



WELCOME TO

A simple way to offer retirement savings for your employees, with no fees and no risk to your business

CalSavers

**CENTRAL
VALLEY
EDITION**

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

BY GAIL ALLYN SHORT

California's new CalSavers retirement savings program will give employers a way to help their employees save for the future

In California, more than 7 million private-sector workers have no workplace-sponsored retirement plan.

As a result, California's workers are retiring into poverty. More than half of today's households will not have enough retirement income to maintain their pre-retirement standard of living. Among households age 55 and older, about 29 percent have no retirement savings at all.

Experts know how to get workers to save: According to AARP, employees are 20 times more likely to save for retirement if they have access to a workplace payroll deduction savings plan.

So why aren't employers offering them? Scott Hauge, president of San Francisco-based advocacy group Small Business California, says factors like cost and complex administrative requirements prevent many small business owners from offering retirement.

"Small businesses are challenged because they're involved in so many aspects of running a company that it's somewhat daunting for them to take up another task," Hauge says.

A new law signed by Gov. Jerry Brown in September 2016 will give those employers a simple way to help their workers save for retirement.

Senate Bill 1234 requires private sector employers to either provide an employee retirement savings plan or give workers access to the new California Retirement Savings Program called CalSavers.

"We're offering this to people who don't currently have access to a plan at work because all the research shows that that nudge — having access at work

through that automatic payroll deduction to 'set it and forget it' — that's what makes a real difference," says CalSavers Executive Director Katie Selenski. "We're trying to level the playing field and give people access to a simple way to save for retirement."

CalSavers will let private sector workers voluntarily enroll in a minimal-cost, appropriate-risk IRA savings account. Under CalSavers, employees can make direct payroll contributions from their paycheck to their own personal IRA and choose their own contribution rate. A private sector financial firm will invest the monies under the supervision of a nine-member public board.

An employer's only duties will be to make the CalSavers option available to their employees and transmit the payroll contributions to the CalSavers administrator — they will not have to match contributions or incur the liabilities that come with company-sponsored retirement plans.

Plus, CalSavers receives no taxpayer funding to support the program. In fact, the program could make retirees less reliant on taxpayer-funded social welfare programs, according to CalSavers.

"Our employees are like family," says Hauge. "So we want to provide them with as many opportunities for their financial future as possible, and clearly, retirement is one of those things."

"We're trying to level the playing field and give people access to a simple way to save for retirement."

KATIE SELENSKI
Executive Director,
CalSavers



Katie Selenski is executive director of CalSavers, California's new retirement savings program.
PHOTO BY MELISSA UROFF

THREE GOALS FOR CALSAVERS



1. Safe

A nine-member board of directors will oversee the CalSavers program, including the professional, private investment firm that will manage the IRA accounts.



2. Simple

Enrollees in CalSavers can contribute to their own IRA accounts through convenient, automatic payroll deductions. Employers will not have to handle time-consuming administrative tasks, match contributions, nor be liable for program operations.



3. Portable

Employees who switch jobs can take their CalSavers account with them. No need to rollover accounts.

Christin Evans says the cost of setting up a retirement savings plan kept her from offering it to her staff of 20. She's excited that CalSavers will help her offer this important benefit.
PHOTO BY GEORGE E. BAKER JR.

BETTER FUTURES AT NO COST

Independent bookstore owner will be able to help younger employees start saving for retirement

BY GAIL ALLYN SHORT

In San Francisco, Christin Evans co-owns an independent bookstore called The Booksmith in the historic Haight-Ashbury neighborhood — a community best known as the place where the 1960s counter-culture movement began.

“Our customers are a mix of tourists from all over the world, as well as individuals who live and work in San Francisco,” says Evans, who operates the bookstore with her husband.

The bookstore has 10 full-time employees and 10 part-time workers, she says. The business, however, does not provide a retirement savings plan for the staff.

“Many of our employees are in their first or second job out of college and are earning minimum wage or just above it,” she says. “The challenge of offering a retirement savings plan is that they’re expensive and time consuming.”

Small businesses like The Booksmith are crucial to helping workers start saving for retirement. According to AARP, two-thirds of the workers who currently do not have access to retirement accounts work for businesses with fewer than 100 employees.

That’s why lawmakers established CalSavers, a no cost, simple way for employers of all sizes to offer retirement savings.

Although employers can establish their own retirement savings plan through any financial institution, going through CalSavers allows them to skip the costs and time involved in creating and maintaining their own plan.

“Employer-sponsored retirement plans can be expensive and time-consuming, and many small business owners — myself included — don’t have the resources to put them in place,” says Pepi Jackson, Executive Director of the Riverside County Black Chamber of Commerce, which has supported CalSavers. “It will help small businesses save time and money, and is truly a win-win for small businesses that want to offer retirement benefits and employees who are struggling to save for their golden years.”

“It’s a great way for me to offer a new retirement benefit with very little time and cost on my side.”

CHRISTIN EVANS
Co-owner, The Booksmith

CalSavers will not require employers to contribute monies to their workers’ IRA accounts. In fact, it’s not allowed under ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act) rules, so employers cannot match contributions. Moreover, they will not incur any liability for program operations or handle complex administrative duties.

“It’s a great way for me to offer a new retirement benefit with very little time and cost on my side,” Evans says. “It doesn’t require me to negotiate with vendors or deal with reporting requirements at the end of the year.”

Besides there being no employer fee, Evans likes that she can do right by her employees with CalSavers.

“The motivations for me are to ensure that we are taking care of low-wage workers,” she says, “especially earlier in their careers when it’s a smart time to have them start saving toward greater security in their futures.”



WHO'S SUPPORTING CALSAVERS?

Many state and local business organizations are supporting CalSavers, including:

- Asian Business Association
- Asian Small Business Association
- Black Business Association
- California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity (CAMEO)
- California Association of Nonprofits
- California Black Chamber of Commerce
- California Capital Women's Business Center
- California Small Business Association
- Carson Black Chamber of Commerce
- Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce
- Hispanic Association of Small Business
- Latin Business Association
- Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce
- Los Angeles Metro Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- National Association of Women Business Owners – Sacramento Valley Chapter
- Pico Rivera Chamber of Commerce
- Riverside County Black Chamber of Commerce
- Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce
- South Asian Business Association Network
- Small Business California
- Small Business Majority



Jennifer King says offering a retirement savings plan to her six employees would have been too costly. But with CalSavers, she's excited to have the chance to offer security to her employees.

PHOTO BY MELISSA UROFF

GOOD FOR BUSINESS

Family-owned shop near Sacramento wants to offer security to its employees

WHO MANAGES THE PLAN? (HINT: IT'S NOT YOU)

BY MATT JOCKS

California's CalSavers retirement savings program will be managed through a financial services firm from the private sector. That firm will be chosen by and contracted with the CalSavers Board.

The nine-member board is required to establish and define the big-picture investment objectives and describe investments available to participants within an IRA structure.

Once selected, the private firm will be the primary contact for employers and employees. That firm will be required to make regular reports in a public board meeting on the investment performance.

"Our program operates with the highest level of transparency and accountability because all of our board meetings and documents are open to the public and we invite public comment on all our decision-making," says Steve Juarez, Deputy Treasurer for Economic Development and Higher Education Policy and Chair Designee for the CalSavers Board.

The CalSavers Board is made up of:

- State Treasurer (chair)
- Controller
- Director of Finance
- An employee representative appointed by the Speaker
- An individual with retirement savings expertise selected by Senate Rules
- A small business representative selected by the Governor
- Three additional members selected by the Governor

Own^Oning a small business is personal. You are likely to know your employees and see them go through their life changes. Employees are like family (sometimes they literally are) so you want them to have a secure future.

Jennifer King has been waiting for the opportunity to provide security to her employees. King is the project manager at Skyline One, a print and framing business started by her father in North Highlands, near Sacramento. There are six employees at the shop, including her father, her husband, her sister and two employees from outside the family.

"We would want this mostly for our peace of mind," King says. "We want to take care of our people."

Currently, Skyline One offers a minimal plan that King says "is really more like a life insurance plan."

King says the business had looked into offering a full retirement savings plan but, with other responsibilities such as health care and workers' comp, the numbers simply didn't add up.

"It was really the financial part," she says. "I'd be happy to push out whatever paperwork I needed to."

For businesses fighting to survive and thrive, the financial and administrative challenges of providing a plan can be too daunting. So when King heard of the CalSavers option, it sounded tailored to her needs. She could provide workers with security with no fees and minimal administrative work.

In addition to peace of mind, King says it could minimize turnover and the resulting training issues. Happy workers with good benefits means less turnover, which means less money spent for training their replacements and less disruption of operations.

"We are dealing with original artwork," she says. "We're using saws and blades. There is a lot to learn. Our framer has to stop his work to help teach them, so there is a loss of production."

Although the legislation won't require businesses as small as Skyline One to implement the plan for at least three years, King says she is ready to jump in sooner.

"Oh, definitely," she says. "I want this so much, I would want to start it as soon as I can."

"We want to take care of our people."

JENNIFER KING

Project Manager, Skyline One

WORK HARD, SAVE HARD

Darryl changed jobs in search of a retirement plan

BY LAURA HILLEN

Start saving now, or work until you die. Darryl King was 30 when he first realized those were his options. So he shifted the course of his life: King left his job in the tattoo industry, which had no retirement planning, and changed careers to find an employer who would provide him with those options.

King, now 33, drives trucks for a construction material company in Sacramento and has a 401k plan through his employer. If not for this plan, King says his retirement prospects would be the same as they were before — nonexistent. Saving on your own without a workplace plan is just too difficult, he says.

“Nobody should have to work so hard their entire life and, by the time that they’re ready to stop working, have nothing to show for it,” King says.

In California, more than 7 million workers are currently not offered a retirement plan by their employer, and not all of these workers are able to change their career path like King in order to save for their future. This makes them much more likely to experience poverty at retirement age — in fact, nearly half of California workers are on track to retire facing economic hardship.

King sees evidence of these social conditions every day at construction work sites that he frequents.

“I see a lot of these guys on job sites pushing 60 or 70,” King says. “It’s just a shame when someone *has* to work like that.”

For workers who do want to leave their current job field, or change jobs often, having easy access to retirement plans or paying into one that follows them between workplaces could mean the difference between a happy, self-sufficient retirement and one that is inadequate and reliant on state services.

The current Social Security retirement benefit averages \$1,328 a month — a sum that doesn’t allow its recipients much security beyond just the basics. When seniors struggle to make ends meet, that increases demand on California’s social welfare services.

When King retires, he wants to use his accrued funds to enjoy all the simple things he’s missed out on because of work, like going to concerts and spending time with friends and family. And, he says, having an endless supply of gummy bears — his favorite candy — wouldn’t hurt.

“Maybe I’d like to buy a house somewhere where it’s hella nice, and have a bungalow somewhere and chill,” he says. “I don’t think anybody should die with nothing.”

“Nobody should have to work so hard their entire life ... and have nothing to show for it.”

DARRYL KING
33, truck driver



Darryl King left the tattoo industry to look for a job that offered retirement savings.
PHOTO BY MELISSA UROFF

THE BOTTOM LINE

More than 7 million California workers don’t have retirement savings plans at their workplace. Of those workers:

66% are employed at small businesses with less than 100 employees

Almost 5 million are minority workers (**3.5 million** of whom are Latino)

58% are women

Almost 65% are between the ages of 18 and 34

Over **75% of California’s low- and moderate-income retirees** rely exclusively on Social Security.



Women are 80% more likely to live in poverty in retirement than men, with half as much annual income as the average male senior: \$15,500 vs. \$31,000.



At left, Lorenzo Harris of Janico Building Services says his employees like Teresa Labuguen, at right, will benefit from CalSavers because they will be able to continue saving with the plan — even if they leave his company.
PHOTO BY MELISSA UROFF

TAKE YOUR MONEY WITH YOU

**With CalSavers, Teresa can keep saving
— no matter where she works**

BY MATT JOCKS

When Teresa Labuguen left her job, she found herself facing the same question many employees face: What do you do with the money you've set aside in your company's retirement plan? Labuguen chose to cash it out.

"I didn't want to do that, but I didn't have a choice," she says, adding that she lost about \$800 in taxes when she cashed out her 401k. "I think every employee should have that option to take a plan to a new job."

That's why she is so eager about the CalSavers option. "I'll be the first one signing up," she says.

The 51-year-old does not currently have access to a retirement savings plan, but she understands the importance: "I don't want to be living on assistance when I'm 65. I want to be enjoying my life."

For most workers, changing jobs means rolling over their money to a new retirement savings account. But if the new employer doesn't have a plan (or if it's not attractive), many employees end up leaving the money they saved in their old plan.

If they do a rollover, it can be a complicated process, and they need to learn about the rules and fees for the new plan.

CalSavers is the same program with the same options for all employees who participate. Portability will mean that the plans are assigned to the workers, not the companies. When workers change jobs, they will bring the plans with them and, with minimal paperwork, investments will continue uninterrupted.

Lorenzo Harris is Labuguen's boss at Janico Building Services, a company that provides janitorial and maintenance staff for offices in Sacramento and the Bay Area. He is a proponent of the CalSavers program and, in a business known for high turnover, sees portability as one of the biggest advantages.

"I think that's huge for the employees," Harris says. "Once this is implemented, they can take their savings to a new employer and continue without any real type of administrative action needed. Employees will look at that as very positive."

For an employer like Harris, being able to offer that kind of security at no cost is a way to compete for reliable workers.

"I'm going head-to-head with companies that are 10 times my size," he says. "This is a good way to even the playing field."

***"I don't want
to be living on
assistance when
I'm 65. I want to be
enjoying my life."***

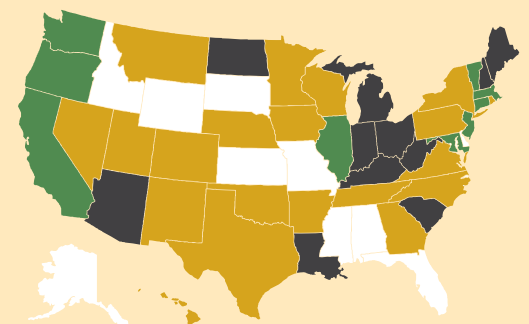
TERESA LABUGUEN
51, Janico Building
Services employee



THE RETIREMENT SAVINGS TREND

California is part of an emerging trend of states enacting legislation both requiring and facilitating the establishment of retirement savings accounts for employees. Some 30 states are considering retirement savings plans for small business employees, and seven states are already implementing them.

- Enacted legislation
- Legislative proposal and/or study in 2017
- Recent state efforts



F.A.Q.

Common questions for employers and employees

BY ANNE STOKES



FOR EMPLOYERS:

As an employer, what am I required to do?

Businesses with five employees or more will be required to offer a retirement savings plan through a private sector financial company *or* CalSavers. Should you opt to offer CalSavers, you'll be responsible to provide employees with enrollment information and remit their payroll deductions to the CalSavers program. Everything else is managed by the program.

Am I responsible for employee participation? Am I liable for their investments?

Not at all. Employers have zero financial liability or fiduciary responsibility for this program. *Employees* will decide whether or not to participate in the program as well as make any investment decisions. Due to the way this program is structured, employer contributions are not allowed.

When do these requirements go into place?

Staff estimate the program will open for enrollment in early 2019. Requirements will be phased in over a three-year period beginning with employers with 100 or more employees. Stay informed and enroll for program updates at www.treasurer.ca.gov/scib.

Will there be penalties for noncompliance?

The state *does* have the authority to levy a penalty, although it's currently being determined when it would be implemented.

How will this help my business?

CalSavers is a no-cost way to offer your employees retirement benefits and eliminates the need to "shop around" for the best plans and rates. It will enable smaller companies to compete to attract and retain employees.

What makes CalSavers a good option?

CalSavers is governed by a public board of directors with fully transparent meetings, proceedings and documents. Funds will be professionally managed into low-fee investments and the program is fully accountable. In addition, the expected volume of participants will give the CalSavers program leverage to demand low-cost services to ensure low fees for participants.

What will the program cost my company?

Nothing! There are no fees or financial costs — employers just need to set up the pass through for the payroll deduction.

I keep getting solicited by private sector companies that say I have to buy their products in order to comply with the law, is this true?

No. The mandate requires employers to provide employees a retirement savings plan, either through a private sector financial company *or* through CalSavers. You choose! The requirement does not go into effect until CalSavers is up and running.

FOR EMPLOYEES:

Do I have to participate?

No. The program is completely voluntary. Should your financial situation change, you are free to opt out or change your contributions.

How much do I have to contribute?

You get to choose! The CalSavers board has yet to decide what the minimum amount can be.

What happens if I change jobs?

While employer-connected retirement savings fund management can vary from workplace to

workplace, CalSavers accounts stay with *you*, the employee. Should you change jobs, you can keep your CalSavers account *or* roll it over into a new plan. The choice is yours.

How can I access my account and funds? Can I make changes to my contributions?

Participants can access their account via the program website or call center, where you can get help understanding your options and watch your money grow!

START THINKING ABOUT RETIREMENT NOW



California's workers deserve to retire with dignity. As a result of state law, all employers with five or more employees will soon need to offer a retirement savings plan or provide access to **CalSavers**, the state's new retirement savings program for private sector workers.

CalSavers helps business owners ensure the financial security of their employees — with no employer fees and minimal effort.

For employees, CalSavers makes saving for retirement easy — it automatically comes out of their paycheck before they get a chance to spend it. It's like paying your future self first.

When Will My Business Be Affected?

Pilot: Late 2018

Statewide launch: Early 2019

Employers with 100+ employees:
12 months after launch

Employers with 50+ employees:
24 months after launch

Employers with 5+ employees:
36 months after launch

For updates, to provide input or
participate in the pilot launch, visit:
www.treasurer.ca.gov/scib



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Who's Supporting CalSavers?

"As a small business owner and volunteer state president of AARP California, I know that providing employees access to a low-cost, professionally managed retirement program like CalSavers gives them an easy way to automatically save for their future."

PATRICIA PEREZ
Volunteer State President, AARP California



Dennis J. Huang
Executive Director & CEO,
Asian Business Association
"Establishing this program will be another option for small business owners to reduce cost and to help their employees prepare for retirement."



Mark Herbert
California Director,
Small Business Majority
"Nearly 80% of small business employees do not have access to a retirement savings option at work. That's mainly because small business owners are wary of the costs, administrative complexity and liability. CalSavers solves all three of these challenges, making it a win-win for California's small business owners and their employees."



Scott Hauge
President, Small Business California
"California's CalSavers is especially appealing to small businesses who are not currently offering a retirement savings plan to their employees. We believe SB Cal's members will welcome the opportunity to inform their employees that the opportunity to save their money for the future is an important benefit."



Yvonne R. Walker
President, SEIU
Local 1000
"The ability to retire with dignity should be available to everyone who works hard throughout their lives. With CalSavers, just saving a little will go a long way toward helping employees achieve a pathway to a secure retirement without the fear of living in poverty after their working years are behind them."



Dr. Ruben Guerra, Ph.D.
Chairman, Latin Business Association
"As chairman of the Latin Business Association and as a small business owner, CalSavers is an incredible opportunity to provide retirement plans at a low cost to our employees, and made simple."



Azizza Davis Goines
President and CEO,
Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce
"There's not a lot of plans that can meet the needs of employees *and* employers. ... This product will be affordable for small businesses who really want to give their employees a fair shake."

Other supporters include:

California Asset Building Coalition
California Council of Churches-IMPACT
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Labor Federation
Congress of California Seniors
EARN

PolicyLink
Prosperity Now (formerly CFED)
SEIU California
UnidosUS (formerly NCLR)
United Ways of California
Young Invincibles