

Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers (465 word count)

Customize and provide the following article in your communication vehicles for your audience.

Consider all your options to help your retirement savings last

Many people view the amount of their retirement savings as a number rather than the amount of annual income it will provide when they retire. You want to save as much as you can for retirement, but you also want to manage the use of the funds carefully during retirement so that you don't outspend your savings.

One option you may have when you retire is an annuity — a contract that provides you with regular payments for more than a year. You can buy an annuity contract alone or with the help of your employer. An annuity may be an optional way to receive benefits from your employer-sponsored retirement plan.

Common types of annuities

- *Fixed-period annuities* — These annuities pay you an amount at regular intervals for a definite length of time.
- *Variable annuities* — You receive payments varying in amount for a definite length of time or your lifetime. The amounts paid may depend on variables, such as profits earned by the pension or annuity funds, or by cost-of-living indexes.
- *Single-life annuities* — They pay you an amount at regular intervals during your life and end at your death.
- *Joint and survivor annuities* — These annuities pay you an amount at regular intervals for your life. After your death, they pay a fixed amount at regular intervals to a second person for their life. The amount of each payment paid for the life of the second person may be the same or different from the amount of each payment paid to you during your lifetime.
- *Qualified employee annuities* — This annuity is a retirement annuity purchased by your employer for you under a plan that meets certain requirements.
- *Tax-sheltered annuities* — This is a special annuity plan or contract purchased for an employee of a public school or tax-exempt organization.

Consider all your options carefully when you retire. Choose the one that will help your retirement savings last. If you do decide to purchase an annuity contract, make sure you understand all the terms of that contract.

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NOTE TO EDITOR: Below are helpful resources on retirement plans and IRAs on IRS.gov.

- [Tax Topics 410](#): Pensions and Annuities – explains when all or some of your annuity payments may be taxable income.
- [Publication 575](#), *Pension and Annuity Income* – discusses the tax treatment and reporting of distributions from pension and annuity plans.
- [Publication 590-B](#), *Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs)* – describes how distributions from IRAs are taxed.

On Twitter? Send these Tweets:

- Get information about #retirement plans for every stage of your life <http://go.usa.gov/2PaT> #IRS
- Learn how your age affects your #retirement plans <http://go.usa.gov/c7ya9> #IRS