

Social Security & Medicare

RESOURCES

ITEM	HOW TO FIND	NOTES
SSA Telephone	(800) SSA-1213	Info, publications, claims.
SSA Website	www.ssa.gov	General info, on-line publications, benefit estimates, claims, research.
“My Social Security” personal account	www.ssa.gov/myaccount/	Anytime access to earnings record and benefit estimates. For those on Social Security, online address changes, benefit verification letters, and more.
Apply for Social Security benefits	www.ssa.gov/applyonline/ or (800) SSA-1213	Apply for Social Security retirement, spouse, or disability payments.
Online Social Security Estimates	www.ssa.gov/estimator/	Instant benefit estimates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You input identifying data to access the estimator. • Past earnings are automatically included. • You can alter the retirement date and future earnings fields to model various work and retirement scenarios.
Social Security Benefit Calculators Home	www.ssa.gov/OACT/anypia/index.html	Links to all benefit calculators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retirement Estimator (same as link above) • Quick Calculator (rough estimate based on current earnings) • Online Calculator (you input past and future earnings; you need Social Security Statement—below—for past earnings) • Detailed Calculator (downloadable “AnyPIA” program)
Online Social Security publications	www.ssa.gov/pubs/	Access to all SSA publications.

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“Retirement Benefits” e-booklet	www.ssa.gov/pubs/10035.html	Good summary of retirement benefits, including family benefits.
Free Social Security Online Calculators	http://corp.financialengines.com/individuals/retirement-readiness.html or www.aarp.org/work/social-security/social-security-benefits-calculator.html	Help with when to apply, especially for married couples. (AARP calculator not updated to 2016 rules as of 2/29/16)
Medicare Hotline & Website	(800) MEDICARE (800) 633-4227 www.medicare.gov	General info on Medicare including costs, deductibles, etc.
Medigap Plan Finder	www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan/questions/medigap-home.aspx	Computer assistance to select Medigap, Part C, or Part D plans tailored to your needs and budget.
Parts C & D Plan Finder	www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan/questions/home.aspx	
Information on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare coverage • Supplemental insurance • Long Term Care Insurance 	Your state Insurance Commissioner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find in www.shiptalk.org • In WA State: (800) 562-6900 http://insurance.wa.gov/your-insurance/health-insurance/ • “A Shopper's Guide to Long-Term Care Insurance” free download: http://www.naic.org/documents/prod_serv_consumer_ltc_lp.pdf 	Non-biased publications, information, seminars, counseling on Medigaps, Medicare Advantage plans, and LTC insurance. Some state sites (including WA) include insurance cost comparison charts.

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Andy Landis is one of the nation's leading authorities on Social Security and Medicare through his practice, Thinking Retirement.
He is the author of *Social Security: The Inside Story*, and *When I Retire*, available from Amazon.com in print and Kindle formats. He is a regular blogger for the *Wall Street Journal's* “MarketWatch” site.
Andy conducts workshops for Fortune 500 firms, financial professionals, and others. He has authored courses for financial planners and CPAs, and appears on radio and television.
Andy's background includes employment at the Social Security Administration, AARP, and multinational corporations. He is a past state president of the International Society for Retirement Planning.
Andy lives in Seattle with Kay, keyboards, camper, computers, cars, and sometimes kids.