



# Social Security: With You Through Life's Journey...



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and tomorrow



Produced at U.S. taxpayer expense



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# 5 STEPS

## Toward Your Financial Security

With you through life's journey...



**1** Get to know *your* Social Security

**2** Verify your earnings



40 Credits needed for Retirement and Medicare benefits

**3** Estimate your benefits



**4** Apply for benefits



Retirement



Disability



Medicare

**5** Manage your benefits

*my* Social Security



SSA.gov/5steps |

# We Wouldn't Miss Your Retirement Party



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[SSA.gov](https://www.ssa.gov)



# How Do You Qualify for Retirement Benefits?

- 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 \$1,730 in earnings gives you one credit
- You can earn a maximum of 4 credits per year

***Note: To earn 4 credits in 2024, you must earn at least \$6,920.***

**[ssa.gov/planners/credits.html](https://ssa.gov/planners/credits.html)**



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# 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 your 35 highest earnings years
- Step 3 -Result is “average indexed monthly earnings”

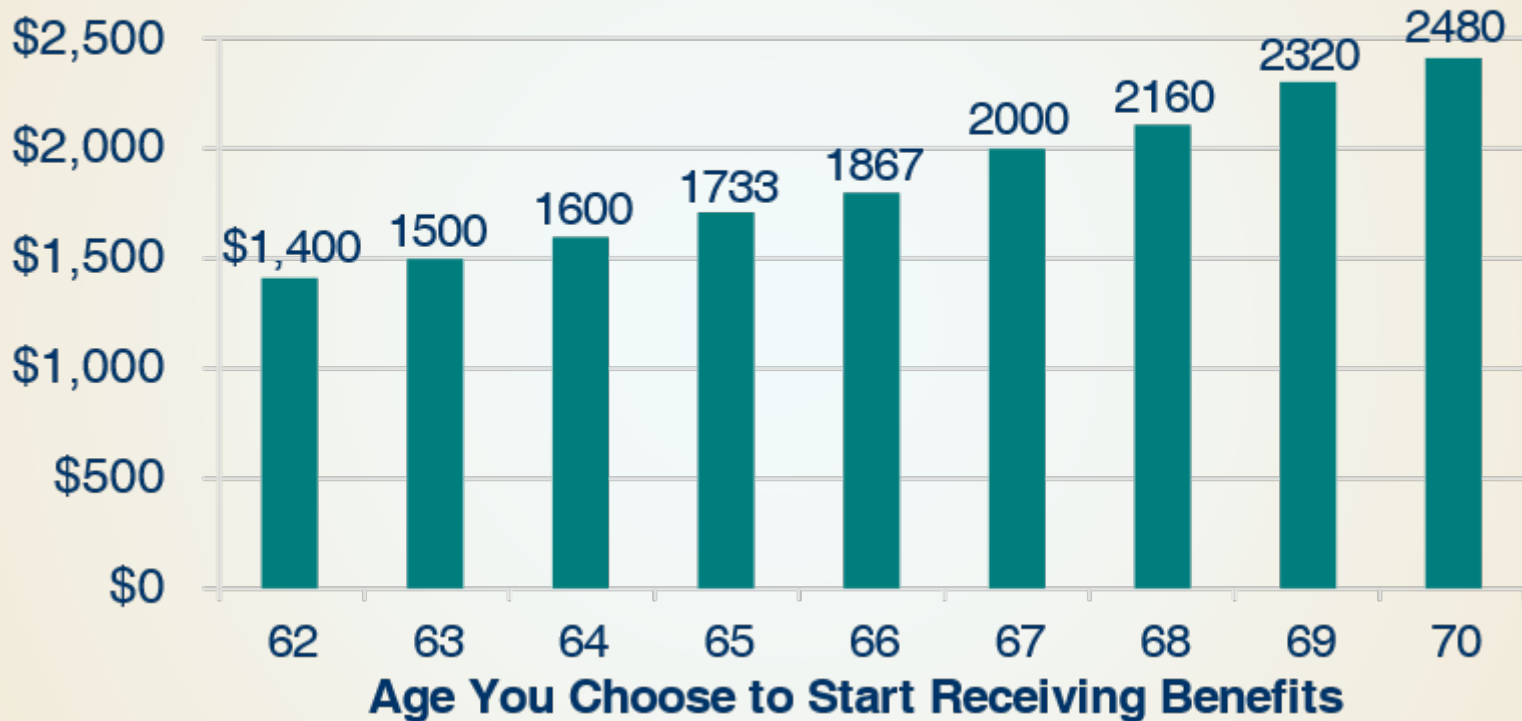


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# What Is the Best Age to Start Receiving Social Security Retirement Benefits?

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



*Note: This example assumes a benefit of \$2,000 at a full retirement age of 67*



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# Full Retirement Age Chart

Year of Birth	Full Retirement Age
1943-1954	66
1955	66 and 2 months
1956	66 and 4 months
1957	66 and 6 months
1958	66 and 8 months
1959	66 and 10 months
1960 and later	67

The amount of benefits is affected by the age when your client decides to retire.

## Early Retirement:

- Benefits as early as 62
- 20 to 30 % reduction

## Full Retirement:

- Full benefits at full retirement age

## Delayed Retirement:

- Benefits increase automatically if retirement is delayed past full retirement age



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# We're There For Your Wedding



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# 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, they will be combined to equal to 50% of the worker's
- Does not reduce payment to the worker
- Benefit is unreduced if spouse is caring for worker's child younger than age 16 or disabled
- Spouse benefits are not payable until worker collects

**[ssa.gov/planners/retire/yourspouse.html](https://ssa.gov/planners/retire/yourspouse.html)**



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# 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

**[ssa.gov/planners/retire/yourdivspouse.html](https://ssa.gov/planners/retire/yourdivspouse.html)**



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# Auxiliary Benefits for Children

A child must have:

- A parent who's disabled or retired and entitled to Social Security benefits; or
- A parent who died after having worked long enough in a job where they paid Social Security taxes.

The child must also be:

- Unmarried;
- Younger than age 18;
- 18-19 years old and a full-time student (no higher than grade 12); or
- 18 or older and disabled. (The disability must have started before age 22.)



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# We're There If You Lose A Loved One



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# Survivor Eligibility Factors

Child	Can receive benefit if not married and under age 18 (or under age 19 if still in high school).
Disabled Child	Can receive benefits beyond age 18 if not married and was disabled before age 22.
Widow / Widower / Divorced Widow/er  (Remarriage after age 60 will not affect benefits)	Can get full benefits at full retirement age – or reduced benefits at age 60 – or as early as age 50 if disabled – or at any age if caring for child under 16 or a disabled child.



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# Spouse vs. Surviving Spouse Benefits

Spouse (living)	Surviving Spouse (deceased)
May start as early as age 62	May start as early as age 60 or as early as 50 if disabled
50% if you wait until FRA or later	71.5% at age 60, increases each month you wait
Less than 50% if you start before FRA (reduction for each month you take benefit early)	100% if you start at FRA or later

***Certain conditions must be met.***

**[ssa.gov/planners/survivors/ifyou.html#h6](https://ssa.gov/planners/survivors/ifyou.html#h6)**



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You can switch to retirement on your own record as early as age 62 if that benefit is higher than your surviving spouse's benefit.

OR

You can take retirement as early as age 62, then switch to surviving spouse's at full retirement age if benefit is higher.



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# Other Survivor Benefits

Lump Sum Death Payment – A surviving spouse or child may receive a one-time lump-sum death payment of \$255.00 if they meet certain requirements.

[socialsecurity.gov/survivors](https://socialsecurity.gov/survivors)



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# Working While Receiving Benefits

If you are	You can make up to	If you earn more, some benefits will be withheld
Under Full Retirement Age	\$22,320/yr.	\$1 for every \$2
The Year Full Retirement Age is Reached	\$59,520/yr. before month of full retirement age	\$1 for every \$3
Month of Full Retirement Age and Above	No Limit	No Limit

**Retirement Earnings Test Calculator:**  
**[ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/RTeffect.html](https://ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/RTeffect.html)**



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# What Income Counts Towards the Earnings Test Limits



## Income that Counts as Earnings



**Gross wages from employment  
and/or net earnings from self employment**

## Income that Does NOT Count as Earnings

Inheritance payments

Interest and dividends

Pensions

Capital gains

Income from investments

Other sources



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# Taxation of Social Security Benefits



If you:

**file a federal tax return as an "individual"** and your *combined income*\* is

- between \$25,000 and \$34,000, you may have to pay income tax on up to 50 percent of your benefits.
- more than \$34,000, up to 85 percent of your benefits may be taxable.



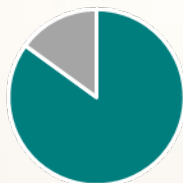
**file a joint return**, and you and your spouse have a *combined income*\* that is

- between \$32,000 and \$44,000, you may have to pay income tax on up to 50 percent of your benefits
- more than \$44,000, up to 85 percent of your benefits may be taxable.



**are married and file a separate tax return**, you probably will pay taxes on your benefits.

Your adjusted gross income  
+ Nontaxable interest  
+  $\frac{1}{2}$  of your Social Security benefits  
= Your "**combined income**"



No one pays federal income tax on more than 85 percent of his or her Social Security benefits, based on Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules

Visit [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) and search for Publication 554, *Tax Guide for Seniors*, and Publication 915, *Social Security And Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits*



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# The Windfall Elimination Provision (1983)

- Before 1983, people whose primary job wasn't covered by Social Security had their Social Security benefits calculated as if they were long-term, low-wage workers.
- They had the advantage of receiving a Social Security benefit representing a higher percentage of their earnings, plus a pension from a job for which they didn't pay Social Security taxes.
- Congress passed the Windfall Elimination Provision in 1983 to remove that advantage.

[ssa.gov/planners/retire/wep.html](https://ssa.gov/planners/retire/wep.html)



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# Normal Benefit Computation Example

If your average indexed monthly earnings (AIME) = \$2,500  
 Then your monthly benefit would be = \$1,446

<b>90% of First \$1,115</b>	<b>\$1,115</b>	<b>= \$1,003.50</b>
<b>32% of earnings between \$1,115 and \$6,721 (\$2,500 - \$1,115 = \$1,385)</b>	<b>\$1,385</b>	<b>= \$443.20</b>
<b>15% of Earnings over \$6,721</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total monthly benefit</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$1,446.70</b>



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# Exception to the WEP

Years of Substantial Earnings	% of First Factor in Benefit Formula
30 or more	90
29	85
28	80
27	75
26	70
25	65
24	60
23	55
22	50
21	45
20 or fewer	40



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# WEP Benefit Computation Example

If your average indexed monthly earnings (AIME) = \$2,500

Then your monthly benefit would be = \$1,446 **\$889**

<b>90% 40% of First \$1,115</b>	<b>\$1,115</b>	<b>= \$1,003.50</b> <b>\$446.00</b>
<b>32% of earnings between \$1,115 and \$6,721</b> <b>(\$2,500 - \$1,115 = \$1,385)</b>	<b>\$1,385</b>	<b>= \$443.20</b>
<b>15% of earnings over \$6,721</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total monthly benefit</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b><del>\$1446.70</del></b> <b>\$889.20</b>



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# Government Pension Offset

- A type of benefit reduction that may affect some spouses and widows or widowers
- If you receive a government pension based on work not covered by Social Security, your SS spouse's or widow(er)'s benefits may be reduced.



[socialsecurity.gov/gpo](https://www.socialsecurity.gov/gpo)



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# Government Pension Offset

2/3 of amount of non-covered pension will be used to reduce the Social Security spouse's/widow(er)'s benefits.

## Examples:

\$1200 Non-covered Pension

$2/3 = \$800$

If Social Security spouse's or widow(er)'s benefit = \$750,  
no benefit payable due to offset

If Social Security spouse's or widow(er)'s benefit = \$1000,  
\$200 would be payable after offset

[socialsecurity.gov/gpo](https://www.socialsecurity.gov/gpo)



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# WEP/GPO Comparison Chart

WEP	GPO
<p>Applies when you have 40 credits plus a non-covered pension and you're filing for <b>retirement or disability benefits</b></p>	<p>Applies when you are receiving a non-covered pension and filing for <b>spouses, widows or widower's benefits</b></p>
<p>Would never reduce a benefit to zero</p>	<p>Could reduce to zero</p>
<p>Change in computation</p>	<p>Offset</p>



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# Medicare

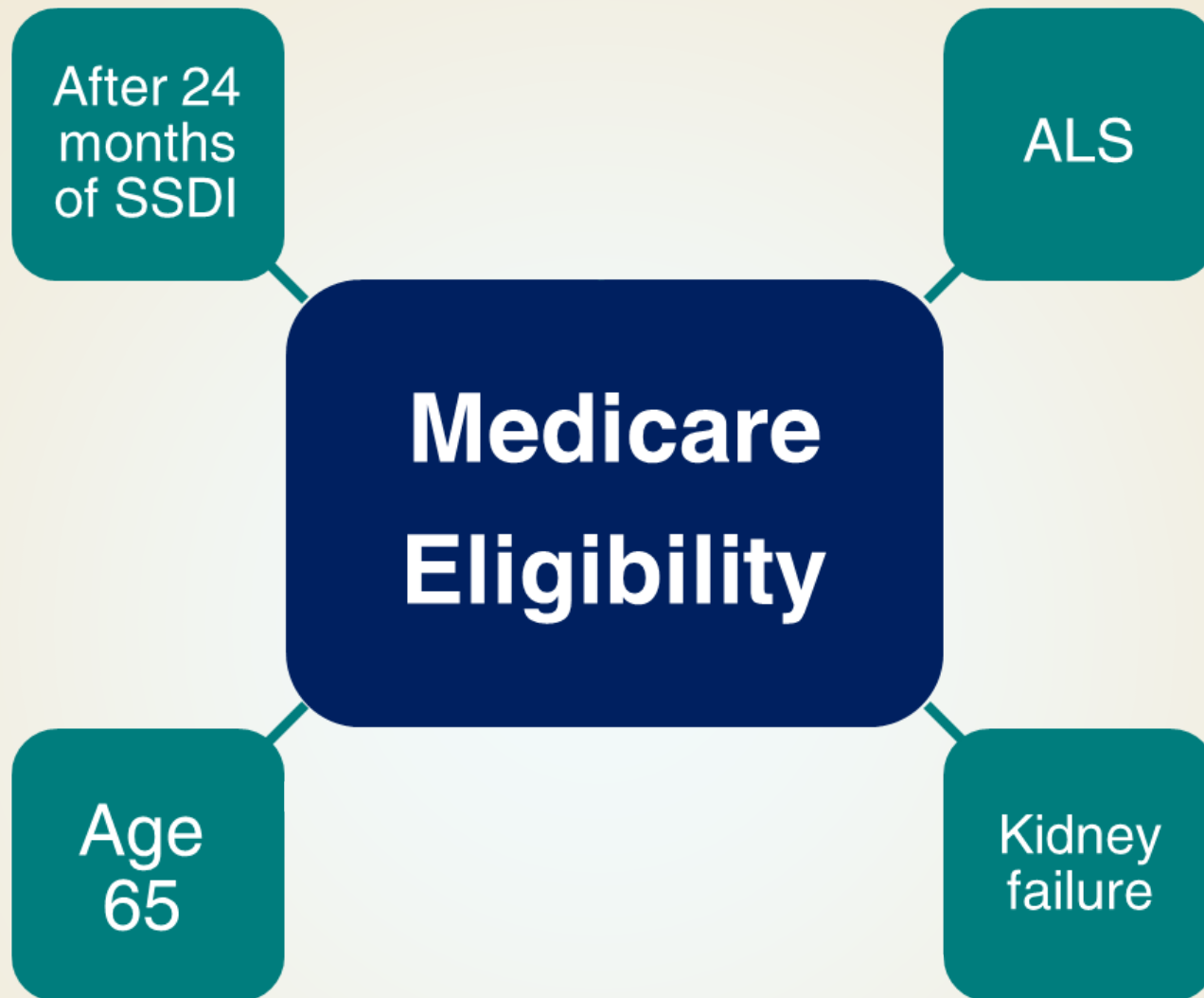
Original Medicare	Medicare Advantage (aka Part C)
Part A (Hospital Insurance) Part B (Medical Insurance)	Part A (Hospital Insurance) Part B (Medical Insurance)
<b>You can add:</b> Part D (Prescription Drug Plan)	<b>Most plans include:</b> Part D (Prescription Drug Plan) Extra Benefits (e.g., vision, hearing, dental, and more)
<b>You can also add:</b> Supplemental insurance coverage (Medigap)	<b>Some plans also include:</b> Lower out-of-pocket costs

**[Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov)**



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## Initial Enrollment Period

Begins 3 months before your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday and ends 3 months after that birthday

# Medicare Enrollment

## General Enrollment Period

January 1 – March 31

## Special Enrollment Period

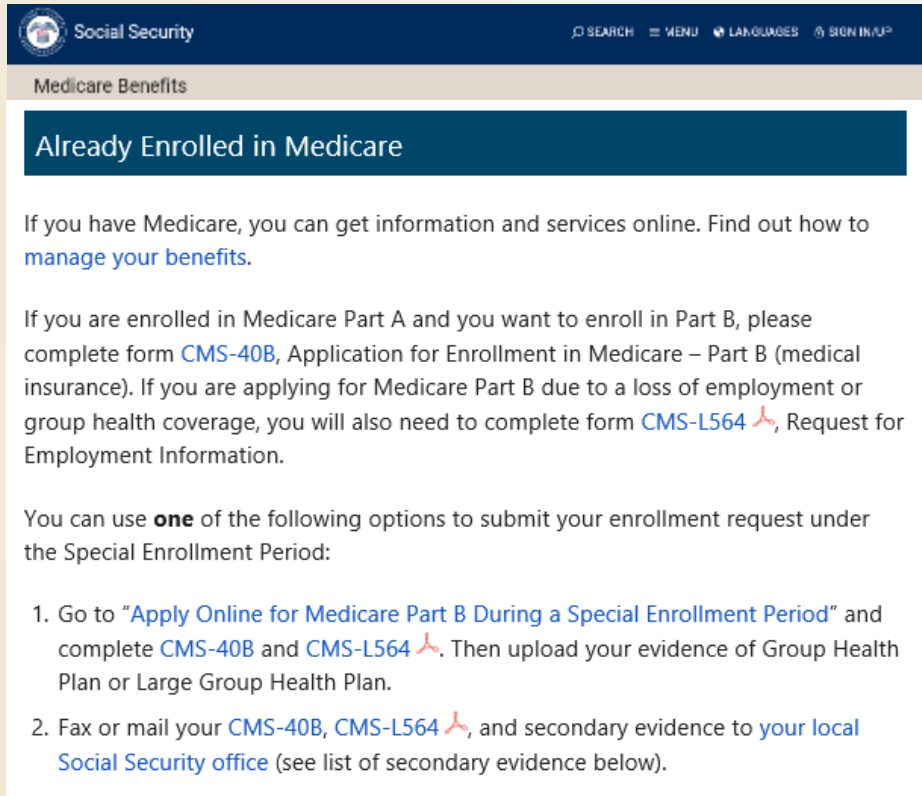
If 65 or older, you & your spouse are still working, and you are covered under a group health plan



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# Medicare Applications



The screenshot shows the Social Security Administration website. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the Social Security logo on the left and navigation links for SEARCH, MENU, LANGUAGES, and SIGN IN/UP on the right. Below the header is a light blue bar with the text "Medicare Benefits". Underneath is a dark blue bar with the text "Already Enrolled in Medicare". The main content area is white and contains the following text:

If you have Medicare, you can get information and services online. Find out how to [manage your benefits](#).

If you are enrolled in Medicare Part A and you want to enroll in Part B, please complete form [CMS-40B](#), Application for Enrollment in Medicare – Part B (medical insurance). If you are applying for Medicare Part B due to a loss of employment or group health coverage, you will also need to complete form [CMS-L564](#), Request for Employment Information.

You can use **one** of the following options to submit your enrollment request under the Special Enrollment Period:

1. Go to "[Apply Online for Medicare Part B During a Special Enrollment Period](#)" and complete [CMS-40B](#) and [CMS-L564](#). Then upload your evidence of Group Health Plan or Large Group Health Plan.
2. Fax or mail your [CMS-40B](#), [CMS-L564](#), and secondary evidence to [your local Social Security office](#) (see list of secondary evidence below).

- If you already have Medicare Part A and wish to add Medicare Part B, complete the online application, or fax or mail completed forms CMS-40B and CMS-L564 to your local Social Security office.

[ssa.gov/benefits/medicare](https://ssa.gov/benefits/medicare)



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# Medicare Standard Part B Premiums for 2024

If you're single and file an individual tax return, or married and file a joint tax return:

Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)	Part B monthly premium amount	Prescription drug plan monthly premium amount
Individuals with a MAGI of \$103,000 or less Married couples with a MAGI of \$206,000 or less	2024 standard premium = \$174.70	Your plan premium + \$0
Individuals with a MAGI above \$103,000 up to \$129,000 Married couples with a MAGI above \$206,000 up to \$258,000	Standard premium + \$69.90	Your plan premium + \$12.90
Individuals with a MAGI above \$129,000 up to \$161,000 Married couples with a MAGI above \$258,000 up to \$322,000	Standard premium + \$174.70	Your plan premium + \$33.30
Individuals with a MAGI above \$161,000 up to \$193,000 Married couples with a MAGI above \$322,000 up to \$386,000	Standard premium + \$279.50	Your plan premium + \$53.80
Individuals with a MAGI above \$193,000 up to \$500,000 Married couples with a MAGI above \$386,000 up to \$750,000	Standard premium + \$384.30	Your plan premium + \$74.20
Individuals with a MAGI equal to or greater than \$500,000 Married couples with a MAGI equal to or greater than \$750,000	Standard premium + \$419.30	Your plan premium + \$81.00



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# A Qualifying Life-Changing Event May Reduce Monthly Part B/D Premiums

Form SSA-44 (11-2019)

Page 2 of 8

## STEP 1: Type of Life-Changing Event

Check **ONE** life-changing event and fill in the date that the event occurred (mm/dd/yyyy). If you had more than one life-changing event, please call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Marriage

Work Reduction

Divorce/Annulment

Loss of Income-Producing Property

Death of Your Spouse

Loss of Pension Income

Work Stoppage

Employer Settlement Payment

Date of life-changing event:

mm/dd/yyyy

[ssa.gov/forms/ssa-44-ext.pdf](https://ssa.gov/forms/ssa-44-ext.pdf)



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# Medicare.gov

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) ▾

Medicare.gov

[Basics](#) ▾

[Health & Drug Plans](#) ▾

[Providers & Services](#) ▾

[Home](#) > [Basics](#) > Get started with Medicare

## Get started with Medicare

Medicare is health insurance for people 65 or older. You're first eligible to sign up for Medicare 3 months before you turn 65. You may be eligible to get Medicare earlier if you have a disability, End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), or ALS (also called Lou Gehrig's disease).

Follow these steps to learn about Medicare, how to sign up, and your coverage options. Learn about it at your own pace.



Step 1

### [Medicare basics](#)

Start here. Learn the parts of Medicare, how it works, and what it costs.

[Parts of Medicare](#)

Step 2

### [Sign up](#)

First, you'll sign up for Parts A and B. Find out when and how to sign up, and when coverage starts.

[When to Sign Up](#)

Step 3

### [Get more coverage](#)

Then, review your options for more coverage, when and how to get it, and browse plans.

[Coverage Options](#)

Step 4

### [Using Medicare](#)

When you're ready, find out how to get services and ways we can help you.

[Your Medicare Card](#)

## Create an account at [Medicare.gov](#)



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 [What should I do if I get a call claiming there's a problem with my Social Security number or account?](#)



Social Security

Benefits ▼

Medicare ▼

Card & record ▼

Search SSA.gov



Español

Sign in

## Securing your **today** and **tomorrow**



### Prepare

Check eligibility for benefits

Plan for retirement



### Apply

Apply for benefits

Sign up for Medicare

### After you apply

Check application or appeal status

Appeal application decision

Feedback

## Manage benefits & information



### Documents

Get benefit verification letter

Get tax form (1099/1042s)



### Number & card

Replace card

Request number for the first time

Report stolen number



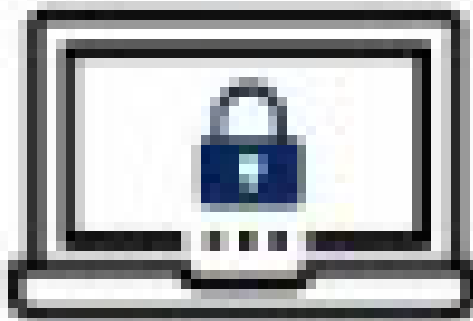
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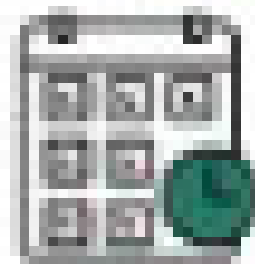
# my Social Security

## my Social Security

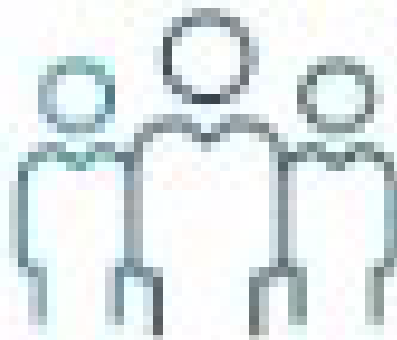
PLAN FOR  
YOUR FUTURE



MANAGE  
THE PRESENT



ANYWHERE  
ON ANY DEVICE



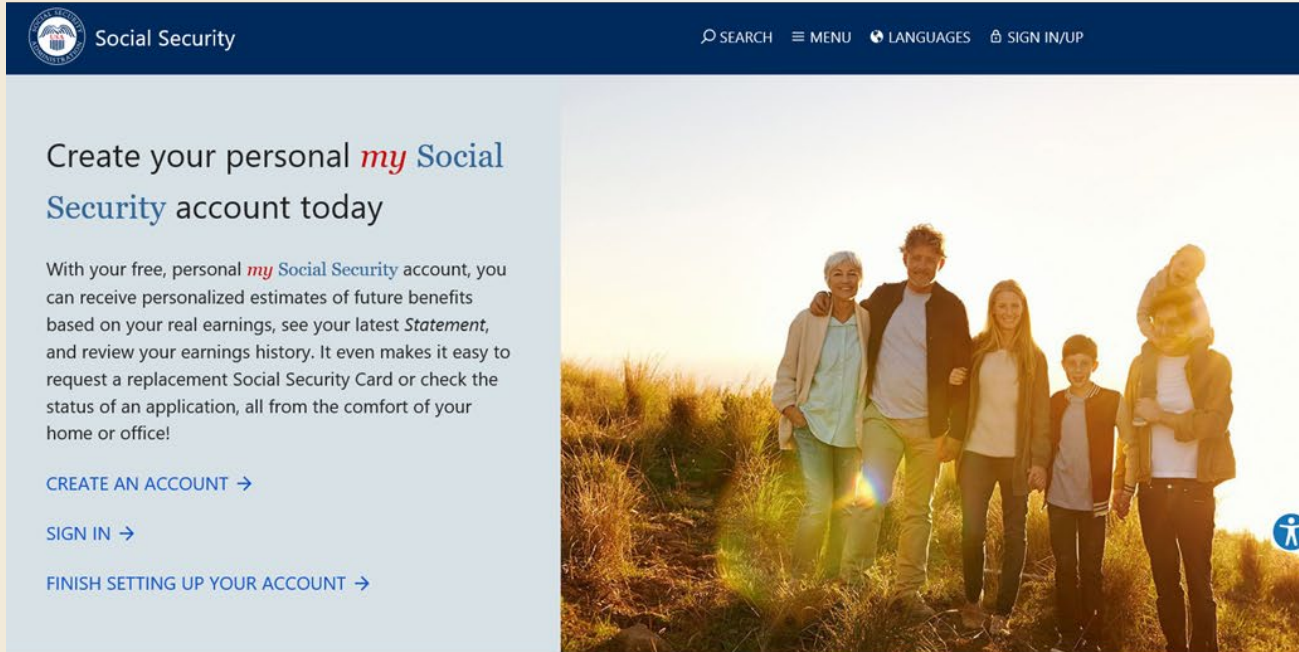
IS FOR EVERYONE



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# my Social Security



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SEARCH MENU LANGUAGES SIGN IN/UP

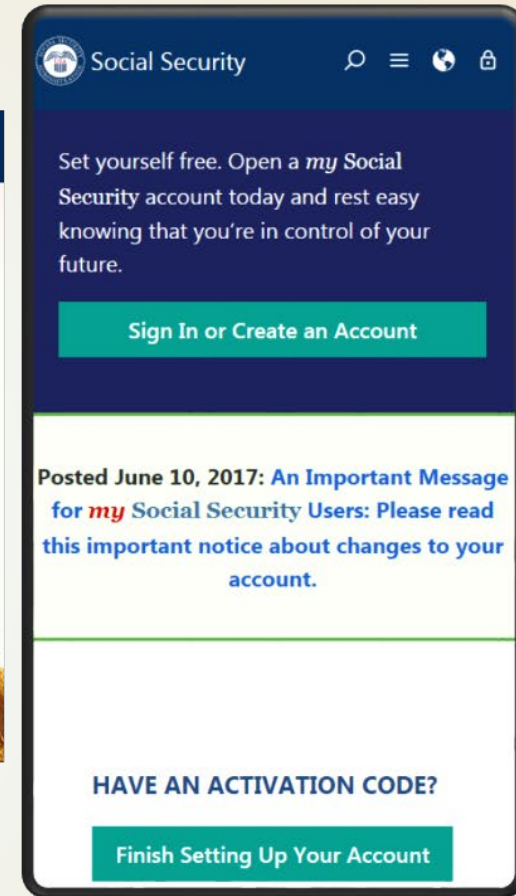

## Create your personal *my* Social Security account today

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 →](#)



Social Security

Set yourself free. Open a *my* Social Security account today and rest easy knowing that you're in control of your future.

[Sign In or Create an Account](#)

Posted June 10, 2017: **An Important Message for *my* Social Security Users: Please read this important notice about changes to your account.**

**HAVE AN ACTIVATION CODE?**

[Finish Setting Up Your Account](#)

[ssa.gov/myaccount](https://ssa.gov/myaccount)



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# Your Social Security Statement

WANDA WORKER

October 2, 2021

### Retirement Benefits

You have earned enough credits to qualify for retirement benefits. To qualify for benefits, you earn "credits" through your work — up to four each year. Your full retirement age is 67, based on your date of birth: April 10, 1960. As shown in the chart, you can start your benefits at any time between ages 62 and 70. **For each month you wait to start your benefits, your monthly benefit will be higher—for the rest of your life.**

These personalized estimates are based on your earnings to date and assume you continue to earn \$51,995 per year until you start your benefits. To learn more about retirement benefits, visit [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/learn.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/learn.html).

### Disability Benefits

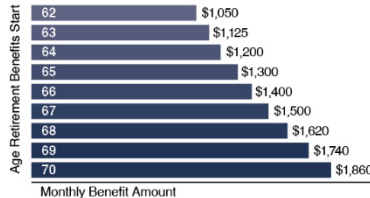
You have earned enough credits to qualify for disability benefits. If you became disabled right now, your monthly payment would be about **\$1,656 a month**.

### Survivors Benefits

You have earned enough credits for your eligible family members to receive survivors benefits. If you die this year, members of your family who may qualify for monthly benefits include:

Minor child:	<b>\$2,129</b>
Spouse, if caring for a disabled child or child younger than age 16:	<b>\$2,129</b>
Spouse, if benefits start at full retirement age:	<b>\$2,838</b>
Total family benefits cannot be more than:	<b>\$4,968</b>
Your spouse or minor child may be eligible for an additional one-time death benefit of \$255.	

### Personalized Monthly Retirement Benefit Estimates (Depending on the Age You Start)



### Medicare

You have enough credits to qualify for Medicare at age 65. Medicare is the federal health insurance program for:

- people age 65 and older,
- under 65 with certain disabilities, and
- people of any age with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant).

Even if you do not retire at age 65, you may need to sign up for Medicare within 3 months of your 65th birthday to **avoid a lifetime late enrollment penalty**. Special rules may apply if you are covered by certain group health plans through work.

For more information about Medicare, visit [medicare.gov](https://medicare.gov) or [ssa.gov/medicare](https://ssa.gov/medicare) or call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** (TTY 1-877-486-2048).

### Earnings Record

Review your earnings history below to ensure it is accurate. This is important because we base your future benefits on our record of your earnings. There's a limit to the amount of earnings you pay Social Security taxes on each year. Earnings above the limit do not appear on your earnings record. We have combined your earlier years of earnings, but you can view them online with [my Social Security](https://my.ssa.gov). **If you find an error view your full earnings record online and call 1-800-772-1213.**

Work Year	Earnings Taxed for Social Security	Earnings Taxed for Medicare (began 1966)
1971-1980	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
1981-1990	41,250	41,250
1991-2000	257,712	257,712
2001	34,915	34,915
2002	35,591	35,591
2003	36,717	36,717
2004	38,686	38,686
2005	40,325	40,325
2006	42,315	42,315
2007	44,346	44,346
2008	45,437	45,437
2009	44,784	44,784
2010	45,847	45,847
2011	47,146	47,146
2012	48,349	48,349
2013	48,606	48,606
2014	49,860	49,860
2015	50,850	50,850
2016	50,158	50,158
2017	50,440	50,440
2018	50,653	50,653
2019	50,957	50,957
2020	51,995	51,995
2021	Not yet recorded	

### Taxes Paid

Total estimated Social Security and Medicare taxes paid over your working career based on your Earnings Record:

<b>Social Security taxes</b>	<b>Medicare taxes</b>
You paid: \$34,288	You paid: \$19,396
Employer(s): \$36,003	Employer(s): \$19,396

### Earnings Not Covered by Social Security

**You may also have earnings from work not covered by Social Security.** This work may have been for federal, state, or local government or in a foreign country.

If you participate in a retirement plan or receive a pension based on work for which you did not pay Social Security tax, it could lower your benefits. To find out more, visit [ssa.gov/gpo-wep](https://ssa.gov/gpo-wep).

### Important Things to Know about Your Social Security Benefits

- Social Security benefits are not intended to be your only source of retirement income. You may need other savings, investments, pensions, or retirement accounts to make sure you have enough money when you retire.
- You need at least 10 years of work (40 credits) to qualify for retirement benefits. Your benefit amount is based on your highest 35 years of earnings. If you have fewer than 35 years of earnings, years without work count as 0 and may reduce your benefit amount.
- We use cost of living adjustments so your benefits will keep up with inflation.
- The age you claim benefits will affect the benefit amount for your surviving spouse.
- If you get retirement or disability benefits, your spouse and children also may qualify for benefits.
- If you are divorced and were married for 10 years, you may be able to claim benefits on your ex-spouse's record. If your divorced spouse receives benefits on your record, that does not affect your or your current spouse's benefit amounts.
- When you apply for either retirement or spousal benefits, you may be required to apply for the other benefit as well.
- For more information about benefits for you and your family, visit [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html).
- When you are ready to apply, visit us at [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/apply.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/apply.html).
- The *Statement* is updated annually. It is available upon request, either online or by mail.

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Form SSA-7005-SM-OL (05/21)



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# Fact Sheet for Workers Ages 49-60



## Retirement Ready

Fact Sheet For Workers Ages 49 -60

[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

### Retirement is different for everyone

Retirement means different things to different people. Because retirement is not one-size-fits-all, we want to provide you with the information you need to plan for retirement and to make informed decisions. This document will help.

### Earnings are essential

Use your *Social Security Statement* to check your earnings each year. These earnings are used to determine your eligibility for Social Security benefits and your benefit amount. If you see an error on your earnings record, report it to us. Learn how at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf).

### You will soon have choices to make

Once you turn 62, you will have important decisions to make. Some of these decisions may involve your Social Security retirement benefits. You can continue to work, apply for benefits, do both, or do neither. Each choice comes with important considerations for you and your family. Learn about them at [www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/matrix.html](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/matrix.html).

Retirement Choices	Continue Working	Stop Working
Claim Benefits	Continue working and will receive retirement benefits	Stop working and will receive retirement benefits
Not Claim Benefits	Continue working and not claim retirement benefits now	Stop working and not claim retirement benefits now

### Benefits last as long as you live

Your benefits last as long as you live. Your full retirement age is 67. Taking benefits before your full retirement age (as early as age 62) lowers the amount you get each month for the rest of your life. Delaying benefits past your full retirement age (up to age 70) increases the monthly amount for the rest of your life. Our Life Expectancy Calculator can make a rough estimate of how long you might live based on your age and gender: [www.ssa.gov/planners/lifeexpectancy.html](http://www.ssa.gov/planners/lifeexpectancy.html).

### Working while getting benefits

If you get retirement benefits but want to continue to work, you can. However, depending on how much you earn before full retirement age, we might temporarily withhold some or all of your benefit amount. When you reach full retirement age, we will recalculate your benefit amount to give you credit for the months we reduced or withheld benefits due to your excess earnings. Any earnings after you reach your full retirement age won't reduce your benefits. Get the specifics about these Retirement Earnings Tests at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10069.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10069.pdf).

### Work may boost your benefits

Your earnings can increase your monthly benefit amount — even after you start receiving benefits. Each year, we check your earnings record. If your latest year of earnings turns out to be one of your highest 35 years, we will automatically recalculate your benefit amount and pay you any increase due. You can get additional estimates based on what you think your future earnings will be with the *my* Social Security Retirement Calculator at [myaccount.socialsecurity.gov](http://myaccount.socialsecurity.gov).

### Some benefits are taxed

You may have to pay federal income taxes on a portion of your Social Security benefits if your total income is above a certain amount. Learn more at [www.ssa.gov/planners/taxes.html](http://www.ssa.gov/planners/taxes.html).

### Saving for retirement

Social Security is not meant to be your only source of income in retirement. You will likely need other savings, investments, pensions, or retirement accounts to live comfortably in retirement. On average, Social Security will replace about 40 percent of your annual pre-retirement earnings, although this can vary substantially based on each person's circumstances. There are many ways to save for retirement. Here are some things to consider.

- Contribute to retirement accounts such as 401(k)s and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).
- Take advantage of "catch-up" rules that let workers age 50 and older contribute an extra amount annually to a 401(k) and an IRA.
- Keep in mind that if you withdraw from or cash out your 401(k) or IRA before age 59½, you will usually pay an early withdrawal penalty.

Learn more about how to save at [www.savingmatters.dol.gov/employees.htm#7](http://www.savingmatters.dol.gov/employees.htm#7).

### Social Security will be there when you retire

The Social Security taxes you pay go into the Social Security Trust Funds that are used to pay benefits to current beneficiaries. The Social Security Board of Trustees estimates that, based on current law, the Trust Funds will be able to pay benefits in full and on time until 2035. In 2035, Social Security would still be able to pay about \$790 for every \$1,000 in benefits scheduled. Learn more at [www.ssa.gov/people/materials/pdfs/EN-05-10229.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/people/materials/pdfs/EN-05-10229.pdf).

### Unable to work due to a mental or physical disability

A disability can occur at any age. If you are unable to work due to a mental or physical disability, and if you meet certain eligibility requirements, you may be able to receive Social Security disability benefits. Learn more at [www.ssa.gov/disability](http://www.ssa.gov/disability).

### Benefits for family members

Your family, including your spouse, former spouses, and dependent children, may qualify for benefits on your record. Find out more about benefits for your family at [www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html).

Your family may also be eligible for survivors benefits. If you are the higher earning spouse, your decision on when to claim benefits can affect the benefits of your surviving spouse. Find out more about survivors benefits at [www.ssa.gov/planners/survivors](http://www.ssa.gov/planners/survivors).

### Benefits as a spouse

If you are married, divorced, or widowed, you may be eligible for higher benefits on your spouse's record. When you apply for either retirement or spousal benefits, you may be required to apply for the other benefit as well. Find out more about spousal benefits at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10035.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10035.pdf).

### Impact of other retirement plans

Most pensions or other retirement plans do not affect your Social Security benefits. But if you participate in a retirement plan or receive a pension based on work for which you did not pay Social Security tax, it could lower your benefits. Learn more at [www.ssa.gov/gpo-wep](http://www.ssa.gov/gpo-wep).

### We are here for you

Social Security covers about 96 percent of American workers. To learn more about Social Security and what it means to you, visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).



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### When you're retirement ready...

The easiest and most convenient way to apply for retirement benefits is at [www.ssa.gov/applyforbenefits](http://www.ssa.gov/applyforbenefits).

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# How to Apply for Benefits



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

- If you are disabled, you can file for Retirement and Disability with same application if you are at least 62 but not yet FRA.
- 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.***



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# Questions?



If you have questions,  
a valuable resource on our website  
is our “FAQs”

or

Call Social Security toll-free at

1-800-772-1213

TTY 1-800-325-0778

7 am – 7 pm Monday – Friday  
Automated Phone Service 24/7



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# Thank You!



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