

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

Form Approved: OMB No. 0960-0619 Expires 01/31/2013
Thank you for using our online Retirement/Medicare application.

Before you begin...

Before you start applying for benefits, you should read [Using This Application](#) in order to understand the information and documents that may be needed. You may also want to review:

- [When To Start Receiving Retirement Benefits](#)
- [Instructions for Blind or Visually Impaired Users](#)
- [Other Ways To Apply](#)
- [Medicare - For people Within 3 Months of Age 65 or Older](#)
- [Extra Help With Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs](#)
- [Internet Security Policy](#)
- [Website Policies & Other Important Information](#)
- [Social Security Accessibility Policy](#)

We estimate that it will take between 10 and 30 minutes to read the instructions, gather the facts, and answer the questions, but this will depend on the number of questions you need to answer. The average time is approximately 15 minutes. For more information about estimates, go to the [Paperwork Reduction Act](#).

Before you start your application, we recommend that you get an estimate of your retirement benefit. It will help you to answer some of the questions on the application. You may want to print or save the estimate to refer to during 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.

Privacy Act Statement

I have read the Privacy Act Statement.

Welcome to the Retirement Benefit Application

- Estimate your benefit;
- Start your application; and
- Continue completing an application you already started.

Questions About You

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

Initial Information Section (Page 1 of 4)

Applicant Identification

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

First Name Middle Name Last Name Suffix

Social Security Number
Example: 999-99-9999

Gender
 Male Female

Date of Birth
Month Day Year

Application Number Section (Page 1 of 1)

Application Number for John Public

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.

Your Application Number: 45646564

Please print this page (with your browser's printer) or write down your Application Number. You may need it to complete your online application or to check the status of your claim.

If you are unable to complete your online application for any reason, use the "Sign Off (finish this later)" option at the bottom left corner of each page. We will save all the information you provided prior to the page where you use the "Sign Off (finish this later)" option.

Completing this application at a later date may affect the month your benefits will start as well as other information in the application.

After waiting at least five minutes, you will be able to continue this application again by selecting "Continue Application" from the Welcome page. You will need to enter your Social Security number and this Application Number to continue your application.

If you lose this number and have not completed the application, you can start a new application and we will give you a new Application Number. The old number will be disabled. Social Security employees will not ask for, or be able to access your Application Number.

We may use 11/09/2010 as the official date of this application. In order to use 11/09/2010, we must receive the signed application by 05/10/2011 or you may lose Social Security benefits. If this date falls on the weekend or is a Federal holiday, we must receive the signed application by the following business day.

Supplemental Security Income or SSI is a federal program that provides monthly payments to people who have limited income and assets and who are age 65 or older, or blind or have a disability. For more information about the SSI program, please read the pamphlet, [Supplemental Security Income](#).

If you intend to file an SSI application you need to file your application with us by 01/08/2011 or you may lose SSI benefits. If this date falls on the weekend or is a Federal holiday, we must receive the signed application by the following business day. Call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to arrange an appointment to file for SSI. You cannot apply for SSI over the Internet.

If you need assistance, please call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) for more 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.

(over)

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www.socialsecurity.gov

Benefit Application

Identification General Other Benefits Remarks Review Submit Next Steps

Family Military Earnings When to Start Benefits Total Earnings Go

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Earnings Section (Page 4 of 5)
Total Earnings for John Public

Total earnings for 2009
Show the total of all wages and tips earned in 2009.
Estimate if necessary.
\$.00
Did you earn wages and tips over \$3140 a month in all months of 2009? [More Info](#)
 Yes No

Total earnings for 2010
Show the total of all wages and tips that will be earned in 2010.
Estimate if necessary.
\$.00
Will you earn wages and tips over \$3140 a month in all months 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.
\$.00
Will you earn wages and tips over \$3140 a month in all months of 2011? [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
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Questions About Your Work

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

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Benefit Application

Identification General Other Benefits Remarks Review Submit Next Steps

Family Military Earnings When to Start Benefits When to Start Retirement Benefits Go

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When to Start Benefits Section (Page 1 of 2)
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 filed 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 11/2010?
 Yes No (Your other available options are 05/2010 to 03/2011.)

What date should benefits start?

Please let us know if there is a specific reason for this date.
 Currently working and plan to retire on this date
 No longer working
 Another Reason

If you are eligible for both retirement benefits and spouse's benefit, do you want to delay receipt of retirement benefit? [More Info](#)
 Yes No
 « [P]previous [N]ext »

Questions About Your Benefits

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

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Benefit Application

Identification General Other Benefits Remarks Review Submit Next Steps

Send this application Send this application Go

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Send this application Section (Page 1 of 1)
Send this application for John Public

To return to the Overall Summary, please use the "Return to Summary" button.

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 by selecting "Sign Now" below. I also understand that my electronic signature means that I intend to file 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 "Sign Now", you will be sending your completed information electronically to the Social Security Administration. You will no longer be able to change your information.

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Finishing Your Application

- Sign your application by selecting the "Sign 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.

