Maximum contribution, minimal work: the Solo 401(k).

What is a Solo 401(k)?
A Solo 401(k), also called an Individual 401(k), is a 401(k) plan for small business owners. By allowing you to contribute as both the employer and the employee, this plan enables you (and your spouse if he or she works for you) to boost your retirement savings with higher contribution limits in many cases.

Who is a Solo 401(k) best suited for?
Self-employed individuals and partnerships without full-time employees (other than a spouse or business partner).

What are the key benefits of a Solo 401(k)?
- You can contribute as both employer and employee, offering tax-deductible contributions as the employer and pretax elective deferral contributions as the employee, along with tax-deferred growth potential on contributions. Elective deferrals can also be made as Roth contributions, with those earnings tax-free in retirement.
- You can choose to allow plan loans.
- It’s not as complex as you might think. TD Ameritrade can provide a plan document and will take care of the required distribution filings for you. You will need to file a 5500-EZ form with the IRS once your plan assets reach $250,000. Plus, there are no setup or account maintenance fees. Commissions, service fees, and exception fees still apply.

What do I need to know about contributions?
- A business owner may make contributions to a Solo 401(k) as both an employee and the employer.
- When contributing as the employee, the contribution limit for tax year 2018 is up to $18,500 in elective deferrals, or $24,500 for ages 50 and up. For tax year 2019, that limit is $19,000, or $25,000 for ages 50 and up.
- The employer contribution limit for tax year 2018 is 25% of compensation. Total contributions (employee + employer) cannot exceed $55,000 in 2018, or $61,000 for ages 50 and up. For tax year 2019, those contribution limits are $56,000 below age 50 and $62,000 for ages 50 and up.
- The contribution deadline is the employer’s tax filing deadline, including extensions. The elective deferral contribution must be funded as soon as possible after year end once you know your income, but no later than your tax filing deadline, including extensions. You can simplify the process of calculating contributions with the Small Business Retirement Contribution Calculator.
- Contact your accountant or tax advisor to learn more about what makes sense for your business and circumstances.

How are rollovers and transfers handled?
Because a Solo 401(k) is a type of 401(k) plan, it follows traditional 401(k) rollover and transfer rules:
- Distributions made due to death, disability, or plan termination (without establishment of a successor 401(k)/profit-sharing plan) may be rolled over to an IRA. If Roth contributions were made to the Solo 401(k), the Roth account portion may be rolled over to a Roth IRA.
- When moving your Solo 401(k) from one custodian to another (only changing your vendors and not ending your Solo 401(k) plan entirely), the assets should be moved via a transfer and not as a distribution/rollover.
What about distributions?

• Distributions from a Solo 401(k) may be subject to tax and a 10% early withdrawal penalty if under age 59 ½.
• Minimum required distributions start at age 70 ½.

How do I set up a TD Ameritrade Solo 401(k)?

1. Call us to order a complete Individual 401(k) kit. To get a jump-start, complete the Adoption Agreement for Individual 401(k), making sure to keep a copy of it and the Basic Plan Document for your permanent tax files.
2. Each participant in the plan will also need to complete the Participant Account Application.* Be sure to select Individual 401(k) on the application. Note: If you also plan to allow Roth deferrals in your plan, you will need two Participant Account Applications: one for Roth contributions and one for all other contributions.
3. You may fund the Solo 401(k) upon opening the account or after the Solo 401(k) has been established via check or direct deposit.
4. By December 31 of each year, document your tax files with the amount of employee elective deferral you wish to make for that year.
5. An annual IRS Form 5500-EZ must be filed after the plan assets exceed $250,000 at the end of the year or if you ever terminate the plan.
6. If you have your own Individual 401(k) plan document and do not need 1099-R distribution reporting, you may set up a tax-exempt trust to invest at TD Ameritrade. Please open a Business/Trust account at tdameritrade.com and do not complete the forms above.

Where can I learn additional details?

Please refer to IRS Publication 560 or the IRS page on Individual 401(k)s for additional details.

Give us a call at 800-472-0586.