GO! DIGITAL

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

To create an account, you must:

- 18 — Be at least 18 years of age
- Have a Social Security number
- Have an email address

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Understanding Social Security Retirement, Spouse & Survivors Benefits

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Note: This event is public. Please do not share any personal information, such as dates of births or social security numbers, about yourself or others during the event.

2

Disclaimer

This information is current at the time of the presentation, but Social Security policy is subject to change. Please visit SSA.gov for up-to-date information on our programs.

Participation in this presentation does not constitute an endorsement, by the SSA or its employees, of the organizations and information and products not provided by SSA.

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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

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Beware of Social Security Phone Scams
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Telephone scammers are pretending to be government employees. They may threaten you and may demand immediate payment to avoid arrest or other legal action. Do not be fooled!
If you receive a suspicious call:
1. HANG UP!
2. DO NOT GIVE THEM MONEY OR PERSONAL INFORMATION!
3. REPORT THE SCAM AT OIG.SSA.GOV
UNKNOWN CALLER
What to look out for
The caller says there is a problem with your Social Security number or account.
Scammers pretend they're from Social Security or another government agency. Caller ID or documents sent by email may look official but they are not.
Any call asking you to pay a fine or debt with retail gift cards, cash, wire transfers, or pre-paid debit cards.
Callers threaten you with arrest or other legal action.
Be Alert
Social Security may call you in some situations but will never:
» Threaten you
» Suspend your Social Security Number
» Demand immediate payment from you
» Require payment by cash, gift card, pre-paid debit card, or wire transfer
Be Active
Protect yourself and your friends and family!
» If you receive a questionable call, just hang up and report the call at oig.ssa.gov
» Learn more at oig.ssa.gov/scam
» Share this information with others
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my Social Security – Registration
How to Choose Your Sign-in Account for "my So...
How To: Choose Your Sign-in Account for my Social Security
Sign in with LOGIN.GOV
Sign in with ID.me
Watch on YouTube
www.youtube.com/socialsecurity
Step 1: Visit ssa.gov/myaccount
Step 2: Sign in or Create An Account
With a my Social Security Account :
• Check your application status online;
• Get your benefit verification letter;
• Change your address and phone number;
• Start or change your direct deposit;
• Request a replacement Social Security card;
• Get your SSA-1099 and much more!
6

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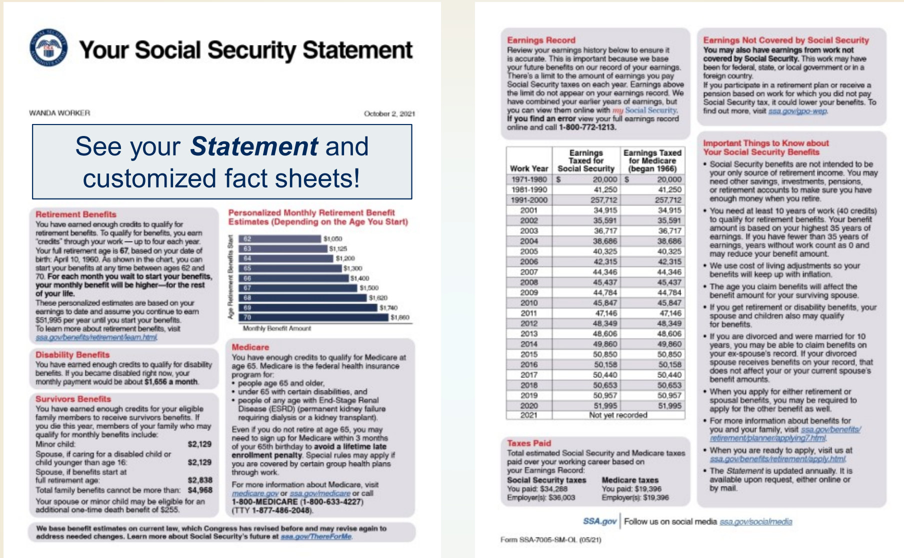

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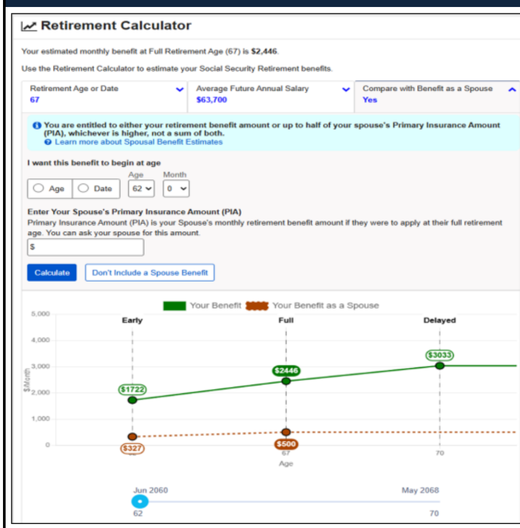
Retirement Calculator



- Convenient, secure, and quick financial planning tool
- Immediate and accurate benefit estimates
- Create “What if ”scenarios based on different ages and earnings
- Compare benefits as a spouse and estimate benefits for a spouse

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How You Qualify for Benefits 2026

- You need to work to earn Social Security "credits"
- Each $1,890 in earnings gives you one credit in 2026
- You can earn a maximum of 4 credits per year

Example: To earn 4 credits in 2026, you must earn at least $7,560. Earning 40 credits (10 years of work) throughout your working life will qualify you for a retirement benefit.

How Social Security Determines Your Benefit

ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/Benefits.html

Social Security benefits are based on your lifetime earnings

- **Step 1** –We adjust or "index" your actual earnings to account for changes in average wages over time
- **Step 2** –We find your average indexed monthly earnings using the **35 years** in which you earned the most (do not need to be consecutive and do not need to be most recent)
- **Step 3** –We apply a formula to your "**average indexed monthly earnings**" and arrive at your basic benefit or primary insurance amount

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Your Age at the Time You Elect Retirement Benefits Affects the Amount

Year of Birth	Full Retirement Age	% at age 62	% at age 70
1943-1954	66	75.0%	132.00%
1955	66 + 2 months	74.2%	130.67%
1956	66 + 4 months	73.3%	129.33%
1957	66 + 6 months	72.5%	128.00%
1958	66 + 8 months	71.7%	126.67%
1959	66 + 10 months	70.8%	125.33%
1960 or later	67	70.0%	124.00%

If You're a Worker and Start Retirement Benefits

- At age 62, you get a permanent lower monthly payment
- At your full retirement age, you get your full benefit
- After your full retirement age, you get an even higher monthly payment for delaying

www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/ageincrease.html

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You Can Work and Receive Benefits 2026

If You Are	You Can Make Up To	If You Make More, Some Benefits Will Be Withheld
Under FRA* in 2026	$24,480/yr. ($2,040/mo.)	$1 for every $2
Turning FRA in 2026	$65,160/yr. ($5,430/mo.)	$1 for every $3
Month You Attain Full Retirement Age & Continuing	No Limit	No Limit

*FRA = Full Retirement Age

Note: If some of your retirement benefits are withheld because of your earnings, your benefits will be increased starting at your full retirement age to take into account those months in which benefits were withheld.

www.ssa.gov

Earnings Test Calculator
www.ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/RTeffect.html

Retirement Earnings Test Calculator

Automatic Determinations

Complete the form to see the effect of the Retirement Earnings Test on retirement benefits.

Please note that the retirement earnings test always uses the *normal (full) retirement age applicable to retired workers.*

Exempt amounts under the Retirement Earnings Test

Enter your **date of birth**: Month 6 Day 2 Year 1954

Your **estimated earnings**: $ 32000

If you reach your normal (or full) retirement age this year, enter only those earnings made prior to the month you reach this age. The retirement earnings test does not apply once you reach normal retirement age.

Your estimated **monthly benefit:** $ 1355 (before application of the retirement test)

Is the current year the first year you are receiving benefits?

○ Yes ◉ No

Note: special rules apply in the first year you retire.

Submit request Reset

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Other Benefits on the Retiree's Record
www.ssa.gov/family/eligibility

Your Child

- Not married-under 18
  (under 19 if still in high school)
- Not married and disabled before age 22

Your Spouse

- Age 62 or older
- At any age, if caring for a child under age 16 or disabled

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Spouse's Benefit Computation
https://www.ssa.gov/oact/quickcalc/spouse.html

50% - Spousal benefits

You could be entitled up to half of your spouse's benefit.

- Benefit is 50% of worker's <u>unreduced</u> benefit
- Permanent Reduction for early retirement
- If spouse's own benefit is less than 50% of the worker's, the benefits are combined
- Does not reduce payment to worker

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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 and age 62 or older
- Your ex-spouse is at least 62 and eligible for Social Security retirement or disability benefits, <u>even if not collecting</u>
- Benefit you would receive based on your own work is less than benefit you would receive based on ex-spouse's work

Ex-spouse's benefit amount has no effect on the amount the worker or the worker's current spouse can receive

Securing today and tomorrow **https://www.ssa.gov/family/eligibility** SSA.gov

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Survivor Benefits
www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors

Widow or Widower:

- Full benefits at full retirement age
- Reduced benefits at age 60
  If disabled as early as age 50
- At any age if caring for child under 16 or disabled
- Remarriage after age 60 (50 if disabled) is protected
- Divorced widows/widowers may qualify

Your Child if:

- Not married under age 18 (under 19 if still in high school)
- Not married and disabled before age 22

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Survivor Benefit Computation
www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors

100% - Survivor benefit

You could be entitled up to 100% of your deceased spouse's (divorced spouse's) benefit

- You will be entitled up to 100% of a deceased spouse's (divorced spouse's) benefit or your own, *whichever benefit is higher*
- At full retirement age, 100% of deceased worker's benefit
- At age 60, 71.5% of deceased worker's benefit
  (remember there is a permanent reduction for starting benefits early)
- Option to reduced benefits on one record and switch to other record later

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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

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SSDI: Benefits for the Family

Spouse

- At age 62
- At any age if caring for child who is under 16 or has a disability
- Divorced spouses may be eligible

Child

- Not married under age 18 (under 19 if still in high school)
- Not married and has a disability that started before age 22

ssa.gov/family

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How to Apply for Benefits

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

- If you have a disability, 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, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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

****Child and survivor claims can only be done by phone or in the office.***

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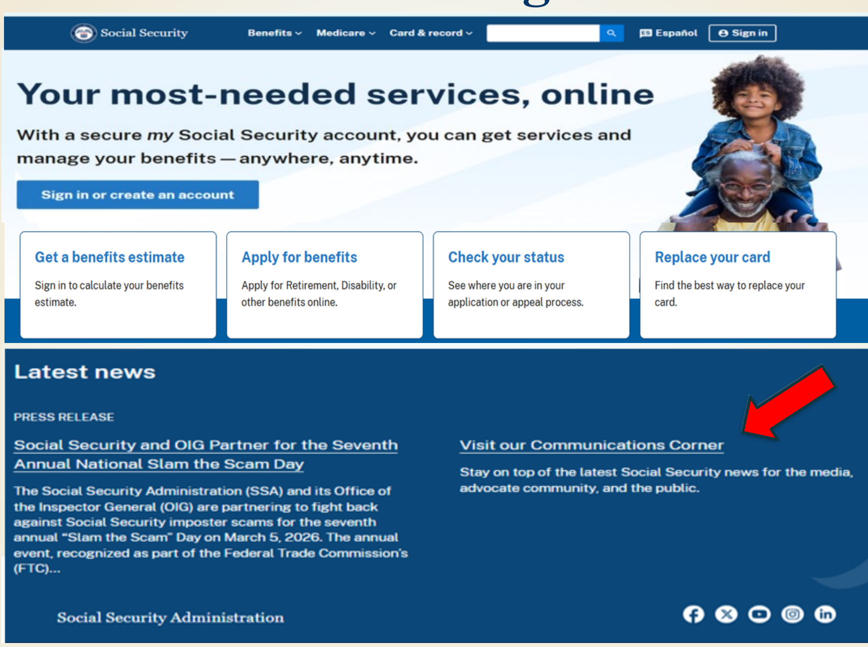
www.ssa.gov



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Social Security Benefits and Taxation
www.ssa.gov/manage-benefits/request-withhold-taxes

If you file a **"joint return"** and your combined income ** is:

- Between $32,000 and $44,000, you have to pay income tax on up to 50% of your benefits.
- More than $44,000, up to 85% of your benefits may be taxable.

If you file as an **"individual"** and your combined income ** is:

- Between $25,000 and $34,000, you have to pay income tax on up to 50% of your benefits.
- More than $34,000, up to 85% of your benefits may be taxable.

** Combined income is:

Your adjusted gross income
+ Nontaxable interest
+ ½ of your Social Security
= Your "Combined Income"

www.IRS.gov

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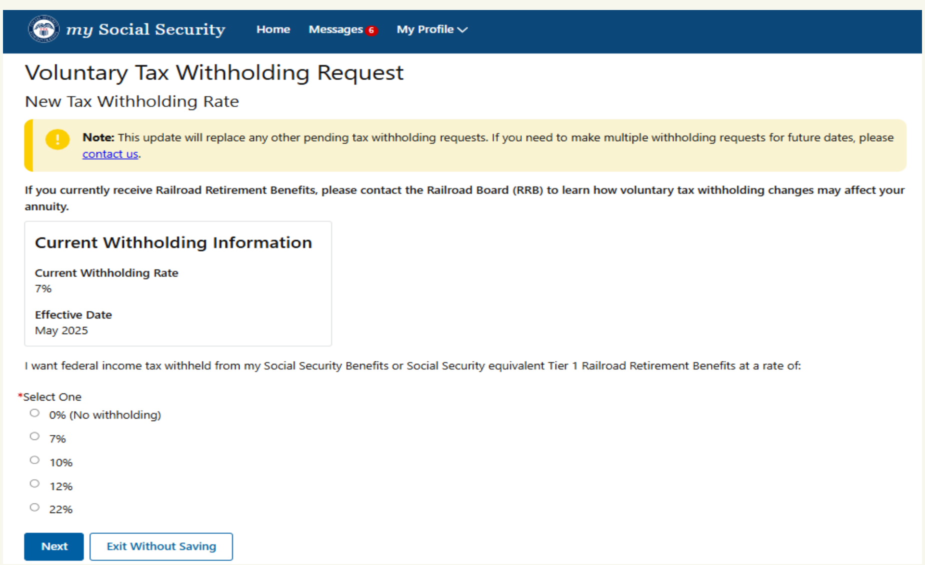
Additional Services Available at SSA.GOV/myaccount
Voluntary Tax Withholding



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Additional Services Available at SSA.GOV/myaccount Advance Designation

my Social Security

Fantastic M. Fox ▾ | Other Services

Advance Designation of Representative Payee

About Advance Designation

^ Hide information about advance designation

You have the option to designate someone you trust to receive and manage your benefit payments on your behalf in the event you become unable to do so yourself.

SSA refers to this person as a representative payee. A representative payee is responsible for ensuring that payments are used for the beneficiary's food, shelter, medical, and personal needs. To be appointed as a representative payee, an individual must be able and willing to serve, and meet SSA selection requirements.

To learn more about representative payees, visit https://www.ssa.gov/payee.

To name or update your advance designees, please have their phone numbers available. Select the button below to continue with advance designation.

Continue to Advance Designation | Cancel

OMB No. 0960-0814 Privacy Policy Privacy Act Statement

Receipt of Your Advance Designation

Order of Priority	Name	Phone	Relationship
1	A Random NAME	(412) 221-5533	Friend
2	John Doe	(412) 221-5555	Friend

Print this page

Done

www.ssa.gov/myaccount

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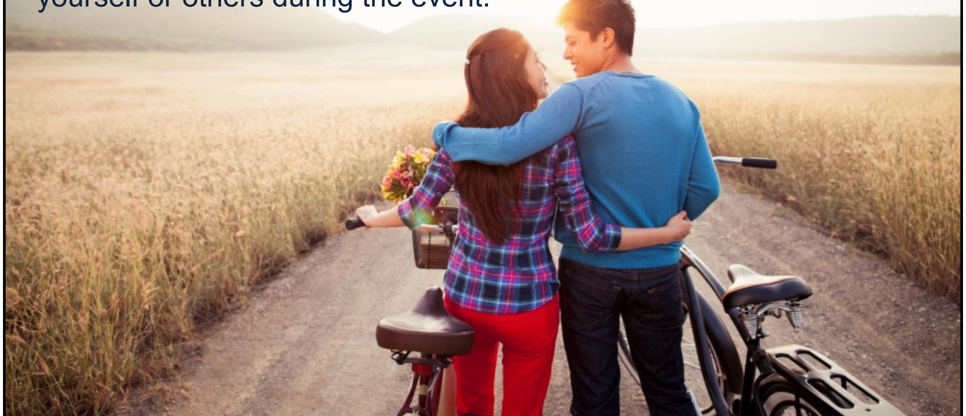
Q&A Session

Note: This event is public. Please do not share any personal information, such as dates of births or social security numbers, about yourself or others during the event.



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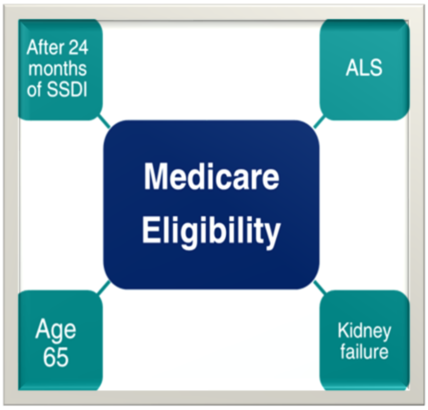
Medicare Eligibility



65 & older

-or-

24 months after entitlement to Social Security disability benefits

-or-

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

-or-

Permanent kidney failure and receive maintenance dialysis or a kidney transplant

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Medicare Enrollment Periods

Enrollment Period:	When the period occurs:
Initial Enrollment Period –first opportunity to enroll	3 months before you turn age 65, the month you turn age 65, and 3 months after you turn age 65
General Enrollment Period	Annually, January 1 – March 31
Special Enrollment Period (only available after initial enrollment period)	During any month you remain covered under the group health plan **and** your, or your spouse's, **current employment** continues; **or** In the eight-month period that begins with the month your group health plan coverage or the current employment it is based on ends, whichever comes first.

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Enrollment in <u>any</u> part of Medicare will affect Health Savings Accounts!!!

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Medicare Part B Coverage – SEP
Special Enrollment Period

If you enroll in the month of your Special Enrollment Period:	Your Part B Medicare coverage starts:
Any time while you or your spouse have a group health plan based on **current employment**, or during the first full month you are no longer covered or employed	• On the first day of the month you enroll, or • By your choice, on the first day of any of the following 3 months
During any of the remaining 7 months of the SEP	The first day of the month after you sign up.

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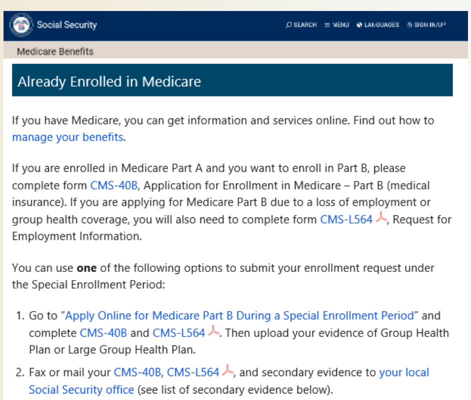
Medicare Applications


Social Security

SEARCH MENU LANGUAGES SIGN IN/UP

Medicare Benefits

Already Enrolled in Medicare

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.

www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up

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Medicare Enrollment Periods

If you have a Health Savings Account (HSA)

If you have an HSA when you sign up for Medicare, you cannot contribute to your HSA once your Medicare coverage begins. **If you contribute to your HSA after your Medicare coverage starts, you may have to pay a tax penalty.** If you would like to continue contributing to your HSA, you should not apply for Medicare, Social Security, or Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) benefits.

NOTE: *Premium-free Part A coverage* ***begins six months before the date you apply for Medicare (or Social Security/RRB benefits), but no earlier than the first month you were eligible for Medicare****.*

To avoid a tax penalty when your Medicare is retroactive, you should stop contributing to your HSA at least six months before you apply for Medicare.

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Medicare Enrollment Periods

If you have health care protection from other plans

If you have **TRICARE** (insurance for active-duty, military retirees, and their families), your health benefits can change or end when you become eligible for Medicare. This applies for any reason, regardless of age or place of residence. If you're retired from the military or are a military retiree's family member, you must enroll in Part A and Part B when first eligible to keep TRICARE coverage. You can find a military health benefits adviser at ***https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil***, or call the Defense Manpower Data Center, toll-free at **1-800-538-9552** before you decide whether to enroll in Medicare medical insurance (Part B).

If you have health care protection from the Indian Health Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, or a state medical assistance program, contact those offices to help you decide if it's to your advantage to have Medicare Part B.

IMPORTANT: *If you have VA coverage and did not enroll in Part B when you were first eligible, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty for as long as you have Part B coverage.*

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The Four Parts of Medicare

Part A - Hospital Insurance
- Covers most inpatient hospital expenses
- 2026 deductible $1,736

Part B - Medical Insurance
- Covers 80% doctor bills & other outpatient medical expenses after 1st $283 in approved charges
- 2026 standard monthly premium $202.90

Part C – Medicare Advantage Plans
- Health plan options offered by Medicare-approved private insurance companies
- When you join a Medicare advantage plan, you can get the benefits and services covered under Part A, Part B, and in most plans, Part D

Part D –Prescription Drug Coverage
- Covers a major portion of your prescription drug costs
- Your out-of-pocket costs—monthly premiums, annual deductible and prescription co-payments—will vary by plan
- You enroll with a Medicare-approved prescription drug provider not Social Security

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Medicare Part B Premiums for 2026

Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)	Part B monthly premium amount	Prescription drug plan monthly premium amount
Individuals with a MAGI of $109,000 or less Married couples with a MAGI of $218,000 or less	2026 standard premium = $202.90	Your plan premium + $0
Individuals with a MAGI above $109,000 up to $137,000 Married couples with a MAGI above $218,000 up to $274,000	Standard premium + $81.20 = $284.10	Your plan premium + $14.50
Individuals with a MAGI above $137,000 up to $171,000 Married couples with a MAGI above $274,000 up to $342,000	Standard premium + $202.90 = $405.80	Your plan premium + $37.50
Individuals with a MAGI above $171,000 up to $205,000 Married couples with a MAGI above $342,000 up to $410,000	Standard premium + $324.60 = $527.50	Your plan premium + $60.40
Individuals with a MAGI above $205,000 up to $500,000 Married couples with a MAGI above $410,000 up to $750,000	Standard premium + $446.30 = $649.20	Your plan premium + $83.30
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 + $487.00 = $689.90	Your plan premium + $91.00

Note: Request can be made via form SSA-44 to lower Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA), due to a life changing event (e.g., marriage, divorce, death of a spouse, loss of income, and an employer settlement payment)

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Request a Lower Premium @ www.ssa.gov/medicare/lower-irmaa

Plan for Medicare
Sign up for Medicare
Request to lower IRMAA
Apply for Part D Extra Help
Manage Medicare benefits

Request to lower an Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA)

If you've had a life-changing event that reduced your household income, you can ask to lower the additional amount you'll pay for Medicare Part B and Part D.

Life-changing events include marriage, divorce, the death of a spouse, loss of income, and an employer settlement payment.

Upload your request to lower an IRMAA

Sign in and search for Medicare Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount – Life-Changing Event (SSA-44) (PDF). Then, complete the form, save it to your device, upload it and submit it to us.

Sign in | Create account

Amended income tax returns

Call +1 800-772-1213 and tell the representative you want to lower your Medicare Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) if you had an amended income tax return.

New IRMAA Determination: SSA-44

Form **SSA-44** (12-2018) Page 2 of 8

STEP 1: Type of Life-Changing Event

Check <u>ONE</u> 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
- ☐ Divorce/Annulment
- ☐ Death of Your Spouse
- ☐ Work Stoppage
- ☐ Work Reduction
- ☐ Loss of Income-Producing Property
- ☐ Loss of Pension Income
- ☐ Employer Settlement Payment

Date of life-changing event: ____________ mm/dd/yyyy

- You may request a new decision once you receive the IRMAA notice.
- In order for SSA to make a new determination on IRMAA, you must have BOTH updated tax information **<u>AND</u>** a life changing event.
- Get the SSA-44 @ www.ssa.gov/forms.
- Fax or mail the SSA-44 to the local office www.ssa.gov/locator.

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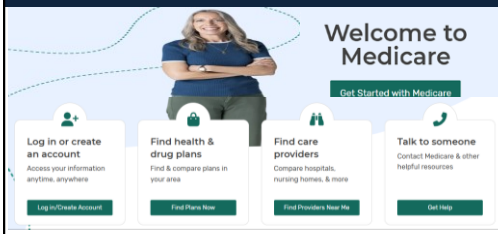
For More Information on Medicare



Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS):

www.medicare.gov

1-800-633-4227

State Health Insurance assistance Program (SHIP):

www.medicare.in.gov

1-800-452-4800

www.ssa.gov 37

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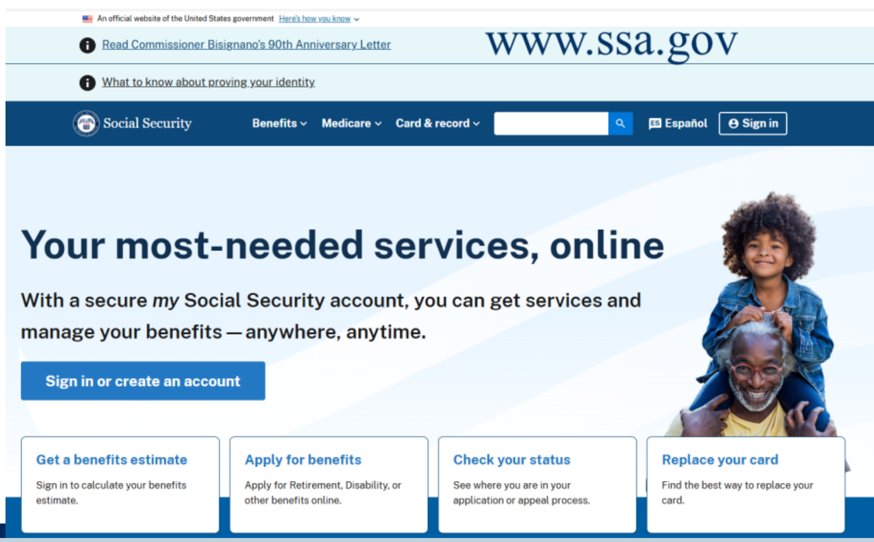
Social Security Home Page



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