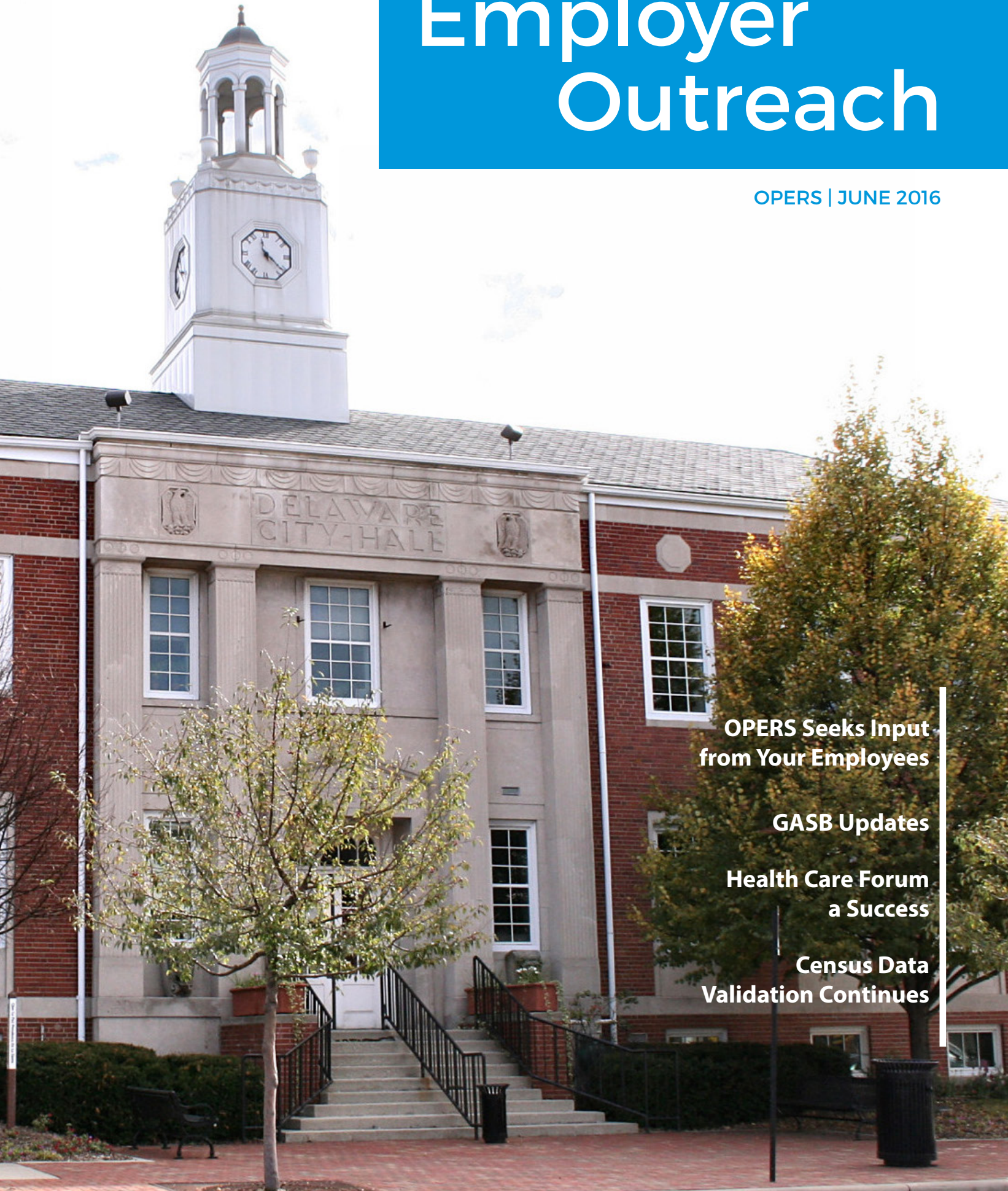


Employer Outreach

OPERS | JUNE 2016



**OPERS Seeks Input
from Your Employees**

GASB Updates

**Health Care Forum
a Success**

**Census Data
Validation Continues**



OPERS Seeks Input from Your Employees

This spring more than 175 OPERS employers answered the call to attend an information gathering session to help OPERS identify the retirement needs of their employees. Your employees, our members, are faced with a number of personal financial challenges and important retirement decisions throughout their careers. Together, we can help educate employees on ways to manage their current financial stresses and make the best decisions for their future.

Regardless of whether you attended a spring session, all employers will receive an e-mail from OPERS with a link to a brief survey. We are asking you to forward the link to your employees and encourage them to complete the survey. This is an opportunity for your employees to tell us how we can better serve them throughout their career and we will use this feedback to tailor our educational offerings to meet their needs.

Survey results will be anonymous and will take no more than five minutes of your employees' time to complete. Your employees can also visit www.opers.org to complete the survey online.

We appreciate your partnership and look forward to hearing from your employees.

Five New Counties Earn All-ECS Designation

We've added five more counties to the all-ECS counties map: Franklin, Geauga, Lake, Montgomery and Union counties. As of May 31, 2016, 21 of 88 Ohio counties have the all-ECS designation.

- Allen County
- Butler County
- Clark County
- Clermont County
- Columbiana County
- Cuyahoga County
- Defiance County
- Delaware County
- **Franklin County**
- **Gauga County**
- Hamilton County
- **Lake County**
- Lawrence County
- Logan County
- Lorain County
- Mahoning County
- **Montgomery County**
- Ottawa County
- Paulding County
- Summit County
- **Union County**



Updated GASB Information Includes Data Requested by Employers

GASB 68 - GASB 68 information is now available on ECS (GASB 68 amended GASB Statement 27). If you're an employer who has registered for ECS and has been given the GASB role by a delegated administrator, you can now access the Dec. 31, 2015 information on the net pension liability and related activity. If you have trouble accessing the information, contact the Employer Call Center for assistance.

New this year is the addition of the number of employees participating in each of the OPERS retirement plans, by employer. This information was included in response to several calls we received requesting this data as employers were undergoing external audits.

GASB 45 - GASB Statement 45 was included in the Feb. 29, 2016 Employer Notice and is available on www.opers.org.

Health Care Horizons Forum a Success

Nearly 60 OPERS employers participated in Health Care Horizons, a value-based health care forum which was held June 6.

The purpose of the forum was to bring together industry leaders and experts to educate employers on value-based health care. Employers also had the opportunity to hear directly from their peers and learn from their real-life value-based delivery models the ways in which they could maximize their employees' health care dollars.

Value-based health care may include encouraging wellness for healthier employees, offering employees ways to compare the cost and quality of health care services and even partnering with insurance companies to offer tools to help make health care decisions. To learn more about how you can apply value-based health care in your organization, visit <https://healthcarehorizonsforum.opers.org/> to download presentations and videos from the forum and access additional resources.





(left to right) Delaware County Auditor's Office employees Linda O'Rourke, Jane Tinker and Dedra Hall

Employer Census Data Validations Continue this Month

The Employer Census Data Validation program was developed in partnership with the OPERS Employer Advisory Council with the goal of ensuring accurate pension information is shared between OPERS and employers. In 2015, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) began requiring additional validation of data received by retirement systems from employers.

This is important because the data feeds into the annual actuarial valuations, the key elements in determining the unfunded pension liability and the net pension liability employers are required to report.

"As a public employer, we recognize the importance of reporting accurate pension information to OPERS," said Delaware County Auditor George Kaitsa. "We are pleased Delaware County has been found to be compliant with all aspects of the validation process. As the Delaware County Auditor, I am particularly proud of our payroll department and their conscientious efforts to monitor the county's payroll activities as well as compiling the information required for the validation process."

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To date, nine Census Data Validations have been completed and seven are scheduled in June.

"My recent experience with the OPERS Employer Census Data Validation was pain-free. It took a small amount of preparation, based on the packet I received from OPERS, and a brief telephone conversation to ensure I understood the specific

information needed," said Kathy Mills, manager of analytics and payroll for the Columbus Regional Airport Authority.

The Employer Census Data Validation program is beneficial as it may eliminate the need for OPERS' external auditors, via the Auditor of State's office, to perform additional procedures over this data. Data validation will also help employers identify non-compliance with earnable salary, membership eligibility and re-employment for OPERS retirees.

Current findings indicate the biggest issue is non-compliance with the required, annual Non-Contributing List submission. Additionally, we are working to identify missing documentation for pick-up and longevity plans. At this time, there are no major findings regarding retirement contribution reporting or membership.