

# Nearing-Retirement Checklist

## 7 Tips to Tackle 5-10 Years before Stepping Off

- Create or update your financial plan.**  
Having a plan is essential to financial success in retirement. If you haven't crunched the numbers yet, hire a Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) to help you start your planning. **Use the [find your planner tool to get started](#).**
- Max out your contributions to your retirement accounts.**  
If you're not maxing out your contributions yet, start immediately. For 2018, the maximum limit is \$18,500. If you're 50 or older by year-end, you can contribute an additional \$6,000 annually.
- Discuss your ideal retirement with your partner.**  
Most spouses are used to their alone time. Once you're both retired, there will be a transition to a lot of time together. Discuss what you want out of retirement. If golfing sounds boring, it's important to expand what the joint retirement lifestyle looks like to both individuals.
- Understand your health care options while you're waiting for Medicare.**  
Many workers utilize employer-sponsored health insurance. When you're no longer employed but not yet qualified for Medicare (age 65), you need to make sure your coverage is sufficient. Evaluate your health insurance needs and find coverage. **The [marketplace can help](#).**
- Analyze your anticipated Social Security benefits.**  
Go to the [Social Security Estimator](#) to get a preliminary understanding of your benefits. If you're able to wait until a later age to draw from Social Security, you will receive an increased benefit.
- Decide if you want to work or volunteer.**  
Start thinking about enriching part-time work, encore career or volunteer opportunities to fill your time. Have you been saying, "If I only had the time..."? Well, now is the time!
- Invest in creating a community.**  
It's easy to find friends and a community through your work environment. When you are retired, that social interaction will cease and needs to be replaced. Start investing time in creating a community so you're not missing out when you retire.



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