

LGBT Families – Don't Miss Out on Your Earned Social Security Benefits!

On June 26, 2013, the Supreme Court found Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional. If you are or were:

- married;
- in a civil union; or
- in a registered domestic partnership

and you or your spouse/partner are:

- retired;
- disabled; or
- widowed/widowed

you, your spouse/partner and your children may be eligible for Social Security benefits that were previously denied to LGBT families.

Social Security family benefits include:

- **Widow's/Widower's benefits** (even if a spouse died some time ago)
- **Spousal retirement benefits** (if both spouses worked prior to retirement, the lower-earning spouse may be able to receive a higher benefit due to his/her spouse's contributions)
- **Monthly benefits for children** of same-sex parents who are retired, disabled, or deceased

Social Security's worker and family benefits are earned benefits that Americans pay for through contributions to the Social Security Trust Fund. Currently, 57 million Americans receive Social Security, and nearly all Americans are eligible for benefits if they retire, become disabled, or lose a family breadwinner.

What You Can Do Right Now

If you think you might be eligible, apply NOW. If you wait, Social Security may not be able to pay you all the family benefits you or your spouse/partner earned. Although Social Security is not yet processing applications, when they do, they will pay eligible families starting on their date of application or even six months to a year before that date.

For more information or to apply for benefits, contact the Social Security Administration. You can apply for many types of Social Security benefits online [here](#), or you can apply in person or by phone through your local Social Security office. You can find your local office and schedule an appointment by going to [this website](#) or by calling 1-800-772-1213.

If you have questions or need any help, please contact my district office at 401-732-9400.