

### Theme 2: Taxes in U.S. History Lesson 4: The Social Security Act of 1935



Credit: Social Security Administration

**1935** The Social Security Act is passed by Congress and signed into law by President Roosevelt.

**1937** First Social Security benefits are paid. Early Social Security checks are one-time payments.

**1939** The Social Security program is expanded to include dependents and survivors of workers who retire, are disabled, or die prematurely.

**1940** Monthly Social Security payments begin. Ida May Fuller was the first person to

receive a monthly Social Security check. She would live to be 100 and collect about \$22,000 over her lifetime.

**1950** The first cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) is made by Congress. Social Security payments are increased by 77 percent.

**1956** The Social Security program is expanded to cover the disabled children of workers.

**1961** Social Security Amendments lowers the retirement age to 62.

**1975** Automatic cost-of-living adjustments to Social Security are approved. Now COLAs are based on the rise and fall of consumer prices.

**1983** Because of a funding crisis, Social Security benefits are reduced. Benefits are taxed as income for the first time.

**1999** Welfare reform affects Social Security. Efforts are made to ease disabled workers into the workforce.

**2000** SSA's Internet service, SSA Online, reached the rank of #10 on the list of most frequently visited federal government web sites.

**2002** The "Ticket to Work" program was officially launched in the first 13 States.

**2004** President Bush signed into law H.R. 743, the Social Security Protection Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-203).

**2011** SSA changed its procedures for issuing new SSNs.

**2012** Taxpayers can access their Social Security statements online by visiting: [www.ssa.gov/mystatement](http://www.ssa.gov/mystatement)