



ROADMAP TO
RETIREMENT

2025

1. Set Your Ideal Lifestyle Goals

Retirement is your chance to create a life that truly fulfills you. Picture your days will you be traveling, spending time with loved ones, or picking up a hobby you've always been curious about.

It's also a time to reimagine how you live. Maybe you'll simplify your surroundings, move to a dream location, or invest in passions that bring meaning to your life. This phase is about more than financial planning—it's about designing a future that excites and inspires you.

2. Mortgage Free

There's plenty of debate about whether you should pay off your mortgage before retiring. Some argue that carrying manageable housing debt into retirement is fine, but our perspective takes a different view.

Owning your home outright before you retire can significantly improve your financial well-being. Even if the monthly payments seem affordable within your retirement budget, the long-term effect of lingering debt can reduce your overall financial flexibility. Eliminating that burden also ensures your savings remain focused on your future needs, rather than paying off past obligations.

By retiring without a mortgage, you create a foundation of financial freedom, making it easier to handle the unexpected and truly embrace the next chapter of life.

3. Set Your Budget

After deciding how you want to live in retirement, it's time to create a financial plan. Consider the possibility of rising healthcare costs and any changes in spending habits that may develop. It's important to be honest with yourself about expenses—overlooking the real costs could put unnecessary strain on your savings later on.



4. Creating An Estate Plan

As you approach retirement, having an estate plan is essential to protect your legacy and provide peace of mind. An estate plan ensures your wishes are clearly documented, from designating beneficiaries to setting up a power of attorney. It helps safeguard your assets, reduce potential conflicts, and ensures your loved ones are cared for when you're no longer around. Planning now can save your family unnecessary stress and ensure your hard-earned wealth is used according to your intentions.

5. Life Insurance

Life insurance can remain important in retirement to provide financial security for your spouse and dependents. Take time to evaluate your healthcare coverage, particularly if you haven't qualified for Medicare yet. With rising healthcare expenses, unforeseen medical bills can pose a serious financial challenge.

6. Enroll In Social Security

You can apply for Social Security benefits by phone, online through the Social Security Administration's website, or in person at your local SSA office. The timing of your application is crucial, as it can significantly impact your long-term financial security.

While you're eligible to begin benefits at age 62, claiming early reduces your monthly payment. Waiting until your full retirement age (FRA)—between 66 and 67, depending on your birth year—ensures you receive your full benefit amount. Delaying benefits beyond your FRA can increase your payment offering a significant boost to your retirement income.

Deciding when to claim involves evaluating factors like your health, life expectancy, other income sources, and retirement goals. A financial planner can help you navigate these considerations to choose the optimal time to start benefits and maximize your financial stability in retirement.





7. Enroll In Medicare

Most Americans become eligible for Medicare when they turn 65. You can sign up during a seven-month enrollment window, starting three months before your 65th birthday and ending three months after. While some may be automatically enrolled, it's important to confirm your status to avoid surprises. Additionally, take time to review options like Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage) and Part D (prescription drug coverage) to ensure you have the right plan and avoid potential penalties.

8. Assess Your Portfolio

As retirement approaches, it's important to gradually reduce risk in your investment portfolio to protect your savings and ensure funds are accessible when needed. Regular check-ins with a financial advisor can also ensure your strategy remains on track as your goals and market conditions evolve.

9. Get A Financial Planner

Retirement is a major life transition, both emotionally and financially. It's about more than just the numbers—it's about securing a fulfilling future. The choices you make now will impact the quality of your retirement years, and having a clear, personalized plan is key.

A financial advisor can guide you through budgeting, investments, and savings strategies that align with your unique goals. Whether it's navigating Social Security, managing healthcare costs, or ensuring your savings last, we simplify the process and help you feel confident in your decisions.

Don't leave your future to chance. Partner with us to create a retirement plan that provides the stability and peace of mind you deserve. Reach out today to start building a rewarding future.