

# Talking to Service Members About Retirement

Young service members may not think planning for retirement is necessary at their age — and that's why discussing long-term retirement strategies is an important conversation to have.

## A few quick tips to keep in mind:

- Share resources to help service members learn more about the Blended Retirement System and Thrift Savings Plan.
- Explain how retirement plans offer tax benefits, such as pretax contributions or contributions that are tax-free at retirement.
- Help service members understand how strategies like dollar-cost averaging and diversification can reduce retirement investment risks.
- Emphasize the importance of long-term goals and how money can grow over time by explaining the Rule of 72.

## Resources

- The Office of Financial Readiness:  
<https://finred.usalearning.gov>
- "Dine in Tonight: Feast on More Savings in Retirement" flyer:  
<https://finred.usalearning.gov/assets/downloads/FINRED-Pizza-F.pdf>
- "A Guide to the Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System" booklet:  
<https://issuu.com/dodfinred/docs/finred-brs-bk-5.5x8.5?e=36724002/67918544>
- Thrift Savings Plan website:  
<https://www.tsp.gov>
- "Diversification and Dollar-Cost Averaging" article:  
<https://oneop.org/2015/09/08/diversification-and-dollar-cost-averaging-time-tested-investment-strategies>

## How to Start the Conversation

- "What are your goals for retirement?"
- "Have you started investing for retirement yet?"
- "Do you use any tools or resources to track progress toward your retirement goals?"
- "What percentage or dollar amount are you contributing to your Thrift Savings Plan? Did you know the government matches TSP contributions up to 5% for Blended Retirement System participants?"
- "Who do you go to for retirement investing advice?"
- "Are you familiar with the term 'dollar-cost averaging'?"
- "Are you familiar with the Rule of 72?"
- "Have you considered ways to reprioritize your spending and invest more for retirement?"
- "It can be challenging to focus on long-term plans when they feel so far away — here are a few resources I've found helpful."

- "Use the Rule of 72 to Promote Savings" article:  
<https://oneop.org/2017/03/21/use-the-rule-of-72-to-promote-saving>

Personal financial managers and counselors can help continue the conversation. Share this contact information for your local PFM or PFC:

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As you reach new milestones and complete your [service's financial readiness training](#), look to the [Office of Financial Readiness](#) and your service for additional resources. You can also follow @DoDFINRED on    

