



How to Get the Most from Your Employer's Retirement Plan

Don't miss any opportunities to maximize your savings. Here's how you can take advantage of programs offered by your employer to make your money work harder for you. You will need:

- Retirement plan contributions
- Automatic deductions
- Retiree healthcare savings
- Financial education
- Objective advice
- And other savings plans

Step 1 – Participate in the retirement program

Participate in your company's retirement savings program as soon as you're eligible, and if you can afford it, contribute the maximum amount allowed, or at least enough to take advantage of matching contributions if your company offers them.

Step 2 – Make deductions automatic

Make your contributions automatic by having them deducted from your paycheck. In many cases, you can access your account online, making it easy to adjust contributions as needed.

Step 3 – Put away money for healthcare

If your employer offers one, join a program that lets you put money away for healthcare needs in retirement. These plans offer tax advantages too, since contributions are made with pre-tax dollars.

Step 4 – Educate yourself

Get smart about money by attending any financial seminars and webinars offered by your employer. If your employer offers the services of an objective financial consultant, seek their advice about putting together a retirement plan that's right for you.

Tip: Aim for savings that provide you with at least 80 percent of your salary in retirement.

Step 5 – Join other savings programs

Consider participating in other savings options that offer tax benefits, like IRAs, after-tax annuities, life insurance, and 529 plans that help you save for children's college educations. Remember, there's no such thing as saving too much money, and you can't start too soon.

Did you know? A couple without an employer-sponsored health care plan who retires in 2010 at age 65 is projected to need between \$200,000 and \$800,000 to supplement Medicare and cover out-of-pocket healthcare expenses. (Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), June 2009.)

So get started now. And become your future you. With us.

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Withdrawals of earnings from retirement plans are subject to ordinary income tax and a Federal 10% penalty may apply prior to age 59½.

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