

**SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
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**Social Security Column
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WE'RE AN ONLINE LEADER IN SPANISH TOO

**By Renee Banner
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We have good news for tens of millions of Spanish-speaking Americans. For years, Social Security has been at the forefront of providing online services for Americans, and we've provided a wealth of information in Spanish. Now, you can do even more with the expanded suite of services offered in Spanish at www.segurosocial.gov.

The most exciting enhancement: you can now apply online for both Social Security retirement benefits and Medicare in Spanish!

If you are ready to apply for Social Security retirement benefits now, you can do it quickly and easily on your home or office computer. The online application takes as little as 15 minutes. Once you complete the online application and "sign" it with the click of a mouse, your application is complete. In most cases there are no documents to submit or additional paperwork to fill out. Online is the easiest way to apply, and now you can do it in Spanish.

In addition to applying for Social Security retirement benefits, you can also go to www.segurosocial.gov to apply for Medicare. How's this for convenient and easy: it can be done in as little as 10 minutes, from start to finish.

But you can do more than apply for benefits at www.segurosocial.gov. You can get a lot of information and publications written in Spanish. In addition, there are a number of online transactions that allow you to complete your Social Security business online, and in the language you're most comfortable using. One of the most popular of all is our *Retirement Estimator*.

Get an instant, personalized estimate of your future Social Security benefits using the *Retirement Estimator*. Using the actual wages posted in your Social Security record, the *Estimator* will give you a good picture of what to expect in benefits. It protects your personal information by providing only retirement benefit estimates — it does not show the earnings information used to calculate the benefit estimate, nor does it reveal other identifying information. You can plug in different scenarios and future wage amounts to get estimates for different situations.

If you are already entitled to Medicare and are having trouble with the high cost of prescription drug costs, you might qualify for *Extra Help* from Social Security. The *Extra Help* can save you as much as \$4,000 each year. You can learn all about it and apply online for the *Extra Help* at www.segurosocial.gov too.

Do you need a little help getting started on the computer? Ask your children or grandchildren to help you. Chances are they would be happy to spend a few minutes helping you.

If you prefer to do business online in Spanish, then our website is the place for you. Visit www.segurosocial.gov today. It's so easy!

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