Solutions, Strategies, Answers

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

August 2026 **Issue 167**

President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act on August 14, 1935

Here's a poster from 1936 encouraging people to apply for a Social Security number. Over 453 million SSNs have been issued since the program started 91 years ago.

[Social Security History]

Explaining the Disabled Adult Child Benefit

One type of Social Security benefit that can cause some confusion is the Disabled Adult Child (DAC) benefit. Just the name alone can bring on some head scratching. How can you have an "Adult-Child" benefit? Well, read on.

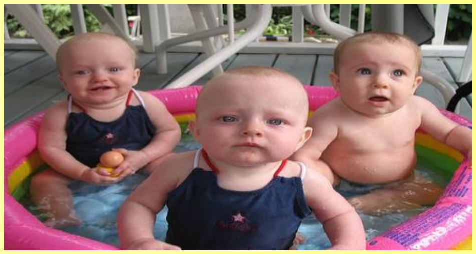
An adult who has a disability that began before age 22 may be eligible for benefits on their parent's work record. The parent must be either receiving their own Social Security *(retirement or disability*), or have passed away but worked a required number of years. Therefore, even though the beneficiary is an adult (age 18+), this is considered a "child's" benefit because it is paid based on the work record of a parent.

Note *– In the case of minor children, they are always due benefits on a parent's record up to age 18 (and sometimes a bit after that). Disability is not an issue of entitlement for children under 18.*

The Disabled Adult Child can be a biological child, adopted child, stepchild, grandchild, or step-grandchild. The adult child must be unmarried and meet Social Security's definition of disability using the adult criteria. The adult child need not have a work history. The application is processed under the same rules used for adult disability cases, with the Disability Determination Services staff making the medical decision. If approved, the adult child receives 50 percent of a living parent's full benefit; the figure is 75 percent if the parent is deceased.

The DAC application cannot be completed online. Please call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 to set up an appointment to file by phone. Do not delay, as doing so can mean a loss of benefits for a particular month. Benefits usually end if the adult child gets married; however, some marriages are considered "protected," such as to another disabled adult child.

How Does Someone Become Eligible?
Disability Benefits | SSA



Bonus Babies

Estimates vary, but a recent report says it costs about $303,000 to raise a child up to age 18. So, in keeping with the idea that every little bit helps, we want to be sure parents know about a new government program that provides a jump-start toward saving for their child's future.

Trump Accounts can be established for children born between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2028. Once enrolled, the Treasury Department will make a one-time $1,000 contribution to the child's account. The account is invested in low-cost U.S. index funds and can't be accessed until the child turns 18. At that point the account becomes a traditional IRA and is subject to IRA rules re withdrawals.

The child must a U.S. citizen with a valid Social Security number. SSA recently provided guidance to hospitals about Trump Account enrollment information. SSA will assist states in modifying their existing hospital forms that are used by parents to apply for SSNs through the Enumeration at Birth program; the modification will include the automatic creation of a Trump Account.

Future Social Security card mailings for newborns will inform parents about the benefits of Trump Accounts and instructions on how to enroll.

On July 4 the government began sending the $1,000 contribution to the accounts of the enrolled children. To date, seven million children have had an account set up for them.

Trump Accounts - The American Dream Starts Now

SSI Rule for Blind People Who Work

Since SSI benefits are reduced because of income, earnings from work normally lower the recipient's cash benefit. But for blind people, all expenses that enable them to work are deducted from earnings, thereby decreasing what we count as earned income.
SSI Spotlight on Special SSI Rule for Blind People Who Work | Supplemental Security Income (SSI) | SSA

To subscribe to *Solutions, Strategies, Answers*, contact Richard.Gaudiosi@ssa.gov or Jessica.M.Silvent@ssa.gov

Sometimes, It's Good to Be Calculating

On our website we have a variety of pretty cool calculators that can help you with your financial planning. Let's look at a few of them:

Early or Late Retirement Calculator
Compute the effect on your retirement benefit amount if you file early (*before your Full Retirement Age*), or file later (*anytime from FRA up to age 70*) in order to receive a benefit percentage increase.

Benefits for Spouses Calculator
Compute the effect on your wife's or husband's benefit if you file for early retirement.

Earnings Test Calculator
Learn how your earnings may affect your payments if you are receiving retirement or survivors benefits this year and you are under Full Retirement Age.

Life Expectancy Calculator
Uh, remember this is only an estimate! But this will show the average number of additional years a person can expect to live, based only on the gender and date of birth entered.

Benefit Calculators | SSA

Totalized? ... Yes, Totally!

In the 1970s the U.S. began setting up a network of bilateral Social Security agreements that coordinate our program with the programs in other countries. These agreements assist people who have worked both in the U.S. and abroad.

These **"Totalization Agreements"** have two main purposes. First, they eliminate dual Social Security taxation, the situation that occurs when a person works in another country and is required to pay taxes to both countries on the same earnings. Second, they help fill gaps in benefit protection for workers who have divided their careers between the U.S. and another country. We have agreements with 30 countries; see the list here:

U.S. International SSA Agreements
International Programs | SSA