



FINANCIAL
GROUP

HEALTH & WEALTH

RETIREMENT PLANNING MADE SIMPLE

A straightforward guide to preparing for retirement,
creating reliable income, and making your money last.

PLAN TODAY. RETIRE WITH CONFIDENCE.

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INTRODUCTION

Will I have enough money — and will it last?

Retirement is supposed to be the time when you enjoy the life you’ve spent years building. But one question can make that future feel uncertain.

A retirement plan isn’t just about saving enough to stop working. It’s about knowing where your retirement income will come from, how much you’ll need, and how you’ll protect yourself from the risks that could derail your plans.

This guide walks you through the key pieces of a retirement plan so you can see where you stand and what you may need to consider next.

SECTION 1

Know What You’ll Need

Your retirement lifestyle will depend on more than your current income. Think about the life you want to live when you’re no longer working.

Consider:

- Where do you want to live?
- Will you have a mortgage or other debt?
- How much will you spend on healthcare?
- Do you want to travel?
- Will you support children or other family members?
- What activities and interests will you want to pursue?

START WITH YOUR NUMBER

Estimated monthly expenses today	\$
Estimated monthly expenses in retirement	\$
Other planned retirement expenses	\$
Estimated monthly income you’ll need	\$

You don’t need an exact number to begin. The goal is to develop a realistic picture of what retirement may cost you.

SECTION 2

Know Where Your Retirement Income Will Come From

When your paycheck stops, your income doesn't have to. Your retirement income may come from several sources, including:

- Social Security
- Employer-sponsored retirement accounts
- IRAs and other savings
- Investments
- Annuities
- Life insurance strategies
- Other personal or business assets

Which sources will provide income you can count on, and which will depend on market performance?

Creating a mix of income sources can help you build a retirement strategy suited to your goals and circumstances.

SECTION 3

Understand the Difference Between Saving and Income

Accumulating money for retirement is only part of the process. Eventually, you'll need to turn those savings into income. Having \$500,000 saved doesn't automatically tell you how much you can safely spend each year, or how long that money will last.

Your retirement plan should consider:

- How much income you need
- When you plan to retire
- How long your money may need to last
- Taxes
- Inflation
- Market volatility

- Healthcare costs
- Unexpected expenses

The goal isn't simply to accumulate money. It's to create a strategy for using it wisely.

SECTION 4

Plan for the Risks That Can Derail Retirement

Even a well-funded retirement can be affected by unexpected events. Consider the impact of:

Market downturns	A significant market decline early in retirement can affect how long your savings last.
Living longer than expected	A longer life can mean your savings need to support you for 20, 30, or even more years.
Inflation	The cost of everyday life may continue rising throughout retirement.
Healthcare expenses	Medical and long-term care costs can become a significant part of retirement spending.
Unexpected family responsibilities	Supporting children, parents, or other family members can change your financial needs.

A strong retirement strategy considers these risks before they become problems.

SECTION 5

Consider Guaranteed Income

One of the biggest concerns in retirement is knowing whether your income will continue for as long as you live. Certain financial products, including annuities, can provide income designed to continue for a specified period or, depending on the product and options selected, for life.

Annuities may offer features such as:

- Income guarantees
- Protection from certain market risks
- Tax-deferred growth

- Options for lifetime income
- Death benefit options

However, annuities differ significantly. They can have fees, surrender periods, limitations, and other conditions. A guaranteed-income strategy should be evaluated based on your individual retirement needs — not simply because a product offers a guarantee.

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT GUARANTEED INCOME?

A 254 Financial Group agent can help you understand how different retirement income strategies work and whether they may fit your situation. Reach us through the contact page at 254financialgroup.com/contact.

SECTION 6

Don't Overlook Your Other Assets

Your retirement plan should look at the whole picture. Consider:

- 401(k)s
- IRAs
- Savings
- Investments
- Annuities
- Life insurance
- Real estate
- Business interests
- Other sources of income

Do I know how these assets will work together once I retire? If the answer is no, that's an important place to start.

SECTION 7

Think About Taxes

The amount you save isn't necessarily the amount you'll have available to spend. Different retirement accounts and financial products can have different tax treatments.

Your retirement plan should consider:

- Which accounts your retirement savings are held in
- When withdrawals may be taxed
- Required distributions where applicable
- How different income sources may affect your taxes
- How you may want to structure withdrawals over time

Tax laws can change, so speak with a qualified tax professional about your individual situation.

SECTION 8

Build Your Retirement Income Plan

Now bring the pieces together.

YOUR RETIREMENT SNAPSHOT

Desired retirement age

Estimated monthly income needed	\$
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Estimated Social Security income	\$
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Other guaranteed income	\$
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Retirement savings	\$
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Other assets	\$
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Estimated monthly income gap	\$
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Ask Yourself:

- Do I know how much income I'll need?
- Do I know where my retirement income will come from?
- Do I have income I can count on for life?
- Have I considered inflation, healthcare costs, and market risk?
- Have I considered the possibility of living longer than expected?
- Do I understand the tax implications of my retirement strategy?
- Do I review my retirement plan regularly?

SECTION 9

When Should You Start?

If retirement is decades away	Focus on building savings, taking advantage of available retirement accounts, and establishing good financial habits.
If retirement is 5-10 years away	Start thinking seriously about how you'll turn your savings into income and how you'll manage risk.
If retirement is around the corner	Your focus should shift from accumulation to income, protection, taxes, and making your money last.
If you're already retired	It's not too late to review whether your current income strategy still meets your needs.

There is no single “right” retirement strategy. Your plan should evolve as your life changes.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

Your Retirement Checkup

Use these questions to identify where you may need more clarity.

QUESTION	YES	NOT SURE	NO
Do I know how much I'll need in retirement?	☐	☐	☐
Do I know where my retirement income will come from?	☐	☐	☐
Do I have a plan for lifetime income?	☐	☐	☐
Have I considered inflation?	☐	☐	☐
Have I considered healthcare costs?	☐	☐	☐
Have I considered market risk?	☐	☐	☐
Do I understand my retirement tax exposure?	☐	☐	☐
Do I know whether my current plan is on track?	☐	☐	☐

If you answered “Not Sure” or “No” to several questions, those are good areas to discuss with a professional.

YOUR NEXT STEP

Plan Today. Retire with Confidence.

You don't need to have every answer before you start planning. The right retirement strategy depends on your age, income, savings, goals, risk tolerance, and the life you want to live in retirement.

Speak with a 254 Financial Group agent to review your current situation, understand your options, and explore strategies for creating reliable retirement income.

SPEAK WITH A 254 FINANCIAL GROUP AGENT

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