The Retirement Income Starter Guide

Turn your savings into a paycheck that lasts for life — in plain English.

ASKANNUITYAI · PACIFIC RIDGEWAY

You worked and saved for decades. Retirement flips the big question from “how do I grow my money?” to “how do I turn it into a paycheck that never runs out?” This short guide explains, in plain words, one of the most popular ways to do exactly that.

1. The two biggest risks in retirement

- **Running out of money.** People are living longer — your savings may need to last 30 years or more.
- **A market drop at the wrong time.** A big loss early in retirement, while you’re taking withdrawals, can permanently shrink your nest egg.

A good income plan is built to handle *both*.

2. What an annuity actually is

An annuity is simply a contract with an insurance company. You give them a sum of money, and they promise to pay you back — often as guaranteed income for life. Think of it as the opposite of life insurance: life insurance protects your family if you die too soon; an annuity protects *you* if you live a long time.

3. The fixed indexed annuity + income rider

A fixed indexed annuity (FIA) is a long-term insurance product with two features that make it popular for retirement income:

- **Principal protection** — your money doesn’t go backwards from market drops.
- **Growth potential** — it can earn interest linked in part to a market index, without being invested in the market.

Add a **guaranteed lifetime income rider** and it becomes a paycheck you can’t outlive — for as long as you live, even if the account value runs down.

4. The “cover your gap” strategy

You don’t have to put all your money in one place. A simple approach:

- Add up your essential monthly expenses (housing, food, healthcare, insurance).
- Subtract your guaranteed income (Social Security, any pension).
- The difference is your **income gap**.

Use guaranteed income to fill that gap, and keep the rest invested for growth and flexibility. Now your must-pay bills are covered for life — no matter what the market does.

5. Why waiting can grow your paycheck

With an income rider, the longer you wait before turning the income on, the larger your future paycheck usually is — because the income base keeps growing in the meantime. Even waiting a few years can meaningfully increase your lifetime income.

6. Five questions to ask before you buy

- How much guaranteed income will this create — starting now vs. if I wait?
- What are the fees, and what do they buy me?
- What happens to the money when I pass away?
- How does the surrender period work — when can I access funds?
- How financially strong is the insurance company behind the guarantees?

What to do next

Every situation is different, and the smartest next step is a short, no-obligation conversation with a licensed professional who can run *your* exact numbers.

Start by asking Oscar at askannuityai.com, or book a free retirement income review — free to learn, free to talk, and you only ever buy if it's right for you.

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