

# **Request for Approval under the “Generic Clearance for the Collection of Routine Customer Feedback” (OMB Control Number: 0960-0526)**

**TITLE OF INFORMATION COLLECTION:** National Disability Forum FY 2021

## **PURPOSE:**

The National Disability Forum (NDF) is an open forum hosted by the Social Security Administration (SSA) that gives all interested stakeholders an opportunity to share their unique insights on topics of particular interest to SSA both early in the process, and directly with policy makers. Further, it provides an opportunity for stakeholders to hear from one another. Open to anyone interested, SSA does not intend the NDF to be a means for reaching agreement on an issue, and SSA’s participation is only for the purpose of gaining insight through listening.

This inclusive and collaborative approach helps SSA develop responsive, effective, and efficient policies to empower individuals with a disability; minimize their financial hardship; and ensure proper use of Disability Trust funds. The activities under the NDF supplement, but do not replace, the rule-making process followed by SSA under the Administrative Procedure Act.

## **DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:**

The NDF is an open forum of Social Security representatives; individuals with disabilities; advocate organizations; Federal/State/local and tribal government agencies; private companies; members of the medical community; and others interested in both assisting individuals with a disability, and the SSA disability programs. We meet three or four times per fiscal year, usually in the spring, summer, and fall, at a location in Washington, D.C. to host the forum. The Forum may be a two-hour session in the afternoon or occasionally we may add a two-hour session in the morning as well. Our next forum is scheduled for November 2020, tentatively as a teleconference and the topic relates to long-term effect of COVID-19. We will also host another forum in spring 2021 and in the summer 2021 (tentatively at the Partnership for Public Service in Washington D.C.), and the topics will likely be a different disability program.

SSA sends a formal email invitation to a list of disability and/or retirement stakeholders from the SSA VOCUS database. We conduct registration online (see attached Sample 2), and we include options for attending by phone, live streaming or in-person. A group of panelists from both private and public sectors discusses areas of subject matter expertise at the forum (see attached Sample 3). After the panelists make their presentations, we allow the audience to ask questions. After the forum, we post all PowerPoints; presenter bios; handouts; and a transcript of the discussion to the National Disability Forum internet site at <https://www.ssa.gov/ndf/>. We provide an optional online survey (see attached Sample 4) in our “Thank You” note to participants of the forum to obtain their feedback about their experience at the forum.

We use Engage SSA, formerly known as IdeaScale, a platform where, similar to a discussion forum or social media, colleagues can comment anonymously and interact, regarding specific topics or questions (See attached Sample 5). Here are some sample questions that we listed previously for comment on Engage SSA:

1. How do you envision advance designation specifically playing a role in future financial management activities within your own agency/group/business?

2. How can the agency effectively collaborate with advocates and stakeholders to strengthen the advance designation process?
  
- 3 Do you follow a notification process for individuals at the point they are listed as a future contact, or only at the point of selection?

Questions for future NDFs will be similar in nature. We may request comments on Engage SSA for several weeks before the NDF and for several weeks post NDF. Once we close the Engage SSA campaign, we archive the anonymous comments on the NDF internet site. We meet with the SSA Disability Forum Steering Committee comprised of Associate Commissioner-level executives within SSA to review activities from the forum and plan for the next forum.

**TYPE OF COLLECTION:** (Check one)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Customer Comment Card/Complaint Form         | <input type="checkbox"/> Customer Satisfaction Survey      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Usability Testing (e.g., Website or Software | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Discussion Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Focus Group                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                      |

**CERTIFICATION:**

I certify the following to be true:

1. The collection is voluntary.
2. The collection is low-burden for respondents and low-cost for the Federal Government.
3. The collection is non-controversial and does not raise issues of concern to other federal agencies.
4. The results are not intended to be disseminated to the public.
5. Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions.
6. The collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the future.

Name: Robert King, Analyst, Office of Disability Policy

To assist review, please provide answers to the following question:

**Personally Identifiable Information:**

1. Is personally identifiable information (PII) collected?  Yes  No
2. If Yes, is the information that will be collected included in records that are subject to the Privacy Act of 1974?  Yes  No
3. If Applicable, has a System or Records Notice been published?  Yes  No

**Gifts or Payments:**

Is an incentive (e.g., money or reimbursement of expenses, token of appreciation) provided to participants?  Yes  No

## BURDEN HOURS

Category of Respondent	No. of Respondents	Participation Time in hours	Burden
November 18, 2020	300	3	900
Spring 2021	300	3	900
Summer 2021	300	3	900
<b>Totals</b>	<b>900</b>		<b>2,700</b>

**FEDERAL COST:** The estimated annual cost to the Federal government is 15,000 dollars (Estimated cost per NDF is \$5,000)

**If you are conducting a focus group, survey, or plan to employ statistical methods, please provide answers to the following questions:**

### **The selection of your targeted respondents**

1. Do you have a customer list or something similar that defines the universe of potential respondents and do you have a sampling plan for selecting from this universe?  
[ X ] Yes [ ] No

If the answer is yes, please provide a description of both below (or attach the sampling plan)? If the answer is no, please provide a description of how you plan to identify your potential group of respondents and how you will select them?

The Office of Communications hold our VOCUS database which has over 3,000 names. These names represent disability and/or retirement advocates, organizations and other government agency contacts. We only send email invitations to those who we identify as a member of the disability and/or retirement community. We link Engage SSA to the registration email.

We send online evaluation forms after the forum to the participants who attended by phone, live streaming or in-person.

### **Administration of the Instrument**

1. How will you collect the information? (Check all that apply)  
[X] Web-based or other forms of Social Media  
[X] Telephone  
[X] In-person  
[ ] Mail  
[ ] Other, Explain
2. Will interviewers or facilitators be used? [ ] Yes [ X ] No

**Please make sure that all instruments, instructions, and scripts are submitted with the request.**