

My name is Kirk Larson and I am the Western Washington Public Affairs Specialist with the Social Security Administration.

The Social Security program is the cornerstone of the American retirement system. Understanding SSA Retirement, Survivors, Disability, and Medicare benefits is vitally important for all Americans.

Social Security benefits are important for everyone both socially and economically. Social Security has special aspects that are particularly important for women, the disabled, and those in our society with limited resources.

I would like to talk to faculty, staff, and students about Social Security and how it supports individuals and the community.

Some facts -

- Today there are over 16 million people in this county receiving Social Security benefits.
- Financially, this represents billions of dollars for communities.
- In King County there are over 62,000 people receiving disability benefits representing 54 million dollars per month. Those on retirement benefits bring in over 336 million dollars per month, over 4 billion per year in King County alone.
- Women represent 57 percent of all Social Security beneficiaries age 62 and older and approximately 68 percent of beneficiaries age 85 and older.
- Of people in their 20s today 1 out of 4 will become disabled and 1 out of 8 will die before reaching the age of 67.
- What is the Social Safety Net for those that are aged, disable, or blind?
- Social Security represents 40% of the average retirees income but for 33% of the population it represents over 90% of their income.

I would like to discuss a presentation for you and any interested parties wishing to learn about this important program.