



# Social Security

Dear Faith/Community Leader,

On August 14, 2015, the Social Security Administration will celebrate 80 years of service to the public. For eight decades, Social Security has served as the foundation of retirement security for millions of people and helped many stay out of poverty.

As part of Social Security's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, we invite you to participate in our *Faith Week of Action*, **August 2 – 8, 2015**. This week will highlight America's most successful poverty prevention program and encourage the public to take advantage of Social Security's valuable financial planning tools, including the *free* personal online *my Social Security* account at [socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

Like Social Security, faith-based community organizations serve as an invaluable resource to those they serve, including providing critical support to some of the nation's most vulnerable populations. As you know, when organizations work together toward a common goal, they can achieve greater results.

**Social Security needs your help!** During the *Faith Week of Action*, we ask your organization to host an event, share information about Social Security through your communications, and encourage your members to sign up for *my Social Security*. Additionally, you can contact us to see if Social Security representatives are available to come to your event.

We have attached a toolkit to assist you in promoting events during the *Faith Week of Action*. The toolkit contains:

- Factsheet for Faith-Based and Community Partners;
- Four-Step Guide for Faith-Based and Community Partners to Plan a Faith Week of Action Event;
- Sample announcement, newsletter articles, and press release;
- Sample social media posts;
- Social Security Faith Week of Action event flyer; and
- Regional Social Security contacts to coordinate your local activity.

We hope that you will join us in this celebration!

Thank you so much for your support.

J. Jioni Palmer  
Associate Commissioner for External Affairs  
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## **Fact Sheet for Faith-Based and Community Partners**

### **What is the Social Security Faith-Based Week of Action?**

- This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Social Security Act. When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Social Security into law, he was determined to keep older Americans from ending up in poverty after a lifetime of hard work.
- For eight decades, Social Security has served as the foundation of retirement security for millions of Americans and helped many stay out of poverty.
- As part of Social Security's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, the agency is hosting a national *Faith Week of Action*. This week will highlight America's most successful poverty prevention program and encourage Americans to take advantage of the tremendous planning resources offered by Social Security.
- From August 2 – 8, 2015, Social Security is encouraging faith-based and community partners to share promotional materials and host events about Social Security turning 80 at cross-denominational services. Social Security celebrates its 80th anniversary August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- During our *Faith Week of Action*, we ask that you encourage people to sign up for **my Social Security** accounts. This free online account is designed to help Americans learn about their current and future Social Security benefits and the protections that the program provides for them and their families.
- Additionally, Social Security representatives may be available to distribute retirement planning materials during these events and conduct **my Social Security** sign ups.
- We may not be able to accommodate every event request during national *Faith Week of Action*; however, we can explore participating at another event on a different date.
- By promoting **my Social Security** and other retirement planning tools, we can help workers take charge of their financial futures for themselves and their families.

### **Social Security and your Retirement Plans**

- Social Security is committed to helping people prepare for retirement. Create a **my Social Security** account at [socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](https://socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) and get estimates of what your benefits would be at different retirement ages and better understand what savings you will need in retirement.
- In deciding when to retire, remember that financial experts say you will need 70-80 percent of your preretirement income to have a comfortable retirement. Since Social Security replaces around 40 percent of preretirement income, having savings, investments, pensions, or retirement accounts is important.

- While 40 percent is a great foundation, you will need income from other sources like these as well. And, that's why it's important to plan and save for your retirement. Do you have a plan? Are you ready?

**Help us educate individuals and families about Social Security and the importance of planning for their financial future by registering to support this week at [socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty/faithaction](https://socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty/faithaction).**

- By supporting this initiative, you will receive information and promotional materials to use across your communication channels to educate people and families about Social Security and the importance of planning for their financial future.
- You can stay up-to-date on our many activities at our informational page for Groups and Organizations at [socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty](https://socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty)

For more information about *Faith Week of Action*, please contact us at [oea.net.post@ssa.gov](mailto:oea.net.post@ssa.gov).

## Four-Step Guide for Faith-Based and Community Partners to Plan a *Faith Week of Action* Event

### 1. Planning the Event

- Contact the Social Security regional communications director for your state to ask if he or she could provide support for your *Faith Week of Action* event. While Social Security may not be able to attend every event, we can provide resources and schedule to come to another event on a different date.
- A list of the regional communications directors is included in this toolkit and can also be found online at [socialsecurity.gov/agency/rcds.html](https://socialsecurity.gov/agency/rcds.html).
- After choosing a date, times, and a location for the event, identify a room with computers with Internet access, tables, and chairs. This will allow people to sign up for an online *my Social Security* account.
- After you have a good idea of how many people might attend the event, ask for volunteers from your organization to help with set-up, breakdown, hospitality, and coordination of the event.

### 2. Advertising the Event

- Advertise your *Faith Week of Action* event within your community, especially to those who may need information about Social Security and planning for their financial future, and ask if they are able to attend the event.
- In the advertisement, include that people should come prepared to sign up for a *my Social Security* account by choosing a **username** (8 to 20 letters and/or numbers) and an **8-character password** (at least one capital letter, one lowercase letter, at least one number, and at least one symbol) to create their account.
- Include information in the advertisement on how to learn more about Social Security by visiting the agency's website at [socialsecurity.gov](https://socialsecurity.gov).
- Identify other faith-based or community groups that might want to collaborate with you. Ask them to join your event and/or advertise it in their publications.

### 3. Conducting the Event

- Have a sign-in sheet, and ask for contact information so that you can follow up if you plan to host a future *Faith Week of Action* event.
- Make sure the room is set up with tables, chairs, and access to the Internet. Arrange the space so that people can have privacy when creating an online **my Social Security** account.
- If you expect a large turnout, have a room set up with computers, Internet, and volunteers to help people create an email account (if needed) and create a **my Social Security** account.
- Designate a waiting area where people can read about **my Social Security** and Social Security programs. You may want to offer snacks and drinks, and print out the following information for those who are waiting:

[How to Create an Online Account](#)

[What You Can Do Online](#)

[Understanding the Benefits](#)

[When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits](#)

### 4. Following up on the Event

- Thank your volunteers for their help with the event.
- For those who were unable to create an account at the event, but who still wish to do so, encourage them to visit [socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](https://socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) to sign up for a **my Social Security** account.

## **Sample Announcement**

No matter your career or age— from just entering the workforce to approaching retirement age— planning and saving for your financial future is a constant concern and dealing with the unexpected can be a daunting task. The Social Security Administration can help.

Social Security is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a *Faith Week of Action*, and representatives will be available at services across the country to highlight the tremendous resources offered by Social Security. Representatives will be on hand to:

- Provide information about the Social Security benefits and the protections that the program provides to families;
- Distribute retirement planning materials; and
- Help people sign up for a **my Social Security** account.

If you want to learn more about the resources offered by Social Security, attend a *Faith Week of Action* event from August 2 – 8, 2015.

Sign up today for a **my Social Security** account at [socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](https://socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

***Event name:***

***Date:***

***Time:***

***Location:***

***Contact information:***

## **Sample Newsletter Article**

### *Faith Week of Action* Features Social Security Speakers, Information, and Resources for Retirement

In celebration of Social Security's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Social Security Administration is working with faith-based organizations across the country to host a *Faith Week of Action* from August 2 – 8, 2015. The week will highlight America's most successful poverty prevention program and encourage the public to take advantage of the tremendous resources offered by Social Security.

No matter your career or age—from just entering the workforce to approaching retirement age—planning and saving for your financial future is a constant concern and dealing with the unexpected can be a daunting task. For this reason, Social Security is working with **[ORGANIZATION NAME]** to provide information about the protections and potential benefits that the program provides to families.

Social Security offers secure and convenient online services like **my Social Security**, that let you create an account to verify the earnings information on your *Social Security Statement*, see estimates of the future retirement, disability, and survivor benefits you and your family may receive based on your earnings. You can create a **my Social Security** account today by visiting [socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](https://socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

If you want to learn more about the resources offered by Social Security, attend a *Faith Week of Action* event August 2 – 8, 2015. Social Security representatives will be on hand to help attendees create a **my Social Security** account.

***Event name:***

***Date:***

***Time:***

***Location:***

***Contact information:***

## **Sample Newsletter Article**

Social Security Commemorates 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with *Faith Week of Action*

Social Security is working with faith-based organizations across the country to encourage Americans to take advantage of the tremendous resources offered by Social Security. For eight decades, the program has served as the foundation of retirement security for millions of people. By attending *Faith Week of Action* events August 2 – 8, 2015, you can learn about potential Social Security benefits and the protections that the program provides to families.

Event representatives will encourage people to create a **my Social Security** account. With a **my Social Security** account, you have immediate access to your *Social Security Statement*, which provides workers age 18 and over with their complete earnings history and estimates for future retirement, disability, and survivors benefits. It is a great financial planning tool. For those currently receiving benefits, **my Social Security** is a convenient place to manage benefits, such as changing contact information and direct deposit. To create a **my Social Security** account today, visit [socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](https://socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

Social Security is America's most effective poverty prevention program. It keeps 22 million Americans out of poverty, including more than 1 million children, nearly 15 million seniors, and 6 million adults younger than 65. In addition to retirement, the Social Security program has helped many stay out of poverty, including people who became disabled or lost a spouse.

"As we celebrate our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, our mission remains consistent with the reasons for our formation in 1935: serving as vital financial protection for millions of people," said Acting Commissioner Carolyn W. Colvin. "Social Security touches the lives of nearly every person, often during times of personal hardship, transition, and uncertainty. We want the public to know that we are there for them when they need us."



## Sample Press Release

### **[ORGANIZATION NAME] Is Celebrating Social Security's 80th Anniversary with *Faith Week of Action* Event**

#### **Event will encourage individuals and their families to plan for their financial future**

In recognition of Social Security's 80th anniversary, [Organization Name] is collaborating with the Social Security Administration to host a *Faith Week of Action* event on [date] at [time], at [place]. During this special week, [Organization Name] joins other faith-based organizations across the country to highlight America's most successful social program and encourage individuals and their families to plan thoughtfully for their financial future. For eight decades, Social Security has served as the foundation of retirement security for millions of people—often helping them stay out of poverty.

Event representatives will provide information about Social Security's benefits and services and assist participants with creating their own secure **my Social Security** online account. Workers can use this account to obtain estimates of future benefits and verify the earnings information Social Security has in its records. This is important because Social Security bases retirement, disability, and survivors benefits on workers' earnings.

People who currently receive benefits can sign up for a **my Social Security** account to get an instant benefit verification letter; change their address and phone number; start or change direct deposit of their benefit payment; get a replacement Medicare card; or get a replacement benefit statement for tax season. To learn more about **my Social Security**, visit [socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](https://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

For more information about this event, call [Event Host Name] at [phone number], or send an email to [email address].

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## **Sample Social Media Posts**

Facebook/Google+: Social Security is hosting a Faith Week of Action from August 2 – 8, 2015 to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program. For the last eight decades, Social Security has served as the foundation of retirement security for millions of people and has helped many stay out of poverty. Learn more about the Social Security program at our **(event name)** on **(date/time)** at **(location)**. #FaithAction

Facebook/Google+: We're excited to participate in Social Security's Faith Week of Action to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Social Security program. Please join us at our **(event name)** on **(date/time)** at **(location)**. Event representatives will be available to provide information about the program and to help you sign up for a #mySocialSecurity account at [socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). #FaithAction

Facebook/Google+: Social Security is America's most effective poverty prevention program. Join Social Security in celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, August 2 – 8, 2015. #FaithAction

Twitter: We're excited to support @SocialSecurity for Faith Week of Action! Join us on **mm/dd @ time/location** to sign up for your #mySocialSecurity acct. #FaithAction

Twitter: @SocialSecurity will kick off 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 8/2-8/2015 w/ Faith Week of Action. Join us on **mm/dd @ time/location**. #FaithAction

Twitter: @SocialSecurity has helped millions stay out of poverty. Learn more about #SocialSecurity during #FaithAction Week on **mm/dd**.



# SOCIAL SECURITY FAITH WEEK OF ACTION

## AUGUST 2 – 8, 2015

As part of Social Security's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, faith-based and other community-based organizations are hosting *Faith Week of Action* events across the country. These events will highlight America's most successful poverty prevention program and encourage people to take advantage of the tremendous planning resources offered by Social Security. For eight decades, Social Security has served as the foundation of retirement security for millions of people and helped many stay out of poverty.

During *Faith Week of Action*, representatives will provide information about Social Security's benefits and services, including the online **my Social Security** account. This free online account is designed to help people learn about their current and future Social Security benefits and the protections that the program provides for them and their families.

Sign up for a **my Social Security** account at:  
[socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://socialsecurity.gov/myaccount)

Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Time(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security representatives will be here to assist you.

### Why create a **my Social Security** account?

- You can use **my Social Security** to access your downloadable *Social Security Statement* to verify your earnings and get estimates of future retirement, disability, and survivor benefits you and your family may receive.
- If you already receive Social Security benefits, you can get your benefit verification letter, change your address and phone number, start or change your direct deposit information, get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S for tax season.
- If you receive Medicare, you can get a Medicare replacement card.

To create an account, visit [socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) and select **"Create An Account."** You will have to provide some personal information about yourself and give us answers to some questions you are likely to know to verify your identity.

Next, you choose a **"username"** (8 to 20 letters and/or numbers) and **"8-character password"** (at least one capital letter, one lowercase letter, at least one number and at least one symbol) to access your online account. This process protects you and keeps your personal Social Security information private.

**#FaithAction**  
**#mySocialSecurity**



Follow the Social Security Administration  
at the above social media sites.

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

## National Public Affairs Team

If you would like to collaborate with us for *Social Security Faith Week of Action* to educate the public on Social Security, please know that we can support your planned activities by providing promotional materials and resources. Additionally, we may be able to speak at conduct a [my Social Security sign up](#) at your event. Below is a list of national and local contacts who can assist you.

Contact: J. Jioni Palmer, Associate Commissioner for External Affairs

### Servicing Area(s): Nationwide

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Telephone: (410) 965-1804  
Fax: (410) 966-2660  
[oea.net.post@ssa.gov](mailto:oea.net.post@ssa.gov)

## Regional Communications Directors

### REGION I: BOSTON

#### Servicing Area(s): CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT

Contact: Roberto Medina  
Room 1900, JFK Building  
Government Center  
Boston, MA 02203  
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Email: [bos.rcd@ssa.gov](mailto:bos.rcd@ssa.gov)

### REGION II: NEW YORK

#### Servicing Area(s): NY, NJ, PR, VI

Contact: John Shallman  
Room 40-102  
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Email: [ny.rpa@ssa.gov](mailto:ny.rpa@ssa.gov)

### REGION III: PHILADELPHIA

#### Servicing Area(s): DE, MD, PA, VA, WV, DC

Contact: Terri Lewis  
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Fax: (215) 597-1415  
Email: [phi.rpa@ssa.gov](mailto:phi.rpa@ssa.gov)

### REGION IV: ATLANTA

#### Servicing Area(s): AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN

Contact: Patti Patterson  
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## **REGION V: CHICAGO**

**Servicing Area(s):** IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI

Contact: Carmen M. Moreno  
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## **REGION VI: DALLAS**

**Servicing Area(s):** AR, LA, NM, OK, TX

Contact: Sarah Schultz-Lackey  
1301 Young Street, Room 256  
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## **REGION VII: KANSAS CITY**

**Servicing Area(s):** IA, KS, MO, NE

Contact: Jewell Colbert  
Room 436  
Bolling Federal Building  
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Fax: (816) 936-5727  
Email: [kc.rpao@ssa.gov](mailto:kc.rpao@ssa.gov)

## **REGION VIII: DENVER**

**Servicing Area(s):** CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY

Contact: Cindy Malone, Acting RCD  
Rogers Federal Building  
Suite 06-145  
1961 Stout Street  
Denver, CO 80294  
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## **REGION IX: SAN FRANCISCO**

**Servicing Area(s):** AZ, CA, HI, NV, GU, AS, MP, FM,

Contact: Patricia Raymond  
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## **REGION X: SEATTLE**

**Servicing Area(s):** AK, ID, OR, WA

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