#### **ACTION PLANNER SERIES**



# Funding **longer lives** with protected lifetime income



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## Take action for your future

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#### Retirees today face new challenges

"The year 2024 marks the beginning of the 'Peak 65® Zone,' the largest surge of retirement-age Americans turning 65 in our nation's history. With fewer employers offering a traditional defined benefit pension plan that provides much-needed protected income throughout retirement, the old retirement system no longer fits the needs of today's American workforce. The result is that more Americans are currently at risk of entering retirement with Social Security as their only means of protected income, leaving many exposed to financial insecurity and lacking sufficient, reliable, and protected retirement income that will last for the rest of their lives."

Jason J. Fichtner, PhD
 Executive Director, Retirement Income Institute
 Alliance for Lifetime Income

## Prepare for the possibility of a long life

If you're like many Americans, you may be looking forward to living a long life. After all, a long life means more time for family and friends—and more time to do the things that bring you joy. What would living a long life mean to you?

We recently asked Americans about the benefits of living a long life, such as to age 100.<sup>1</sup> Here's what they told us:

# What are the benefits of living to 100? Continued meaningful relationships with family and friends 72% More time to explore / have new experiences 65% Witnessing new discoveries 60% Enjoying more leisure time in retirement 58% Having more time to be productive 33%

Along with the prospect of living longer comes the potential worry about having adequate retirement savings. Our research revealed that two-thirds (66 percent) of those surveyed fear running out of money more than death.<sup>1</sup>

Many people don't want living longer to mean they'll be working longer. If they were to live to 100, nearly half of Americans surveyed say they're extremely or very concerned about the prospect of working an additional 10+ years to fund their retirement.<sup>1</sup>

The potential for increasing longevity highlights the need to actively plan and prepare for a long life—so you can push aside worries about running out of money and focus on living life the way you want, no matter how long you live.

Living longer should be cause for celebration, not financial worry.

# Recognize that retirement funding has changed

Preparing for retirement today presents income planning challenges.



The decline of the defined benefit pension plan. In the past, many retirees could rely on lifetime income from an employer-provided defined benefit pension plan to help cover retirement expenses. Today, these pension plans are uncommon. In 1975, they represented 33 percent of all retirement plans. As of 2021, defined benefit pension plans represented just 6 percent of all retirement plans.<sup>2</sup>



The rise of the defined contribution plan. Employer-funded defined benefit pension plans have largely been replaced by the defined contribution plan (e.g., the 401(k) and 403(b)). These plans are funded by employee contributions (and an employer match, if available)—putting more responsibility for retirement planning in the hands of workers.



Market volatility and a fluctuating interest rate environment. Volatile markets make it difficult to generate predictable, lasting, risk-free income from retirement investments. And in recent years, low interest rates on secure savings sources, such as Certificates of Deposits and money market funds, have made it challenging to generate enough income from one's savings. Though interest rates have risen, it's hard to know—and plan for—what they will be down the road.



**Deciding when to start Social Security.** Social Security is an important source of retirement income for many. Choosing when to start it may be one of the most important retirement planning decisions. Many people start taking benefits early—before they reach their Full Retirement Age (age 67 if born in 1960 or later)—which puts a permanent dent in their benefit for life. Very few people take advantage of waiting to start benefits at age 70, which produces a benefit that is 24% higher than if they started at their Full Retirement Age of 67.<sup>3</sup>

#### A look at Social Security starting ages in 20224

As you can see below, about 1 in 4 Americans starts collecting Social Security as soon as they can at age 62, which reduces their benefit amount by 30%.<sup>3</sup>

Age	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70 and above
Male	23%	6%	7%	13%	28%	15%	13%	14%	8%
Female	25%	7%	7%	13%	27%	13%	13%	12%	9%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Jason Fichtner, PhD, "The Peak 65<sup>®</sup> Zone Is Here—Creating a New Framework for America's Retirement Income Security," Alliance for Lifetime Income Retirement Income Institute, January 2024, based on data from the U.S. Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Assuming they were born in 1960 or later.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Emily Brandon, Erica Sandberg, "The Most Popular Ages to Collect Social Security," money.usnews.com, August 14, 2023.

## Create more guaranteed income

As you think about and plan for your retirement income, keep in mind there are basically two types of retirement income:

- **Guaranteed income:** Income from guaranteed sources, such as Social Security, a pension or an annuity.<sup>5</sup> This type of income is designed to last for as long as you are living.
- Non-guaranteed income: Income from non-guaranteed sources, such as your investment portfolio, part-time work, rental property, etc.

Nearly three out of four Americans surveyed (72 percent) say having a source of guaranteed monthly income beyond Social Security would give them more confidence about having enough money to live comfortably throughout retirement.<sup>6</sup>

**In fact, 92 percent** of those surveyed say securing lifetime income is a priority, with 65 percent saying it is a high priority—outweighing many other financial-related priorities as shown.<sup>6</sup>

# Secure lifetime income 92% Financial planning 86% Increase or begin retirement savings 84% Start or grow an emergency fund 82% Pay off debt 73% Creating an estate plan 70%

Is securing lifetime income for retirement a top financial priority for you?



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Annuity guarantees are backed by the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company.

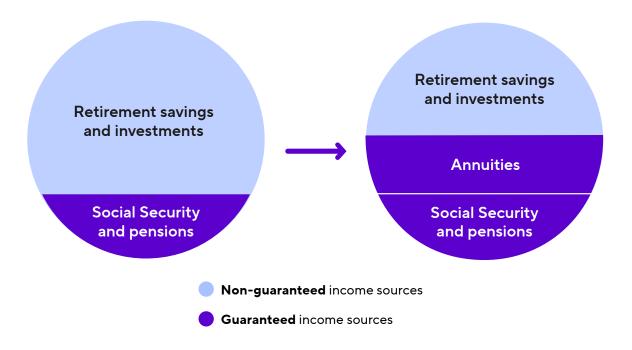
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Corebridge Financial, "2023 Corebridge Financial Survey on Longevity."

## Consider the advantage of annuities for protected lifetime income

With an annuity, you can create a "personal pension" that delivers a steady stream of protected income for as long as you live.

For more guaranteed income in retirement—beyond Social Security or a traditional pension plan—you may want to talk to a financial professional and consider allocating part of your retirement savings and investments to an annuity.

An annuity can provide protected lifetime income that's guaranteed to last. You can typically choose from single life coverage for individuals or joint life coverage for spouses that delivers a stream a lifetime income for as long as either spouse is living.



93% of consumers who protected part of their portfolio by purchasing an annuity in 2022 are satisfied with their 2022 investment choices—

44% are extremely satisfied.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Alliance for Lifetime Income and CANNEX Protected Retirement Income and Planning (PRIP) Consumer Report, June 14, 2023. Annuity guarantees are backed by the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurer.

# Explore which type of annuity may make sense for you

There are different types of annuities to help meet specific income needs, goals, and risk tolerance levels.

Annuities are long-term insurance products designed for retirement. In the growth stage, they can help you build assets on a tax-deferred basis. In the income stage, they can provide you with guaranteed income through standard or optional features. Depending on the type, an annuity can help meet your needs for asset growth, downside protection against potential market losses, and protected lifetime income.

Some annuities also offer income benefits, such as Guaranteed Lifetime Withdrawal Benefits and Guaranteed Living Benefit Riders, to help you grow your retirement income and generate protected lifetime income for you—or for you and your spouse.<sup>10</sup>

Corebridge Financial is a leading provider of annuities in the U.S. with a long and proven track record of helping Americans prepare for a more secure retirement. We offer a broad selection of annuities, including fixed, index, and variable annuities.

#### **Fixed Annuity**

#### Fixed Index Annuity

#### Variable Annuity

#### Designed for people who...

Want a guaranteed fixed rate of return for a specific period of time, protection from market risk and the option for protected lifetime income

Are looking for upside growth potential (based in part on the performance of a market index), principal protection from market downturns and the option for protected lifetime income

Want even greater growth potential with market participation through professionally managed investment portfolios and the option for protected lifetime income<sup>11</sup>

LOWER RISK

HIGHER RISK

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Withdrawals of taxable amounts are subject to ordinary income tax and, if taken prior to age 59%, an additional 10% federal tax may apply. If you fund your IRA with an annuity, you should realize that these types of retirement accounts are already tax-deferred. An annuity provides no additional tax-deferred benefit beyond that provided by the retirement account itself. You should only use an annuity in a retirement account if you want to benefit from features other than tax deferral. Please consult with your financial professional and tax advisor regarding your individual situation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Early withdrawals may be subject to withdrawal charges and a Market Value Adjustment (MVA) may also apply to certain index annuities and fixed annuities. Partial withdrawals may reduce benefits available under the contract, as well as the amount available upon a full surrender. There is no assurance that income from an annuity will keep up with inflation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Income benefit features may be standard or optional. Additional fees, withdrawal parameters and other limitations apply. Investment requirements also apply with variable annuities. A contract can be annuitized in order to receive lifetime income payments for no additional cost if a lifetime annuity option is chosen.
Please see a prospectus or contract for more details. Guarantees are backed by the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Investment in a variable annuity involves risk, including the possible loss of principal.

# See how annuities can help address specific retirement income needs

Here are some examples that show how annuities can help different types of people prepare for retirement and secure protected lifetime income.<sup>12</sup>

#### Meet Connie

Connie is age 67 and retiring now.

- She's looking to take a portion of her accumulated retirement savings and turn it into lifetime income she can count on no matter how long she lives.
- She needs income right away to help meet her retirement expenses.
- Connie is conservative when it comes to her money, and she doesn't want to expose her savings or retirement income to market risk.



Annuity type	Key highlights
Fixed annuity with Guaranteed Lifetime Withdrawal Benefit	<ul> <li>Opportunity for immediate income</li> <li>Income that is guaranteed to last for as long as you live</li> <li>No market risk to savings or income</li> </ul>

Fixed annuities offer a rate of return guaranteed by the insurance company. Although not all fixed annuities offer income protection benefits, most offer a range of income options through annuitization, including the opportunity for guaranteed lifetime income. Additional fees, withdrawal parameters and other limitations apply to Guaranteed Lifetime Withdrawal Benefit features. To realize the feature's benefits, withdrawals must be taken within the feature's parameters. A contract can be annuitized in order to receive lifetime income payments for no additional cost if a lifetime annuity option is chosen. Please see the contract to learn more about the fixed annuity you may be considering.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> These case study examples are hypothetical and for illustrative purposes only. They do not represent actual cases. Guarantees are backed by the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company.

#### Meet Mike and Millie

Mike and Millie are both age 65 and plan to retire in five years when they turn 70.

- They're looking to take part of their retirement savings and earmark it for their future income needs.
- They want to grow their future retirement income—and generate lifetime income starting at age 70.
- While growth is important is to Mike and Millie, they also want to make sure their principal and income are protected from downside market risk.



Annuity type	Key highlights
Fixed index annuity with Guaranteed Living Benefit Rider	<ul> <li>Opportunity to grow assets and income based partly on the performance of an index</li> <li>Principal and income are protected from downside market risk</li> <li>Lifetime income is guaranteed to last as long as either spouse is living<sup>13</sup></li> </ul>

Fixed index annuities are not a direct investment in the stock market. They are long-term insurance products with guarantees backed by the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company. They provide the potential for interest to be credited based in part on the performance of the specified index, without the risk of losing premium due to market downturns or fluctuations. Index annuities may not be appropriate for all individuals. There are no guarantees that income will keep up with or outpace inflation. In flat or down markets, you may not earn index interest. Principal can be reduced due to fees and withdrawals.

Additional fees, withdrawal parameters and other limitations apply to Guaranteed Living Benefit Riders. To realize the feature's benefits, withdrawals must be taken within the feature's parameters. A contract can be annuitized in order to receive lifetime income payments for no additional cost if a lifetime annuity option is chosen. Please see the contract to learn more about the fixed index annuity you may be considering.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Assuming a Joint Life income option is elected.

#### Meet Ivan

Ivan is age 55 and plans to retire in ten years when he is 65.

- He wants to invest a portion of his accumulated retirement savings to help meet his future retirement income needs.
- He wants to take advantage of the long-term growth potential of the stock market. And when he's ready to take income, he wants to make sure it's guaranteed to last.
- Ivan understands that investing is subject to risk, including market ups and downs, and he's comfortable with that. However, he wants to make sure his future retirement income is protected from market downturns.



Annuity type	Key highlights
Variable annuity with Guaranteed Lifetime Withdrawal Benefit	<ul> <li>Opportunity to grow assets and future income based on the performance of the variable annuity investment options selected</li> <li>Lifetime income withdrawals are guaranteed to last for as long as you live</li> <li>Income protected from market risk</li> </ul>

Variable annuities offer professional money management, along with insurance features (such as a guaranteed death benefit and annuity income options) that you pay for through what is called a separate account charge. Variable annuities are subject to additional fees, including a contract maintenance fee, expenses related to the operation of the variable portfolios, and the costs associated with any optional features, if elected. An investment in a variable annuity is subject to risk, including the possible loss of principal. The contract, when surrendered, may be worth more or less than the total amount invested.

Additional fees, withdrawal parameters and other limitations apply to Guaranteed Lifetime Withdrawal Benefit features. Investment requirements also apply with variable annuities. To realize the feature's benefits, withdrawals must be taken within the feature's parameters. A contract can be annuitized in order to receive lifetime income payments for no additional cost if a lifetime annuity option is chosen. Please see a prospectus for more details about the variable annuity you may be considering.

## Move forward with these action steps

To help prepare for increasing longevity, you may want to learn more about your retirement savings and income options, including annuities—and seek out professional financial guidance. Here are some key actions steps that can help you get started.

#### Meet with a financial professional.

One of the best ways to help prepare for funding a longer life is to work with a financial professional. A financial professional can provide objective guidance to help you avoid mistakes, reduce financial stress, and identify solutions that can help you actively plan for retirement income security.

#### Visualize your retirement—what does it look like?

Retirement income planning is a financial and non-financial process. Talking to your spouse or partner and other important people in your life can help form your vision. Think about what you're doing day-to-day, week-to-week. Who are you spending time with? How are you living? Where are you living? Answering these questions can also help you better understand what your retirement income needs may be.

Calculate your retirement income needs and identify income sources.

Estimate your annual expenses in retirement—and develop a plan for covering them. You'll want to consider your essential expenses (e.g., housing, utilities, groceries), along with discretionary expenses (e.g., dining out, travel, entertainment), plus unexpected expenses that may pop up in retirement, such as repairs and large medical bills.

Develop a comprehensive retirement income strategy.

Carefully consider the importance of your Social Security timing decision, and how Social Security fits into your overall income strategy. You'll also want to learn more about Medicare and factor Medicare costs into your income planning.

Determine if protected lifetime income from an annuity may make sense for part of your overall retirement portfolio.

Your financial professional can help you with this decision. Consider how protected lifetime income from an annuity can be used to help cover your essential expenses (and perhaps some discretionary expenses too) so you can feel more confident about the future no matter how long you live. What's more, if you have a workplace retirement plan, be sure to also explore any lifetime income options that may be offered.

Action today can lead to great things tomorrow. **Action is everything.** 

Variable annuities are sold by prospectus only. The prospectuses for each underlying fund as well as the variable annuity contract describe the investment objectives, risks, fees, charges, expenses, and other information for each, respectively. The statutory and summary prospectuses for each underlying fund and the variable annuity contract should be considered carefully before investing. Please contact your insurance and securities licensed financial professional or call 800-445-7862 to obtain any of those prospectuses, which should be read carefully before investing.

It is important to note that rollovers can have tax consequences at the time of distribution, including payment of federal income taxes, depending on the type of transfer and/or type of account involved. An additional 10% federal tax may apply if a distribution is taken prior to age 59½. You should consult your financial professional and tax advisor regarding your specific situation. If you are considering a rollover from your company's retirement plan, other options may be available.

All contract and optional benefit guarantees, including any fixed account crediting rates or annuity rates, are backed by the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company. They are not obligations of or backed by the distributor, insurance agency or any affiliates of those entities and none makes any representations or guarantees regarding the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company. Annuities are long-term products designed for retirement. Retirement accounts such as IRAs can be tax deferred regardless of whether or not they are funded with an annuity. The purchase of an annuity within an IRA does not provide additional tax-deferred treatment of earnings. However, annuities do provide other features and benefits.

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Products and features may vary by state and may not be available in all states. The purchase of an annuity is not required for, and is not a term of, the provision of any banking service or activity.

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