



# Social Security

## SSA.Gov



### Prepare

Check eligibility for benefits

Get a benefits estimate

Plan for retirement



### Apply

Apply for benefits

Sign up for Medicare

Apply for SSI

### After you apply

Check application or appeal status

Appeal a decision we made

Presented by Mt Pleasant CDC- Herndon VA



**MOUNT PLEASANT  
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**CDC**



# Social Security in retirement

- ▶ The Social Security Retirement benefit is a monthly check that replaces part of your income when you reduce your hours or stop working altogether. It may not replace all your income so it's best to identify other ways to pay for your monthly expenses as you age.
- ▶ **See if you're eligible**
- ▶ **Eligibility for yourself**
  - ▶ **Because of your own work**
    - ▶ You're eligible if:
    - ▶ You're 62 or older
    - ▶ You've worked and paid Social Security taxes for 10 years or more
    - ▶ Soc. Sec keeps track of how many years you've paid Social Security taxes.



# Social Security in retirement (continued)

## ▶ **Because of a current or former spouse's work**

- ▶ If you've worked and paid Social Security taxes for 10 years or more, you'll get a monthly benefit based on that work. Then, we'll see if you're eligible to get additional money based on a current or former spouse's work.
- ▶ If you haven't worked and paid Social Security taxes for 10 years or more, we'll still see if you're eligible for a monthly benefit based on a current or former spouse's work.
- ▶ The requirements vary based on whether you're married, divorced, or widowed. Once you apply and tell us about your current and past marriages, we'll ensure that you get the highest monthly benefit you're eligible for. You won't have to talk to an ex-spouse if you're divorced and we won't tell them about your application



# Social Security in retirement (continued)

## ▶ Eligibility for your children

- ▶ Your children may be eligible for a monthly benefit because of your work if they are:
  - ▶ Under age 18
  - ▶ Age 18 or 19 and attend elementary or high school full time
  - ▶ Are any age and have a disability



# Prepare for Social Security benefits


Learn and plan before you apply for Social Security benefits

- ▶ **Eligibility**
  - ▶ [Answer a few questions](#) to see if you're eligible for Social Security benefits right now.
- ▶ **Get a benefits estimate**
  - ▶ [See estimates for various benefits](#) based on your earnings and when you apply.
- ▶ **Plan for retirement**
  - ▶ [Estimate your benefit amount](#), determine when to apply, and explore other factors.
- ▶ **Record of earnings**
  - ▶ [Check the record of your yearly income](#) and make sure it's up to date.



# Check eligibility for Social Security benefits

Answer a few questions to see if you qualify for benefits right now.

 How long it'll take: 10 minutes or less

Our benefits are there for you when you:

- Age and retire
- Can't work because of a disability
- Lose a spouse (or a young child loses a parent)
- Have difficulty paying for essentials like food, clothing, and a home

We'll tell you which ones you may be eligible for. The answers you share today help us understand what's going on in your life right now. We can't determine if you'll become eligible in the future.

**Start**



# Get a benefits estimate

Check your account to see how much you or your family might get in benefits payments.



## Sign in to your account

See estimates for various benefits based on your earnings and when you apply. You can also adjust expected future income to see how that impacts your retirement estimate.

[Sign in](#)

[Create account](#)

# Plan for retirement



- ▶ Apply for your monthly retirement benefit any time between age 62 and 70.
- ▶ We calculate your payment by looking at how much you've earned throughout your life.
- ▶ The amount will be higher the longer you wait to apply, up until age 70.
- ▶ The timing is up to you and should be based on your own personal needs.



## Get an estimate

Check your Social Security account to see how much you'll get when you apply at different times between age 62 and 70.

[Sign in](#)

[Create account](#)



# When to apply



## Timing your first benefit payment

You can time your first benefit payment to avoid a gap in income. Your first check won't arrive until the month after the one you pick in your application. You can apply any time up to four months before the month you pick.

For example, you want your first check in April. Follow this timing:

- Apply in November, December, January, February, or March
- Pick March in the application
- Get the first check in April

## Getting the maximum amount because of a current or former spouse's work

If you're eligible because of a spouse's work, the amount is at its highest at your "Full Retirement Age" (between 66 and 67). It doesn't increase if you wait and apply after that time. If your spouse has passed away, you may be eligible for Survivor benefits starting at age 60, or at age 50 if you are disabled.

Learn more about [Spouse](#) and [Survivor](#) benefits.



# Other factors that can affect your amount

- ▶ **Paying for healthcare**
- ▶ **Withholding taxes from benefit payments**
  - ▶ You may pay federal income taxes on your benefits if your combined income (50% of your benefit amount plus any other earned income) exceeds \$25,000/year filing individually or \$32,000/year filing jointly. You can pay the IRS directly or have taxes withheld from your payment. [Request to withhold taxes](#)
- ▶ **Continuing to work**
  - ▶ Before Full Retirement Age (between age 66 and 67), your benefit payment will be temporarily reduced if you earn more than your earnings limit this year.
- ▶ **Knowing your "Full Retirement Age"**
  - ▶ "Full Retirement Age" is a point in time between age 66 and 67, which we use to determine your benefit amount, as well as your family's benefits. Regardless of your Full Retirement Age, your payment will be higher the longer you wait to apply, up until age 70. **\*If you were born Jan 1st, select the year before your birth year**



# Family benefits

- ▶ Family benefits provide monthly payments to certain family members of people who are eligible for Retirement or Disability.
- ▶ **Who can get Family benefits**
  - ▶ Spouses, ex-spouses, children, and some grandchildren may be eligible for Family benefits. We consider age, marital status, and other factors when we determine eligibility.
- ▶ **What you could get**
  - ▶ You could get up to half of your family member's benefit amount and may be eligible for Medicare based on their work history.
  - ▶ If you can get other Social Security benefits besides Family, Soc. Sec. pay you the highest amount you're eligible for. We don't add the payment amounts together.
- ▶ *Available to call Soc Sec. in most U.S. time zones Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., in English, Spanish, and other languages.*

Call +1 800-772-1213

Call TTY +1 800-325-0778



# Review record of earnings

- ▶ Make sure that your record of your yearly income is up to date.
- ▶ Every year your employer tells Soc. Sec how much money you earned so we can update your Social Security record. If you're self-employed, you tell us directly.
- ▶ Soc. Sec. calculates your monthly retirement and disability benefit by looking at how much you've earned, so it's important to make sure your record is accurate. Check it in August to make sure last year's amount is correct.



# Jobs with specific rules

- ▶ **Pensions from government jobs or jobs worked abroad without paying Social Security taxes**
  - ▶ If you get a pension from a government job or a job worked in a foreign country, your monthly Social Security benefit amount may be reduced.
- ▶ **Specific types of earnings**
  - ▶ While Social Security earnings are calculated the same way for most jobs, there are some types of earnings with additional rules, including farm work, government and military work, railroad work, self-employment, and others.



# Windfall Elimination Provision

- ▶ **The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)** can affect how Social Security calculates your retirement or disability benefit. If you work for an employer who doesn't withhold Social Security taxes from your salary, any retirement or disability pension you get from that work can reduce your Social Security benefits. Such an employer may be a government agency or an employer in another country
  - ▶ You earn a retirement or disability pension from an employer who didn't withhold Social Security taxes.
  - ▶ You may be eligible for Social Security retirement or disability benefits from work in other jobs for which you did pay taxes.
- ▶ **The WEP can apply if one of the following is true:**
  - ▶ You reached age 62 after 1985.
  - ▶ You developed a qualifying disability after 1985
- ▶ **Some Exceptions**
  - ▶ The WEP doesn't apply if:
    - You're a federal worker first hired after December 31, 1983.
    - You're an employee of a non-profit organization which was exempt from Social Security coverage on December 31, 1983. This does not apply if the non-profit organization waived exemption and did pay Social Security taxes, but then the waiver was terminated prior to December 31, 1983.
    - Your only pension is for railroad employment.
    - The only work you performed for which you didn't pay Social Security taxes was before 1957.
    - You have 30 or more years of substantial earnings under Social Security.



# Windfall Elimination Provision

Year	Substantial earnings
1937–1954	\$900
1955–1958	\$1,050
1959–1965	\$1,200
1966–1967	\$1,650
1968–1971	\$1,950
1972	\$2,250
1973	\$2,700
1974	\$3,300
1975	\$3,525
1976	\$3,825
1977	\$4,125
1978	\$4,425
1979	\$4,725
1980	\$5,100
1981	\$5,550
1982	\$6,075
1983	\$6,675
1984	\$7,050
1985	\$7,425
1986	\$7,875
1987	\$8,175
1988	\$8,400
1989	\$8,925

Year	Substantial earnings
1990	\$9,525
1991	\$9,900
1992	\$10,350
1993	\$10,725
1994	\$11,250
1995	\$11,325
1996	\$11,625
1997	\$12,150
1998	\$12,675
1999	\$13,425
2000	\$14,175
2001	\$14,925
2002	\$15,750
2003	\$16,125
2004	\$16,275
2005	\$16,725
2006	\$17,475
2007	\$18,150
2008	\$18,975
2009–2011	\$19,800
2012	\$20,475
2013	\$21,075
2014	\$21,750

Year	Substantial earnings
2015–2016	\$22,050
2017	\$23,625
2018	\$23,850
2019	\$24,675
2020	\$25,575
2021	\$26,550
2022	\$27,300
2023	\$29,700
2024	\$31,275

Years of substantial earnings	Percentage
30 or more	90 %
29	85 %
28	80 %
27	75 %
26	70 %
25	65 %
24	60 %
23	55 %
22	50 %
21	45 %
20 or less	40 %



Securing today  
and tomorrow

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# Manage Social Security benefits

## ▶ Benefits

- ▶ Get a benefit letter

## ▶ Get tax form (1099/1042S)

## ▶ If you get SSI payments

- ▶ Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments aren't taxed. If SSI is the only payment you get from Soc. Sec., they won't issue you a tax form.

## ▶ Payments

- ▶ Direct Deposit (Update)
- ▶ Repay overpaid benefits
- ▶ Request to withhold taxes
- ▶ View benefit payment schedule
- ▶ Communicate changes to personal situation
- ▶ Identify someone to manage benefits for you
- ▶ Cancel your benefits application





# Manage benefits & information conclusion



## Documents

Get benefit verification letter

Get tax form (1099/1042S)



## Number & card

Replace card

Request number for the first time

Report stolen number



## Payment

Update direct deposit

Repay overpaid benefits

Request to withhold taxes

View benefit payment schedule



## Record

Change name

Update contact information

Update citizenship or immigration status

Change sex identification

Report a death

# Reference

- ▶ Social Security Administration, SSA.(2024,September 4)*Social Security, Pages 1-17, SSA.gov*