Agenda

- Your Social Security Number and Card
- my Social Security account
- Your *Social Security Statement*
  - Retirement
  - Disability
  - Other Benefits
- Medicare
- Applying for Benefits
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Q & A
Your Social Security Number & Card
Your Social Security Number

- SSA uses the 9-digit Social Security Number (SSN) to record worker’s covered wages and/or self-employment income

- When you start new job, employer may require you to show original Social Security card for wage reporting purposes

www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/
What is FICA?

• Stands for Federal Insurance Contributions Act
• Federal payroll tax deducted from workers’ paychecks, matched by employer, and reported by employer to IRS
• Total FICA tax = 15.3% of gross wages. You and your employer each pay 7.65% =
  – 6.2% for Social Security
  – 1.45% for Medicare
• FICA taxes help fund Social Security retirement, disability, survivor benefits and Medicare health insurance
How to Get a Replacement Social Security Card

• Apply for replacement Social Security card through my Social Security account
  – Available in most states
  – Time frame
• If you cannot use online application, submit request by mail or in office with:
  – Completed form SS-5
  – Original documents, including recent proof of identity

www.ssa.gov/myaccount/replacement-card.html
Protecting Your Number & Your Card

- Social Security protects your Social Security Number (SSN) and keeps your records confidential.
- Be careful about sharing your number, even when asked for it.
- Keep your card and other documents that show your SSN in a safe place.
- DO NOT routinely carry your card or other documents that display your number.
**Fraud & Scams Are Rampant**

3.2 million fraud, identity theft and other reports to the Federal Trade Commission in 2019

1 in 10 people lost money in imposter scams totaling $667 million in 2019
Be Cautious of Suspicious Calls-Mail

• Social Security employees contact citizens - generally those who have ongoing business with Social Security - by phone or mail

• Employees will never threaten you with arrest or other legal action if you don’t provide requested information.
  – These calls are fraudulent. Hang up! Don’t give out any information.

• To report allegations of Social Security fraud, waste, and abuse, go to https://oig.ssa.gov/report
Create your personal *my* Social Security account today

With your free, personal *my* Social Security account, you can receive personalized estimates of future benefits based on your real earnings, see your latest Statement, and review your earnings history. It even makes it easy to request a replacement Social Security Card or check the status of an application, all from the comfort of your home or office!

CREATE AN ACCOUNT ➔

SIGN IN ➔

FINISH SETTING UP YOUR ACCOUNT ➔

www.ssa.gov/myaccount
How to Open a *my* Social Security Account

1. Visit [socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://socialsecurity.gov/myaccount)
2. Select: “Sign In or Create an Account”
3. Provide personal information to verify your identity – answer “out of wallet” questions
4. Choose a username and password
5. Select how to receive a security code every time you access your account (text or email)
Security Feature for *my* Social Security Account

Each time you sign into your account, you will complete two steps:

1. Enter username and password
2. Enter security code we send by text message or email

*Note: If user does not have a text-enabled cell phone or does not wish to provide cell phone number, user must use email address as second identification method.*
If Online Registration is Unsuccessful

• If online registration is unsuccessful, visit a local office to bypass “out of wallet” questions and get activation code.

• We must see current proof of identity:
  – State driver's license or identity card
  – U.S. passport or passport card
  – U.S. military identification or
  – U.S. government employee identification card

• Use activation code to finish registration in office using Social Security Express (if available) or at home or office
my Social Security Services

If you do not receive benefits, you can:

• Request a replacement Social Security card if you meet certain requirements
• Check status of application or appeal
• Get instant benefit verification letter as proof you are not getting benefits
• Get personalized retirement estimates using Retirement Calculator
• Review and print your Social Security Statement – You should get an annual email reminder to review it.
Your Social Security Statement
Your Estimated Benefits

*Retirement
You have earned enough credits to qualify for benefits. At your current earnings rate, if you continue working until...
your full retirement age (67 years), your payment would be about... $1,986 a month
age 70, your payment would be about... $2,468 a month
age 62, your payment would be about... $1,376 a month

*Disability
You have earned enough credits to qualify for benefits. If you became disabled right now,
your payment would be about... $1,956 a month

*Family
If you get retirement or disability benefits, your spouse and children also may qualify for benefits.

*Survivors
You have earned enough credits for your family to receive survivors benefits. If you die this year, certain members of your family may qualify for the following benefits:
Your child... $1,467 a month
Your spouse who is caring for your child... $1,467 a month
Your spouse, if benefits start at full retirement age... $1,956 a month
Total family benefits cannot be more than... $3,568 a month
Your spouse or minor child may be eligible for a special one-time death benefit of $255.

Medicare
You have enough credits to qualify for Medicare at age 65. Even if you do not retire at age 65, be sure to contact Social Security three months before your 65th birthday to enroll in Medicare.

* Your estimated benefits are based on current law. Congress has made changes to the law in the past and can do so at any time. The law governing benefit amounts may change because, by 2035, the payroll taxes collected will be enough to pay only about 80 percent of scheduled benefits.

We based your benefit estimates on these facts:
Your date of birth (please verify your name on page 1 and this date of birth) April 5, 1960
Your estimated taxable earnings per year after 2018 $50,653
Your Social Security number (only the last four digits are shown to help prevent identity theft) XXX-XX-1234

www.ssa.gov/myaccount/statement.html
Your Earnings Record

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years You Worked</th>
<th>Your Taxed Social Security Earnings</th>
<th>Your Taxed Medicare Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>592</td>
</tr>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>1,144</td>
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<td>1985</td>
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<td>1986</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>20,645</td>
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<td>21,695</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>22,816</td>
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<td>24,225</td>
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<td>25,858</td>
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<td>29,642</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>31,658</td>
<td>31,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>33,787</td>
<td>33,787</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Social Security and Medicare taxes paid over your working career through the last year reported on the chart above:

- Estimated taxes paid for Social Security: $70,698
- Estimated taxes paid for Medicare: $17,020

Note: Currently, you and your employer each pay a 6.2 percent Social Security tax on up to $137,700 of your earnings and a 1.45 percent Medicare tax on all your earnings. If you are self-employed, you pay the combined employee and employer amount, which is a 12.4 percent Social Security tax on up to $137,700 of your net earnings and a 2.9 percent Medicare tax on your net earnings. *If you have earned income of more than $200,000 ($250,000 for married couples filing jointly), you must pay 9.9 percent more in Medicare taxes.

www.ssa.gov/myaccount/statement.html
Retirement Benefits
Social Security

- Social Security
- Pension
- Savings & Investments
- Other Income
How Do You Qualify for Retirement?

• By earning “credits” when you work and pay Social Security taxes

• You need 40 credits (10 years of work) and you must be 62 or older

• Each $1,410 in earnings gives you one credit

• You can earn a maximum of 4 credits per year

Note: To earn 4 credits in 2020, you must earn at least $5,640.

www.ssa.gov/planners/credits.html
What Is the Best Age to Start Receiving Social Security Retirement Benefits?

Monthly Benefit Amounts Differ Based on the Age You Decide to Start Receiving Benefits

Note: Assumes benefit of $1,000 at full retirement age of 66
How Social Security Determines Your Benefit

Benefits are based on earnings

Step 1: Your wages are adjusted for changes in wage levels over time

Step 2: Find the monthly average of 35 highest earnings years

Step 3: Result is “average indexed monthly earnings”

www.ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/Benefits.html
If You Have a Gap in Your Earnings

• Your retirement benefit is based on your 35 highest years of “indexed” earnings
• If you do not have 35 years of earnings, we calculate your benefit using a zero (0) for each year without earnings
• Be proactive, not reactive. It’s so important to review your earnings record every year for accuracy.

www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/stopwork.html
Social Security’s Online Calculators

- WEP
- Life Expectancy Calculator
- Retirement Earnings Test
- Early or Late Benefits for Spouses
- GPO Quick Estimator
- Detailed Age

www.ssa.gov/planners/calculators/
Online Retirement Calculator

- Access through your *my Social Security* Account
- Compare individualized retirement benefit estimates at age 62, Full Retirement Age (FRA), and age 70 using various scenarios:
  - Choose a future age to begin receiving retirement benefits in years and months (Example: age 64 and 4 months)
  - Choose a future date to begin receiving retirement benefits (Example: June 2025)
  - Enter the average annual income you expect to earn until retirement
- Retirement estimates are in written and chart form

[www.ssa.gov/myaccount/retire-calc.html](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/retire-calc.html)
### How Work Affects Retirement Benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you are</th>
<th>You can make up to</th>
<th>If you earn more, some benefits will be withheld</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under Full Retirement Age</td>
<td>$18,240/yr.</td>
<td>$1 for every $2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Year Full Retirement Age is Reached</td>
<td>$48,600/yr. before month of full retirement age</td>
<td>$1 for every $3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Month of Full Retirement Age and Above</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Retirement Earnings Test Calculator:**
www.ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/RTeffect.html
Disability Benefits
Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

What is it?
SSDI provides income to people who are no longer able to work because of a significant disabling condition(s). SSA does not pay partial or temporary disability benefits.

Who is it for?
People who cannot perform substantial work activity may qualify if they:
• have medical condition(s) expected to last at least 12 months or result in death
• are younger than full retirement age (FRA) and earn less than the substantial gainful activity (SGA) limit
• have recent work and a certain number of work credits based on age

www.ssa.gov/disability/
How Social Security Makes Medical Decision

5-step sequential evaluation:
Step 1. Are you working?
Step 2. Is your medical condition(s) “severe”?
Step 3. Does your impairment meet or equal a listing?
Step 4. Can you do the work you did before?
Step 5. Can you do other work?

www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/general-info.htm
How Work Affects Disability Benefits

Social Security has special rules to help people with disabilities keep cash benefits and Medicare while testing the ability to work. Work incentives include:

• Continued cash benefits
• Continued help with medical expenses
• Help with work expenses or vocational training

IMPORTANT: If you return to work, report your earnings to Social Security to avoid being overpaid!

www.ssa.gov/redbook/
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

What is it?
SSI is a federal program that provides monthly payments to people who have limited income and few resources.

Who is it for?
People who are 65 or older, as well as for those of any age, including children, who are blind or who have disabilities.

www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/
# SSDI vs. SSI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Security Disability Insurance</th>
<th>Supplemental Security Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payments come from the Social Security trust funds and are based on a person’s earnings.</td>
<td>Payments come from the general treasury fund, NOT the Social Security trust funds. SSI payments are not based on a person’s earnings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An insurance that workers earn by paying Social Security taxes on their wages.</td>
<td>A needs-based public assistance program that does not require a person to have work history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pays benefits to disabled individuals who are unable to work, regardless of their income and resources.</td>
<td>Pays disabled individuals who are unable to work AND have limited income and resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits for workers and for adults disabled since childhood. Must meet insured status requirements.</td>
<td>Benefits for children and adults in financial need. Must have limited income and limited resources.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If You Disagree with Medical Decision

If you were denied SSDI or SSI you may appeal within 60 days of the date on your decision notice. Online appeal is preferred.

Four levels of appeal:
1. Reconsideration
2. Hearing Before Administrative Law Judge (ALJ)
3. Appeals Council Review
4. Federal Court review

www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/appeal.html
Other Social Security Benefits
Benefits for a Spouse

- Maximum benefit = 50% of worker’s unreduced benefit
- Reduction for early retirement
- If spouse’s own benefit is less than 50% of the worker’s, benefits are combined
- Does not reduce payment to worker
- Benefit is unreduced if spouse is caring for a child under age 16 or disabled

www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/applying7.html#h2
Benefits for Divorced Spouses

You may receive benefits on your former spouse's record (even if he or she has remarried) if:

- Marriage lasted at least 10 years
- You are unmarried
- You are age 62 or older
- Your ex-spouse is at least 62 and eligible for Social Security retirement or disability benefits, even if not collecting
- Benefit you would receive based on your own work is less than benefit you would receive based on ex-spouse’s work

www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/applying7.html#h4
Deemed Filing

- If you were born on or after Jan. 2, 1954, and you qualify for both retirement and spouse (or divorced spouse) benefits, you must apply for both benefits. This is called “deemed filing.”
  - If you file for one benefit, you are “deemed” to file for the other benefit, even if you don’t become eligible for it until later
- Applies at any age for people who turned age 62 after Jan. 1, 2016
- Two exceptions

www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/deemedfaq.html
Auxiliary Benefits for Children

Child must:

• Have a parent who is disabled or retired and entitled to Social Security benefits
• Be unmarried
• Be younger than age 18 OR
• Be 18-19 if full-time student OR
• Be 18 or older and disabled with condition(s) that began before age 22

www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/applying7.html#h3
# Survivor Eligibility Factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>May receive benefits if unmarried and younger than age 18 (or younger than 19 if still in high school)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled Child</td>
<td>May receive benefits after age 18 if unmarried (unless married to another beneficiary) and disabled before age 22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Widow(er) or Divorced Widow(er) | May receive full benefits at full retirement age or reduced benefits:  
  • as early as age 60  
  • as early as 50, if disabled  
  • at any age if caring for child younger than 16 or disabled |

[www.ssa.gov/planners/survivors/](http://www.ssa.gov/planners/survivors/)
Surviving Spouse Benefits

At worker’s death, surviving spouse may:

• At full retirement age, receive 100% of deceased worker's unreduced benefit
• At age 60, receive 71.5% of worker’s full benefit and increases each month surviving spouse delays benefits waits until full retirement age
• Claim survivor benefits at 60 or older. No increase in benefit amount after full retirement age.

www.ssa.gov/planners/survivors/ifyou.html#h6
# Spouse vs. Surviving Spouse Benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spouse (living)</th>
<th>Surviving Spouse (death)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can start as early as age 62</td>
<td>Can start as early as age 60 or as early as 50 if disabled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% if you wait until FRA or later</td>
<td>71.5% at age 60, increases each month you wait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 50% if you start before FRA (reduction for each month you take benefit early)</td>
<td>100% if you start at FRA or later</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Certain conditions must be met, e.g. marriage must have lasted at least 10 years.*
Other Survivor Benefits

• $255 one-time only Lump Sum Death Payment payable to surviving spouse or child who meets certain requirements

• Parents’ Benefits are for a parent age 62 or older who was receiving at least one-half support from deceased son or daughter
Medicare Eligibility

- After 24 months of SSDI
- Age 65
- ALS
- Environmental health hazard exposure
- Kidney failure
Medicare has Four Parts

Part A: Hospital Insurance (HI)
– Enroll with SSA
– Typically no premium, $1408 deductible per benefit period

Part B: Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI)
– Enroll with SSA
– Standard monthly premium = $144.60, annual deductible = $198

Part C: Medicare Advantage Plan

Part D: Prescription Drug Plan
– Enroll with private company, costs vary by plan

www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/
Medicare Enrollment

Initial Enrollment Period
 Begins 3 months before your 65th birthday and ends 3 months after that birthday

General Enrollment Period
 January 1 – March 31

Special Enrollment Period
 If 65 or older and covered under a group health plan based on your — or your spouse’s — current work.
If you already have Medicare Part A and wish to add Part B, mail or take forms CMS-40B and CMS-L564 to local Social Security office.

www.ssa.gov/medicare/apply.html
Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs

- Medicare beneficiaries may qualify for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug plan costs
  - Needs-based program for people with limited income and resources
- Extra Help is estimated to be worth about $5,000 per year

www.socialsecurity.gov/extrahelp
Get Medicare coverage info on the go!
Learn about our new app

Find out how much Medicare costs in 2019

Important information about new Medicare cards

Address change/Medicare card issue?
Select your card issue... Go

Information for my situation
Select your situation... Go

Find someone to talk to
Select your state... Go

1-800-MEDICARE or Medicare.gov
State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs)

SHIPs offer free personalized counseling to help people navigate Medicare choices with unbiased state-specific guidance. Your SHIP can help with:

- Medicare questions about benefits, coverage, premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, and more
- Complaints and appeals
- Joining or leaving a Part C or Part D plan

www.ssa.gov/phila/resources.htm
Other Health Insurance Options

• COBRA
  www.dol.gov/general/topic/health-plans/cobra

• Affordable Care Act

• Veterans Administration

• Medicaid
  www.Medicaid.gov

Note: Social Security employees are unable to answer questions about these programs.
# Medicaid vs. Medicare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicaid</th>
<th>Medicare</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State health insurance program for people with limited income and resources</td>
<td>Federal health insurance program for people 65 or older</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In most states, children who qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) qualify for Medicaid</td>
<td>Federal health insurance program for people who have been on Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) for 24 months; exception: those with ALS, Lou Gehrig’s Disease qualify for Medicare with no wait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In many states, Medicaid is automatic with SSI eligibility</td>
<td>Federal health insurance program for people with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), even if they are not collecting Social Security</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You can switch to retirement on your own record as early as age 62 if that benefit is higher than your surviving spouse benefit. OR

You can take retirement as early as age 62, then switch to surviving spouse at FRA.
Applying for Benefits
How to Apply for Benefits

File online for Retirement, Spouse, Disability, or Medicare Only

• Survivor* application is not available online

Schedule phone appointment at 1-800-772-1213

Schedule in-office appointment at 1-800-772-1213

*Child and survivor claims can only be done by phone or in office.
Check Application Status with *my* Social Security Account

Application status shows:

- Your re-entry number for an unsubmitted online benefit application or appeal
- Date we received application or appeal
- Scheduled hearing date and time
- Current claim or appeal location, including address of office processing application
- If decision has been made

www.ssa.gov/myaccount/application-status.html
More *my* Social Security Services

If you receive benefits or have Medicare, you can:

- Request replacement Social Security card in most states
- Get instant benefit verification/proof of income letter
- Report wages if you work and receive SSDI and/or SSI
- Check your benefit and payment information and earnings record
- Change address and phone number

- Start or change direct deposit
- Request replacement Medicare card
- Get instant replacement SSA-1099/1042S for tax season
- Opt out of mailed notices for those available online
- Appoint designee(s) to become your representative payee if you need help managing your benefits in the future
Frequently Asked Questions

www.ssa.gov/faqs
If I find another job, can I stop my Social Security?

- If you change your mind about starting your monthly benefit, you may be able to withdraw your claim and re-apply later.
- You must withdraw your application within 12 months of entitlement.
- You must repay all benefits you and family members received on your application.
- If entitled to Medicare, you may choose to also withdraw your Medicare coverage.
- You are limited to one withdrawal in your lifetime.
- If at least FRA but not yet age 70, you may ask to suspend benefits.

www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/withdrawal.html
Will unemployment benefits affect my Social Security benefits?

- Social Security does not count unemployment benefits as earnings
- Unemployment does not affect retirement benefits
- Social Security benefits may reduce your unemployment compensation
  - Contact state unemployment office for information on how your state applies reduction
Will workers' compensation affect my disability benefits?

- Disability payments from private pensions or insurance benefits do not affect Social Security disability benefits.
- Workers’ compensation and other public disability benefits may reduce your Social Security benefits.
- Other public disability payments that may affect your Social Security benefit are those paid by federal, state, or local government for disabling medical conditions that are not job-related.
- If you get lump-sum disability payment other than Social Security or amount of your other payment changes, inform SSA.
- Reduction in your Social Security benefit stops at FRA.

What if I become self-employed?

• You are self-employed if you operate a trade, business or profession by yourself or as a partner.

• If self-employed, you pay combined employee and employer tax:
  – 12.4% Social Security tax on up to $137,700 of net earnings
  – 2.9% Medicare tax on entire net earnings.

• You report your earnings to Social Security when you file your federal income tax return. If your net earnings are $400 or more in a year, you must report your earnings on Schedule SE, in addition to other tax forms you must file.

Will my Social Security benefit increase if I work?

• Each year SSA review records of all working Social Security beneficiaries to determine if recent earnings may increase monthly benefit amount.

• If increase is due, we figure a new benefit amount and pay increase retroactive to January following the year of earnings.
  – Usually completed by October. No need to contact SSA.

• For example, if you have earnings in 2019 that will increase monthly benefit, we will increase your amount retroactive to January 2019 once we review your record.

www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/whileworking.html
Will I pay federal taxes on my benefits?

If you:

• **file tax return as an "individual" with combined income =**
  – between $25,000 and $34,000, you may have to pay income tax on up to 50% of benefits
  – more than $34,000, up to 85% of benefits may be taxable

• **file joint return**, and you and your spouse have combined income =
  – between $32,000 and $44,000, you may have to pay income tax on up to 50% benefits
  – more than $44,000, up to 85% of benefits may be taxable

• **are married and file separate tax return**
  – you will probably pay taxes on your benefits

SocialSecurity.gov
Your adjusted gross income
  + Nontaxable interest
  + $\frac{1}{2}$ of your Social Security benefits
= Your “combined income”

Publication 554, *Tax Guide for Seniors*
Publication 915, *Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits*
www.IRS.gov