

# RETIREMENT

## Planning for Retirement Checklist

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*Planning for retirement doesn't have to be stressful. Save what you can and keep these guidelines in mind as you progress through your career. Even a small nest egg can supplement your Social Security benefits when you retire!*

*For more information and resources, visit [www.nwlc.org/retirement](http://www.nwlc.org/retirement).*

### In your 20s:

- Find out if you have a retirement plan at work.
  - If you do, sign up! Save as much as you can, but at least save enough to qualify if your employer offers a match.
  - If you don't, start an IRA.
- Check to see if you are eligible for the Saver's Credit when you file your taxes.
- Make sure your job is covered by Social Security
- Sign up with SSA.gov to keep track of your Social Security benefits.
- Manage consumer and student loan debt.

### In your 30s:

- Participate in your retirement plan at work!
  - Contribute enough for the match, and bump up when you get a raise.
  - If you change jobs, keep track of your retirement benefits.
  - If you can't save at work, start an IRA.
  - Saver's Credit!
- Keep track of your estimated Social Security benefits.
- Keep debt under control, and don't forget retirement as you adjust for major life changes (like marriage or having kids).

### In your 40s:

- Continue saving at work or in an IRA.
  - Bump up as pay increases.
  - Try not to take money out!
  - Saver's Credit!
- Keep track of retirement benefits from other jobs and estimated SS benefits.
- Ask for professional help.
  - Set a specific retirement savings goal.
  - Look at your investment strategy.
- Pay down debt and don't forget retirement as you adjust for major life changes (like marriage, divorce).

### In your 50s:

- Continue to save.
  - Take advantage of higher contribution limits.
  - Don't touch the money!
  - Saver's Credit.
- Keep track of all retirement accounts and estimated SS benefits.
- Ask for professional help.
  - Adjust your investment strategy.
  - Revisit your retirement savings goal.
- Pay down debt and don't forget retirement as you adjust for major life changes (like marriage, divorce, kids in college).