



## Reviewing Where to Start

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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:

- Your Social Security number.
- Your date of birth. You may need an original birth certificate or other proof of age.
- Your employer names or self-employment records for the past two years. You may need a copy of your W-2 for the prior year.
- Your bank information to set up direct deposit.
- Names of your family members who may be eligible to receive future benefits.