

## Fact Sheet: Washington

# Washington Could Save \$298 Million by Helping People Save for Their Own Retirement

William Shiflett and Catherine Harvey  
AARP Public Policy Institute

When individuals save for retirement they are less likely to rely on public assistance programs later in life. State-facilitated retirement savings plans for small-business employees would help people save more for retirement and, in turn, save significant taxpayer dollars for programs like Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and housing assistance. More than 30 states are considering creating retirement plans for private-sector workers whose employers do not already offer one. New research finds that Washington would save \$298 million on public assistance programs between 2018 and 2032 if lower-income retirees save enough to increase their retirement income by \$1,000 more per year.

### Fiscal Savings to States of \$1,000 More in Retirement Income for the Bottom Two Retirement Income Quintiles

State	Total Savings, Combined Federal and State, 2018-32	Savings to State, 2018-32
Alabama	\$156,459,591	\$17,652,790
Alaska	\$40,947,013	\$13,051,329
Arizona	\$396,596,440	\$89,210,583
Arkansas	\$129,450,257	\$27,611,939
California	\$5,383,081,091	\$1,393,743,339
Colorado	\$472,289,002	\$154,864,156
Connecticut	\$421,454,107	\$89,974,509
Delaware	\$69,140,518	\$18,176,268
Florida	\$1,404,379,386	\$290,543,822
Georgia	\$338,628,931	\$52,545,035
Hawaii	\$160,312,439	\$32,749,675
Idaho	\$54,198,256	\$11,508,077
Illinois	\$758,140,927	\$139,013,992
Indiana	\$268,263,150	\$55,927,866
Iowa	\$264,687,543	\$67,574,339
Kansas	\$195,565,665	\$51,724,322
Kentucky	\$319,759,599	\$46,163,299
Louisiana	\$201,858,462	\$32,884,222
Maine	\$135,574,464	\$22,980,536
Maryland	\$331,624,472	\$69,676,767



**Public Policy  
Institute**

State	Total Savings, Combined Federal and State, 2018-32	Savings to State, 2018-32
Massachusetts	\$1,318,605,436	\$333,548,142
Michigan	\$496,846,112	\$81,681,041
Minnesota	\$796,004,880	\$257,527,390
Mississippi	\$195,911,435	\$29,494,258
Missouri	\$403,926,297	\$99,087,689
Montana	\$46,325,459	\$8,374,620
Nebraska	\$130,684,259	\$40,763,572
Nevada	\$127,056,172	\$24,048,205
New Hampshire	\$62,650,543	\$15,672,254
New Jersey	\$809,192,172	\$193,934,233
New Mexico	\$49,319,790	\$7,424,601
New York	\$4,952,709,650	\$1,467,056,431
North Carolina	\$617,668,545	\$127,363,525
North Dakota	\$26,421,294	\$5,652,108
Ohio	\$1,093,070,035	\$240,600,349
Oklahoma	\$83,792,496	\$20,526,999
Oregon	\$453,533,958	\$98,930,353
Pennsylvania	\$1,359,355,285	\$330,156,349
Rhode Island	\$171,075,417	\$25,439,603
South Carolina	\$212,798,415	\$37,450,871
South Dakota	\$81,640,098	\$14,053,954
Tennessee	\$1,142,228,011	\$260,188,825
Texas	\$1,381,708,267	\$340,644,794
Utah	\$147,106,849	\$26,089,868
Vermont	\$53,543,140	\$12,722,408
Virginia	\$481,686,611	\$135,330,635
Washington	\$1,030,924,340	\$297,935,294
West Virginia	\$132,024,966	\$17,217,926
Wisconsin	\$684,324,456	\$139,334,771
Wyoming	\$50,305,916	\$17,966,328
<b>United States</b>	<b>\$32,978,295,282</b>	<b>\$7,793,556,409</b>

Source: AARP Public Policy Institute analysis of Philip Trostel, The Fiscal Implications of Inadequate Retirement Savings in Maine (Orono, ME: The University of Maine Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, February 2017), <https://mcspolicycenter.umaine.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2017/03/final-aarp-report.pdf>.

Fact Sheet 499, May 2017

© AARP PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE  
601 E Street, NW  
Washington DC 20049

Follow us on Twitter @AARppolicy  
on facebook.com/AARppolicy  
[www.aarp.org/ppi](http://www.aarp.org/ppi)

For more reports from the Public Policy Institute, visit <http://www.aarp.org/ppi/>.



Real Possibilities

**Public Policy  
Institute**