

Agency Resumes Mailing Social Security Statements Encourages People to Create a Secure my Social Security Account to Obtain Their Statement Online, Anytime

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, today announced the agency will resume the periodic mailing of Social Security *Statements*—once every five years for most workers--while encouraging everyone to create a secure *my* Social Security account to immediately access their *Statement* online, anytime. The *Statement* is a valuable financial planning tool providing workers age 18 and older with important individualized information regarding their earnings, tax contributions, and estimates for future retirement, disability, and survivors benefits.

“We have listened to our customers, advocates, and Congress; and renewing the mailing of the *Statement* reinforces our commitment to provide the public with an easy, efficient way to obtain an estimate of their future Social Security benefits,” Acting Commissioner Colvin said. “I encourage everyone to create their own secure *my* Social Security account to obtain immediate access to their *Statement* online, anytime.”

Beginning this month, workers attaining ages 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, and 60 who are not receiving Social Security benefits and who are not registered for a *my* Social Security account will receive the *Statement* in the mail about 3 months before their birthday. After age 60, people will receive a *Statement* every year. The agency expects to send nearly 48 million *Statements* each year.

The Social Security *Statement* helps people plan for their financial future. In addition to providing future benefit estimates, the *Statement* highlights a person’s complete earnings history, allowing workers to verify the accuracy of their earnings. This is important because an individual’s future benefit amount is determined by the amount of their earnings over their lifetime. To date, more than 14 million people have established a personalized *my* Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

With a *my* Social Security account, people may access the *Statement* from ...their home, office or library whenever they choose. Individuals who currently receive benefits

should sign up for a *mySocial* Security account to manage their benefit payments and, when the need arises, get an instant benefit verification letter, change their address and phone number, and start or change direct deposit of their benefit payment.

Acting Commissioner Colvin reinforced that “whether conducting business with Social Security via the Internet, mail, telephone or face-to-face, we will continue to provide convenient, cost-effective, secure, and quality customer service to meet the needs of the public we serve.”