



Protect Your Nest Egg in Retirement

After years of saving and investing diligently, when retirement comes along, you hope that your hard work will pay off and your finances serve your needs. This new chapter in life isn't the time to stop financial planning, though. Instead, now is the time to re-examine how you manage your money to make sure you have the best plan for moving forward.

Plan for Big Expenses

Much of our retirement planning is focused on how to cover everyday expenses, but in every stage of life, there are big expenses, too. Some of these may pop up unexpected, while others you can count on. Going into retirement, it's more important than ever to make sure you have the right health insurance coverage. While Medicare is a great benefit, there are gaps in its coverage. Many retirees opt for supplemental coverage like a Medicare Advantage plan, which can provide additional coverage for things like dental, vision and prescriptions. Without that extra coverage, you might otherwise pay out of pocket and these are expenses that can add up quickly. If you are eligible for Medicare or will reach the required age soon, it's important to [learn more](#) about the open enrollment period and other details.

Planning ahead for medical costs prepares you for one of the biggest financial hurdles you'll face in retirement. To be prepared for those other unexpected things that pop up, CNBC recommends looking at your [investments](#), ideally along with a trusted financial advisor to make sure your portfolio is diversified and includes an emergency savings fund.

Set a Smart Budget

You need a budget that reflects your current income and expenses that stay under that amount. For many people, this means finding ways to cut spending. At the same time, you want to find the right balance where you're spending wisely to enjoy life in retirement without going through your savings too fast. Time recommends having a [retirement "life plan"](#) - set out your goals for retirement, including what you want to achieve, anywhere you want to travel, or what you want your day-to-day life to look like. Factor in anticipated expenses for big and small goals when setting a retirement budget.

Reassess Accounts

Ideally, you will have saved and invested your money in the most advantageous way up to now, but the benefits and drawbacks of where your money is, and how you access it, may change once you're retired. For example, if you have too much saved in [tax-deferred accounts](#) like an IRA, you may end up in a higher tax bracket, which would erase any advantage of these accounts. Along the same lines, you want to look closely at your [retirement accounts](#) to make sure you aren't drawing too much or too soon. Everyone's situation is different, so it's crucial that you work with a professional who can advise you on these nuances and how your financial situation changes over time.

Never Stop Learning

Whether you have years of financial savvy or have never taken time to learn about the stock market, it isn't too late to learn. According to U.S. News, having an understanding of [investment risk](#) and the stock market is associated with building and maintaining wealth, so growing this knowledge works in your favor.

Along with your ever-growing knowledge, keep your money growing, too. How you invest may look a little different now, but you may regret taking a too conservative approach. Again, everyone's situation is unique, but many retirees are safe with a [diversified mix](#) of stocks and bonds.

Protect Against Fraud

No matter how well prepared and experienced you are, retirees are often the targets of fraud. Educate yourself about the type of person who is most likely to be targeted and about [common scams](#) so you can identify one if you are ever targeted.

No one wants to think they could be a victim, and it may be hard to shake up your budget and cut expenses. But lack of planning could mean you face a financial crisis later on. Smart money

management in retirement will protect your nest egg while giving you peace of mind and security.

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