

Social Security Column

GET TO KNOW *YOUR* SOCIAL SECURITY

By Sabrina Feliciano

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Springfield Ma



Social Security touches the lives of nearly every American. We've been with you from day one, when your parents applied for your Social Security number, and we are with you from your first job through your retirement party and beyond.

For more than 80 years, Social Security has stayed true to its mission of providing financial protection for the American people and has served as one of the most successful anti-poverty programs in our nation's history. We encourage everyone to take steps toward their financial security. Regardless of your age or place in life, now is the right time to start planning for a financially secure future for you and your family.

Everyone can benefit from our first step: Get to know *your* Social Security. You can start your journey through all things Social Security by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov and navigating through our menu.

Along the way, you'll see how your Social Security number opens many important doors throughout life, from making it easier to apply for student aid and open your first bank account to starting your first job and buying your first house. You'll also discover how your contributions to the Social Security system through FICA payroll taxes can make you eligible for important future benefits when you reach retirement age or if you become severely injured or ill.

You'll find how Social Security helps your family in the form of survivor benefits and how our Supplemental Security Income program assists disabled children and our most vulnerable adults.

We also encourage you to visit our website and set up your own *my Social Security* account today so you can begin taking steps toward financial security.

Through our website and your online account with us, you can:

- Verify your lifetime earnings record to ensure you're getting credit for all your contributions toward Social Security and Medicare;
- Estimate future benefits for you and your family;
- Manage your Social Security benefits and personal information; and
- Learn more about how we're securing your today and tomorrow.

Now that you've started to get to know *your* Social Security, stay in touch by visiting our *Social Security Matters* blog at blog.ssa.gov/.

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