

For Immediate Release:  
Contact:

Jan. 26, 2009  
Steve Blakely, EBRI, 202/775-6341, [blakely@ebri.org](mailto:blakely@ebri.org)

## **New Edition of EBRI's *Fundamentals of Employee Benefit Programs* Now Available to Reporters**

WASHINGTON, DC—The all-new Sixth Edition of EBRI's reference book, *Fundamentals of Employee Benefit Programs*, has been published and complimentary copies are available to reporters, editors, and producers.

*Fundamentals* is widely used by benefits professionals as a training resource, in colleges as a textbook, and by journalists as a valuable reference. It has been published since 1983 by the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), which focuses on health, retirement, and economic security issues. EBRI, based in Washington, DC, is a nonadvocacy research institute that does not take policy positions and does not lobby.

The new Sixth Edition of *Fundamentals* marks the first complete update of the book since 1997. The new print version of the nearly 600-page book provides information on:

- ***An overview of employee benefits*** in the United States, including detailed chapters on Social Security and Medicare.
- ***Retirement benefits***, covering defined benefit (pension) and defined contribution (401(k)-type) plans, individual retirement accounts, cash balance plans, and much more. An appendix explains the automatic enrollment provisions of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, the most important recent federal law affecting retirement plans.
- ***Health benefits***, including chapters on drug, dental, and vision plans, retiree health benefits, and managing health care costs (among other topics).
- ***Other benefits***, such as leave, workers' compensation, and domestic partner benefits.
- ***Public-sector benefits***, covering both health and retirement benefits in the public sector, regulation of public-sector retirement plans, and benefit cost comparisons between state and local and private-sector employers.

Journalists who would like a copy of *Fundamentals* should contact Alicia Willis at EBRI, 202/659-0670, or at [publications@ebri.org](mailto:publications@ebri.org)

PR #825