



# Build a Bright Retirement Future

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Clear, achievable, and meaningful goals can lay the foundation for success. Vague aspirations may have limited worth without a well-defined plan. Depending solely on past performance or arbitrary investment rules may carry risks when striving to achieve your financial goals.

Time is a critical factor in goal setting that can shape your financial objectives. With each day that goes by without financial contributions, the cost of reaching your goals may increase. Along your goal-setting journey, you may encounter various obstacles.

**Time's Value:** The longer you have to grow your money, the better. Less time available could mean higher costs to achieve goals—known as "the cost of waiting."

**Risk vs. Time:** With ample time, money leverages compounding interest, reducing the need for higher returns and associated risks. However, assuming greater risks to compensate for lost time may impact your financial goals.

**Inflation:** Over time, inflation erodes money's true value, undermining purchasing power. Accounting for inflation is crucial when calculating the cost of achieving your retirement objectives.

**Taxes:** Taxes are a certainty that can impede progress toward goals. Proper planning and effective tools can help manage and reduce their impact.

**Life's Surprises:** Unexpected challenges often arise, requiring frequent goal review and adjustment to stay on track and navigate uncertainties with resilience.

Goals and objectives may become the compass for your investment decisions, potentially acting as benchmarks that measure your investment strategy's performance. Focus on your objectives, not on market returns that you can't control. This way, you can protect yourself from following the crowd, which may be influenced by emotions like excitement or fear.

Remember, setting clear and meaningful goals is crucial in your pursuit of success. By understanding the impact of time, managing risks, accounting for inflation and taxes, and adapting to life's surprises, you can navigate the path to achieving your financial aspirations with greater confidence.

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**For more information on retirement planning, contact Kevin Donahue AIF®, CRPC®  
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