

Boost



Social Security Now



Boost Social Security Campaign Fast Facts

This campaign builds upon the growing public support for expanding Social Security. The Boost Social Security Now **education campaign will inform and mobilize** our membership, grassroots networks and on-line communities to convince Congress that now is the time to boost benefits, not cut them.

Large majorities of Americans, both Republicans and Democrats, agree on ways to strengthen Social Security — without cutting benefits. Fully 74% of Republicans and 88% of Democrats agree that “it is critical to preserve Social Security even if it means increasing Social Security taxes paid by working Americans. [2013 NASI Poll](#)

The **call for expanded benefits has grown louder** and includes support from within Congress including Senators Elizabeth Warren, Richard Blumenthal and Bernie Sanders, and Representatives Jan Schakowsky and John Larson.

NCPSSM has long supported improving benefits for American families. **We have endorsed** multiple pieces of legislation that would enhance Social Security, including S. 1904 and HR 1391 which, when fully phased in, would boost benefits by \$50-\$70 per month and adopt the more accurate consumer price index for the elderly (CPI-E). As a fiscally responsible way to increase and strengthen Social Security finances we also support lifting the payroll tax cap.

In 2012, **we issued a proposal to modernize benefits**, which included caregiver credits, shifting the annual cost of living adjustment formula to one designed for elderly consumers and improving the basic benefit of all current and future beneficiaries.

Why We Should Boost Benefits Now

Social Security’s **average monthly benefit** of just \$1,335 is 90% of the total income for 47% of America’s single retirees and 22% of married couples. Over 59 million Americans of all ages depend on the anti-poverty protection offered by Social Security.

The annual Social Security **cost of living allowance** for beneficiaries has averaged just over 1% over the past seven years, with a zero increase for three of those

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Social Security benefits are **not keeping pace with the cost of living in America**.

The average monthly benefit of \$1,335 is akin to a monthly paycheck for a worker on **minimum wage**. While the President is committed to raising the federal minimum wage to \$10 per hour for workers, we would also like to see the President support an increase of \$70 per month in Social Security benefits for retired workers as proposed by Senator Blumenthal and Congressman Larson.

Social Security will be even more important to **future generations**, especially the Recession Generation which faces income loss, diminished net worth, and high unemployment during their vital income earning years, all of which ultimately impacts their retirement.

Social Security's positive **economic impact** shouldn't be ignored. American families spend \$775 billion in Social Security benefits nationwide each year, providing vital economic stimulus to local businesses and state economies they wouldn't have without Social Security.



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