

horizons

Refresh your retirement readiness recipe



The new year is an opportunity to take time to refocus and refresh your routines. You might be considering what you would like to accomplish or improve in the coming year.

According to a recent

survey, finances are the number one cause of stress.¹ Identifying some simple, actionable goals will help you establish a plan and feel confident that you are moving in the right direction. We want to help support you in creating a retirement readiness recipe that meets your specific needs.

An important ingredient to consider as you prepare for retirement is the importance of planning ahead. Creating a weekly menu plan can help you feel organized, save time, and potentially save money on groceries. Those savings can then be shifted to increase contributions to your Savings Plus account. For more tips to help you maximize your savings opportunities, check out our budgeting webinars.

Planning ahead can also help as tax season approaches. You may be considering ways to minimize your tax liability. Did you know that we offer both pre-tax and Roth contributions? Making a pre-tax contribution will reduce your taxable income in the year you contribute, while Roth contributions don't reduce your taxable income, contributions are tax free when withdrawn under certain conditions. Check in with your Retirement Specialist to help determine which contribution type will best suit your needs.

Chicken Pozole

Ingredients:

- 10 tomatillos (husked and halved)
- 2 poblano peppers (deseeded)
- 2 jalapeño peppers (top cut off, with seeds)
- 1 serrano pepper (top cut off, with seeds)
- 3 tbsp oregano
- 1 bunch cilantro
- Salt to taste
- 3 boneless chicken breast
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 108 oz - White Hominy (drained and rinsed)

Instructions:

Place the tomatillos, peppers, oregano, cilantro, salt, and 2 cups of chicken broth into the blender until well combined.

Pour blended mixture into large crock pot with hominy and remaining 2 cups of chicken broth.

Cover and cook on high for 6 hours or 8 hours on low.

Shred the chicken.

Add optional garnishes such as cabbage, radishes, onions, crushed chili pepper and lemon.



¹ <https://www.cnbc.com/select/73-percent-of-americans-rank-finances-as-the-number-one-stress-in-life/>

How to protect yourself online

Earlier this year, the United States Department of Labor (DOL) announced new cybersecurity guidance for retirement plans. Savings Plus and Nationwide work collaboratively to protect your information. The protection on your account only gets stronger if you play an active role. Fortunately, that role is made easier when you follow common tips, as outlined below.

Look carefully at emails

- Phishing emails often have poor spelling, incorrect grammar, wrong phone numbers, suspicious email addresses, or bad links; however, as phishing emails become more sophisticated, they are less likely to have obvious errors
- Don't download attachments or select links from unknown senders
- If in doubt, delete the email

Use strong passwords

- Mix uppercase and lowercase letters, numerals, and special characters
- Use unique passwords for each online site you use
- Hide passwords so they cannot be copied or misused by others
- Change passwords regularly

Use your personal email address, not your work email address, with your Savings Plus account

- This allows you to continue accessing your account even if you change departments or leave state service

Strengthen the security of your account



Set up online access before a cybercruok does it for you.



Activate Account Lock for your Savings Plus online account.



Make sure your User Profile has your personal email address.



Give your personal email account a strong password.

Don't ignore updates

- Install updates on your computer, devices, and apps regularly
- Updates often contain enhancements to online security

Avoid installing any applications from unknown sources

- Use the app store link from financial institution websites
- Always carefully check the privacy information the apps want to use

Monitor accounts at least once a month for unwanted activity

- Review and update contact information regularly
- et up email or text alerts on your account when you make an investment change
- Contact Savings Plus immediately if you suspect fraudulent activity

You can repay COVID-related distributions

If you took a coronavirus-related distribution as authorized by the CARES Act, you can repay all or part of the amount of the distribution to your Savings Plus retirement account through a rollover into your account. You must repay the distribution within 3 years after the date that the distribution was received so that you do not owe federal income tax on it.



We created a special *Coronavirus-Related Distribution Repayment Incoming Assets Form* for this purpose. Download it from **Forms, Publications, Governing Documents & Reports** section of the savingsplusnow.com website.

Retirees often face greater risks from fraud

You can protect yourself by staying vigilant.

Older adults lose an estimated \$3 billion each year to financial scams according to the National Council on Aging. Protect yourself by learning how to identify and stop the top 10 financial scams targeting seniors.² Here are some tips:

- If an offer seems too good, it probably is
- Read pop-up messages on your computer or phone carefully, especially when asked to select a link or download something. When in doubt, close the window
- Government agencies (the IRS, Social Security Administration or Medicare) never call to request personal information or demand payment

If you are concerned about someone attempting to take a distribution from your account, activate the **Account Lock** feature. If you suspect someone is trying to access your account, contact us right away. Note: Savings Plus only has a relationship with Nationwide, not outside advisors.

Our fee structure is changing

On April 1, 2022 our fee structure will change slightly based on a recommendation from our independent consultant. These fees cover the costs associated with the administration of our plans.

The annualized asset-based fee will change from 0.05% to 0.04% and will no longer be embedded in the fund expense ratio. This fee will be assessed quarterly at 0.01% against the first \$600,000 of your account balance (capped at \$60 per quarter), including loan balances and Schwab self-directed brokerage account balances. The administrative charge will change from a monthly fee of \$1.50 per plan to a quarterly fee of \$6.00 per plan. You will see both fees on your July account statement.

Stay tuned for additional communications about the upcoming changes. For more information please visit savingsplusnow.com.

ProAccount® fee reduction

We are pleased to inform you that we are reducing the cost for Savings Plus ProAccount administered by Nationwide. See details below:

The previous Participation Agreement (“Agreement”) with Nationwide Investment Advisors, LLC disclosed the following fee schedule in Section 1 of the Agreement:

Account Balance	Annual Program Fee
The first \$99,999.99	0.50%
The next \$150,000	0.45%
The next \$150,000	0.40%
The next \$100,000	0.35%
Assets of \$500,000 and above	0.30%

The new reduced fee schedule below will replace the schedule noted above and in Section 1 of the Agreement:

Account Balance	Annual Program Fee
The first \$99,999.99	0.45%
The next \$150,000	0.40%
The next \$150,000	0.35%
The next \$100,000	0.30%
Assets of \$500,000 and above	0.25%

The new fee schedule became effective on January 1, 2022 and will be reflected on your first quarter statement if you are enrolled in ProAccount.

ProAccount is an optional, fee-based, managed account service that creates and maintains a personalized retirement investment strategy. For more information on our investment options and associated costs, visit the Investment Information tab at savingsplusnow.com or contact your local Retirement Specialist.

Investment advice for Nationwide ProAccount is provided to plan participants by Nationwide Investment Advisors, LLC (NIA), an SEC-registered investment advisor. NIA has retained Wilshire Associates Incorporated (Wilshire®) as the independent Financial Expert for Nationwide ProAccount. Wilshire is a service mark of Wilshire Associates Incorporated, which is not an affiliate of NIA or Nationwide.

² <https://www.ncoa.org/article/top-10-financial-scams-targeting-seniors>



You heard it here. A lot is happening at Savings Plus.

Managing your alerts. Alerts provide the ability for you to receive communications via text and/or email. This functionality includes:

- The ability to set up and management of communication/notification preferences on the web
- Simplified, personalized targeted messages
- Timely delivery of notifications
- Easy access to all communications and/or notifications sent

By setting up alerts on your account, you have easy access to verify account activity anytime and anyplace.

A little increase can go a long way. According to a recent study of the Americans' financial behavior, 32% say they're more disciplined about their budget, and 33% say they're investing more. If you cut back on expenses, you may be able to increase contributions to your account. Log into your account and use My Interactive Retirement PlannerSM to help gauge your retirement readiness. To increase your contribution amount, log into your account on savingsplusnow.com or contact your Retirement Specialist.

2022 contribution limits³

	Maximum contribution limit	Contribution limit plus Age-Based Catch-Up	Traditional 457(b) Catch-Up contribution limit ⁴
This year, if you are...	...less than age 50	...at least age 50	...3 years prior to your normal retirement age ⁵
401(k) Pre-tax/ 401(k) Roth	\$20,500	\$27,000	\$27,000 (use Age-Based Catch-Up)
457(b) Pre-tax/ 457(b) Roth	\$20,500	\$27,000	\$41,000
TOTAL	\$41,000	\$54,000	\$68,000

Look for your Form 1099-R. If you received a distribution in 2021, Nationwide will mail your IRS Form 1099-R by January 31, 2022. To obtain an electronic copy, log in to your account and select View account, then select Documents and view your Tax documents.

Your 2022 Second Quarter statement will have a new look. Changes include a cleaner, more organized approach to how we display information. We are also adding new visual content to illustrate your retirement readiness. Check out our next issue of *Horizons* for a guide on how to read your redesigned statement.

In July 2021, Savings Plus released a Request for Proposals for Third Party Administration Services, as part of our standard contract process. On December 2, 2021, the State of California Department of Human Resources posted its intent to re-award the contract to the current service provider, Nationwide Retirement Solutions Inc. The new contract will commence January 1, 2023.

This material is not a recommendation to buy, sell, hold or roll over any asset, adopt an investment strategy, retain a specific investment manager or use a particular account type. It does not take into account the specific investment objectives, tax and financial condition or particular needs of any specific person. Investors should discuss their specific situation with their financial professional.

Investing involves market risk, including possible loss of principal. No investment strategy or program can guarantee to make a profit or avoid loss. Actual results will vary depending on your investment choices and market experience.

Before investing, carefully consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges, redemption fees, and expenses. You may download Fund Fact Sheets from savingsplusnow.com or request them by calling (855) 616-4776.

Savings Plus representatives are Registered Representatives of Nationwide Investment Services Corporation (NISC), member FINRA Columbus, OH. Neither Nationwide nor its Savings Plus representatives can offer investment, tax or legal advice. Consult your own counsel before making retirement plan decisions.


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California Department of Human Resources
1515 S St.
North Building, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95811

Contact Information

 **Website**
savingsplusnow.com

 **Savings Plus Solutions Center**
(855) 616-4776
(800) 848-0833 (TTY)
5 a.m. - 8 p.m. PT

³ Source: IRS.gov

⁴ Individuals cannot use the traditional 457(b) Catch-Up and Age-Based Catch-Up in the same year; however, an individual can use the Traditional 457(b) Catch-Up in the 457(b) plan and the Age-Based Catch-Up in the 401(k) plan.

⁵ You may participate in Traditional Catch-Up during the last three years PRIOR to your Normal Retirement Age. Your Normal Retirement Age is the age you elect between ages 50 (age 55 for PEPA members) and 70½. If no age has been elected, your Normal Retirement Age will be age 70½.