

# 6 STEPS To Jumpstart YOUR Retirement Journey

No matter where you are on the journey of preparing for retirement, it's ALWAYS a good time to do a "Retirement Ready" check-in to make sure your savings habits align with the type of retirement you truly want to have. Follow these 6 steps to guide you through that check-in. Trust us, your future self will thank you!



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## Get in the "Retirement Ready" mindset

The first step is prioritizing your savings goal to get retirement ready and what that will look like for you. We encourage you to "Start Small, Think Big" and take advantage of simple retirement solutions available to you like your employer's 401k or 403 B plan and your financial institution's IRA options. If you're starting early, you have time on your side. If you're closer to retirement age, then prepare to be a bit more aggressive to achieve your retirement goal. The good news is that you're doing the right thing!

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## Define what retirement will look like for you.

Set aside some time to think and write down what you want your retirement to look like. Ask yourself questions like, "Where do I think I want to live?" and "What type of lifestyle do I want to have during retirement?"

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## Calculate how much you'll need to save.

Once you have an idea of what type of retirement you want to have, estimate the annual retirement income needed.

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## Take the America Saves Pledge.

Now that you have a better idea of what exactly you're saving for, it's time to make a plan to achieve it. The America Saves Pledge is a tool that helps you make a simple plan to meet your savings goal while offering you long-term accountability and support along the way.

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## Do your homework.

Consider what type of accounts to deposit your retirement savings into. Your employer may offer a 401K or 403B and match your contributions up to a certain percentage. Roth IRAs and Traditional IRAs let your earnings grow tax-deferred until you start making withdrawals. You'll need to determine which is best for you — or maybe a combination of both.

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## Prioritize making your contributions automatically.

Now that you can visualize the type of retirement you want, have determined approximately how much you're saving for, and have a plan and support in place, the best thing you can do is to set it and forget it! Set up automatic payments and contributions either through your employer or your financial institution to stay on track.

Take the America Saves Pledge at [AmericaSaves.org/Pledge](https://AmericaSaves.org/Pledge) Visit [AmericaSaves.org](https://AmericaSaves.org) for tips, resources, and support you on your journey towards retirement.