Strategies for pursuing lasting financial security

From starting your career and entering retirement to leaving a legacy — financial security remains a key goal, and it's vital to adapt your strategy accordingly. Consider the following strategies to help you to plan, protect and prosper during life's changing endeavors.

Starting out and taking control (35 and under)

Begin by maximizing tax benefits and employer matches through employer-sponsored retirement savings plans, such as 401(k) or 403(b). Establish a solid financial foundation by opening a brokerage account and selecting investments that align with your short-term goals, like building an emergency fund or saving for a home. Protect your beneficiaries and income and secure peace of mind with life and disability income insurance options, respectively.

Building and balancing (35–52 years old)

As you progress in your career and manage daily expenses, debts, and savings for children's education and retirement, it's important to align your short-term and long-term financial goals. Consider opening 529 savings plans and IRAs, and building an emergency fund. You may need additional life and disability income insurance beyond employee benefits, and with a longer investment horizon, cash value life insurance can offer death benefit protection and the potential for cash value growth.

Envisioning the future of retirement (Preretirees) (52–64 years old)

Once established, focus on optimizing your strategy by managing tax liabilities and maximizing contributions to qualified retirement savings plans. Consider annuities for tax deferral and to help you secure your financial future and navigate economic fluctuations.

Retirees (65–79 years old)

As you approach retirement, it's essential to ensure a steady, tax-efficient income stream that gives you a license to spend without the fear of outliving your savings. Utilize deferred tax plans like retirement savings accounts to help you manage your income efficiently. Consider annuities for reliable, tax-efficient income and explore variable universal life insurance for death benefit protection, potentially tax-free cash value and investment flexibility. Additionally, variable universal life insurance policies can offer long-term care insurance options at an additional cost, helping you address both your financial security and estate planning needs.

Living in retirement (78+ years old)

As you enjoy retirement, you may want to start thinking about leaving a legacy for your loved ones and planning for unexpected costs. Life insurance provides tax-free death benefits, potentially excluding the policy from the taxable estate, offering funds for estate taxes and, in some policies, funds for long-term care insurance coverage through an optional rider at an additional cost. Cash value life insurance can offer retirees a tax-free income source, though it reduces the death benefit and may risk policy lapse. Loans and withdrawals reduce the policy's cash value and death benefit and increase the chance that the policy may lapse. If the policy lapses, any loan balance would generally be viewed as distributed and taxable.

Address a lifetime of needs with Equitable's innovative strategies

Segment	Primary needs	Benefits of protected strategies
Starting out and taking control	• Maximize tax benefit • Take advantage of employer matches through employer-sponsored retirement plans, like a 401(k) or 403(b) • Start to accumulate long-term assets • Income protection	**Retirement savings plans** • Maximize tax efficiencies • Take advantage of employer-sponsored matches in savings plans **Annuities** • Tax-deferred growth • No caps on contributions (nonqualified) • Level of protection from market volatility • Ability to generate lifetime income **Life insurance** • Creates an immediate source of funds to replace income • Provides an income tax-free source of funds for wealth transfer • Tax-free withdrawals up to cost basis • Potential tax-free income for retirement
Building and balancing	• Grow long-term assets • Manage, control current and future income tax liability • Meet need for more income protection	
Envisioning the future of retirement	• Plan for tax-efficient retirement income • Plan for guaranteed lifetime income • Limit volatility, market risk and sequence of return risk • Establish contingency plan for early retirement	
Retirees	• Make wealth transfer plans • Maximize tax-efficient income • Exercise lifetime income guarantees • Access supplemental retirement income • Control and manage taxes • Manage exposure to volatility, market risk and sequence of return risk	

Living in retirement	• Make wealth transfer plans
	• Cover potential long-term care costs and unexpected medical bills
	• Continue to:
	  • Maximize tax-efficient income
	  • Exercise lifetime income guarantees
	  • Manage exposure to volatility, market risk and sequence of return risk	

Call your financial professional today to learn more about all of the innovative Equitable strategies available.

EQUITABLE