

## **Alliance Benefit Group aligns with Russell Investments' ARA program**

**PEORIA, IL, June 6, 2018**—Alliance Benefit Group, LLC (ABG), the nation's largest independent recordkeeping firm, has announced a strategic alliance between ABG and Russell Investments' Adaptive Retirement Accounts (ARA) program. As part of the alliance, ABG plans to offer the managed accounts program to its clients as well as partner with Russell Investments' defined contribution and intermediary sales teams to jointly promote the ARA program to the financial advisor community.

**Don Mackanos**, president of Alliance Benefit Group LLC, says "ABG is thrilled to offer Russell Investments' ARA program. We strongly believe managed accounts will be a competitive differentiator for many years because they can provide better participant outcomes than target date funds. This program is well positioned from a pricing and feature standpoint, and is fully integrated with industry leading recordkeeping software vendors such as the Relius platform. The ARA program, coupled with Russell Investments' distribution through financial advisors, supported by ABG member firms for their administration and recordkeeping services, makes this a home run in the market."

**Andrew Scherer**, Senior Director of Defined Contribution for Russell Investments, says "We have longstanding relationships with many of the ABG member firms and look forward to partnering with them to capitalize on the benefits of our ARA program. A lot of time and effort went into building this program, and we look forward to a very successful rollout."

Scherer added that ARA's benefits include a customized asset allocation designed to increase the likelihood of participants achieving an appropriate level of retirement income based on their needs. In addition, ARA delivers its asset allocation by leveraging the plan's core menu, a process that accentuates a financial advisor's value in selecting and monitoring a plan's investments.

The alliance is expected to launch this summer.

For additional information on Alliance Benefit Group go to <http://www.abgnational.com> or contact Don Mackanos at [don.mackanos@abgnational.com](mailto:don.mackanos@abgnational.com).

### **About Alliance Benefit Group**

Alliance Benefit Group LLC (ABG), is a national organization of retirement plan, health and welfare consulting and benefit administration firms. Founded in 1991, ABG's unique structure allows its Members to maintain their independence and autonomy, yet provide all Members access to broader service offerings, sharing of best practices, and collaborative technical support. This collaboration has allowed its Members to grow more rapidly than industry counterparts, to where today ABG services 20,000 retirement plans and in excess of \$70 Billion in assets. ABG's emphasis on high service standards and continuing education designations help its Members to be regularly recognized with industry awards and accolades.

### **About Russell Investments**

Russell Investments, a global asset manager, offers multi-asset portfolios and services which include advice, investments and implementation. Russell Investments stands with institutional investors, financial advisors and individuals working with their advisors—using the firm's core capabilities that

extend across capital market insights, manager research, asset allocation, portfolio implementation and factor exposures—to help each achieve their desired investment outcomes. The firm has more than \$298 billion in assets under management (as of 3/31/2018).

Headquartered in Seattle, Washington, Russell Investments operates globally with 21 offices, providing investment services in the world's major financial centers such as London, Paris, Amsterdam, Sydney, Tokyo, Shanghai, Toronto and New York. For more information about how Russell Investments helps to improve financial security for people, visit [russellinvestments.com](https://russellinvestments.com) or follow [@Russell\\_Invest](https://twitter.com/Russell_Invest).

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