

# Cash Balance Plans

2020



**TPS**  
**GROUP**

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## HOW A CASH BALANCE PLAN WORKS

- Each participant has a hypothetical account balance which grows annually in two ways: first, a principal credit, which is a contribution usually defined as a percentage of pay, and second, an interest credit, which can be guaranteed rather than dependent on the plan's investment performance.
- A hypothetical account balance is established for each participant, as follows:



- Employer funded, pooled assets, trustee/advisor directed investments, required annual contributions.
- Payable as a lump sum at retirement or termination (annuities also available).

## ADVANTAGES OF A CASH BALANCE PLAN

- Large tax deductions.
- For the company, money contributed to the plan is tax deductible now.
- For participants, taxation on benefits is deferred until received as income.
- Accelerated retirement savings for Owners and Key employees can vary contribution by owner.
- Easy to understand, straight forward hypothetical account balance.
- Employer's liability is easily defined.



## HOW CASH BALANCE PLANS CAN GROW AND STABILIZE YOUR BUSINESS

- Addition of new clients from new pool of prospects.
- Client retention increases (your competition may offer this).
- Enables you to have a greater menu of services and expertise.
- Helps differentiate yourself. Expands your referral network.
- Assets in Cash Balance plans can grow quickly. Common for annual required contributions to be greater than \$200,000 per owner.
- Can provide large benefits for select employees (approximately \$2.5m to \$3.0m for each owner at retirement).

# IDEAL CANDIDATES FOR A CASH BALANCE PLAN

- Businesses demonstrating consistent cash flow and profits.
- Professional practices such as Doctors, Dentists, Attorneys.
- Family Businesses.
- Sole proprietorships (owners with younger employees, or any age if no employees).
- Partnerships with varying goals and needs among the partners.
- Owners who desire to contribute more than DC plan permits.
- Companies already making a profit sharing contribution to their staff.

## HOW ARE INVESTMENTS HANDLED?

- Plan assets are pooled and invested by the trustees usually with an investment manager.
- Investment return does not affect the amount that is credited to participants' hypothetical account balances.
- If the plan's investment earnings exceed the crediting rate, the excess will be used to reduce future employer contributions.
- Conversely, if the plan's investment earnings are less than the crediting rate, then future employer contributions will be increased (typically spread over seven years).
- A wide range of investment vehicles can be used by the plan sponsor to achieve the interest crediting rate, which is usually set at 4% or 5%.



## MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTIONS

Age	DC Plan 401k / Profit Sharing	DB Plan Cash Balance	DB + DC Plans*
65	\$63,500	\$277,000	\$320,100
60	\$63,500	\$266,000	\$309,100
55	\$63,500	\$207,000	\$250,100
50	\$63,500	\$162,000	\$205,100
45	\$57,000	\$126,000	\$162,600
40	\$57,000	\$ 98,000	\$134,600
35	\$57,000	\$ 77,000	\$113,600

\* Plans not covered by the PBGC (professional service employers with 25 or fewer employees – i.e. doctors, dentists, attorneys, etc). Maximum overall deduction limit is full DB plan contribution, plus DC plan contribution up to 6% of total pay (if DC plan contribution is greater than 6% of total pay, total of DB plan and DC plan contributions is limited to 31% of total pay).



## EXAMPLE

Name	Age	Annual Salary	401(k)	Profit Sharing	Cash Balance	Total Contributions
Owner	60	\$285,000	\$26,000	(6% of pay) \$17,100	(40% of pay) \$114,000	\$157,100
Spouse	55	50,000	26,000	3,000	20,000	49,000
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$335,000</b>	<b>\$52,000</b>	<b>\$20,100</b>	<b>\$134,000</b>	<b>\$206,100</b>
Employee 1	40	\$50,000	\$0	(6% of pay) \$3,000	(2% of pay) \$1,000	\$4,000
Employee 2	35	40,000	0	2,400	800	3,200
Employee 3	30	30,000	0	1,800	600	2,400
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$120,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$7,200</b>	<b>\$2,400</b>	<b>\$9,600</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$455,000</b>	<b>\$52,000</b>	<b>\$27,300</b>	<b>\$136,400</b>	<b>\$215,700</b>

Percent of total contributions to owner and spouse (includes 401k):

95.5%

## Q & A

- **Can Cash Balance plans be offered in addition to 401(k) Profit Sharing plans?**

**Answer:** Yes, the employer can offer a combination of qualified retirement plans in order to produce a larger contribution.

- **What are the distribution options upon retirement or if leaving the employer?**

**Answer:** Any vested account in a Cash Balance Plan can be paid a lump-sum distribution or annuity. Lump sums are usually rolled over to an IRA.

- **Must everyone participate equally in the Cash Balance plan?**

**Answer:** No. Each participant can have a different contribution level.

- **Can Cash Balance contributions change?**

**Answer:** Yes, but with restrictions. In addition, a plan can be frozen or terminated.

- **Is the plan subject to IRS nondiscrimination testing?**

**Answer:** Yes, like any other qualified plan, a Cash Balance Plan is subject to annual nondiscrimination testing.

- **How do design and administrative costs compare with 401(k) Profit Sharing plans?**

**Answer:** They are higher because the plan is maintained by an actuary who certifies each year that the plan is in compliance with the Internal Revenue Code.



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