

## Social Security Administration Resources

Take advantage of the online planning tools available through the Social Security Administration's website in order to keep yourself up-to-date on all of your personal benefit information

### Financial & Estate Planning Department

Audrey Blanke, Financial Planner

Rich Braun, Financial Planner

Chris Dolan, Financial Planner

Brian Ellenbecker, Senior Financial Planner

Linda Grant-Smith, Financial Planner

There is an abundance of information and several useful planning tools on the Social Security Administrations website, [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). Below are several of the more popular online resources:

1. [Viewing your Social Security statement online](#) – In 2010, the SSA discontinued mailing Social Security statements to most recipients, replacing them with online statements. While the SSA has resumed mailing statements on a limited, infrequent basis, individuals will need more frequent access to their statements. If it is your first time visiting the site, you will need to establish an online account using the "My Social Security" function. If you are returning to the site, you can simply click "Sign In", where you will then be able to view your most recent statement. Click [here](#) to access the My Social Security section of the website to either establish a new account or login to an existing account.
2. [Using the Retirement Estimator](#) – If you don't want a complete benefit statement or to set up an online account, you can use the Retirement Estimator. This tool gives you your personal standard estimates for age 62, full retirement age, and age 70, but also allows you to estimate your retirement benefit at *any* starting age using actual earnings history. The Retirement Estimator can be accessed by clicking [here](#) and then clicking the blue "Estimate Your Retirement Benefit" button. The Retirement Estimator tool can be found by clicking [here](#).
3. [Other Calculators](#) – To calculate benefit estimates not based on a specific earnings history, use one of the general Social Security calculators, found by clicking [here](#). The Quick Calculator is the most popular, as it requires the least amount of data (date of birth and last year's earnings).
4. [Applying for Benefits Online](#) – The quickest way to apply for benefits is through the Social Security Administration's website. Click on this [link](#), and then click the blue "Apply for Retirement" button. The site will then walk you through the application process.

To reach the Social Security Administration by phone, dial (800) 772-1213.