

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 June 2022 Solutions, Strategies, Answers, a newsletter produced by the 18 Social Security Administration offices in southeastern Pennsylvania.



We Get Questions ...

One of the most popular sections of our website is the "FAQs" (Frequently Asked Questions). Here is a smattering of the types of items addressed there:

What is the maximum retirement benefit payable?

That depends on your age when retiring. If you retire at full age in 2022, the maximum is \$3,345. However, if you retire at 62, your maximum would be \$2,364. If you take your benefits at age 70, the maximum would be \$4,194.

What is the Ticket to Work program?

Ticket to Work can help Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability recipients go to work, get a good job that may lead to a career, save more money, and become financially independent. This all while keeping health coverage.

How can I get help with my Medicare premium?

States must help pay some Medicare premiums, deductibles and copayments for people with limited income and resources. Contact your local state medical assistance program for specific requirements.

Check out our FAQs section to see the questions-and-answers on a range of Social Security topics:

[FAQ Home](#) · [Customer Self-Service \(ssa.gov\)](#)



Discounted Internet Access for SSI Recipients

Internet access is now necessary for work, school, healthcare, and more. However, for many households, it remains unaffordable. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) wants everyone to access reasonably priced internet services. The FCC recently launched the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to reduce the cost of getting online. The ACP provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households.

Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 toward purchasing a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers. To qualify for this one-time discount, households must contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

Any household with an individual who receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is eligible to receive discounted internet service through the ACP. Social Security doesn't count ACP assistance as income or a resource for SSI purposes. Receipt of this assistance will not affect a person's SSI payment.

You can learn more at the ACP website: [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) | [Federal Communications Commission \(fcc.gov\)](#)



What, You Thought Maybe “Firefly,” “Keystone,” and “Pennsy” Made the List???

Here at Social Security we recently announced that Olivia and Liam were the most popular girl and boy names for 2021 newborns in the U.S. But what about new arrivals in our very own Pennsylvania? Well, these were the toppers:

Girls

- 1 Olivia *(she reigns wherever)*
- 2 Charlotte *(uh, shouldn't she be in NC?)*
- 3 Emma
- 4 Ava
- 5 Sophia

Boys

- 1 Noah
- 2 Liam *(sorry, second place here)*
- 3 Benjamin
- 4 Oliver
- 5 Owen

In addition to each state’s top baby names, our website has a list of the 1,000 most popular boys and girls names for 2021. For all this and more, go to: [Popular Baby Names \(ssa.gov\)](https://www.ssa.gov/popular-baby-names/)

Oh, and the name references in our headline above? Well, Pennsylvania has been “The Keystone State” since 1802, partly because of its central location among the 13 original colonies. And no lie - the firefly has been the official state insect since 1974. And “Pennsy”? No explanation needed!

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Contact richard.gaudiosi@ssa.gov

You Can Sign Up for Medicare Part B Online if You are Due a Special Enrollment Period

If you are enrolled in Medicare Part A but initially declined Part B because you were actively working and medically covered by your employer, you are entitled to a “Special Enrollment Period.” When you are about to stop work, you can enroll in Part B online. Just go to our Medicare webpage at www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/.

From there, you can enroll in Part B by completing these two forms: **CMS-40B** (*Application for Enrollment in Medicare Part B Medical Insurance*) and **CMS-L564** (*Request for Employment Information*).

You can then fax or mail both forms to your local SSA office. You can find the fax number and address at www.ssa.gov/locator. Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) if you have questions.

When completing the forms, state “I want Part B coverage to begin MM/YY” in the remarks section of the CMS-40B.

If your employer is unable to complete Section B of the CMS-L564, you can complete that portion as best you can on behalf of your employer. The employer’s signature is not needed in this case. However, you then must submit **one** of the following types of secondary evidence by uploading it from a saved document on your computer:

- * Income tax returns that show health insurance premiums paid
- * W-2s reflecting pre-tax medical contributions
- * Pay stubs that reflect health insurance premium deductions
- * Health insurance cards with a policy effective date
- * Explanations of benefits paid by the Group Health Plan or Large Group Health Plan
- * Statements or receipts that reflect payment of health insurance premiums.

So, you have three ways to file: online, fax or by mail.