

How To Apply Online For Retirement Benefits



It's so easy! Just go to www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline

Welcome to the Social Security Benefit Application

Thank you for using our online Retirement/Medicare application.

What will you need before you begin?

Find information and necessary documents you need to complete the application online for:

- Myself
- Someone else

Watch Video: Helpful hints for completing this application

Applying for benefits

- To start a new application for retirement or Medicare, select the "Apply for Benefits" button.
- To finish an application you already started, select the "Return to a Saved Application" button.
- To obtain estimates of your future retirement benefits use the Retirement Estimator.

How long will it take?

We estimate that completing the application will take between 10 and 30 minutes depending on the number of questions you need to answer. You can save your application as you go, so you can take a break at any time.

To Continue Your Application

If you want to finish an application that you already started:

To Start The Application Process

Please select one of the following. Tell us information about the person completing this application.

- I am applying for myself.
- I am helping someone who wants to apply for benefits and is with me.
- I am helping someone who is not with me, and therefore cannot sign the application at this time.

Blind or visually impaired applicants can use the Internet Special Notices Option page to choose how to receive notices from Social Security.

Please select one:

- I am not blind or visually impaired; or, I am not applying for myself.
- I have visited the Internet Special Notices Option page.

Welcome to the Social Security Benefit Application

- Start your application by selecting "Apply for Benefits;" or
- Continue completing an application you already started.

Questions About You

- Name;
- Social Security number;
- Gender; and
- Date of birth.

Applicant Identification

Applicant's Name:
Please provide the name as it appears on the most recent Social Security card.

First [] Middle [] Last [] Suffix []

Social Security Number (SSN): [] [] [] [] [] []

Gender:
 Male Female

Date of Birth:
Month [] Day [] Year [] [] []

In this section...

- Initial Information
- Applicant Identification
- Contact Information
- Birth and Citizenship
- Application Number
- Additional Information

Application Number

When you have successfully started your application, you will get an application number that you can use to:

- Continue your application later if you need a break; and
- Check the status of your completed application.

Application Number:

You have successfully started your Retirement application. We are providing you with an Application Number. The number can be used to restart an incomplete application. You will need it to complete your online application if you decide to continue the application later or to check the status of your claim.

Application Number: **34654289**

Print or save this page, or write down the number, so you will have what you need to return to your application at a later time.

In this section...

- Initial Information
- Application Number
- Application Number
- Additional Information

(over)

Benefit Application

Identification
 General
 Other Benefits
 Remarks
 Review & Submit
 Next Steps

Total Earnings for John Public

Total Earnings for 2010

Show the total of all wages and tips earned in 2010.
Estimate if necessary.
\$
(0000000)

Did you earn more than \$3140 a month in wages and tips in every month of 2010? [More Info](#)
 Yes No

Total Earnings for 2011

Show the total of all wages and tips that will be earned in 2011.
Estimate if necessary.
\$
(0000000)

Will you earn more than \$3140 a month in wages and tips in every month of 2011? [More Info](#)
 Yes No

Total Earnings for 2012

Show the total of all wages and tips that will be earned in 2012.
Estimate if necessary.
\$
(0000000)

Will you earn more than \$3140 a month in wages and tips in every month of 2012? [More Info](#)
 Yes No

Special Payments

Do any of the total earnings include special payments paid in one year but earned in another?
[More Info](#)
 Yes No

- In this section...**
- Family Details
 - Military Details
 - Earnings Details
 - Employer Details
 - Self-Employment
 - Supplemental Information
 - Total Earnings
 - Other Pensions/Annuities
 - When to Start Benefits

Questions About Your Work

- Employment;
- Self-employment;
- Military service;
- Work for a government agency; and
- Work history.

Benefit Application

Identification
 General
 Other Benefits
 Remarks
 Review & Submit
 Next Steps

When to Start Retirement Benefits for John Public

It's your choice when to start retirement benefits. The earlier the date you start your benefits, the smaller your benefit. The later the date you start to receive benefits, the larger your benefit. This is an important decision, with several factors to consider before you choose the month your benefits should start.
[More Info](#)

If you have applied for, or are currently receiving, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), you must select the earliest possible month that you are eligible for benefits. An SSI recipient is required to pursue all other benefits when first eligible.

We have an estimator that can show you what your benefit amount will be under various scenarios. You may wish to end this session and go there now. You will be able to return and continue where you left off. The information you have already entered will be saved.

We need to know when you want to start benefits.

Do you want benefits to start in 10/2011?
 Yes No (Your other available options are 04/2011 to 02/2012.)

If you are eligible for both retirement benefits and spouse's benefit, do you want to delay receipt of retirement benefit? [More Info](#)
 If you are full retirement age and we determine that you are eligible to receive both a retirement benefit and a spouse's benefit, you may choose to delay receiving your own retirement benefit and receive only the spouse's benefit for now.
 Yes No

- In this section...**
- Family Details
 - Military Details
 - Earnings Details
 - When to Start Benefits
 - When to Start Retirement Benefits
 - Direct Deposit Details

Questions About Your Benefits

- When you want your Social Security benefits to start; and
- Other benefits you may receive.

Benefit Application

Identification
 General
 Other Benefits
 Remarks
 Review & Submit
 Next Steps

Electronic Signature & Submission for John Public

Congratulations, you're just about ready to complete your application for retirement benefits.

Please read and accept the following statement to finish the application. If you are helping someone to complete the application, then that person needs to read and accept the statements.

I understand and agree that my application will be signed electronically when I select the check box below. I also understand that my electronic signature means that I intend to apply for benefits and have provided the Social Security Administration with accurate information. I declare under penalty of perjury that I have examined all the information on this application and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that anyone who knowingly gives a false or misleading statement about a material fact in this electronic application, or causes someone else to do so, commits a crime and may be sent to prison or may face other penalties, or both.

When you select "Submit Now" below, you will be sending your completed information electronically to the Social Security Administration. You will no longer be able to change your information.

I agree with the Electronic Signature & Submission Agreement above. I wish to submit my application electronically now.

- In this section...**
- Overall Summary
 - Send this Application

Finishing Your Application

- Sign your application by selecting the "Submit Now" button;
- Get a receipt for your application;
- Get information on what to do next; and
- Receive a list of documents you may need to show us.



Social Security Administration
 SSA Publication No. 05-10523
 ICN 470140
 Unit of Issue - HD (one hundred)
 November 2011 (Recycle prior editions)