



News Release

SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security Launches New Spanish Online Services at www.segurosocial.gov

TV Superstar Don Francisco Helps Announce Retirement and Medicare Extra Help Applications

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, announced that the agency's most popular online services, the applications for retirement and Medicare and for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs, are now available in Spanish. The new online services are available at www.segurosocial.gov, the robust Spanish version of Social Security's award winning website, www.socialsecurity.gov.

"The Spanish online applications for retirement, Medicare, and Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs are so easy and can be completed in as little as 15 minutes," said Commissioner Astrue. "I'm proud that Social Security is a leader in the Federal government in providing service in Spanish, and I thank Don Francisco for volunteering his time to help spread the word about these new online services."

In addition to the new applications, Social Security has also recently made online estimates of retirement benefits available in Spanish. People interested in planning for retirement can get an immediate, personalized estimate of their Social Security benefit by using the Retirement Estimator at www.segurosocial.gov/calculador. Using people's actual wages from their Social Security record, the Estimator gives a good idea of what to expect in retirement. Workers can enter in different dates and future wage projections to get estimates for different retirement scenarios, which is why this service is one of the most highly rated electronic services in the public or private sector.

Don Francisco, who will appear in several new public service announcements for Social Security, said, "I have good news to share with the millions of Americans who prefer to conduct business in Spanish. You can now apply online for Social Security retirement and Medicare benefits in Spanish, as well as take advantage of other online services offered in Spanish at www.segurosocial.gov. ¡Es tan fácil!"

Once people complete the online application and “sign” it with the click of a mouse, the application is complete and, in most cases, there are no documents to submit or additional paperwork to fill out. It’s the easiest way to apply, and now it’s available in Spanish.

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: The program that provides Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs is NOT available to residents of Puerto Rico because the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 made other provisions for Puerto Rico.

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