

Supporting Statement for Form SSA-8
Application For Lump-Sum Death Payment
20 CFR 404.390-404.392
OMB No. 0960-0013

A. Justification

1. Introduction/Authoring Laws and Regulations

Title II of the *Social Security Act (Act)* provides for payment of a lump-sum death payment (LSDP), not to exceed \$255, upon the death of an insured individual. Section 202(i) of the *Act* explains the conditions of eligibility for this payment, including the filing of an application. Regulations at 20 CFR 404.390-404.392 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* set the procedures and policies for implementing Section 202(i) of the *Act*. Section 20 CFR 404.392 requires individual applicants to file an application to collect the information needed to determine eligibility for the payment

2. Description of Collection

A Surviving individual can apply for the LSDP benefit upon death of an insured worker or within two years of the worker's death. Individuals can find directions to apply for LSDP, as well as the information they need to provide to the Social Security Administration (SSA) on SSA's website. SSA uses Form SSA-8, and its alternate methods, to collect information we need to authorize payment of the LSDP to a widow, widower, or children of the deceased, as defined in Section 202(i) of the *Act*.

The collection of this information is voluntary but without it, individuals cannot receive the one-time LSDP benefit. Respondents are likely to learn about LSDP through the following methods:

- Visiting the SSA public website page. Our website will inform the applicant of the modalities available to apply for LSDP;
- Referral from other agencies or services (e.g., funeral homes, state agency providing a death certificate, etc.);
- Receiving SSA mailers, multi-media commercials and advertising as well as SSA's website.

SSA uses the following methods to collect the information we require to authorize LSDP payments:

- **SSA-8, Paper Application:**

The paper Form SSA-8 collects information to identify if the claimant appears to meet the basic eligibility requirements LSDP and possible eligibility for widow(er) benefits.

Individuals can visit the SSA public website and choose to use the fillable PDF

version of the application instead of making an appointment to file for the benefits. For those who choose this method, the individual submits a paper application either by mail or electronically, by uploading it to Upload Documents (OMB No. 0960-0830). Once SSA receives the form, technicians manually enter the information in the Modernized Claim System (MCS) system to establish a claim. In certain situations, technicians may need to contact respondents to collect additional information to resolve a questionable eligibility issue or verify the applicant's identity.

SSA no longer prints and delivers paper copies of the SSA-8 to field offices. The public can print a fillable PDF version of form from our website, or first party applicants can complete a fillable PDF version, electronically sign and submit the information to SSA using the Upload Documents (OMB No. 0960- 0830).

- **Modernized Claim System (MCS) Technician Interview in-person or telephone:**
SSA technicians collect the answers for the LSDP application questions directly from the applicants through personal interviews, either by phone or in person, and enter their responses directly into the MCS system to establish a claim. The MCS System follows the dynamic pathing and only presents the needed questions during the interview (e.g., individuals who respond “no” to the “Are you married?” question are not presented with any additional marriage-based questions).
- **Universal Benefit Application (UBA) Internet filing:**
Since December 2025, applicants can also file for the LSDP online via the UBA platform (OMB #0960-NEW), a common platform that allows individuals with different application needs to use one website to complete their benefit applications online. UBA is a single website offering a dynamic online process that navigates individuals directly to the benefit applications and supplemental forms they need to submit electronically to SSA, after which an SSA technician supports (if needed) the individuals through the development process to achieve a better customer experience. Respondents using UBA first authenticate through the agency's eAccess authentication (OMB No. 0960-0789) which navigates them to Login.gov or ID.me for identity proofing and authentication, after which the system directs them back to the main UBA information page to complete a short screener which directs them to the appropriate benefit application. The UBA version of the SSA-8 is limited to individuals who are: between the age of 18 and under 50; not disabled; and are the surviving Spouse. These limitations ensure individuals who complete the UBA dynamic pathing Internet application are those who are eligible for the LSDP. The system currently directs all other LSDP applicants to make an appointment either in person or via telephone to complete the application. We will continue to include these restrictions until we are able to expand the UBA platform to intake widow's benefits.

We identified the following psychological costs based on the requirements for this information collection:

Psychological Cost:

- **Requirement for Program:** Form SSA-8 asks the respondents to provide personal information about themselves and the deceased wage earner. Some of the information we request does not show a clear explanation for how SSA uses the information to determine program eligibility.
- **Psychological Cost:** As SSA does not explain the uses for some of these personal and sensitive questions, the respondents may feel stress when responding to them and these factors can lead to individuals choosing to delay or abandon completing a form.

We understand these psychological costs may cause respondents to delay their completion of the information collection or cause them to abandon the information collection entirely. However, we require full completion of this collection to receive benefits. Therefore, we have taken this potential psychological cost into account when calculating our burden in #12 below.

The Respondents are applicants for the LSDP and include individuals who are widows, widowers, children of the deceased workers, their legal guardians, or the third parties who aid these individuals in applying for LSDP.

3. Use of Information Technology to Collect the Information

SSA created and uses the Modernized Claims System (MCS) screens to document information we obtain from individuals during an interview (telephone or in person). MCS is an internal electronic forms system available to SSA Claims Specialists that allows technicians to collect the data to process applications. We estimate claims specialists take approximately 98% of the applications via interview.

Since December 2025, we also collect information electronically via the Internet through the UBA platform (OMB No. 0960-NEW). As described above, UBA uses a dynamic pathing Internet application which allows respondents to complete the necessary information, eSign it, and submit it to OMB electronically. At this time, we estimate approximately 1% of respondents currently use the new UBA screens. We anticipate this number will increase as more respondents learn about the online process.

We also continue to collect this information through other processes previously mentioned, e.g., mailed, Upload Documents, or dropped off at a field office. At this time, our current Management Information (MI) data shows that approximately 1% of applicants use Upload Documents to complete this information collection. While some of these respondents may use the paper form (when Upload Documents is down), we note that the majority of those using the paper form prefer to submit it through Upload Documents so they do not need to mail or drop the form off at a field office.

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-8, we would have no way to determine eligibility for LSDP and would be unable to authorize payments to the widow, widower, or children of the deceased worker. Because we collect the information on an as needed basis, 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 April 27, 2026, at 91 FR 22569, and we received no public comments. The 30-day FRN published on June 26, 2026, at 91 FR 38748. If we receive any comments in response to this Notice, we will forward them to OMB. We did not consult with the public in the development revision of this form.

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:

Method of Completion	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden Per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)	Average Theoretical Cost Amount (dollars)*	Average Wait Time in Field Office or Teleservice Centers (minutes)**	Total Annual Opportunity Cost (dollars) ***
MCS (technician interview)	771,630	1	9	385,815	\$33.54*	33**	\$27,174,510***

SSA-8 (Upload Documents and Paper)	6,829	1	10	1,121	\$33.54*		\$38,169***
UBA Platform – LSDP Internet Screens	6,864	1	6	686	\$33.54*		\$23,008***
Totals	785,323			387,622			\$27,235,687***

* We based this figure on average U.S. citizen’s hourly salary, as reported by Bureau of Labor Statistics data ([Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#)).

** We based this figure on the average combined FY 2026 wait times for field offices (20 minutes) and for teleservice centers (46 minutes which includes the average speed of answer of 5 minutes as well as the average 41-minute wait time for a call back from an SSA technician), based on SSA’s current management information data. This figure reflects both data from our systems and the data posted on our public facing website ([Social Security performance | SSA](#)) on the date we drafted this document. As the figures fluctuate daily, the wait times may be different on the website than they appear here. We continue to monitor our website and management information data on call back times to ensure we report updated figures when possible. While we have included wait time for all respondents using the MCS interview option, we note that respondents are not required to complete the form in person and those who call in may experience longer wait times. In addition, while our MI data shows that most respondents use the Upload Documents electronic submission option for the paper form, those who mail in or drop off a completed form do not experience any wait time.

*** 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	Estimated Total Travel Time to a Field Office (hours)	Total Annual Opportunity Cost for Travel Time (dollars)****

		(minutes)		
771,630	1	30	385,815	\$12,940,235****

****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. In addition, as noted above, many respondents who use the MCS option likely complete their interview via telephone, and therefore do not travel for the interview. However, as we do not have MI data regarding how many respondents travel to a field office for their interviews, we included all MCS respondents in this figure.

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.

We calculated the following Learning Cost time burden based on the estimated time and effort we expect respondents will take to learn about this program, its applicability to their circumstances, and to cover any additional research we believe respondents may need to take to understand how to comply with the program requirements (beyond reading the instructions on the collection instrument):

Total Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Estimate Learning Cost (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)	Total Annual Learning Cost (dollars)*****
785,323	1	13	170,153	\$5,706,932*****

*****We based this dollar amount on the Average Theoretical Hourly Cost Amount in dollars shown on the burden chart above.

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.

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 **6, 9, or 10** minutes accurately shows the average burden per response for learning about the program;

receiving notices as needed; reading and understanding instructions; gathering the data and documents needed; answering the questions and completing the information collection instrument; scheduling any necessary appointment or required phone call; consulting with any third parties (as needed); and waiting to speak with SSA employees (as needed). Based on our current management information data, the current burden information we provided is accurate. The total burden for this ICR is **387,622** burden hours (reflecting SSA management information data), which results in an associated theoretical (not actual) opportunity cost financial burden of **\$45,882,854**. SSA does not charge respondents to complete our applications.

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 **\$3,675,239**. 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	\$1,403*
Distribution, 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-9 employee x # of responses x processing time	\$2,427,797
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	\$1,246,039
Quantifiable IT Costs	Any additional IT costs	\$0*
Total		\$3,675,239

* 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 and State Disability Determination Services staff often help respondents fill out several forms at once, and the time it takes to do so can vary greatly per respondent. Also, 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 2023, the burden was **110,946** hours. However, we are currently reporting a burden of **387,622** hours. This change stems from an increase in the number of responses from **739,001** to **785,323**. In addition, we also included the new Internet screens through the UBA platform which is a new method for respondents to submit the information that increases the overall burden for this information collection. These figures represent current MI data.

NOTE: The total burden reflected in ROCIS is **1,097,935**, while the burden cited in #12 of the Supporting Statement is **387,622**. This discrepancy is because the ROCIS burden reflects the following components: field office and teleservice center waiting time + a rough estimate of a 30-minute, one-way, drive burden + learning costs. In contrast, the chart in #12 of the Supporting Statement reflects actual burden.

16. Plans for Publication Information Collection Results

SSA will not publish the results of the information collection.

17. Displaying the OMB Approval Expiration Date

[Use the template language that works best here].

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.