



Reviewing Where to Start

Start by creating (or signing in) to your personal “my Social Security account” on the [Social Security](#) website to verify your information. Benefits are based on the earnings in the Social Security system. Other items you may want to gather include:

- Social Security number.
- Date of birth: you may need an original birth certificate or other proof of age.
- Employer names or self-employment records for the past two years: you may need a copy of your W-2 for the prior year.
- Bank information to set up direct deposit.
- Family members who may be eligible to receive future benefits.