If You Work for a Nonprofit Organization

A nonprofit organization provides a service to the public and does not receive a profit from their business. Nonprofit organizations may include religious, educational, or charitable organizations and may not be required to pay federal taxes. However, if you are an employee of a nonprofit organization you must pay Social Security taxes on your earnings of $108.28 or more.

Social Security and Medicare taxes
Currently, you and your employer each pay a 6.2% Social Security tax on up to $147,000 of your earnings and a 1.45% Medicare tax on all your earnings. If you are a self-employed nonprofit worker, you pay the combined employee and employer amount. This includes a 12.4% Social Security tax on earnings of $108.28 (up to $147,000 of your net earnings) and a 2.9% Medicare tax on your entire net earnings. If you earn more than $200,000 (or $250,000 for married couples filing jointly), you must pay 0.9% more in Medicare taxes.

If you work for a nonprofit organization
Some nonprofit organizations do not participate in the Social Security program. When an organization does not participate, it does not withhold Social Security or Medicare taxes from your wages. Also, it does not pay the matching share of those taxes like other employers.

If you work for an organization that does not participate in our program, you must pay Social Security and Medicare taxes if your earnings are more than $108.28 per year. In effect, you are treated similarly to people who are self-employed. The self-employment tax rate is 15.3%, although there are special tax credits you can take when you file your tax return. For more information about Social Security self-employment taxes, read If You Are Self-Employed (Publication No. 05-10022).

Credits needed to qualify for benefits
In 2022, you receive one credit for each $1,510 of earnings, up to the maximum of four credits per year. The number of credits you need to qualify for Social Security benefits depends on your age and the type of benefit for which you are eligible. No one needs more than 40 credits, usually about 10 years of work.

Retirement benefits
To be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits, people born in 1929 or later need to have 40 credits.

Disability benefits
The number of credits you need to qualify for disability benefits depends on your age and when your disability began. For more information, read Disability Benefits (Publication No. 05-10029).

Survivors benefits
Survivors benefits may be payable to your widow or widower and children. The number of credits needed depends on your age at the time of death. As few as six credits are needed to pay benefits to the survivors of a worker age 28 or younger. For more information about these benefits, read Survivors Benefits (Publication No. 05-10084).

You can work and receive retirement benefits
If you decide to apply for benefits before your full retirement age, you can work and still get some Social Security benefits. There are limits on how much you can earn without some or all of your retirement benefits being reduced during the time you are working. For more information, read How Work Affects Your Benefits (Publication No. 05-10069).
Contacting Social Security

There are several ways to contact us, such as online, by phone, and in person. We’re here to answer your questions and to serve you. For more than 85 years, Social Security has helped secure today and tomorrow by providing benefits and financial protection for millions of people throughout their life’s journey.

Visit our website

The most convenient way to conduct Social Security business is online at www.ssa.gov. You can accomplish a lot.

- Apply for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug plan costs.
- Apply for most types of benefits.
- Find copies of our publications.
- Get answers to frequently asked questions.

When you create a personal my Social Security account, you can do even more.

- Review your Social Security Statement.
- Verify your earnings.
- Get estimates of future benefits.
- Print a benefit verification letter.
- Change your direct deposit information.
- Request a replacement Medicare card.
- Get a replacement SSA-1099/1042S.
- Request a replacement Social Security card, if you have no changes and your state participates.

Access to your personal my Social Security account may be limited for users outside the United States.

Call us

If you cannot use our online services, we can help you by phone when you call your local Social Security office or our National toll-free 800 Number. You can find your local office information by entering your ZIP code on our office locator webpage.

You can call us at 1-800-772-1213 — or at our TTY number, 1-800-325-0778, if you’re deaf or hard of hearing — between 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Wait times to speak to a representative are typically shorter Wednesdays through Fridays or later in the day. We also offer many automated telephone services, available 24 hours a day, so you do not need to speak with a representative.

If you have documents we need to see, remember that they must be original or copies that are certified by the issuing agency.