

For those planning to **maximize social security and protect their retirement income**

Meet Mike:

Mike | 55 years old | 10 years from retirement

Mike has been diligent about saving and investing over the years, and as he approaches retirement he would like to generate a plan to convert that savings to income. He wants to ensure he's maximizing the resources available to him, and is considering delaying social security to get a bigger benefit.



Challenge:

Protecting his income from market downturns

Mike's primary goal as he nears retirement is creating — and protecting — a steady retirement income that will last for his full and active life. He's concerned about market volatility and potential economic downturns — looking for an investment option that provides lifetime income and aligns with his approach to financial planning. Mike also wants to ensure he can maximize his Social Security payments by delaying when he begins receiving payments, but he is not sure how he will afford basic living expenses between the time he retires and when he will get the max Social Security benefit.

Proposed solution:

Lifetime income fund within his employer sponsored retirement plan

Mike's employer offers a retirement plan that includes an investment option providing lifetime income. This fund is designed to work like an insurance policy on his retirement income. It will keep providing payments even if he runs out of what he had saved. Additionally, Mike thinks that income from this fund will help him delay taking Social Security until he can collect its max benefit.

Benefits:

Reliable Lifetime Income: This fund offers a steady income stream for life, regardless of market performance or asset depletion.

Protection: This option reduces the risk associated with market fluctuations, providing a more stable financial foundation with periodic lock-ins meaning that his retirement income will be based off of the highest locked-in value and not impacted by any market downturn.

Growth potential: The investment option lets Mike invest in growth-oriented assets, so he can continue accumulating his assets.

Decision:

Protecting his income from market downturns

Mike decided to allocate a portion of his retirement plan investments to the lifetime income fund. Working with a Nationwide Retirement Specialist, Mike evaluated the benefits to make sure it aligned with his long-term retirement goals.

Key considerations:



Reliability: The lifetime income fund provides a more predictable income stream, allowing Mike to plan for his future without financial stress.



Flexibility: Mike can still work on growth by keeping his contributions consistent or increasing them along the way. He also retains access to other investment options within the plan, offering the flexibility to adjust his retirement savings strategy if his plans need to change.



Security: With the protection feature, Mike's retirement income will avoid impacts from an economic downturn.



Cost: The fund has a fee Mike can monitor on the plan's website, and he likes that it might be cheaper than options that provide similar protection outside his plan.

Bottom line:

Since implementing this strategy, Mike feels more secure about his financial future, knowing his income is secure and won't run out before he's done living it up. He can spend less time worrying about his investments and enjoy doing what he loves. For individuals like Mike, a retirement plan with a lifetime income fund offers a reliable and secure way to ensure a consistent retirement income.



Log in to your plan website to learn more about the Lifetime Income fund available and consider investing.



Nationwide®

• Not a deposit • Not FDIC or NCUSIF insured • Not guaranteed by the institution • Not insured by any federal government agency • May lose value

This material is not a recommendation to buy or sell a financial product or to adopt an investment strategy. Investors should discuss their specific situation with their financial professional.

Nationwide and its representatives do not give tax, legal, or investment advice. An attorney or tax advisor should be consulted for answers to specific questions.

Guarantees are subject to the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company.

Provisions of these options may vary based on plan selection and/or by state regulation. These investment options may not be available in all states.

Nationwide, the Nationwide N and Eagle, Nationwide is on your side are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. © 2025 Nationwide