

Form 5500

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security
Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.

OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089

2024

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

- A This return/report is for: [] a multiemployer plan [] a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) [x] a single-employer plan [] a DFE (specify) ____
B This return/report is: [] the first return/report [] the final return/report [] an amended return/report [] a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. []
D Check box if filing under: [x] Form 5558 [] automatic extension [] the DFVC program [] special extension (enter description)
E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. []

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan: ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE SEARCH, LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 001
1c Effective date of plan: 12/01/2012
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan): ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE SEARCH, LLC
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box): 1950 OLD GALLOWS ROAD, SUITE 410 VIENNA, VA 22182
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 45-4574229
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 571-221-7748
2d Business code (see instructions): 541600

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature of plan administrator, Date, Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator. Includes rows for employer/plan sponsor and DFE.

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2024) v. 240311

3a Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN	
	3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN	
	4d PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5	137
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6a(1)	129
	6a(2)	159
	6b	3
	6c	31
	6d	193
	6e	0
	6f	193
	6g(1)	133
	6g(2)	191
h	6h	2
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
2A 2E 2F 2G 2J 2T 3D

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules	b General Schedules
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R (Retirement Plan Information)	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H (Financial Information)
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> I (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> A (Insurance Information) – Number Attached <u>0</u>
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> DCG (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____	(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C (Service Provider Information)
(5) <input type="checkbox"/> MEP (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)	(5) <input type="checkbox"/> D (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> G (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning **01/01/2024** and ending **12/31/2024**

A Name of plan ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE SEARCH, LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE SEARCH, LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 45-4574229	

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions)..... Yes No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

CURIO WEALTH, LLC	721 MELVIN AVE ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401
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(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

RETIREMENT PLAN CONSULTANTS LLC	PO BOX 1264 NORFOLK, NE 68702
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(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

CURIO WEALTH, LLC

721 MELVIN AVE
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
26 27 51	INVESTMENT ADVISOR	31715	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

RETIREMENT PLAN CONSULTANTS LLC

PO BOX 1264
NORFOLK, NE 68702

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
15 64	RECORDKEEPIN G - TPA	21587	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024	
A Name of plan ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE SEARCH, LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE SEARCH, LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 45-4574229

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
Assets			
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	1067205	1278131
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	9338	64398
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	66101	50540
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	6912518	13156727
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property.....	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation.....	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e).....	1f	8055162	14549796
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i		
j Other liabilities.....	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	8055162	14549796

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers.....	2a(1)(A)	1278131	
(B) Participants.....	2a(1)(B)	1388706	
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)	2830856	
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		5497693
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities.....	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments.....	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants).....	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans.....	2b(1)(E)	4969	
(F) Other.....	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		4969
(2) Dividends:			
(A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock.....	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C)	272739	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		272739
(3) Rents.....	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets:			
(A) Aggregate proceeds.....	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result.....	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:			
(A) Real estate.....	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other.....	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		801960
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		6577361

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)	29425	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other.....	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		29425
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions).....	2g		
h Interest expense.....	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)	21587	
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)	31715	
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses.....	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		53302
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		82727

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d.....	2k		6494634
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan.....	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) Unmodified (2) Qualified (3) Disclaimer (4) Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: **ELLIN & TUCKER**

(2) EIN: **52-0959934**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. (2) It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	862
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? Yes No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) Yes No Not determined
If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

A Name of plan <u>ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE SEARCH, LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>001</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE SEARCH, LLC</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>45-4574229</u>	

Part I	Distributions
---------------	----------------------

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....

1		0
---	--	---

2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):
EIN(s): 75-3182674

Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year.....

3	
---	--

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
----------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? Yes No N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____
If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a	
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b	
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount).....	6c	

If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.

7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?..... Yes No N/A

8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? Yes No N/A

Part III	Amendments
-----------------	-------------------

9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box..... Increase Decrease Both No

Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
----------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan? Yes No

11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? Yes No

b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) Yes No

12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? Yes No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: <input type="checkbox"/> last contributing employer <input type="checkbox"/> alternative <input type="checkbox"/> reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment).....	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	14b	
c The second preceding plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	14c	

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers.....	16b	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
 Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%
 High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:
 0-5 years 5-10 years 10-15 years 15 years or more

20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? Yes No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:
 Yes.
 No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.
 No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.
 No. Other. Provide explanation: _____

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? Yes No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).
 Design-based safe harbor method
 "Prior year" ADP test
 "Current year" ADP test
 N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter 06 / 30 / 2020 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q703912A.

ELLIN & TUCKER

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Alliance Executive Search, LLC 401(k)
Profit Sharing Plan
December 31, 2024 and 2023

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Plan Administrator of the
Alliance Executive Search, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan

SCOPE AND NATURE OF THE ERISA SECTION 103(A)(3)(C) AUDIT

We performed an audit of the accompanying financial statements of the Alliance Executive Search, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan (Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) [ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit]. The financial statements comprise the Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2024, the related Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, elected to have the audit of the Plan's 2024 financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audit need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the Plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024 stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

OPINION ON THE 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In our opinion, based on our audit and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2024 Financial Statements section:

- The amounts and disclosures in the 2024 financial statements referred to above, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- The information in the 2024 financial statements referred to above related to assets held and certified by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2024 Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current Plan instrument, including all Plan amendments; administering the Plan; and determining that the Plan's transactions presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the Plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and, therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such

procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audit did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the 2024 financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULES REQUIRED BY ERISA

The Supplemental Schedules of Assets (Held at End of Year) and Delinquent Participant Contributions as of December 31, 2024 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedules, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and to certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. For information included in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion:

- The form and content of the schedules, other than the information in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- The information in the supplemental schedules related to assets held and certified by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON THE COMPILED 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Plan management is responsible for the accompanying financial statement of the Plan, which comprise the Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2023. We performed a compilation engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. We did not audit or review the financial statement nor were we required to perform any procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by Plan management. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion, a conclusion, or provide any form of assurance on the 2023 financial statement.

ELLIN & TUCKER
 Certified Public Accountants

Baltimore, Maryland
 September 22, 2025

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
Alliance Executive Search, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	Audited 2024	Compiled 2023
ASSETS		
Investments, at Fair Value (Notes 3 and 4)	\$ 13,156,727	\$ 6,917,246
Receivables:		
Employer Contributions	1,278,131	1,062,477
Employee Contributions	64,398	9,338
Notes Receivable From Participants	50,540	66,101
Net Assets Available for Benefits	\$ 14,549,796	\$ 8,055,162

(See Independent Auditors' Report and Accompanying Notes)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
Alliance Executive Search, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

ADDITIONS

Investment Income (Note 3):

Net Appreciation in Fair Value of Investments	\$ 801,960
Interest and Dividends	<u>272,739</u>
 Total Investment Income	 <u>1,074,699</u>
 Interest Income on Notes From Participants	 <u>4,969</u>
 Contributions:	
Employee	1,388,706
Employer	1,278,131
Rollover	<u>2,830,856</u>
 Total Contributions	 <u>5,497,693</u>
 Total Additions	 <u>6,577,361</u>

DEDUCTIONS

Benefits Paid to Participants	29,425
Administrative Expenses	<u>53,302</u>
 Total Deductions	 <u>82,727</u>
 Net Change	 6,494,634
 NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	 <u>8,055,162</u>
 NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS – END OF YEAR	 <u><u>\$ 14,549,796</u></u>

(See Independent Auditors' Report and Accompanying Notes)

NOTE 1 **DESCRIPTION OF PLAN**

The following description of the Alliance Executive Search, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan (Plan) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan document or Summary Plan Description for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all employees of Alliance Executive Search, LLC (Company) who are 21 years old after completion of one year of eligibility service. One year of service is equivalent to 1,000 hours, as defined by the Plan. There is no automatic enrollment for participants. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Contributions

Each year, participants may elect to defer up to the maximum amount of pretax annual compensation as defined by the Plan, not to exceed limitations set by the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Participants who turn 50 years old before the end of the Plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants may designate some or all of their own contributions as Roth 401(k) contributions. Participants may also rollover distributions received from other qualified plans.

Under safe harbor provisions of the Plan, The Company makes matching contributions in an amount not less than 3% of a participant's Plan compensation. The Company may make an additional non-elective discretionary contribution to the Plan.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution, the Company's matching and discretionary contributions, and an allocation of Plan earnings. Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the vested portion of the participant's account.

Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in their elected deferral contributions, employer safe harbor matching contributions, and rollover contributions, plus actual earnings thereon. A participant's interest in the Company's non-elective discretionary contributions becomes fully vested after three years of service, the attainment of normal retirement age, disability, or death of the participant (as defined by the Plan).

(See Independent Auditors' Report)

Investment Options

Upon enrollment in the Plan, a participant may direct employee contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. Specific information regarding these options may be obtained from the Plan Administrator. Participants may change their investment options at any time.

Notes Receivable From Participants

Participants may borrow against the balance in their account up to the lesser of \$50,000 minus the difference between the highest outstanding balance of loans in the past 12 months and the outstanding balance of loans from the Plan on the date the loan is made, or 50% of the vested account balance under the Plan. Loan terms require amortization of principal and interest over a period not to exceed five years. Loans used to acquire a principal residence may extend beyond a five-year term. Loans bear interest at a rate comparable to rates charged by commercial lending institutions for loans of similar terms. Loans are repaid through payroll deductions and may be repaid in full at any time. Participants may have a maximum of one outstanding loan at any one time.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are payable as soon as practicable following normal retirement, retirement due to permanent disability, death, or termination of employment, subject to specific benefit payment requirements in the Plan document. If the balance of the account is less than \$1,000, the balance is automatically distributed as a lump-sum payment. Benefits from the Plan for terminated participants whose vested account balances are greater than \$1,000 but not more than \$5,000 and who do not make payment elections shall be rolled over to individual retirement accounts designated by the Plan Administrator.

Forfeited Accounts

Forfeited non-vested accounts will be used to reduce future Plan expenses and Company contributions in accordance with the Plan document. At December 31, 2023, forfeited non-vested accounts totaled \$4,694. There were no forfeited non-vested accounts at December 31, 2024. During the year ended December 31, 2024, employer contributions were reduced by \$4,728, from forfeited non-vested accounts.

Plan Termination

Although the Company has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to terminate the Plan at any time subject to the provisions of ERISA. Upon termination of the Plan, all interests of the participants not previously vested would become vested and non-forfeitable, and the net assets of the Plan would be distributed to participants based upon individual equities in the Plan.

(See Independent Auditors' Report)

Administrative Expenses

Certain administrative expenses of the Plan are paid by the Company. Expenses paid by the Company are excluded from these financial statements. Investment-related expenses are included in the net change in investments.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting Standards Codification

All references in the financial statements to the Codification refer to the Accounting Standards Codification and the Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board. The Codification is the single source of authoritative GAAP in the United States.

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation

Investments are reported at fair value. See Note 4 for a discussion of fair value measurements.

Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan provides for investments in various investment securities, which are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit and overall volatility. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term, and such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

Notes Receivable From Participants

Notes receivable from participants are carried at their unpaid principal balance plus accrued interest. Delinquent notes receivable from participants are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the Plan document.

(See Independent Auditors' Report)

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Subsequent Events

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure in the financial statements through September 22, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 3 INFORMATION CERTIFIED BY THE CUSTODIAN

The Plan's investments were held by the Custodian, Matrix Trust Company, at December 31, 2024 and 2023. Financial information related to those investments is included in the accompanying financial statements based on information certified as complete and accurate by the Custodian. The information was not audited by the Plan's independent auditors and is summarized below:

	2024	2023
Money Market and Mutual Funds	<u>\$ 13,156,727</u>	<u>\$ 6,917,246</u>

During the year ended December 31, 2024, certified investment income consisted of the following:

Net Appreciation in Fair Value of Investments	\$ 801,960
Interest and Dividends	<u>272,739</u>
	<u><u>\$ 1,074,699</u></u>

NOTE 4 VALUATION OF INVESTMENTS

Investments are recorded at fair value in accordance with the provisions under the Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topic of the Codification, which establishes a framework for measuring fair value. The framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under the Codification are described below:

- Level 1 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.

(See Independent Auditors' Report)

- Level 2 Inputs to the valuation methodology include:
- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
 - Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
 - Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;
 - Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.
- If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.
- Level 3 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset's or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Below is a description of the valuation methodology used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodology used at December 31, 2024 and 2023.

Money Market and Mutual Funds: Valued at the net asset value (NAV) of shares held by the Plan at year end. NAV is based on the value of the underlying assets owned by the fund, minus its liabilities, and then divided by the number of shares outstanding. NAV is a quoted price in an active market.

The method described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Plan believes its valuation method is appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2024 and 2023:

	2024	2023
	Level 1 and Total	Level 1 and Total
Money Market and Mutual Funds	\$ 13,156,727	\$ 6,917,246

(See Independent Auditors' Report)

NOTE 5 **TAX STATUS**

The Plan obtained its latest determination letter on June 30, 2020, in which the Internal Revenue Service stated the Plan, as then designed, was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. However, the Plan Administrator believes the Plan is currently designed and operating in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

GAAP requires Plan management to evaluate uncertain tax positions for recognition in the financial statements. The Plan Administrator has concluded that there were no uncertain tax positions taken as of December 31, 2024.

NOTE 6 **RELATED-PARTY AND PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS**

Certain Plan investments are managed by the Custodian of the Plan. The Plan paid approximately \$53,000 to parties in interest for the year ended December 31, 2024. These transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions and are exempt from the prohibited transaction rules of ERISA.

In addition, administrative fees were paid indirectly through revenue sharing and are included in the net appreciation in fair value of investments.

(See Independent Auditors' Report)



SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



A Name of Plan
Alliance Executive Search, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan

B Three-Digit Plan Number **001**

C Plan Sponsor's Name as Shown on Line 2a of Form 5500
Alliance Executive Search, LLC

D Employer Identification # **52-0801316**

E As of **December 31, 2024**

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4I – SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
	Retirement Cash Account	Money Market Fund		\$ 15,069
	DFA Emerging Markets Core Equity I	Mutual Fund		343,390
	DFA Global Real Estate Securities Portfolio	Mutual Fund		422,372
	DFA Inflation-Protected Securities I	Mutual Fund		50,644
	DFA International Small Cap Value I	Mutual Fund		497,096
	DFA International Small Company I	Mutual Fund		307,696
	DFA International Value I	Mutual Fund		879,669
	DFA U.S. Large Cap Value I	Mutual Fund		1,201,509
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	Vanguard Target Retirement 2040	Mutual Fund		136,192
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2045	Mutual Fund		491,994
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2050	Mutual Fund		511,733
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	Vanguard Target Retirement 2065	Mutual Fund		106,571
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2070	Mutual Fund		22,717
	Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Admiral	Mutual Fund		323,682
	Vanguard Total International Bond Index Admiral	Mutual Fund		30,056
*	Participant Loans	Interest rates at 8.00% to 9.50%, maturity dates through July 2029		50,540
	Total Investments			\$ 13,207,267

* Party in Interest

(See Independent Auditors' Report)

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Alliance Executive Search, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan

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Alliance Executive Search, LLC

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E As of **December 31, 2024**

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4A – SCHEDULE OF DELINQUENT PARTICIPANT CONTRIBUTIONS

Participant Contributions Transferred Late to Plan	Total That Constitutes Nonexempt Prohibited Transactions			Under VFCP and PTE 2002-51
	Contributions Not Corrected	Corrected Outside of VFCP	Pending Correction in VFCP	
Check Here If Late Participant Loan Repayments Are Included: <input type="checkbox"/>				
\$ -	\$ -	\$ 862	\$ -	\$ -

(See Independent Auditors' Report)

Form 5500

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security
Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.**

OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089

2024

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

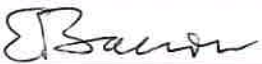

- A** This return/report is for: a multiemployer plan a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)
 a single-employer plan a DFE (specify) _____
- B** This return/report is: the first return/report the final return/report
 an amended return/report a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
- C** If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here.....▶
- D** Check box if filing under: Form 5558 automatic extension the DFVC program
 special extension (enter description)
- E** If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here.....▶

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan Alliance Executive Search, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
	1c Effective date of plan	12/01/2012
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) Alliance Executive Search, LLC 1950 Old Gallows Road, Suite 410 Vienna VA 22182	2b Employer Identification Number (EIN)	45-4574229
	2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number	571-221-7748
	2d Business code (see instructions)	541600

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE		10/8/25	Edward Barrow
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE		10/8/25	Edward Barrow
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2024)
v. 240311

3a Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>																																	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN																																	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:10%; text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: right;">137</td> </tr> </table>	5	137																															
5	137																																	
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:10%;"></td> <td style="width:10%;"></td> <td style="width:80%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6a(1)</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">129</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6a(2)</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">159</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6b</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6c</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">31</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6d</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">193</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6e</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6f</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">193</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6g(1)</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">133</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6g(2)</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">191</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6h</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">2</td> </tr> </table>				6a(1)		129	6a(2)		159	6b		3	6c		31	6d		193	6e		0	6f		193	6g(1)		133	6g(2)		191	6h		2
6a(1)		129																																
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6f		193																																
6g(1)		133																																
6g(2)		191																																
6h		2																																
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:10%; text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="width:90%;"></td> </tr> </table>	7																																
7																																		

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
 2A 2E 2F 2G 2J 2T 3D

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance (2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust (4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance (2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust (4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- (1) **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2) **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3) **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (4) **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- (5) **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- (1) **H** (Financial Information)
- (2) **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3) **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached _____
- (4) **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5) **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6) **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____



SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



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