

**Supporting Statement for Forms SSA-177 and SSA-177-OP1
Indian Tribal Council Coverage Agreement
OMB No. 0960-0812**

A. Justification

1. Introduction/Authoring Laws and Regulations

Section 218A of the *Social Security Act (Act)* allows Indian tribal council members to voluntarily obtain Social Security coverage. The Social Security Administration (SSA) extends coverage based upon an agreement signed between the Indian tribe and SSA. Because of the above law, SSA is using Forms SSA-177 and SSA-177-OP1 to collect the necessary information and grant Social Security coverage to tribal council members.

2. Description of Collection

SSA uses the Tribal Council Coverage Agreement to collect information if a tribe wishes to obtain Social Security coverage. Each tribe requesting coverage fills out an agreement, and SSA employees collect the information via form SSA-177 or SSA-177-OP1. The respondents are Indian tribal councils who wish to receive Social Security coverage for their members.

3. Use of Information Technology to Collect the Information

The Indian Tribal Council Coverage Agreement is available as a print-only 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 collect this information, Indian tribes would have no way to obtain voluntary Social Security coverage for their Indian Tribal Council members. 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 November 30, 2021 at 86 FR 68034, and we received no public comments. The 30-day FRN published on February 7, 2022 at 87 FR 6929. 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)*	Total Annual Opportunity Cost (dollars) **
SSA-177	6	1	10	1	\$19.01*	\$19**
SSA-177-OP1	6	1	10	1	\$19.01*	\$19**
Totals	12			2		\$38**

* We based this figure by averaging both the average DI payments based on SSA's current FY 2021 data (<https://www.ssa.gov/legislation/2021FactSheet.pdf>), and the average U.S. worker's hourly wages, as reported by Bureau of Labor Statistics data (https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm).

** 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.**

The total burden for this ICR is 2 burden hours (reflecting SSA management information data), which results in an associated theoretical (not actual) opportunity cost financial burden of \$38. 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 10 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 \$3,877. 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	\$0*
Distributing, Shipping, and Material Costs for the Form	Distribution + Shipping + Material Cost	\$0*
SSA Employee (e.g., field office, 800 number, DDS staff) Information Collection and Processing Time	GS-13 employee x # of responses x processing time**	\$457
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*
Other	[Component may add as needed]	\$0*
Total		\$3,877

SSA is unable to break down the costs to the Federal government further than we already have. 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-13) 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, it was a new collection. We estimated an original burden of 17 hours. However, we are currently reporting a burden of 2 hours. This change stems from a decrease in the number of responses from 100 to 12. When we first developed this collection, we overestimated its potential use, and are correcting it now. 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. These figures represent current Management Information data.
- 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.