

## **OPERS doubles fund investment**

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Public employees are doubling their investment in Ohio.

The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System is putting more money into the Ohio PERS/Credit Suisse Ohio-Midwest Fund, PERS says, because of the fund's success in helping to bankroll regional businesses.

The fund is growing to \$102 million from \$51 million.

The fund — a so-called "fund of funds" because it places its money in targeted investment funds that make direct investments in businesses — currently has \$40 million invested in eight private equity groups that invest in Ohio and the Midwest. The employee retirement system estimates that its investment has helped create more than 1,450 Ohio jobs.

The fund of funds was created in 2005 to stimulate venture investment in the state. The fund is managed by Credit Suisse Customized Fund Investment Group. Credit Suisse has put up \$2 million and PERS \$100 million.

The Ohio-Midwest Fund's investments are with Blue Point Capital Partners II, Draper Triangle Ventures II, Reservoir Venture Partners II, Riverside Micro-Cap Fund, SFW Capital Partners, Stonehenge Opportunity Fund II, Strength Capital Partners II and Triathlon Medical Ventures, all of which have offices in Ohio.