**Welcome** to the July 2014 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!

This newsletter is for everyone, but we especially want to be a channel for advocates, agencies, employers, financial planners and other professionals who themselves disseminate information about Social Security programs and services.

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**Social Security Number Printouts Discontinued**

Effective August 1, 2014, we discontinued providing Social Security Number printouts. This action is to protect the integrity of the Social Security Number and to prevent fraud.

Your Social Security card is your legal proof of your Social Security Number.

If you need proof of your Social Security Number and you do not have your card, you will need to request a replacement Social Security card by completing the **Application for a Social Security Card** (Form SS-5) and providing the required documentation.

[http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber/)

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**What Is Your Someday?**

Studies show that nearly half of Americans are not saving for the day they will no longer be working. Over the next 20 years, nearly 80 million baby boomers will retire, and most will depend on Social Security benefits for a substantial portion of their retirement income.

What do you want to do someday?

"Retire" is probably on your list. You can start planning for retirement now by opening a [my Social Security](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount/) online account at

[http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount/)

More than 12,000,000 have already signed up.

You can use your [my Social Security](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount/) online account to access your Social Security Statement, to check your earnings and get estimates of future retirement, disability, and survivor benefits which you or your family may receive. If you already receive benefits, you can get benefit verification letters, change your address and phone number, and start or change your direct deposit information.

Why wait to open an account?

Create an account today – convenient, free, and secure.

Check out our Public Service Announcements about your Someday


**Someday is here.**
Social Security Celebrates 79 Years

On August 14, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said that Social Security “represents a cornerstone in a structure which is being built but is by no means complete. It is, in short, a law that will take care of human needs and at the same time provide the United States an economic structure of vastly greater soundness.”

The Social Security Act signed that day covered a limited number of workers in commerce and industry, and provided only retirement benefits.

Secure as its foundation is, Social Security has also been at the forefront of change. Social Security has changed as the face of America has evolved over the course of the last eight decades.

Today, Social Security is much more than a retirement program. It provides benefits to disabled individuals and their families, and benefits to widows, widowers and the eligible children of deceased workers. We have work incentives to help those people with disabilities go to work. Social Security even provides Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs.

Social Security also administers the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, which helps aged and disabled people who have low income and limited resources.

For the past 79 years, Social Security has maintained its place as an American cornerstone.

Learn more about Social Security’s rich history at www.socialsecurity.gov/history

Social Security Extends Access to Benefit Verification

Social Security recently announced that local Social Security offices will continue to provide benefit verification letters in office until further notice.

“We appreciate the feedback from members of Congress, our community stakeholders and agency partners. We want to ensure that we meet the needs of our customers in a way that is convenient for them and also cost-effective and secure for all,” Acting Commissioner Carolyn W. Colvin stated. “I believe that government agencies can work closer together to assist our mutual customers.”

Providing services when and where the public needs them remains central to Social Security’s efforts, while continuing to encourage federal, state, and local agencies to take advantage of Social Security’s data exchange programs that can serve customers more efficiently and effectively.

Over the last few years, Social Security has invested in technology that allows most government agencies and many other organizations to verify their clients’ Social Security benefits electronically without requiring them to visit a local Social Security office.

http://www.socialsecurity.gov/dataexchange/overview.htm#sb=1

“We recognize that some members of the public may require in-person assistance and we will have a presence in local communities,” said Acting Commissioner Colvin. “We also want to ensure that the public is aware that they can access many of our services without making a trip to a local field office.”

The easiest way to obtain benefit verification information is by creating a my Social Security account.

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Aggregate Income of the Aged Population by Source-2011