

**Supporting Statement for Form SSA-8001
Application for Supplemental Security Income
20 CFR 416.305 - 20 CFR 416.335, Subpart C
OMB No. 0960-0444**

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 promulgate regulations concerning applications for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments. 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 16.305-416.335 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* provide that we create a prescribed form to collect the information we request for SSI payments.

2. Description of Collection

SSA uses the form SSA-8001 to collect information from respondents to either: (1) provide a formal determination of ineligibility based on non-medical reasons only, or (2) document allegations of potential eligibility prior to requesting a medical determination from DDS while deferring the collection of additional information until after a medical determination is approved.

In situations where an SSI claim is medically denied, we do not require any additional information from the respondents. For SSI claims to receive a medical allowance, we need to collect or update information previously collected. Therefore, technicians conduct a pre-effectuation review with respondents to collect questions from the SSA-8000 (OMB No. 0960-0229).

In December 2024, SSA implemented a new simplified SSI online application. SSA developed a hybrid approach to streamline and simplify the online application form and the modalities we offer across other service channels (i.e., phone and in-person interviews). SSA's hybrid approach consists of two separate steps: (1) capturing the claimant's basic eligibility with a simplified application, and (2) a technician-supported experience to develop additional information necessary to make an initial determination. This second step only happens after we provide medical approval and identify what other information we need. This approach strikes a balance between improving the applicant's filing experience and collecting all necessary information to make eligibility determinations.

Respondents apply for SSI using one of three modalities: (1) a paper application (Form SSA-8001), (2) a field office interview (in-person or over the phone) during which SSA employees enter applicants' responses directly into the SSI Claims System; or (3) using the Internet Claims (iClaim) System.

The following is a list and description of each modality:

Paper Application: SSA-8001:

Upon approval of this ICR, the SSA-8001 will be a self-help form available in an adult and child version for the public and technicians to use when there is a system limitation. The application collects information to identify if the claimant appears to meet the basic eligibility requirements in the month of filing.

In situations where applicants submit a paper application either by mail or through SSA's Upload Documents portal (OMB No. 0960-0830), technicians manually enter the information in the Consolidated Claims Experience (CCE) and SSI Claims system to establish a deferred SSI 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-8001 form to field offices. The public can print a fillable PDF version of Form SSA-8001 from our website or first party applicants can complete a fillable PDF version of Form SSA-8001, electronically sign and submit the information to SSA using the Upload Documents portal when requested by SSA employees per OMB No. 0960- 0830.

Interview in-person or telephone:

SSA technicians collect the answers for the SSI application questions directly from the applicant either by phone or in person and enter their responses directly into the Consolidated Claim Experience (CCE) and Intranet SSI Claims System web pages. The CCE System follows the dynamic pathing and only presents the needed questions during the interview e.g., individuals responding "No" to "Are you married?" question won't be presented with questions about marriage dates.

Internet SSI (iSSI)

Individuals who complete the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) application (0960-0618) using the iClaim System are presented with the question, "Do you intend to file for SSI?" When the answer is "yes," iClaim will automatically include SSI basic eligibility questions (0960-0842) for the claimant who:

- is at least age 18, but under the age of 64 and 10 months,
- has never been married,
- has no previous SSI business with SSA, and
- resides in the U.S. (including D.C. and the northern Mariana Islands).

iClaims that includes the iSSI basic eligibility questions, establishes a signed deferred SSI claim in the Consolidated Claim Experience (CCE) and SSI Claims. Responses to the SSI basic eligibility questions and the questions collected in iClaim disability path that are common to both SSDI and SSI (e.g., citizenship, allegation of disability, onset date, marriage, and work) populate into the applicable SSI Claims page.

If the SSDI claim requires medical determination and does not require non-medical development (e.g., insured status), the SSI claim is sent to DDS along with the SSDI

claim and development of SSI eligibility is deferred until there is a medical allowance. If the SSI claim involves a terminal illness (TERI) or a presumptive disability, technicians change the SSI claim type from deferred to full and collect the remaining questions from the SSA-8000 (OMB No. 0960-0229) and simultaneously develop for eligibility and payment amounts while DDS develop disability factors.

SSI is a program of last resort. SSI eligibility requires claimants to apply for all other program benefits for which they may be eligible. Therefore, respondents are likely to learn about SSI program through the following methods:

- Visiting the SSA public website page. Our website informs the applicant of the modalities available to apply for SSI, including online via iClaim. If an applicant chooses to apply online for disability, the iClaim system will walk the respondent through the process as part of the dynamic pathing. Through dynamic pathing, an applicant may also complete the SSI application when applying for DIB by indicating intent to file for SSI;
- referral from other agencies that pay benefits based on need (e.g., unemployment, food stamps, housing, etc.);
- talking to SSA employees when setting up an appointment to file for RSDI benefits, or during the claim interview of a RSDI application in which their benefit is low enough to qualify for SSI;
- receiving SSA mailers, multi-media commercials and advertising as well as SSA's website.

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

Psychological Cost #1:

- **Requirements for Program:** The SSA-8001 asks individuals to provide information about their income, and resources as well as their spouse's (if living together) so SSA can determine if they appear to meet the non-medical eligibility factors before sending their claim for medical determination.
- **Psychological Cost:** Respondents may find these questions unduly invasive, and these factors can lead to individuals choosing to delay or abandon completing this form. However, this is necessary to ensure DDS doesn't waste their resources on evaluating and making medical determinations on claims that do not meet the non-medical eligibility requirements.

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 using the SSA-8001 are individuals who are applying for SSI and are either clearly ineligible or, disabled or blind, or are the third parties who aid these individuals in applying for SSI.

3. Use of Information Technology to Collect the Information

In accordance with the agency's Government Paperwork Elimination Act plan SSA offers electronic versions of this information collection, specifically, the Intranet-based SSI Claims system and Internet-based iClaim. Based on current SSA Management Information (MI) data, approximately 80% of respondents complete the SSI applications through a personal interview process with a technician using the CCE and SSI Claims System web pages to collect the information for the SSA-8001. In addition, our MI data shows that approximately 20% of the Internet iClaim respondents who answered "yes" regarding their intent to file for SSI met the criteria to file for SSI online. This is a 4% increase from the 16% we reported under OMB No. 0960-0842 package approved in November 2024.

Finally, this collection has a public-facing fillable and submittable version which the respondent can submit using SSA's Upload Documents Portal (OMB No. 0960-0830). Upload Documents allows the respondent to complete the fillable PDF, electronically sign it, and submit the information through the Upload Documents Portal. The submittable version mirrors the paper version and provides respondents with an online service option as an alternative to mailing, faxing, or bringing the form to an SSA field office. Use of the Upload Documents Portal does not require respondents to download and install the application locally on their device or pay any subscription or licensing fees, and we account for the burden for using Upload Documents under OMB No. 0960-0830.

4. Why We Cannot Use Duplicate Information

When a claimant requires a full SSI application (SSA-8000) after taking a deferred SSI application, technicians change the system entry from deferred to full application. Upon this change, the questions the applicant had already provided are automatically displayed to the technician while the additional questions for a full SSI application become available to complete. This system's functionality avoids collecting duplicate information.

Some of the information we collect with the SSI applications is also information we collect with Title II and Title XVIII benefit applications, or with the recording of a protective filing using the Enhanced Leads and Applications System (eLAS) or Internet appointment (iAppointment) Systems (OMB No. 0960-0822). We are able to reduce the collection of redundant information by using the personal proven data (e.g., date of birth, citizenship, contact information, earnings) among SSA's various claims systems when needed. When using a system application such as the CCE SSI Claims system or the Internet Claim (iClaim) system, any personal data previously collected propagates into

the claims path for the technician to verify with the claimant and update when necessary. This reduces the burden on the respondents, as they do not need to submit the information to SSA more than once.

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-8001, technicians would use Form SSA-8000 (0960-0229) to collect this information. Doing so increases the claim interviewing time and burden to the public since the SSA-8000 includes developmental questions for determining eligibility and payment amount which are only needed when a medical allowance is granted. Because we only collect this 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 March 23, 2026, at 91 FR 13915, and we received public comments from one commenter. Please see the Addendum for the summary of the public comments and SSA's responses.

The 30-day FRN published on May 22, 2026, at 91 FR 30360. 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)***
Intranet CCE or SSI Claims System	596,633	1	28	278,429	\$23.91*	35**	\$14,978,778***
Internet Claim System (iSSI)	167,331	1	6	16,733	\$23.91*		\$400,086***
SSA-8001 (Paper Version)	371,585	1	15	92,896	\$23.91*	35**	\$7,403,827***
Total	1,135,579			388,058			\$22,782,691***

* We based this figure by averaging both the average disability payments based on SSA's current FY 2026 data ([Effect of COLA on Average Social Security Benefits](#)), and the average U.S. worker's hourly wages, 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 (22 minutes) and for teleservice centers (48 minutes which includes the average speed of answer of 7 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.

*** 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)****
285,851	1	30	142,925	\$3,417,337****

****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 did not include a separate Learning Cost chart for this information collection, as we include the learning cost within our estimates in the chart above.

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, 15, or 28** 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. The total burden for this ICR is **388,058** burden hours (reflecting SSA management information data), which results in an associated theoretical (not actual) opportunity cost financial burden of **\$26,200,028**. 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 **\$13,223,025**. 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	\$2,052

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	\$13,220,973
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	**Reported under OMB No. 0960-0229
Quantifiable IT Costs	Any additional IT costs	\$0*
Total		\$13,223,025

* 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. First, since we work with almost every US citizen, we often do bulk mailings and cannot track the cost for a single mailing. In addition, 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.

** Systems do not differentiate their costs between the SSA-8001 and SSA-8000 since they share the same screens, questions, and functionality. Instead of splitting the cost between the two applications, we reported the total cost with OMB No. 0960-0229 09/2024.

15. **Program Changes or Adjustments to the Information Collection Request**

When we cleared the IC for iSSI (OMB No. 0960-0842) in 2024, the burden was 231,606 hours. However, we are currently reporting a burden of **388,058** hours. The increase in burden is due to an increase in respondents for all modalities:

- **Paper - SSA-8001:** Most of the increase is due to the ability of respondents using the paper SSA-8001, which went from 38,304 to 371,585. This increase is due to several factors: 1) adding a fillable PDF to SSA's public website which can be downloaded, printed and mailed, and 2) ability to submit the fillable pdf form via Upload Documents portal.
- **iSSI:** We originally estimated a 5% increase of iSSI respondents. However, the actual increase is 13% which is 19,831 respondents.

- **Intranet CCE/SSI Claims System:** To prevent double counting of claims, we excluded the deferred applications that were converted to a full claim (i.e., SSA-8000 OMB No. 0960-0229) to conduct a Pre-effectuation Review (PERC) for medical allowances. After further consideration, these claims should be included since technicians' review and update this information collected with the deferred application during the PERC which should be considered when calculating the burden for OMB No. 0960-0229.

These figures represent current Management Information data.

*Note: The total burden reflected in ROCIS is **1,436,961**, while the burden cited in #12 of the Supporting Statement is **388,058**. This discrepancy is because the ROCIS burden reflects the following components: field office waiting time + telephone call system wait times + a rough estimate of a 30-minute, one-way, drive burden. In contrast, the chart in #12 above 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

For the **Paper version** of the SSA-8001, 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.

For the **Internet version** of form SSA-8001, SSA is not requesting an exception to the requirement to display the OMB approval expiration date.

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.