Boosting Household Income with "Claim Now, Claim More Later" Social Security Strategy

By Samuel N. Asare, MBA CRPC, CMFC, CLU

Maria and Carlos are your typical middle-class couple. Maria decided to take an early Social Security about four years ago at age 62, for a reduced payment of $750/month. Had she held out, she would have reached her full retirement age of 66 this year, when she would have received around $1,000/month. On the other hand, Carlos (who's turning 66), wants to wait until age 70 so that he can collect the highest possible Social Security check which is projected to be about $2,550/month.

By meeting with us, Maria and Carlos discovered that they were missing a crucial piece to their retirement income puzzle. Just like millions of other Americans, they had no idea that they were perfect candidates for a Social Security windfall via the "Claim Now, Claim More Later" strategy. Apparently, none of the financial advisors they had previously consulted knew that under Social Security rules, a spouse who's reached his or her full retirement age can claim spousal benefits without impacting his or her own benefit accruals. To be eligible, you must be married, each of you must have accrued enough credits on your own record to qualify for retirement benefits, and the one filing for the spousal benefit must have reached his/her full retirement age.

Carlos qualifies! He files as Maria's *spouse* and immediately begins receiving about $500/month. This benefit will not affect Maria's monthly check of $750 in any way. What's even more incredible is that although Maria is receiving a reduced amount of $750/month (because she applied early at 62), Carlos' spousal benefit is based on half of the *full* amount Maria would have collected, had she waited until age 66 to apply. Meanwhile, Carlos' own benefit accruals will not stop increasing. That's right! He'll keep earning the full delayed retirement credits over the next four years (until his intended retirement age of 70); at which time he would simply switch over to collecting his maximum $2,550/month, based on his *own* record.

Maria and Carlos consulted with us about a completely different aspect of their retirement plan and basically stumbled upon an extra $6,000 a year that they (and their financial advisors) didn't even know existed. Pretty amazing, isn't it? So, what could you discover? Are you truly maximizing your retirement investments? Are you getting the *BEST* retirement advice? Call us at 877.656.9111 to schedule a *complimentary* consultation with one of our experienced retirement professionals today!

To discover more powerful strategies that can help you and your loved ones to maximize Social Security payouts, download a complimentary copy of our special report, Secure Your Future, at www.SecureYourFutureReport.com.

About the Author

Samuel N. Asare, MBA, CRPC, CMFC, CLU, CTP, CBM, is a noted retirement planner, principal and lead strategist at Laser Financial Group. His firm trains financial professionals on a variety of retirement-related subjects. Samuel has authored multiple personal finance publications and instructional videos, and is a regularly featured expert in several media outlets. You can read his acclaimed blog at LaserFG.blogspot.com, get practical retirement insights at LaserFG.com, or call him on 877.656.9111 to schedule a complimentary, no-obligation consultation.