

Supporting Statement for Form SSA-3105
Important Information about Your Appeal, Waiver Rights, and Repayment Options
20 CFR 404.502a
OMB No. 0960-0779

A. Justification

1. Introduction/Authoring Laws and Regulations

Sections 204, 1631(b), and 1879 of the *Social Security Act (Act)* requires the Social Security Administration (SSA) to recover overpayments of Federal Retirement, Survivors, Disability Insurance, Health Insurance, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments made to an individual, unless the agency can waive recovery of the overpayment or the agency reverses the initial finding of overpayment upon successful appeal. SSA also informs overpaid claimants of the following rights:

- Right to reconsideration of the overpayment determination;
- Right to request waiver of recovery and the automatic scheduling of a personal conference if SSA cannot approve a request for waiver; and
- Availability of a different rate of benefit payment withholding when SSA proposes withholding the full benefit payment.

The overpaid individual may use Form SSA-3105, Important Information about Your Appeal, Waiver Rights, and Repayment Options, to notify us when they choose to request a reconsideration, waiver, or different rate of withholding to recover their overpayment. 20 CFR 404.502a of the *Code of Federal Regulations* authorizes SSA to collect this information.

2. Description of Collection

This collection is a voluntary, one-time collection, for the respondents to let SSA know that they want to request a lower rate of benefit withholding, installment payments, an explanation of the overpayment, an appeal, or a waiver. Respondents can complete the form and return it to an SSA office, or they may also contact SSA via telephone or via an in-office visit. The respondent is not required to complete this form; however, they may complete this form alone or with help. The respondents are individuals who are overpaid Social Security payments.

3. Use of Information Technology to Collect the Information

This form is available as a print-only, fillable PDF on SSA's website. This collection does not currently have a fully public facing Internet version, as we prioritized other information collections for full electronic conversions. Given that IT Mod programming is an ongoing, dynamic project, we cannot provide specific timelines for when we will be able to make any particular ICR available via Internet web-based application. We will ultimately convert most existing ICRs to full electronic versions depending on how they fall within our overall IT

Mod schema, but this may be unconnected to the PRA approval lifecycle.

In the interim, we evaluated this collection for conversion to a submittable PDF. Given the high volume of conversions we are coordinating and the more urgent nature of some of the other conversions, we ultimately decided not to prioritize this ICR for conversion to fully submittable PDF at this time. When we are able to schedule this form for conversion to a submittable PDF, we will submit a Change Request to OMB to request prior approval.

4. Why We Cannot Use Duplicate Information

The nature of the information we collect and the manner in which we collect it precludes 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-3105, the respondent would still be able to contact SSA (at any time) if they want to request a lower rate of benefit withholding, installment payments, an explanation of the overpayment, an appeal, or a waiver. 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 October 12, 2021 at 86 FR 56746, and we received no public comments. The 30-day FRN published on January 3, 2022 at 87 FR 139. 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

Please see the burden chart below:

Modality of Completion	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden Per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)	Average Theoretical Hourly Cost Amount (dollars)*	Average Wait Time in Field Office or for Teleservice Centers (minutes)**	Total Annual Opportunity Cost (dollars)***
SSA-3105 (Paper Form)	500,000	1	15	125,000	\$10.95*	21**	\$3,285,000***
Debt Management System	166,666	1	15	41,667	\$10.95*	21**	\$1,095,000***
Totals	666,666			166,667			\$4,380,000***

* We based this figure on the average DI payments based on SSA's current FY 2021 data (<https://www.ssa.gov/legislation/2021FactSheet.pdf>).

** We based this figure on averaging both the average FY 2021 wait times for field offices and teleservice centers, based on SSA's current management information data.

*** This figure does not represent actual costs that SSA is imposing on recipients of Social Security payments to complete this application; rather, these are theoretical opportunity costs for the additional time respondents will spend to complete the application. **There is no actual charge to respondents to complete the application.**

In addition, OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) is requiring SSA to use a rough estimate of a 30-minute, one-way, drive time in our calculations of the time burden for this collection. OIRA based their estimation on a spatial analysis of SSA's current field office locations and the location of the average population centers based on census tract information, which likely represents a 13.97-mile driving distance for one-way travel. We depict this on the chart below:

Total Number of Respondents Who Visit a Field Office	Frequency of Response	Average One-Way Travel Time to a Field Office (minutes)	Estimated Total Travel Time to a Field Office (hours)	Total Annual Opportunity Cost for Travel Time (dollars)****
666,666	1	30	333,333	\$3,649,996

**** We based this dollar amount on the Average Theoretical Hourly Cost

Amount in dollars shown on the burden chart above.

Per OIRA, we include this travel time burden estimate under the 5 CFR 1320.8(a) (4), which requires us to provide “time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons [for]...transmitting, or otherwise disclosing the information,” as well as 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3)(iii) which requires us to estimate “the average burden collection...to the extent practicable.” SSA notes that we do not obtain or maintain any data on travel times to a field office, nor do we have any data which shows that the average respondent drives to a field office, rather than using any other mode of transport. SSA also acknowledges that respondents’ mode of travel and, therefore, travel times vary widely dependent on region, mode of travel, and actual proximity to a field office.

NOTE: We included the total opportunity cost estimate from this chart in our calculations when showing the total time and opportunity cost estimates in the paragraph below.

The total burden for this ICR is **166,667** burden hours (reflecting SSA management information data), which results in an associated theoretical (not actual) opportunity cost financial burden of **\$8,029,996**. SSA does not charge respondents to complete our applications. We base our burden estimates on current management information data, which includes data from actual interviews, as well as from years of conducting this information collection. Per our management information data, we believe that the 15 minutes accurately shows the average burden per response for reading the instructions, gathering the facts, and answering the questions. Based on our current management information data, the current burden information we provided is accurate.

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 \$4,671,096. This estimate accounts for costs from the following areas:

Description of Cost Factor	Methodology for Estimating Cost	Cost in Dollars*
Designing and Printing the Form	Design Cost + Printing Cost	\$1,000
Distributing, Shipping, and Material Costs for the Form	Distribution + Shipping + Material Cost	\$0*
SSA Employee (e.g., field office, 800 number, DDS staff)	GS-9 employee x # of responses x processing time	\$4,666,676

Information Collection and Processing Time		
Full-Time Equivalent Costs	Out of pocket costs + Other expenses for providing this service	\$0*
Systems Development, Updating, and Maintenance	GS-9 employee x man hours for development, updating, maintenance	\$3,420
Quantifiable IT Costs	Any additional IT costs	\$0*
Total		\$4,671,096

* We have inserted a \$0 amount for cost factors that do not apply to this collection.

SSA is unable to break down the costs to the Federal government further than we already have. It is difficult for us to break down the cost for processing a single form, as field office staff often help respondents fill out several forms at once, and the time it takes to do so can vary greatly per respondent. As well, because so many employees have a hand in each aspect of our forms, we use an estimated average hourly wage, based on the wage of our average field office employee (GS-9) for these calculations. However, we have calculated these costs as accurately as possible based on the information we collect for creating, updating, and maintaining these information collections.

15. **Program Changes or Adjustments to the Information Collection Request**
When we last cleared this IC in 2019, the burden was 175,000 hours. However, we are currently reporting a burden of 166,667 hours. This change stems from a decrease in the number of responses from 700,000 to 666,666. Although the number of responses changed, SSA did not take any actions to cause this change. These figures represent current Management Information data. In addition, as per OMB's request, SSA is including the 30-minute travel time to a field office in our burden calculations, which increases the overall burden for this collection.
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.