

# Solutions, Strategies, Answers

Newsletter of the 18 Social Security Administration offices in  
Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, and Philadelphia counties



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## Benefits to Rise 8.7 Percent in 2023; Medicare Part B Premium to Fall

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for approximately 70 million Americans will increase 8.7 percent next year. This cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 65 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2023. Increased payments to more than seven million SSI recipients will begin on December 30, 2022. (*SSI benefits are issued on the first day of the month except when the first falls on a holiday or weekend*). Note that some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits.

On average, Social Security benefits will increase by more than \$140 per month.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service has announced that the monthly standard Part B premium will decrease by three percent next year, from \$170.10 to \$164.90. [2023 Medicare Parts A & B Premiums and Deductibles](#) [2023 Medicare Part D Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts | CMS](#)

### Here's a look at some other changes for next year:

**Tax base** Workers will pay Social Security (FICA) taxes on earnings up to \$160,200. There is no limit on the earnings taxed for Medicare.

**Credits** People need 40 "work credits" to be eligible for retirement benefits. In 2023, earnings of \$1,640 will provide one credit. You can only earn four credits in any one year. So, earnings of at least \$6,560 in 2023 provide four credits.

**Working while receiving** People who work while receiving Social Security need to be mindful of the limit on earnings if they have not yet reached their Full Retirement Age. If you retire early and are not yet in your full age year, the limit on earnings is \$21,240. If you are in your full age year, the limit is much higher - \$56,520. There is no limit as of the month you reach full age. If you exceed the work limits, some Social Security benefits will be withheld. (Note that the work rules for disability beneficiaries are much different.)

**Benefit amounts** The maximum retirement benefit at full age is \$3,627 monthly. Some people who delay taking their benefits until after full age will receive more. The average retirement benefit will be \$1,827.

**Thresholds re Social Security disability benefits** The Substantial Gainful Activity level for non-blind individuals will be \$1,470 monthly. For blind individuals, it will be \$2,460.

**SSI payment rates** The maximum federal amount for an individual will be \$914. For a couple, the combined amount is \$1,371.

You can find all the information about the COLA and related changes for 2023 at: [Press Release](#) | [Press Office](#) | [SSA](#)



## “The Eleventh Hour of the Eleventh Day of the Eleventh Month”

That famous phrase refers to a specific date and time – November 11, 1918, at 11:00 a.m. That’s when an “armistice” - a temporary cessation of hostilities – was declared between the Allies and Germany, ending the horrific fighting of World War I. In 1938 this “Armistice Day” became a federal holiday. In 1954 the name was changed to “Veterans Day” to honor not only those who served in World War I, but all veterans of any era. The national holiday, of course, takes place every November 11.

At Social Security, we recognize that veterans are special people, and we want to be sure they receive all benefits and assistance due to them. Check out these items:

“**Veterans**” **SSA webpage** - A good starting point providing links to Social Security disability benefit information. Also includes links for the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense. [Veterans | SSA](#)

“**Wounded Warriors**” – Veterans with a disability compensation rating of 100% Permanent & Total from the Veterans Adm. may qualify for expedited processing of their SSA disability claims. This includes active-duty military who develop a disability on or after October 1, 2001.

[Information for Military & Veterans | SSA](#)

“**How Do They Compare?**” - Since both SSA and the Dept. of Veterans Affairs pay disability benefits, the differences between the programs can be confusing. This fact sheet shows where they align and where they differ. [64-125 - Social Security Disability and Veterans Affairs - How they compare? \(ssa.gov\)](#)

“**Journey to Success**” - This comprehensive 17-page publication describes services that help veterans with a disability enter the workforce and find fulfilling employment. [EN-05-10282 - Journey to Success: Employment Tools for Veterans with Disabilities \(ssa.gov\)](#)

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# Welcome

We have an addition to the Social Security Public Affairs team. Say hello to our newest Public Affairs Specialist, **Jessica Silvent**. Most recently, Jessica was an Operations Supervisor in the Phila. Downtown Office. In that position, she participated in various outreach and educational initiatives with local organizations, so you may already be familiar with her. With an expertise in Social Security benefits combined with a willingness to serve the community, Jessica will certainly be a big asset to our public information program. Feel free to send her a congratulatory note at [Jessica.M.Silvent@ssa.gov](mailto:Jessica.M.Silvent@ssa.gov)

## Time for Us to Say “Thank You” to You



In a few weeks most of us will get together with family and friends to enjoy that big bird (or whatever else you prefer). It is traditional, too, to think about the people, things, and situations in our lives for which we are most grateful. For us at Social Security, it’s time for us to say “thank you” to the community groups and advocates who are on the front lines helping people with their Social Security issues. The faith-based groups, the human resources professionals, the school staffers, the government workers, the financial planners, the attorneys, all those who assist the aging and disability communities – without you, we would be overwhelmed with the enormity of the work. You smooth the way for so many who come to us in need of benefits, making it easier for both them and us. So, a big thank-you!

One way we hopefully can assist you is by providing relevant information specifically for the group to which belong. Find your spot at the “Information For” section of our online menu: [Menu | SSA](#)