



## News Release

DATE: December 5, 2008  
CONTACT: Jeff Close, The SPARK Institute  
860-658-5058

### **THE SPARK INSTITUTE ISSUES NEW VERSION OF BEST PRACTICES FOR 403(b) PLANS INFORMATION SHARING, SCHEDULES WEBCAST TO DISCUSS ISSUES**

SIMSBURY, CT, Dec. 5 -- The SPARK Institute has released a new version of its “Best Practices for 403(b) Plans Information Sharing”, it was announced today by Larry Goldbrum, General Counsel. “We’ve also scheduled a webcast for December 10, 2008 at 12:00 Noon that will include a presentation by, and Q&A session with, the architects and experts who developed the Best Practices,” he said. “They will review the most recent issues and frequently asked questions,” said Goldbrum. “The combination of an updated version of our Best Practices and a forum to discuss issues with our expert panel will further assist anyone responsible for information sharing in their efforts to comply with the new regulations that are scheduled to become effective on January 1,” Goldbrum noted.

“As we continued to receive questions and worked toward refining and improving the Best Practices, we determined that a new version was necessary,” Goldbrum said. He noted that some of the latest questions related to the labeling of Rollover Roth Cash Values and Roth 403(b) Cash Values for information sharing purposes.

In addition to revising the Data Standards document, The SPARK Institute has periodically been posting answers on its web site to many of the questions it has received and has added answers to several new questions in addition to some revised, conforming changes to examples that illustrate the methodology under the Best Practices for reporting loan amount available data. The new document, “Best Practices for 403(b) Plans Information Sharing -- Minimum and Comprehensive Data Elements Version 1.03,” the latest Q&As and the “Loan Amount Examples” are available on The SPARK Institute web site at [www.sparkinstitute.org/comments-and-materials.php](http://www.sparkinstitute.org/comments-and-materials.php). Details about the webcast are available at <https://sparkinstitute.webex.com> or by calling The SPARK Institute at 860-658-5058.

-more-

**About The SPARK Institute**

The SPARK Institute is the leading voice in Washington for the retirement services industry. Through the combined expertise of its member companies, The SPARK Institute provides research, education, testimony and comments on pending legislative and regulatory issues to members of Congress and relevant government agency officials. Collectively, its members serve over 95% of the nation's 401(k) participants and more than 90% of all 403(b) plan participants.

###