What is Social Security?

Social Security was created to promote the economic security of the nation’s people.

1930s Great Depression
America facing the worst economic crisis of modern times

August 14, 1935
President Roosevelt signs Social Security Act as part of the New Deal

Designed to pay retired workers age 65 or older a continuing income after retirement.

- 1939: Survivors Insurance for families of a deceased worker
- 1956: Disability Insurance for disabled workers and their family members
- 1965: Medicare providing health insurance for our beneficiaries
- 1972: Supplemental Security Income (SSI) needs-based program funded by the U.S. Treasury general fund to provide payments to people with limited income and resources who are age 65 or older, blind, or disabled. Children with disabilities can get SSI, too.

Who do we serve?

- +65 million beneficiaries
- +51 million retired workers and dependents
- +8 million disabled workers and dependents
- +5 million survivors of deceased workers

1 in 5 Americans currently receive a Social Security benefit
1/5 are Disabled, Dependents, or Survivors

The most successful anti-poverty program in our country’s history

SSA.gov