

RETIREMENT PLANNING CHECKLIST

Before purchasing a fixed indexed annuity, consider the following important questions to ask yourself or an insurance agent.

5 Helpful Calculators at [FIAinsights.org/retirement-calculators/](https://www.fiainsights.org/retirement-calculators/)

1) HOW MUCH RETIREMENT INCOME DO YOU NEED BEYOND THE RESOURCES YOU ALREADY HAVE?

- Calculate how much you can expect to receive from your 401(k), IRAs, Social Security, and/or pension payments.
- Consider your fixed monthly costs (e.g., housing, food, transportation, etc), discretionary costs (activities, hobbies, travel), as well as projected costs (medical expenses, inflation, taxes, etc).
- If you do not think your current guaranteed income sources can cover your future costs, you will want to consider other sources of guaranteed income, like a fixed indexed annuity.

*For more help estimating your retirement income and expenses, use our **5 retirement cost calculators.***

2) WHAT IS YOUR RISK TOLERANCE?

- If your current financial plan is comprised largely of riskier investments like stocks, it may be time to bring more balance to your portfolio with a safer product designed for the long-term, like a fixed indexed annuity.
- Data shows most Americans are at risk of an unstable retirement. Only 9% are focused on diversifying their portfolio which is essential to managing financial risk especially when it comes to saving for retirement.

*To estimate your risk level, use our **risk assessment.***

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3) WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC FEATURES OF THE FIXED INDEXED ANNUITY?

- Be sure to discuss the following important questions with an insurance agent before you make any purchases:
 - How is the interest calculated and applied
 - What are the terms and conditions for receiving payments?
 - Are there extra charges for withdrawals if something major comes up in your life?
 - What, if any, penalties must you pay for ending your contract early?

4) HOW & WHEN WOULD YOU NEED TO ACCESS THE MONEY YOU PUT INTO A FIXED INDEXED ANNUITY?

- Fixed indexed annuity payments can be received as a lump sum or as smaller payments over time.
 - Looking for money in the near-term:**
A lump sum may make more sense for you.
 - Looking for a steady stream of income down the road:**
Smaller payments over time may be a better option.

5) IS THE INSURANCE COMPANY REPUTABLE?

- To confirm that the company issuing the fixed indexed annuity is licensed in your state, check out your state's Department of Insurance.
- There are several ratings services that conduct financial analyses and grade insurance companies. These include:
 - A.M. Best
 - Fitch
 - Standard & Poor's

For more information on the safety of insurance companies, [click here](#).