



# Social Security - County Of Ventura Employees





Before the presentation starts, please use your smartphone to create your personal *my* Social Security account at [ssa.gov/myaccount](https://ssa.gov/myaccount) or scan the QR code below.

To create an account, you must:



Be at least 18 years of age



Have a Social Security number



Have an email address



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# On Today's Agenda

- Retirement Insurance Benefits
- Spousal Benefits
- Survivor Benefits
- Disability Benefits
- GoDigital! MySSA



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# We Wouldn't Miss Your Retirement Party



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# Who Pays for Social Security?



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# What is FICA?

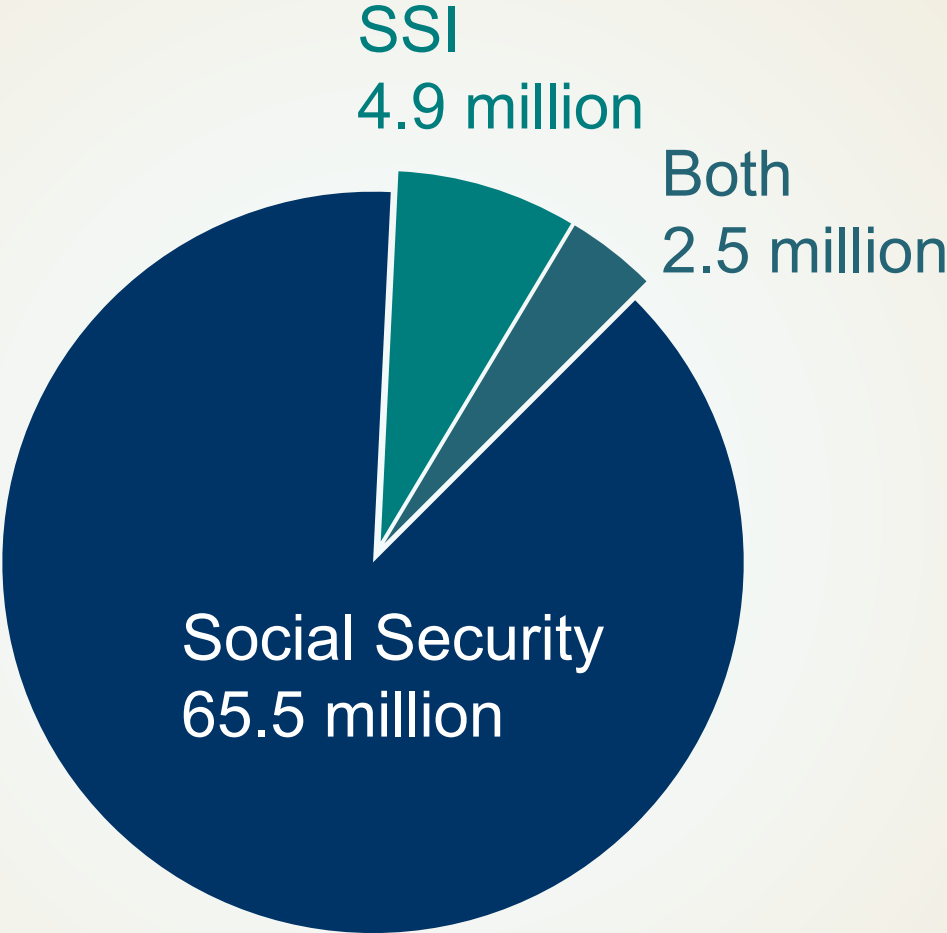
- Stands for Federal Insurance Contributions Act
  - May show on paycheck as OASDI or Social Security
- Federal payroll tax deducted from workers' paychecks, matched by employer, and reported by employer to IRS
- Total FICA tax = 15.3% of gross wages. You and your employer each pay 7.65%
  - 6.2% for Social Security
  - 1.45% for Medicare
- FICA taxes help fund Social Security retirement, disability, survivor benefits and Medicare health insurance



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# Social Security Program Beneficiaries

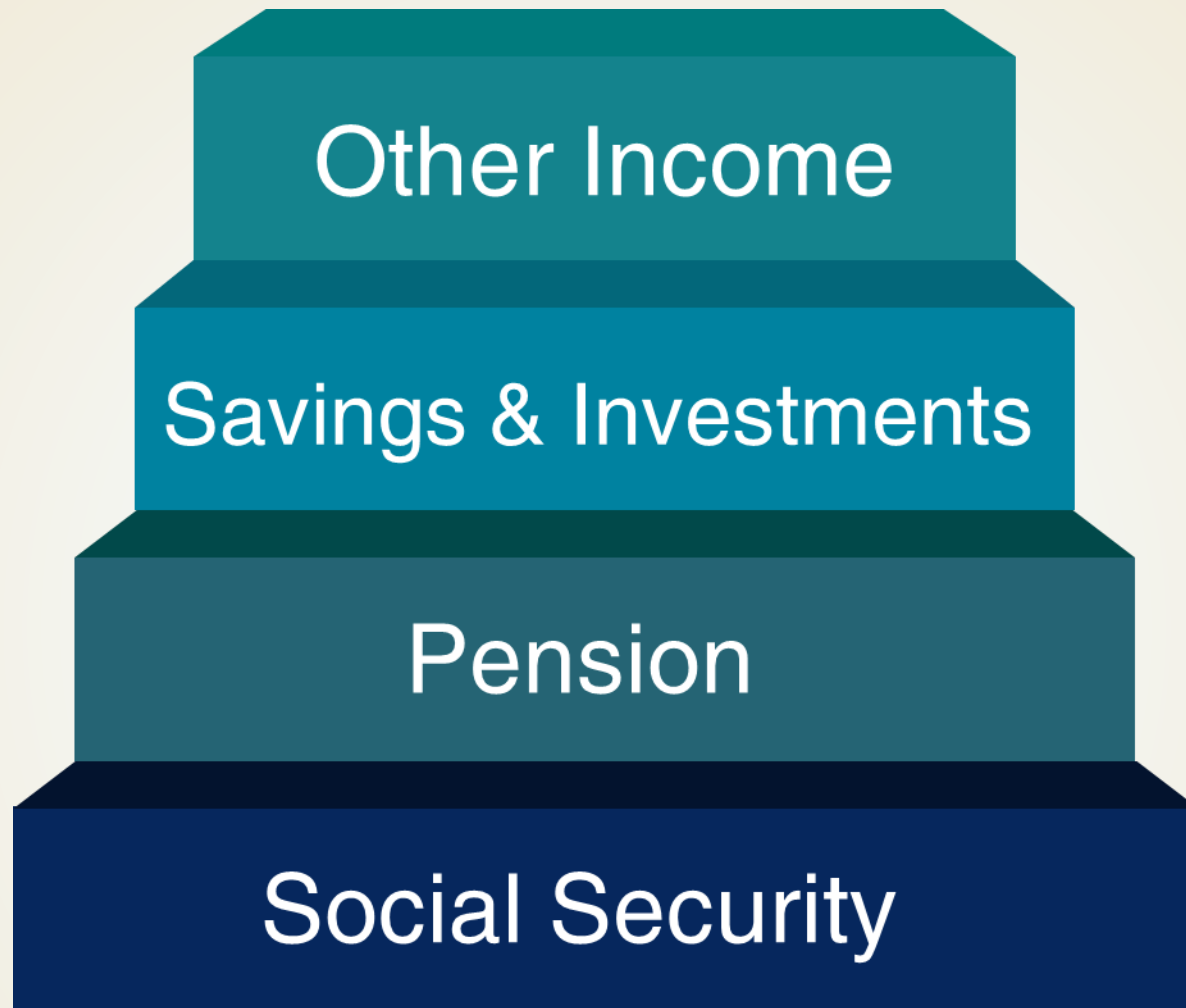


December 2024



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# How Do You Become Eligible 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
- In 2026, each \$1,890 in earnings gives you one credit
- You can earn a maximum of 4 credits per year

***Note: To earn 4 credits in 2026, you must earn at least \$7,560.***

**[ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/credits.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/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”

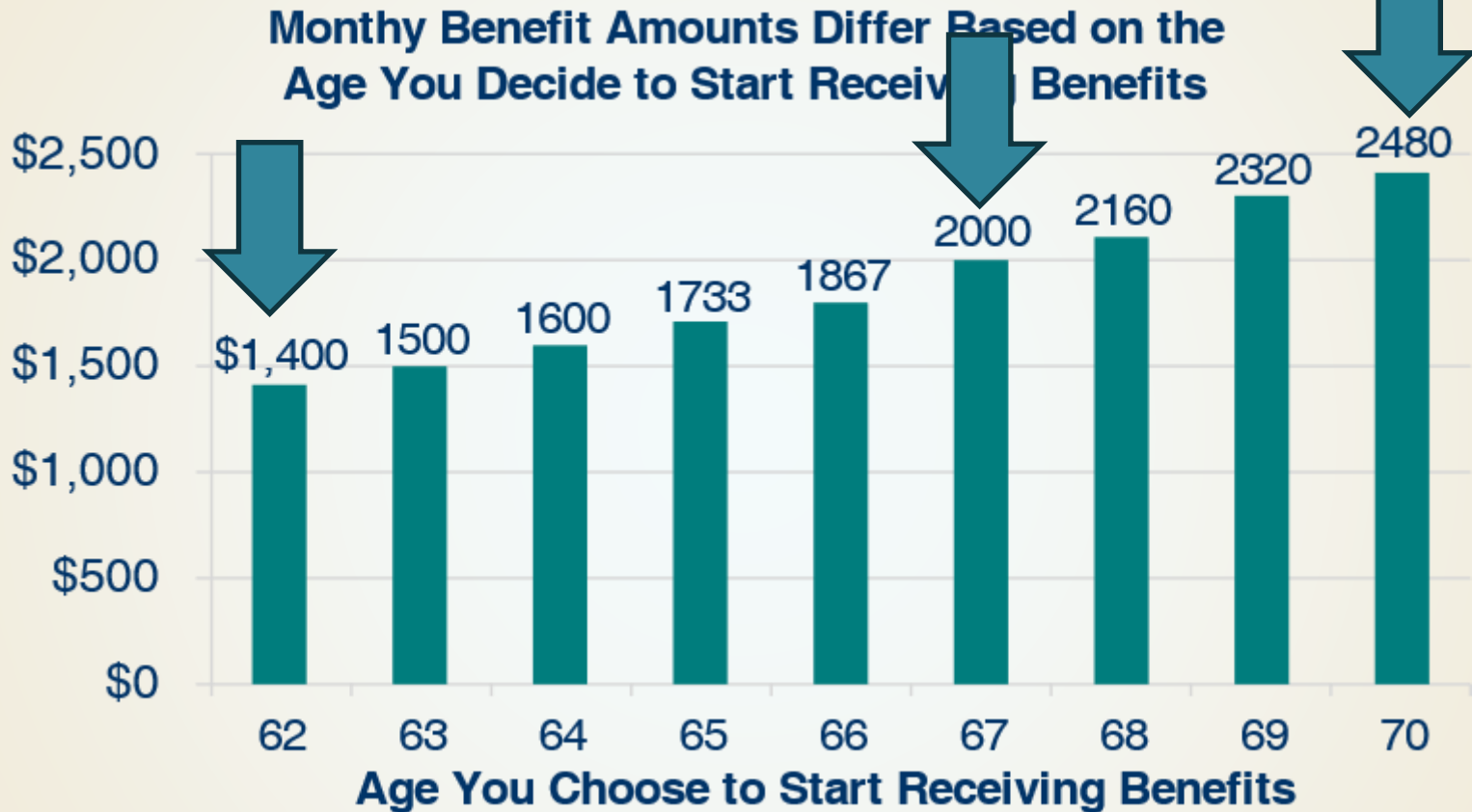
[ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/Benefits.html](https://ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/Benefits.html)



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



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



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# Benefit Reduction for Early Retirement

Year of Birth	Full Retirement Age	A \$1000 retirement benefit taken at age 62 would be reduced by	A \$500 spouse benefit taken at age 62 would be reduced by
1943-1954	66	25%	30%
1955	66 and 2 months	25.83%	30.83%
1956	66 and 4 months	26.67%	31.67%
1957	66 and 6 months	27.5%	32.5%
1958	66 and 8 months	28.33%	33.33%
1959	66 and 10 months	29.17%	34.17%
1960 +	67	30%	35%

[ssa.gov/oact/quickcalc/earlyretire.html](https://ssa.gov/oact/quickcalc/earlyretire.html)



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# *my* Social Security

- View retirement benefit estimates at different ages or dates when you want to start receiving benefits.
- Estimates are available if:
  - You have enough Social Security credits at this time to be eligible for benefits **and**
  - You are **not**:
    - Currently receiving benefits on your own Social Security record;
    - Waiting for a decision about your application for benefits or Medicare;
    - or**
    - Age 62 or older and receiving benefits on another Social Security record.



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# Working While Receiving Benefits

If you are	In 2026, you can earn up to	If you earn more, some benefits will be withheld
Under Full Retirement Age	\$24,480/yr.	\$1 for every \$2 earned above the limit
The Year Full Retirement Age is Reached	\$65,160/yr. before month of full retirement age	\$1 for every \$3 earned above the limit
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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# For People Younger Than Full Retirement Age During 2026

If your monthly Social Security Benefit is	And you earn	You'll receive yearly benefits of
\$700	\$24,480 or less	\$8,400
\$700	\$25,000	\$8,140
\$700	\$27,000	\$7,140

*Note: Chart above for illustrative purposes only*



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# What is the Social Security Fairness Act?

The Social Security Fairness Act (Act) was signed into law on January 5, 2025.

The Act ends the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). This law increases Social Security benefits for certain types of workers, including some:

- teachers, firefighters, and police officers in many states;
- federal employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System; and
- people whose work had been covered by a foreign social security system.

To learn more below about the steps the Social Security Administration is taking to implement the law, visit:

**[ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html)**



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# Medicare



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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 Coverage)	<b>Most plans include:</b> Part D (Prescription Drug Coverage) 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 and covered under a group health plan based on your – or your spouse’s – current work.



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# Medicare Card



Your card will have a Medicare number that's unique to you, instead of your Social Security number. This will help to protect your identity.



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# Spouse Benefits



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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, benefits will be combined to equal 50% of the higher amount.
- Does not reduce payment to the worker
- Benefit is unreduced if claiming spouse is caring for the worker's child who is under age 16 or who has a disability
- Spouse benefits are not payable until worker collects

**[ssa.gov/family](https://ssa.gov/family)**



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# Spousal Benefit Reduction Based on Retirement Age

Year of Birth	Full Retirement Age	A \$1000 retirement benefit taken at age 62 would be reduced by	A \$500 spouse benefit taken at age 62 would be reduced by
1943-1954	66	25%	30%
1955	66 and 2 months	25.83%	30.83%
1956	66 and 4 months	26.67%	31.67%
1957	66 and 6 months	27.5%	32.5%
1958	66 and 8 months	28.33%	33.33%
1959	66 and 10 months	29.17%	34.17%
1960 +	67	30%	35%



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# Benefits for Divorced Spouses

You may receive benefits on your former spouse's record (even if they have 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/family/eligibility](https://ssa.gov/family/eligibility)



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# Survivors Benefits

When you pass away, your surviving spouse may:

- Claim survivors benefits as early as age 50 if they have a disability, otherwise any age between 60 and full retirement age;
- At age 60, receive 71.5% of your full benefit
- At full retirement age, receive 100% of your unreduced benefit.



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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/survivor/eligibility](https://ssa.gov/survivor/eligibility)**



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# Disability



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# Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

## What is it?

SSDI provides a monthly benefit 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 be eligible 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

**[ssa.gov/disability](https://www.ssa.gov/disability)**



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# Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

## What is it?

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

**[ssa.gov/SSI](https://ssa.gov/SSI)**



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# Disability Evaluation Under Social Security

*Also known as “The Social Security Blue Book”*

- Helps physicians and other health professionals gain an understanding of the disability programs administered by the Social Security Administration.
- Explains how each program works, and the information health professionals can furnish to help make sound and prompt determinations and decisions on disability claims.
- Lists specific criteria under which claimants who have a disability can be eligible for Social Security disability benefits.

**[ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook](https://ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook)**



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# Disagree With The Medical Decision?

If you were recently denied for Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income, you can appeal the decision within 60 days of the date on your decision notice.

**[ssa.gov/apply/appeal-decision-we-made](https://ssa.gov/apply/appeal-decision-we-made)**



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# GO!

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# Your most-needed services, online

With a secure my Social Security account, you can get services and manage your benefits – anywhere, anytime.

Sign in or create an account



### Get a benefits estimate

Sign in to calculate your benefits estimate.

### Apply for benefits

Apply for Retirement, Disability, or other benefits online.

### Check your status

See where you are in your application or appeal process.

### Replace your card

Find the best way to replace your card.

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## Life events



### Age milestones

Approaching age 65 (Medicare eligibility)

Approaching Retirement

Becoming an adult



### Health changes

Disability, injury, or illness

Staying at a medical facility

Need help managing money



### Legal status changes

Naturalization

Change in immigration status

Incarceration



### Personal information changes

Name change

Contact information change

Communication preferences



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# *my* Social Security Services

If you receive benefits or have Medicare, you can:

- Opt out of mailed notices for those available online
- Request a replacement Social Security card if you meet certain requirements
- Report your wages if you work and receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits
- Get a benefit verification letter as proof that you are getting benefits
- Check your earnings record, benefit, and payment information
- Update your contact information
- Start or change direct deposit of your benefit payment (Social Security beneficiaries only)
- Submit your advance designation of representative payee request\*
- Request a replacement Medicare card
- Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S for tax season
- Complete the Medical Continuing Disability Review Report (SSA-454)

**[ssa.gov/myaccount/what.html](https://ssa.gov/myaccount/what.html)**



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# *my* Social Security Services

If you do not receive benefits, you can:

- View retirement benefit estimates at different ages or dates when you want to start receiving benefits
- View possible spouse's benefits
- Request a replacement Social Security card if you meet certain requirements
- Check the status of your application or appeal
- Get a benefit verification letter as proof that you are not getting benefits
- Get your Social Security *Statement* to:
  - View estimates of your future benefits;
  - Verify your earnings; and
  - View the estimated Social Security and Medicare taxes you've paid

**[ssa.gov/myaccount/what.html](https://ssa.gov/myaccount/what.html)**



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# Sample Social Security Statement



## Your Social Security Statement

WANDA WORKER

April 28, 2025

### 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 5, 1962. 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 \$54,489 per year until you start your benefits. Learn more at [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 and you have enough recent work, your monthly payment would be about **\$2,083**. Learn more at [ssa.gov/disability](https://ssa.gov/disability).

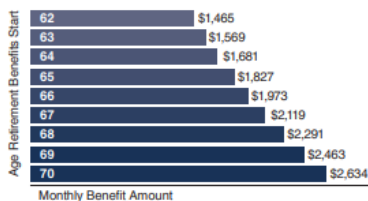
### Survivors Benefits

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: **\$1,562**  
 Spouse, if caring for a disabled child or child younger than age 16: **\$1,562**  
 Spouse, if benefits start at full retirement age: **\$2,083**  
 Total family benefits cannot be more than: **\$3,802**

Your spouse or minor child may be eligible for an additional one-time death benefit of **\$255**. Learn more at [ssa.gov/survivors](https://ssa.gov/survivors).

### 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
- 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 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 below, but you can view your complete earnings record 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	\$ 2,142	\$ 2,142
1981-1990	87,102	87,102
1991-2000	246,069	246,069
2001	34,147	34,147
2002	34,846	34,846
2003	36,021	36,021
2004	38,032	38,032
2005	39,711	39,711
2006	41,829	41,829
2007	43,971	43,971
2008	45,170	45,170
2009	44,603	44,603
2010	45,666	45,847
2011	47,093	47,093
2012	48,560	48,560
2013	49,095	49,095
2014	50,605	50,605
2015	51,996	51,996
2016	52,108	52,108
2017	53,251	53,251
2018	53,966	53,966
2019	54,559	54,559
2020	54,489	54,489
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: \$75,568	You paid: \$18,158
Employer(s): \$77,498	Employer(s): \$18,158

### 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.
- To keep up with inflation, benefits are adjusted through "cost of living adjustments."
- If you get retirement or disability benefits, your spouse and children may qualify for benefits.
- When you apply for either retirement or spousal benefits, you may be required to apply for both benefits at the same time.
- If you and your spouse both work, use the [my Social Security](https://my.ssa.gov) Retirement Calculator to estimate spousal benefits.
- The age you claim benefits will affect the benefit amount for your surviving spouse. For example, claiming benefits after your full retirement age may increase the *Spouse, if benefits start at full retirement age* amount on page 1; claiming early may reduce it.
- 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 ex-spouse receives benefits on your record, that does not affect your or your current spouse's benefit amounts.
- If you receive a pension from earnings not covered by Social Security, your benefits may have been reduced prior to January 2024. The *Social Security Fairness Act* ended the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset. Learn more at [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html).
- Learn more about benefits for you and your family at [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html).
- When you are ready to apply, visit [ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/apply.html](https://ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/apply.html).
- The Statement is updated annually. It is available online, or by mail upon request.

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Form SSA-7005-SM-OL (04/25) | Enclosures: Publication XX-XXXXX, Publication XX-XXXXX



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# How to Open/Sign In to a *my* Social Security Account

1. Visit [ssa.gov/myaccount](https://ssa.gov/myaccount)
2. Select: “Sign In” or “Create an Account”
3. If you already have a Social Security account, select “Sign In” and:
  - Enter your Social Security username and password.
  - Select “yes” if your phone number or email address is valid.
  - Enter the security code you receive by text or email and select the “Submit security code” button.
  - Follow the prompts to create your Login.gov account.
4. To create a new account, select “Create an Account.” You will be directed to Login.gov for next steps.
5. After creating your Login.gov account, you will be directed back to our website where you will provide personal information so we can verify your identity.
6. Complete the registration process using the activation code we send you.
7. You also have the option to use an ID.me account to access Social Security’s online services. If you already have a Login.gov or ID.me account, you do not need to create a new one. Select “Sign in with Login.gov” or “Sign in with ID.me” and follow the prompts.



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# *my* Social Security

You can assist someone in creating a *my* Social Security account if they:

- are with you;
- have their own email address; and
- can answer questions about themselves.

You cannot create a *my* Social Security account on behalf of another person by using another person's information or identity if the beneficiary is not in attendance, even if you have that person's written permission.

For example, you cannot create an account for another person:

- with whom you have a business relationship;
- for whom you are a representative payee; or
- for whom you are an appointed representative.



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# Follow Us on Social Media!



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# Q&A Session



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# Disclaimer

This information is current at the time of the presentation, but Social Security policy is subject to change. Please visit [SSA.gov](https://www.ssa.gov) for up-to-date information on our programs.



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

