaluate your budget
  - Examine the snowball method to tackle debt
  - Learn the difference between fixed and revolving debt
  - Understand your FICO score

- **Budget Like a Champ** Whether you are new to creating a budget or have been budgeting for a while, this webinar has tools and tips to help you. Learn the importance of tracking expenses, understand the difference between needs and wants, ways to cut spending, and how to determine future expenses. If you want to save for your dream vacation or your perfect retirement, this is the workshop for you! By the end of this workshop you will learn:

- Tips to keep your budget on track and fit your changing needs
- Step-by-step instructions on how to create a working monthly budget
- How to create an action plan to save for your long-term objectives
- How to set SMART financial goals

**NOTE:** You will not be asked to share any personal details during any of our webinars.

**For a complete list of available webinars, select *Savings Plus Events* at the bottom of our home page at [savingsplusnow.com](https://savingsplusnow.com).**

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**On demand videos** Be sure to check out these quick videos on [savingsplusnow.com](https://savingsplusnow.com):

- **How to fill out the Catch-Up Form.** The Savings Plus 457(b) Plan has a provision that allows you to contribute more than the standard annual contribution limit if you're close to normal retirement age and eligible. This video tutorial will present a quick overview of the Catch-Up process, introduce you to the form, and demonstrate how to complete it.
- **Facts before feelings.** How to avoid emotional investing
- **Simple steps to safety:** Learn how to protect your online identity.

# 5 ways to stay connected during COVID-19

The need for physical distance leads many of us to feel socially isolated in these challenging times. There's never been a better time to renew relationships and to build a stronger sense of community at all levels.

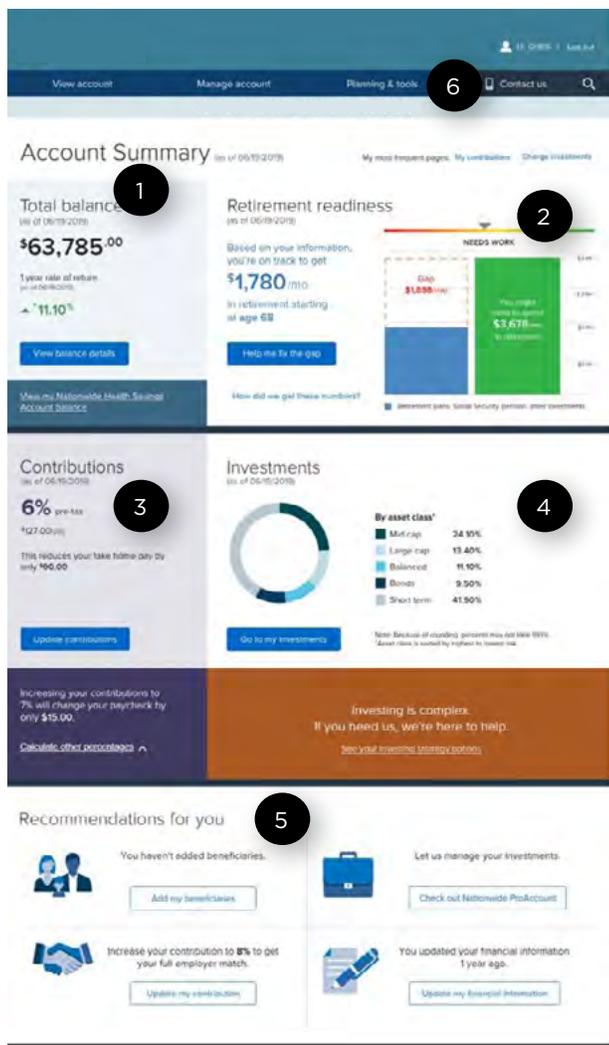
The International Council on Active Aging, a global association that focuses on aging well, offers the following suggestions to help:

1. **Pick up the telephone and call someone.** Call grandkids, family members, or friends. Social isolation really brings home the value of our daily interactions. Your call might make someone else's day as well as your own.
2. **Exercise with a friend/family member at a safe distance.** Many health officials encourage outdoor exercise if participants observe physical distancing of at least 6 feet. If you live alone, slip on your walking shoes and then call a friend or family member to accompany you for a "physically distanced" walk and chat.

3. **Hang out in your front yard and interact with neighbors.** As long as you observe the proper physical distance, you can be a friendly, encouraging presence in the neighborhood.
4. **Participate in group activities held at a distance.** If you live in an apartment building with a courtyard, for example, someone might lead group activities with residents participating from their balconies and front yards.
5. **Check on your neighbors who live alone to ensure they're okay.** From a safe distance, strike up regular conversations with these individuals. Ask if they need anything before you go to the grocery store.

By prioritizing human interactions and finding meaningful ways to connect during this time of physical distance and social isolation, we can support each other and our own health and well-being.

**Why not take some time to learn something new? Check out our webinars on the previous page.**



## Coming soon to savingsplusnow.com

Based on research and testing, we're making changes to the way you'll experience our website. After you log in, you'll notice a more personalized experience and your account information will be easier to spot. Not only that, there will be plenty of information and recommendations tailored to your personal situation with easy to follow next steps. Here's a sneak peak at what's coming your way.

1. Account balance and rate of return
2. Personalized retirement readiness
3. Current contribution amount along with recommendation(s)
4. Current fund allocation
5. Personalized recommendations
6. Access to education and tools

Before you log into your account, you'll find information about upcoming webinars, financial education tailored to your life stage, and news about the plans.

**If you haven't already done so, you can easily establish online account access through the Login Help and Sign Up link in the login box found in the upper right corner of savingsplusnow.com.**



# You heard it here. A lot is happening at Savings Plus.

## Important notice regarding your second quarter statement.

On June 30, 2020 the market value of your account was determined using June 29 prices. Additionally, all financial transactions were processed using June 29 price. On July 6, all impacted accounts were adjusted using the June 30 fund prices. This is a reminder that both your second quarter ending balance and your third quarter beginning balance reflect June 29, 2020 fund prices.

**If you would like to know what your third quarter opening balance as of June 30 was, please contact the Solutions Center at (855) 616-4778.**



## Stay the course.

See what Taylor Schultze from Savings Plus has to say about why it's important to contribute to your Savings Plus account. Watch the video on [savingsplusnow.com](https://savingsplusnow.com).

## Introducing Text to Enroll.

Let your co-workers know that it's easier than ever to enroll. Text the keyword "savingsplus" to 877697. A link to online enrollment will be sent to your mobile device. Message & data rates may apply.

## Text alert for loan repayments are now available.

You have the option to receive a text message for upcoming Automated Clearing House (ACH) loan repayments for your Savings Plus account.

This material is not a recommendation to buy, sell, hold or roll over any asset, adopt an investment strategy, retain a specific investment manager or use a particular account type. It does not take into account the specific investment objectives, tax and financial condition or particular needs of any specific person. Investors should discuss their specific situation with their financial professional.

Investing involves market risk, including possible loss of principal. No investment strategy or program can guarantee to make a profit or avoid loss. Actual results will vary depending on your investment choices and market experience.

**Before investing, carefully consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges, redemption fees, and expenses. You may download Fund Fact Sheets from [savingsplusnow.com](https://savingsplusnow.com) or request them by calling (855) 616-4776.**

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The alert will be sent five days prior to the date your repayment will be deducted from your bank account. You can set up the alert by logging in to your account on [savingsplusnow.com](https://savingsplusnow.com) and updating your contact preferences. You may also contact the Savings Plus Solutions Center to set up the alert.



## Annual Fee Disclosure

You should receive a postcard or email notice this fall about where to find detailed information about our fees.

**View the full disclosure on [savingsplusnow.com](https://savingsplusnow.com)**

## Leaving service soon? Make the most out of your Lump Sum Separation Pay.

If you cash out accumulated, unused leave time (Lump Sum Separation Pay), the full amount is taxable in the year you take it. But, if you contribute this pay to your Savings Plus account, you can:

- Defer income taxes
- Spread taxation across future withdrawals
- Maximize contributions for 2020 and 2021 (if you separate on or after Nov 1)

**Add Traditional Catch-Up contributions to your 457(b) account. If you're planning to retire this year, contact the Savings Plus Solutions Center today at (855) 616-4776 to discuss your options.**

California Department of Human Resources  
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North Building, Suite 500  
Sacramento, CA 95811

## Contact Information

 **Website**  
[savingsplusnow.com](https://savingsplusnow.com)

 **Savings Plus Solutions Center**  
(855) 616-4776  
(800) 848-0833 (TTY)  
5 a.m. - 8 p.m. PT

Visit our website for updates on Walk-in Center appointment availability.

