

**Supporting Statement for Form SSA-8000-BK
Application for Supplemental Security Income
20 CFR 416.207 & 416.305-416.335, Subpart C
OMB No. 0960-0229**

A. Justification

1. Introduction/Authoring Laws and Regulations

Section 1631(e)(1) of the *Social Security Act (Act)* requires the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration (SSA) to issue regulations on applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). SSI is a Federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues (not Social Security taxes). SSI provides aged, blind, and disabled people who have little or no income with the funds for food, clothing, and shelter. Sections 20 *CFR* 416.207 and 416.305-416.335, *Subpart C*, of the *Code of Federal Regulations* prescribe SSA's authority to collect the information we need to determine an applicant's eligibility for SSI.

2. Description of Collection

There are two ways respondents can apply for SSI. Individuals may obtain and complete the SSA-8000-BK application on the paper form, or via personal interview, during which the SSA employee enters the applicant's data directly into the electronic SSI Claims System. SSA uses the information gathered to: (1) determine whether claimants meet all statutory and regulatory requirements for SSI eligibility; and (2) calculate SSI payment amounts. The respondents are SSI applicants or their authorized representative.

3. Use of Information Technology to Collect the Information

In accordance with the agency's Government Paperwork Elimination Act plan, SSA created the SSI Claims System. The SSI Claims System is an internal, web-based system that allows technicians to collect data to process applications for SSI. Based on our data, we estimate approximately 98% of respondents under this OMB number use the electronic version.

4. Why We Cannot Use Duplicate Information

The nature of the information we collect and the manner in which we collect it preclude duplication. SSA does not use another collection instrument to obtain similar data.

5. Minimizing Burden on Small Respondents

This collection does not affect small businesses or other small entities.

6. Consequence of Not Collecting Information or Collecting it Less Frequently

If we did not use Form SSA-8000-BK, the public would have no means to apply for SSI. This would be a violation of regulations at Section 20 *CFR* 416.207 and 416.305-416.335, *Subpart C*. Because we only collect the information once, we cannot collect it less frequently. There are no technical or legal obstacles to

burden reduction.

7. Special Circumstances

There are no special circumstances that would cause SSA to conduct this information collection in a manner inconsistent with 5 *CFR* 1320.5.

8. Solicitation of Public Comment and Other Consultations with the Public

The 60-day advance Federal Register Notice published on August 6, 2018, at 83 FR 38441, and we received no public comments. The 30-day FRN published on October 15, 2018 at 83 FR 52042. If we receive any comments in response to this Notice, we will forward them to OMB.

9. Payment or Gifts to Respondents

SSA does not provide payments or gifts to the respondents.

10. Assurances of Confidentiality

SSA protects and holds confidential the information it collects in accordance with 42 *U.S.C.* 1306, 20 *CFR* 401 and 402, 5 *U.S.C.* 552 (Freedom of Information Act), 5 *U.S.C.* 552a (Privacy Act of 1974), and OMB Circular No. A-130.

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

The information collection does not contain any questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Estimates of Public Reporting Burden

Modality of Completion	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden Per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)
SSI Claims System / Signature Proxy	1,212,512	1	35	707,299
SSA-8000-BK (Paper Form)	20,941	1	41	14,310
Totals	1,233,453			721,609

The total burden for this ICR is **721,609** hours. We based these figures on current management information data. This figure represents burden hours, and we did not calculate a separate cost burden.

13. Annual Cost to the Respondents (Other)

This collection does not impose a known cost burden on the respondents.

14. Annual Cost To Federal Government

The annual cost to the Federal Government is approximately \$13,587,885. This

estimate accounts for costs from the following areas: (1) designing, printing, and distributing the form; (2) SSA employee (e.g., field office, 800 number, DDS staff) information collection and processing time; and (3) systems development, updating, and maintenance costs.

15. Program Changes or Adjustments to the Information Collection Request

When we last cleared this IC in 2016, the burden was 813,137 hours. However, we are currently reporting a burden of 721,609 hours. This change stems from a decrease in the number of responses from 1,390,942 to 1,233,453. There is no change to the burden time per response. Although the number of responses changed, SSA did not take any actions to cause this change.

16. Plans for Publication Information Collection Results

SSA will not publish the results of the information collection.

17. Displaying the OMB Approval Expiration Date

OMB granted SSA an exemption from the requirement to print the OMB expiration date on its program forms. SSA produces millions of public-use forms with life cycles exceeding those of an OMB approval. Since SSA does not periodically revise and reprint its public-use forms (e.g., on an annual basis), OMB granted this exemption so SSA would not have to destroy stocks of otherwise useable forms with expired OMB approval dates, avoiding Government waste.

18. Exceptions to Certification Statement

SSA is not requesting an exception to the certification requirements at 5 *CFR* 1320.9 and related provisions at 5 *CFR* 1320.8(b)(3).

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

SSA does not use statistical methods for this information collection.