

# Solutions, Strategies, Answers

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



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**Welcome** to the January 2016 edition of *Solutions, Strategies, Answers*, a newsletter produced by the 18 Social Security Administration Offices in southeastern Pennsylvania.

We aim to provide solutions to your Social Security issues, suggest strategies that lead to a good outcome, and of course give answers to your questions!



## Business Services Online

Our business services provide employers access to Social Security's web services using a secure website.

- Employer W-2 Filing provides guidance to employers and businesses on reporting wages to Social Security.
- Employers can verify the names and Social Security numbers of current and former employees free using the Social Security Number Verification Service through Business Services Online.
- Businesses can also verify names and Social Security numbers for a fee using the Consent Based SSN Verification Service.

You must register and create your own password to access Business Services Online.

<https://www.socialsecurity.gov/bsowelcome.htm>

Reminders and Changes for Tax Year 2015 Reporting



## 2016 SSA-1099 Online

The SSA-1099 is a tax form we mail each year in January to people who receive Social Security benefits. It shows the total amount of benefits you received from Social Security in the previous year so you know how much Social Security income to report to the IRS on your tax return.

If you are a noncitizen who lives outside of the United States and you received or repaid Social Security benefits last year, we will send you form SSA-1042S instead.

Beginning on February 1, 2016, you can get an instant replacement form SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S by using your online *my Social Security* account.

If you do not already have an account, you can create one online. To get your replacement form SSA-1099, go to Sign In or Create an Account.

Once you are logged in to your account, select the "Replacement Documents" tab to get a replacement form SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S.

**Note:** The forms SSA-1099 and SSA-1042S are not available for people who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

For more information, go to:

<https://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount/>



**Question:**

My husband and I are both entitled to our own Social Security benefits. Will our combined benefits be reduced because we are married?

**Answer:**

No. When each member of a married couple works in employment covered under Social Security and both meet all other eligibility requirements to receive retirement benefits, lifetime earnings are calculated independently to determine the benefit amounts.

Therefore, in most situations, each spouse receives a monthly benefit amount based on his or her *own* earnings. In addition, he or she may be eligible to receive benefits as a spouse.

To learn more, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement).



**February is National #BlackHistoryMonth**

Throughout the month of February, we celebrate Black History Month. Created in 1926, this event coincides with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and Frederick Douglass on February 14. African American communities have celebrated these birthdays together since the late 19th century.

This annual celebration of achievements by black Americans is a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

How do African Americans benefit from the Social Security program? Go to:

<https://www.ssa.gov/people/africanamericans/>



**Happy Lunar New Year!**

Did you know Social Security offers information in other languages, including Chinese, Korean, Hmong, Tagalog, and Vietnamese?

You can find all the languages we offer at our Multilanguage Gateway:

<https://www.ssa.gov/multilanguage/>

**Want to Subscribe to Solutions, Strategies, Answers?**

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**Online Services Are for All Seasons**

No matter what the Groundhog does, Social Security has got you covered! Stay home and stay warm – go online.

<https://www.ssa.gov/online-services/>