

FIDELITY HOW MUCH TO SAVE FOR RETIREMENT

FIDELITY HOW MUCH TO SAVE FOR RETIREMENT IS A CRITICAL QUESTION THAT MANY INDIVIDUALS GRAPPLE WITH AS THEY PLAN FOR THEIR FUTURE FINANCIAL SECURITY. UNDERSTANDING THE NUANCES OF RETIREMENT SAVINGS, PARTICULARLY THROUGH A REPUTABLE INSTITUTION LIKE FIDELITY, EMPOWERS INDIVIDUALS TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS. THIS COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE DELVES INTO THE ESSENTIAL FACTORS, COMMON BENCHMARKS, AND PERSONALIZED STRATEGIES FOR DETERMINING YOUR IDEAL RETIREMENT SAVINGS AMOUNT. WE WILL EXPLORE AGE-BASED SAVINGS TARGETS, INCOME REPLACEMENT RATIOS, THE IMPACT OF INFLATION, AND THE VARIOUS RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE THROUGH FIDELITY. BY THE END OF THIS ARTICLE, YOU WILL HAVE A CLEARER ROADMAP TO CONFIDENTLY ASSESS AND PURSUE YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS GOALS.

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UNDERSTANDING RETIREMENT SAVINGS GOALS

PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT INVOLVES MORE THAN JUST ACCUMULATING A LUMP SUM; IT'S ABOUT ENSURING A SUSTAINED LIFESTYLE AND FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE DURING YOUR NON-WORKING YEARS. THE AMOUNT YOU NEED TO SAVE IS HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL, INFLUENCED BY A COMPLEX INTERPLAY OF PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, SPENDING HABITS, AND FINANCIAL GOALS FOR POST-CAREER LIFE. FIDELITY, AS A LEADING FINANCIAL SERVICES PROVIDER, OFFERS EXTENSIVE RESOURCES AND TOOLS TO HELP INDIVIDUALS NAVIGATE THIS COMPLEX LANDSCAPE AND ESTABLISH REALISTIC SAVINGS OBJECTIVES.

THE PRIMARY GOAL OF RETIREMENT SAVINGS IS TO GENERATE ENOUGH INCOME TO COVER YOUR LIVING EXPENSES WITHOUT RELYING ON EMPLOYMENT. THIS REQUIRES A FORWARD-THINKING APPROACH, CONSIDERING NOT ONLY CURRENT NEEDS BUT ALSO FUTURE ONES, SUCH AS HEALTHCARE COSTS, TRAVEL ASPIRATIONS, OR SUPPORTING FAMILY MEMBERS. WITHOUT A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR DESIRED RETIREMENT LIFESTYLE, IT'S CHALLENGING TO SET A MEANINGFUL SAVINGS TARGET.

KEY FACTORS INFLUENCING HOW MUCH TO SAVE

SEVERAL CRITICAL ELEMENTS DIRECTLY IMPACT THE AMOUNT YOU WILL NEED TO ACCUMULATE FOR A COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT. IGNORING THESE CAN LEAD TO UNDER-SAVING, WHICH CAN HAVE SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL REPERCUSSIONS LATER IN LIFE. FIDELITY EMPHASIZES UNDERSTANDING THESE FOUNDATIONAL ASPECTS TO BUILD A ROBUST RETIREMENT PLAN.

AGE AND TIME HORIZON

YOUR CURRENT AGE IS ARGUABLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT FACTOR. THE YOUNGER YOU ARE WHEN YOU START SAVING, THE MORE TIME YOUR INVESTMENTS HAVE TO GROW THROUGH COMPOUNDING. THIS MEANS THAT INDIVIDUALS IN THEIR 20S AND 30S CAN OFTEN AFFORD TO SAVE A SMALLER PERCENTAGE OF THEIR INCOME COMPARED TO THOSE STARTING IN THEIR 40S OR 50S. FIDELITY'S RETIREMENT PLANNING TOOLS OFTEN INCORPORATE AGE-BASED SAVINGS TRAJECTORIES TO ILLUSTRATE THIS PRINCIPLE.

THE LONGER YOUR TIME HORIZON UNTIL RETIREMENT, THE MORE AGGRESSIVELY YOU MIGHT CONSIDER INVESTING, POTENTIALLY LEADING TO HIGHER RETURNS. CONVERSELY, AS RETIREMENT APPROACHES, A SHIFT TOWARDS MORE CONSERVATIVE INVESTMENTS TYPICALLY OCCURS TO PRESERVE CAPITAL. UNDERSTANDING THIS TIMELINE IS CRUCIAL FOR SETTING APPROPRIATE SAVINGS RATES.

DESIRED RETIREMENT LIFESTYLE AND EXPENSES

THE LIFESTYLE YOU ENVISION FOR YOUR RETIREMENT PLAYS A DIRECT ROLE IN YOUR SAVINGS NEEDS. DO YOU PLAN TO TRAVEL EXTENSIVELY, PURSUE EXPENSIVE HOBBIES, OR DOWNSIZE YOUR HOME? OR DO YOU ANTICIPATE A MORE MODEST LIFESTYLE WITH FEWER DISCRETIONARY EXPENSES? A DETAILED ESTIMATION OF YOUR ANTICIPATED MONTHLY OR ANNUAL EXPENSES IN RETIREMENT IS ESSENTIAL.

CONSIDER ESSENTIAL EXPENSES LIKE HOUSING, FOOD, UTILITIES, HEALTHCARE, AND TRANSPORTATION. THEN, FACTOR IN DISCRETIONARY SPENDING SUCH AS ENTERTAINMENT, HOBBIES, AND TRAVEL. FIDELITY SUGGESTS USING A RETIREMENT EXPENSE CALCULATOR TO HELP ESTIMATE THESE FUTURE COSTS ACCURATELY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT POTENTIAL INFLATION.

INCOME REPLACEMENT RATIO

A COMMON GUIDELINE IN RETIREMENT PLANNING IS THE INCOME REPLACEMENT RATIO, WHICH REFERS TO THE PERCENTAGE OF YOUR PRE-RETIREMENT INCOME YOU AIM TO REPLACE IN RETIREMENT. MANY FINANCIAL EXPERTS, INCLUDING THOSE AT FIDELITY, OFTEN RECOMMEND AIMING TO REPLACE 70% TO 90% OF YOUR PRE-RETIREMENT INCOME. THIS FIGURE IS NOT A HARD-AND-FAST RULE BUT A VALUABLE STARTING POINT.

THE EXACT PERCENTAGE WILL VARY BASED ON INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES. FOR INSTANCE, IF YOU PLAN TO PAY OFF YOUR MORTGAGE BEFORE RETIREMENT OR HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER WORK-RELATED EXPENSES (LIKE COMMUTING COSTS), YOU MIGHT NEED A LOWER REPLACEMENT RATIO. CONVERSELY, IF YOU ANTICIPATE SUBSTANTIAL HEALTHCARE COSTS OR WISH TO MAINTAIN A VERY ACTIVE LIFESTYLE, A HIGHER RATIO MIGHT BE NECESSARY.

INFLATION AND INVESTMENT RETURNS

INFLATION ERODES THE PURCHASING POWER OF MONEY OVER TIME, MEANING THAT A DOLLAR SAVED TODAY WILL BE WORTH LESS IN THE FUTURE. THEREFORE, YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN MUST ACCOUNT FOR INFLATION TO ENSURE THAT YOUR MONEY CAN STILL BUY WHAT YOU NEED WHEN YOU RETIRE. FIDELITY'S PLANNING MODELS TYPICALLY FACTOR IN AN ASSUMED ANNUAL INFLATION RATE.

SIMILARLY, PROJECTED INVESTMENT RETURNS ARE A CRITICAL COMPONENT. THE RATE OF RETURN YOU CAN REASONABLY EXPECT FROM YOUR INVESTMENTS OVER THE LONG TERM WILL INFLUENCE HOW QUICKLY YOUR SAVINGS GROW. CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATES ARE GENERALLY PREFERRED TO AVOID OVERESTIMATING FUTURE GAINS. FIDELITY OFFERS A RANGE OF INVESTMENT OPTIONS WITH VARYING RISK AND RETURN PROFILES.

HEALTHCARE COSTS

HEALTHCARE EXPENSES TEND TO INCREASE WITH AGE AND CAN BECOME A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF A RETIREE'S BUDGET. MEDICAL INSURANCE PREMIUMS, PRESCRIPTION COSTS, AND POTENTIAL LONG-TERM CARE NEEDS MUST BE FACTORED INTO YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS. FIDELITY OFTEN HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS OFTEN-UNDERESTIMATED EXPENSE.

WHILE MEDICARE COVERS MANY HEALTH COSTS FOR SENIORS, IT DOES NOT COVER EVERYTHING. OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES FOR DOCTOR VISITS, DENTAL CARE, VISION CARE, AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS CAN ADD UP. SOME INDIVIDUALS ALSO CHOOSE TO PURCHASE SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE FOR ADDITIONAL COVERAGE.

FIDELITY'S RETIREMENT SAVINGS BENCHMARKS

FIDELITY IS RENOWNED FOR PROVIDING PRACTICAL AND ACTIONABLE GUIDANCE ON RETIREMENT SAVINGS. THEY HAVE DEVELOPED SEVERAL BENCHMARKS AND RULES OF THUMB DESIGNED TO HELP INDIVIDUALS GAUGE THEIR PROGRESS AND ADJUST THEIR SAVINGS STRATEGIES. THESE BENCHMARKS SERVE AS HELPFUL INDICATORS, THOUGH THEY SHOULD BE CUSTOMIZED TO INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

AGE-BASED SAVINGS MILESTONES

FIDELITY OFTEN PUBLISHES AGE-BASED SAVINGS MILESTONES THAT SUGGEST HOW MUCH INDIVIDUALS SHOULD HAVE SAVED BY CERTAIN AGES TO STAY ON TRACK FOR RETIREMENT. THESE ARE TYPICALLY PRESENTED AS MULTIPLES OF YOUR CURRENT SALARY. FOR EXAMPLE:

- BY AGE 30: AIM TO HAVE SAVED 1 TIMES YOUR ANNUAL SALARY.
- BY AGE 35: AIM TO HAVE SAVED 2 TIMES YOUR ANNUAL SALARY.
- BY AGE 40: AIM TO HAVE SAVED 3 TIMES YOUR ANNUAL SALARY.
- BY AGE 45: AIM TO HAVE SAVED 4 TIMES YOUR ANNUAL SALARY.
- BY AGE 50: AIM TO HAVE SAVED 6 TIMES YOUR ANNUAL SALARY.
- BY AGE 55: AIM TO HAVE SAVED 7 TIMES YOUR ANNUAL SALARY.
- BY AGE 60: AIM TO HAVE SAVED 8 TIMES YOUR ANNUAL SALARY.
- BY AGE 67 (OR TARGET RETIREMENT AGE): AIM TO HAVE SAVED 10 TIMES YOUR ANNUAL SALARY.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THESE ARE GENERAL GUIDELINES. YOUR PERSONAL SITUATION, INCLUDING YOUR SPENDING HABITS AND DESIRED RETIREMENT INCOME, MIGHT NECESSITATE DEVIATING FROM THESE BENCHMARKS. FIDELITY'S RETIREMENT PLANNERS CAN HELP YOU ASSESS HOW WELL YOU ALIGN WITH THESE TARGETS AND CREATE A PLAN TO BRIDGE ANY GAPS.

RECOMMENDED SAVINGS RATE

BEYOND CUMULATIVE SAVINGS GOALS, FIDELITY ALSO EMPHASIZES A RECOMMENDED ANNUAL SAVINGS RATE. A COMMON RECOMMENDATION FROM FIDELITY IS TO AIM TO SAVE AT LEAST 15% OF YOUR PRE-TAX INCOME FOR RETIREMENT. THIS INCLUDES CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY BOTH YOU AND YOUR EMPLOYER TO RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS LIKE 401(K)S OR 403(B)S.

THIS 15% TARGET IS INTENDED TO BE A CONSISTENT SAVINGS HABIT THAT, OVER A LONG CAREER, CAN ACCUMULATE A SUBSTANTIAL RETIREMENT NEST EGG. FOR THOSE WHO START SAVING LATER IN LIFE OR HAVE MORE AMBITIOUS RETIREMENT GOALS, A HIGHER SAVINGS RATE, PERHAPS 20% OR MORE, MIGHT BE NECESSARY. THE KEY IS CONSISTENCY AND STARTING AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

CALCULATING YOUR PERSONAL RETIREMENT NEEDS

WHILE BENCHMARKS AND GENERAL RULES OF THUMB ARE USEFUL, THE MOST ACCURATE WAY TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH TO SAVE FOR RETIREMENT IS TO CALCULATE YOUR PERSONALIZED NEEDS. THIS INVOLVES A MORE IN-DEPTH LOOK AT YOUR FINANCIAL PICTURE AND FUTURE EXPECTATIONS. FIDELITY PROVIDES TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO ASSIST IN THIS PERSONAL CALCULATION.

ESTIMATING FUTURE EXPENSES

THE FIRST STEP IN PERSONAL CALCULATION IS TO CREATE A DETAILED BUDGET FOR YOUR PROJECTED RETIREMENT EXPENSES. THIS REQUIRES PROJECTING YOUR MONTHLY SPENDING FOR A TYPICAL RETIREMENT YEAR. CONSIDER ALL CATEGORIES OF EXPENSES, INCLUDING:

- HOUSING (MORTGAGE, RENT, PROPERTY TAXES, INSURANCE, MAINTENANCE)
- UTILITIES (ELECTRICITY, GAS, WATER, INTERNET, PHONE)
- FOOD AND GROCERIES
- TRANSPORTATION (CAR PAYMENTS, INSURANCE, GAS, PUBLIC TRANSPORT)
- HEALTHCARE (PREMIUMS, CO-PAYS, PRESCRIPTIONS, POTENTIAL LONG-TERM CARE)
- PERSONAL CARE (HAIRCUTS, TOILETRIES)
- ENTERTAINMENT AND HOBBIES
- TRAVEL AND VACATIONS
- GIFTS AND CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS
- TAXES (FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL)

WHEN ESTIMATING THESE EXPENSES, REMEMBER TO ACCOUNT FOR INFLATION. A 3% ANNUAL INFLATION RATE, FOR INSTANCE, CAN SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE COST OF LIVING OVER 20-30 YEARS. FIDELITY'S RETIREMENT CALCULATORS ARE DESIGNED TO AUTOMATICALLY INCORPORATE INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS.

DETERMINING YOUR REQUIRED RETIREMENT INCOME

ONCE YOU HAVE A CLEAR ESTIMATE OF YOUR ANNUAL RETIREMENT EXPENSES, YOU CAN THEN DETERMINE YOUR REQUIRED ANNUAL RETIREMENT INCOME. THIS IS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY YOU WILL NEED EACH YEAR TO COVER THOSE EXPENSES. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOUR ESTIMATED ANNUAL EXPENSES ARE \$60,000, THEN YOUR TARGET ANNUAL RETIREMENT INCOME IS \$60,000.

CONSIDER ANY SOURCES OF INCOME YOU MIGHT HAVE IN RETIREMENT BESIDES YOUR SAVINGS, SUCH AS SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS OR PENSIONS. SUBTRACTING THESE EXPECTED INCOME STREAMS FROM YOUR TOTAL EXPENSE NEEDS WILL GIVE YOU THE AMOUNT YOUR PERSONAL SAVINGS MUST GENERATE ANNUALLY.

THE "4% RULE" AND WITHDRAWAL RATES

A WIDELY DISCUSSED GUIDELINE FOR DETERMINING HOW MUCH SAVINGS YOU NEED IS THE "4% RULE." THIS RULE SUGGESTS

THAT YOU CAN SAFELY WITHDRAW 4% OF YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS IN YOUR FIRST YEAR OF RETIREMENT AND THEN ADJUST THAT AMOUNT FOR INFLATION IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS, WITH A HIGH PROBABILITY OF YOUR SAVINGS LASTING FOR AT LEAST 30 YEARS. THEREFORE, TO ESTIMATE YOUR TOTAL RETIREMENT SAVINGS NEEDED, YOU CAN MULTIPLY YOUR DESIRED ANNUAL RETIREMENT INCOME BY 25 (SINCE $1/0.04 = 25$).

FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU NEED \$60,000 PER YEAR IN RETIREMENT INCOME, YOU WOULD AIM FOR A NEST EGG OF \$1,500,000 ($\$60,000 \times 25$). IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE 4% RULE IS A GUIDELINE AND NOT A GUARANTEE. MARKET VOLATILITY AND PERSONAL SPENDING HABITS CAN INFLUENCE ITS EFFECTIVENESS. FIDELITY ENCOURAGES INDIVIDUALS TO CONSIDER THEIR RISK TOLERANCE AND POTENTIALLY MORE CONSERVATIVE WITHDRAWAL RATES.

STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS

IF YOUR CURRENT SAVINGS ARE NOT ON TRACK TO MEET YOUR RETIREMENT GOALS, OR IF YOU SIMPLY WANT TO ACCELERATE YOUR PROGRESS, SEVERAL STRATEGIES CAN HELP YOU INCREASE YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS. FIDELITY OFFERS A RANGE OF SOLUTIONS AND ADVICE TO SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS.

MAXIMIZE EMPLOYER-SPONSORED RETIREMENT PLANS

IF YOUR EMPLOYER OFFERS A RETIREMENT PLAN LIKE A 401(k) OR 403(b), TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF IT. CONTRIBUTE AT LEAST ENOUGH TO RECEIVE THE FULL EMPLOYER MATCH, AS THIS IS ESSENTIALLY FREE MONEY THAT BOOSTS YOUR SAVINGS IMMEDIATELY. FIDELITY OFTEN ADMINISTERS MANY OF THESE EMPLOYER PLANS.

CONSIDER INCREASING YOUR CONTRIBUTION PERCENTAGE OVER TIME, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU RECEIVE A RAISE OR BONUS. MANY PLANS ALLOW YOU TO AUTOMATE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, MAKING IT EASIER TO SAVE CONSISTENTLY. AIMING FOR THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION LIMITS SET BY THE IRS CAN SIGNIFICANTLY ACCELERATE YOUR SAVINGS GROWTH.

UTILIZE INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS (IRAs)

INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS (IRAs), SUCH AS TRADITIONAL IRAs AND ROTH IRAs, OFFER TAX ADVANTAGES FOR RETIREMENT SAVINGS OUTSIDE OF EMPLOYER PLANS. FIDELITY IS A PROMINENT PROVIDER OF IRA ACCOUNTS AND INVESTMENT OPTIONS. A TRADITIONAL IRA MAY OFFER TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS, WHILE A ROTH IRA PROVIDES TAX-FREE WITHDRAWALS IN RETIREMENT.

IF YOU'VE MAXED OUT YOUR EMPLOYER PLAN OR DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO ONE, AN IRA IS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO BOLSTER YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS. THE CHOICE BETWEEN A TRADITIONAL AND ROTH IRA DEPENDS ON YOUR CURRENT AND EXPECTED FUTURE TAX BRACKET.

AUTOMATE YOUR SAVINGS

ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS TO ENSURE CONSISTENT SAVING IS TO AUTOMATE THE PROCESS. SET UP AUTOMATIC TRANSFERS FROM YOUR CHECKING ACCOUNT TO YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNTS ON A REGULAR BASIS, SUCH AS WEEKLY OR BI-WEEKLY. THIS "SET IT AND FORGET IT" APPROACH REMOVES THE TEMPTATION TO SPEND THE MONEY AND BUILDS SAVINGS SYSTEMATICALLY.

MANY ONLINE BROKERAGE FIRMS AND RETIREMENT PLAN ADMINISTRATORS, INCLUDING FIDELITY, OFFER AUTOMATED CONTRIBUTION FEATURES FOR BOTH EMPLOYER-SPONSORED PLANS AND IRAs. THIS AUTOMATION IS KEY TO MAINTAINING DISCIPLINE IN YOUR SAVINGS EFFORTS.

REVIEW AND ADJUST YOUR INVESTMENTS

PERIODICALLY REVIEWING YOUR INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO IS CRUCIAL TO ENSURE IT REMAINS ALIGNED WITH YOUR RETIREMENT GOALS AND RISK TOLERANCE. AS YOU GET CLOSER TO RETIREMENT, YOU MAY WANT TO GRADUALLY SHIFT YOUR ASSET ALLOCATION TOWARDS MORE CONSERVATIVE INVESTMENTS TO PROTECT YOUR ACCUMULATED CAPITAL.

FIDELITY PROVIDES A WIDE ARRAY OF INVESTMENT PRODUCTS, FROM MUTUAL FUNDS AND ETFs TO INDIVIDUAL STOCKS AND BONDS, ALLOWING YOU TO CONSTRUCT A DIVERSIFIED PORTFOLIO. CONSULTING WITH A FINANCIAL ADVISOR CAN HELP YOU MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT YOUR INVESTMENT STRATEGY. REGULARLY REBALANCING YOUR PORTFOLIO CAN HELP MAINTAIN YOUR DESIRED RISK LEVEL AND OPTIMIZE RETURNS.

THE ROLE OF DIFFERENT RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

UNDERSTANDING THE VARIOUS TYPES OF RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE IS FUNDAMENTAL TO MAXIMIZING YOUR SAVINGS AND TAX BENEFITS. FIDELITY OFFERS A COMPREHENSIVE SUITE OF THESE ACCOUNTS, EACH WITH ITS OWN ADVANTAGES.

EMPLOYER-SPONSORED PLANS (401(k), 403(b))

THESE ARE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLANS SPONSORED BY EMPLOYERS. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE OFTEN MADE ON A PRE-TAX BASIS, MEANING THEY REDUCE YOUR CURRENT TAXABLE INCOME. MANY EMPLOYERS ALSO PROVIDE MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS, WHICH SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE YOUR SAVINGS. FIDELITY IS A MAJOR ADMINISTRATOR OF THESE PLANS FOR NUMEROUS COMPANIES, OFFERING A DIVERSE RANGE OF INVESTMENT OPTIONS WITHIN THEM.

THE PRIMARY BENEFIT IS THE TAX-DEFERRED GROWTH, WHERE YOUR INVESTMENTS GROW WITHOUT BEING TAXED UNTIL WITHDRAWAL IN RETIREMENT. CATCH-UP CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALSO PERMITTED FOR INDIVIDUALS AGED 50 AND OVER, ALLOWING THEM TO SAVE EVEN MORE.

INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS (IRAs)

IRAs ARE RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNTS THAT INDIVIDUALS CAN OPEN ON THEIR OWN, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY HAVE AN EMPLOYER-SPONSORED PLAN. FIDELITY OFFERS BOTH TRADITIONAL AND ROTH IRAs.

- **TRADITIONAL IRA:** CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE, AND EARNINGS GROW TAX-DEFERRED. WITHDRAWALS IN RETIREMENT ARE TAXED AS ORDINARY INCOME.
- **ROTH IRA:** CONTRIBUTIONS ARE MADE WITH AFTER-TAX DOLLARS, BUT QUALIFIED WITHDRAWALS IN RETIREMENT ARE TAX-FREE.

THE CHOICE BETWEEN A TRADITIONAL AND ROTH IRA OFTEN DEPENDS ON YOUR CURRENT INCOME LEVEL AND YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUR TAX RATE IN RETIREMENT. FIDELITY'S IRA SERVICES INCLUDE A BROAD SELECTION OF INVESTMENT CHOICES TO SUIT VARIOUS INVESTOR PROFILES.

OTHER RETIREMENT SAVINGS VEHICLES

BEYOND THE MOST COMMON PLANS, OTHER OPTIONS EXIST FOR SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES. FOR SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS OR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS, FIDELITY OFFERS ACCOUNTS LIKE SEP IRAS AND SIMPLE IRAS, WHICH PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL TAX ADVANTAGES AND HIGHER CONTRIBUTION LIMITS THAN STANDARD IRAS. THESE PLANS ARE DESIGNED TO HELP ENTREPRENEURS BUILD RETIREMENT SECURITY. UNDERSTANDING THESE SPECIALIZED ACCOUNTS CAN BE HIGHLY BENEFICIAL FOR A BROAD RANGE OF INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO OPTIMIZE THEIR RETIREMENT SAVINGS STRATEGY.

Q: HOW MUCH SHOULD I AIM TO SAVE PER YEAR BASED ON MY INCOME, ACCORDING TO FIDELITY?

A: ACCORDING TO FIDELITY, A GENERAL RECOMMENDATION IS TO AIM TO SAVE AT LEAST 15% OF YOUR PRE-TAX INCOME FOR RETIREMENT. THIS PERCENTAGE INCLUDES ANY CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY YOUR EMPLOYER TO YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN. IF YOU STARTED SAVING LATER OR HAVE MORE AMBITIOUS RETIREMENT GOALS, A HIGHER SAVINGS RATE OF 20% OR MORE MIGHT BE NECESSARY.

Q: WHAT ARE FIDELITY'S AGE-BASED SAVINGS MILESTONES, AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

A: FIDELITY'S AGE-BASED SAVINGS MILESTONES ARE GUIDELINES SUGGESTING HOW MUCH YOU SHOULD HAVE SAVED BY CERTAIN AGES, OFTEN EXPRESSED AS A MULTIPLE OF YOUR CURRENT SALARY. FOR INSTANCE, BY AGE 30, THEY RECOMMEND HAVING SAVED 1X YOUR SALARY. THESE MILESTONES ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY ACT AS CHECKPOINTS TO HELP YOU ASSESS IF YOU ARE ON TRACK FOR YOUR RETIREMENT GOALS, ALLOWING FOR TIMELY ADJUSTMENTS TO YOUR SAVINGS STRATEGY.

Q: HOW DOES THE "4% RULE" RELATE TO HOW MUCH TO SAVE FOR RETIREMENT WITH FIDELITY?

A: THE "4% RULE" IS A GUIDELINE SUGGESTING THAT YOU CAN WITHDRAW 4% OF YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS IN YOUR FIRST YEAR OF RETIREMENT AND ADJUST FOR INFLATION ANNUALLY, WITH A HIGH LIKELIHOOD OF YOUR MONEY LASTING 30 YEARS. TO USE THIS WITH FIDELITY'S GUIDANCE, IF YOU NEED \$60,000 PER YEAR IN RETIREMENT INCOME, YOU WOULD MULTIPLY THAT BY 25 (1 DIVIDED BY 0.04) TO ARRIVE AT A TARGET SAVINGS OF \$1.5 MILLION. FIDELITY ENCOURAGES THIS AS A PLANNING TOOL, BUT ALSO ADVISES CONSIDERING PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND MARKET CONDITIONS.

Q: WHAT FACTORS DOES FIDELITY SUGGEST CONSIDERING WHEN ESTIMATING RETIREMENT EXPENSES?

A: FIDELITY SUGGESTS CONSIDERING A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF POTENTIAL RETIREMENT EXPENSES, INCLUDING HOUSING, UTILITIES, FOOD, TRANSPORTATION, HEALTHCARE, PERSONAL CARE, ENTERTAINMENT, TRAVEL, GIFTS, AND TAXES. THEY ALSO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF FACTORING IN INFLATION TO ENSURE YOUR SAVINGS MAINTAIN THEIR PURCHASING POWER OVER TIME.

Q: CAN FIDELITY HELP ME UNDERSTAND MY INCOME REPLACEMENT RATIO FOR RETIREMENT?

A: YES, FIDELITY TYPICALLY RECOMMENDS AIMING TO REPLACE 70% TO 90% OF YOUR PRE-RETIREMENT INCOME. THEY OFFER TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO HELP YOU CALCULATE YOUR SPECIFIC INCOME REPLACEMENT NEEDS BASED ON YOUR DESIRED RETIREMENT LIFESTYLE, ANTICIPATED EXPENSES, AND POTENTIAL INCOME SOURCES LIKE SOCIAL SECURITY OR PENSIONS.

Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TRADITIONAL IRA AND A ROTH IRA OFFERED BY FIDELITY FOR RETIREMENT SAVINGS?

A: WITH A TRADITIONAL IRA FROM FIDELITY, CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE NOW, AND EARNINGS GROW TAX-DEFERRED, BUT WITHDRAWALS IN RETIREMENT ARE TAXED. A ROTH IRA FROM FIDELITY INVOLVES CONTRIBUTIONS MADE WITH AFTER-TAX DOLLARS, BUT QUALIFIED WITHDRAWALS IN RETIREMENT ARE TAX-FREE. THE BEST CHOICE DEPENDS ON YOUR CURRENT AND EXPECTED FUTURE TAX BRACKETS.

Q: HOW MUCH SHOULD I CONTRIBUTE TO MY 401(k) THROUGH FIDELITY IF MY EMPLOYER OFFERS A MATCH?

A: IF YOUR EMPLOYER OFFERS A 401(k) MATCH THROUGH FIDELITY, YOU SHOULD CONTRIBUTE AT LEAST ENOUGH TO RECEIVE THE FULL EMPLOYER MATCH. THIS IS ESSENTIALLY FREE MONEY THAT SIGNIFICANTLY BOOSTS YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS. AFTER SECURING THE MATCH, FIDELITY RECOMMENDS AIMING TO SAVE AT LEAST 15% OF YOUR PRE-TAX INCOME, WHICH MAY INVOLVE INCREASING YOUR CONTRIBUTION BEYOND THE MATCH.

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fidelity how much to save for retirement: Aging with a Plan Sharona Hoffman, 2022-01-11
The book is a concise and comprehensive resource for people who are middle-aged and beyond and are facing the prospects of their own aging and of caring for elderly relatives—an often overwhelming task for which little in life prepares us. Using an interdisciplinary approach and many personal anecdotes, Professor Hoffman develops recommendations for building sustainable social, legal, medical, and financial support systems for aging and caregiving. Aging with a Plan combines thorough research with engaging anecdotes and practical advice. It offers one-stop shopping for anyone in need of guidance without a lot of time for independent research. The book answers questions such as: What legal documents should you be sure to have? What expenses should you anticipate in retirement and how do you save for them? What do you need to know about medical care as you or your loved ones grow older? How should you approach conversations about the sensitive topic of safe driving with elderly loved ones? What options exist for end-of-life care, and how do you make sure that your wishes will be followed? The book is user-friendly and accessible to a general audience, and each chapter ends with a helpful checklist.

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