



4191-02-U

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

[Docket No: SSA-2017-0020]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Request and Comment Request

The Social Security Administration (SSA) publishes a list of information collection packages requiring clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with Public Law 104-13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, effective October 1, 1995. This notice includes revisions and on extension of OMB-approved information collections.

SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility, and clarity; and ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Mail, email, or fax your comments and recommendations on the information collection(s) to the OMB Desk Officer and SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the following addresses or fax numbers.

(OMB)

Office of Management and Budget

Attn: Desk Officer for SSA

Fax: 202-395-6974

Email address: OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov

(SSA)

Social Security Administration, OLCA

Attn: Reports Clearance Director

3100 West High Rise

6401 Security Blvd.

Baltimore, MD 21235

Fax: 410-966-2830

Email address: OR.Reports.Clearance@ssa.gov

Or you may submit your comments online through www.regulations.gov, referencing Docket ID Number [SSA-2017-0020].

- I. The information collections below are pending at SSA. SSA will submit them to OMB within 60 days from the date of this notice. To be sure we consider your comments, we must receive them no later than **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. Individuals can obtain copies of the collection instruments by writing to the above email address.

- 1. Application for Benefits under a U.S. International Social Security Agreement**

- 20 CFR 404.1925 -- 0960-0448.** Section 233(a) of the Social Security Act (Act)

- authorizes the President to broker international Social Security agreements

- (Totalization Agreements) between the United States and foreign countries. SSA

- collects information using Form SSA-2490-BK to determine entitlement to Social

- Security benefits from the United States, or from a country that enters into a

Totalization Agreement with the United States. The respondents are individuals applying for Old Age Survivors and Disability Insurance (OASDI) benefits from the United States or from a Totalization Agreement country.

Type of Request: Revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

Modality of Completion	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)
SSA-2490-BK (MCS)	15,030	1	30	7,515
SSA-2490-BK (paper)	2,120	1	30	1,060
Totals	17,150			8,575

2. Medicare Part D Subsidies Regulations -- 20 CFR 418.3625(c), 418.3645,

418.3665(a), and 418.3670 -- 0960-0702. The Medicare Prescription Drug

Improvement and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003 established the Medicare

Part D program for voluntary prescription drug coverage of premium, deductible,

and co-payment costs for certain low-income individuals. The MMA also

mandated the provision of subsidies for those individuals who qualify for the

program and who meet eligibility criteria for help with premium, deductible, or

co-payment costs. This law requires SSA to make eligibility determinations, and

to provide a process for appealing SSA's determinations. Regulation sections

418.3625(c), 418.3645, 418.3665(a), and 418.3670 contain public reporting

requirements pertaining to administrative review hearings. Respondents are

applicants for the Medicare Part D subsidies who request an administrative review

hearing.

Type of Request: Revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

Modality of Completion	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)
418.3625(c)	140	1	5	12
418.3645	10	1	10	2
418.3665(a)	275	1	5	23
418.3670*	0	1	10	0
Total	425			37

* Regulation section 418.3670 could be used at any time; however, we currently have no data showing usage over the past three years.

- II.** SSA submitted the information collections below to OMB for clearance. Your comments regarding these information collections would be most useful if OMB and SSA receive them 30 days from the date of this publication. To be sure we consider your comments, we must receive them no later than **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

Individuals can obtain copies of the OMB clearance packages by writing to OR.Reports.Clearance@ssa.gov.

- 1. Government Pension Questionnaire -- 20 CFR 404.408a -- 0960-0160.** The basic Social Security benefits application (OMB No. 0960-0618) contains a lead question asking if the applicants are qualified (or will qualify) to receive a government pension. If the respondent is qualified, or will qualify, to receive a government pension, the applicant completes Form SSA-3885 either on paper or through a personal interview with an SSA claims representative. If the applicants are not entitled to receive a government pension at the time they apply for Social

Security benefits, SSA requires them to provide the government pension information as beneficiaries when they become eligible to receive their pensions. Regardless of the timing, at some point the applicants or beneficiaries must complete and sign Form SSA-3885 to report information about their government pensions before the pensions begin. SSA uses the information to: (1) determine whether the Government Pension Offset provision applies; (2) identify exceptions as stated in 20 CFR 404.408a; and (3) determine the benefit reduction amount and effective date. If the applicants and beneficiaries do not respond using this questionnaire, SSA offsets their entire benefit amount. The respondents are applicants or recipients of spousal benefits who are eligible for or already receiving a Government pension.

Type of Request: Revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

Modality of Completion	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)
SSA-3885	76,000	1	13	16,467

2. **Request for Review of Hearing Decision/Order -- 20 CFR 404.967-404.981, 416.1467-416.1481 -- 0960-0277.** Claimants have a statutory right under the Act and current regulations to request review of an administrative law judge's (ALJ) hearing decision or dismissal of a hearing request on Title II and Title XVI claims. Claimants may request Appeals Council review by filing a written request using Form HA-520. SSA uses the information to establish the claimant filed the request for review within the prescribed time and to ensure the claimant completed the

requisite steps permitting the Appeals Council review. The Appeals Council uses the information to: (1) Document the claimant’s reason(s) for disagreeing with the ALJ’s decision or dismissal; (2) determine whether the claimant has additional evidence to submit; and (3) determine whether the claimant has a representative or wants to appoint one. The respondents are claimants requesting review of an ALJ’s decision or dismissal of hearing.

Type of Request: Revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

Modality of Completion	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)
HA-520	175,000	1	10	29,167

3. Modified Benefit Formula Questionnaire -- 0960-0395. SSA collects information on Form SSA-150 to determine which formula to use in computing the Social Security benefit for someone who receives a pension from employment not covered by Social Security. The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) requires use of a benefit formula replacing a smaller percentage of a worker’s pre-retirement earnings. However, the resulting amount cannot show a difference in the benefit computed using the modified and regular formulas greater than one-half the amount of the pension received in the first month an individual is entitled to both the pension and the Social Security benefit. The SSA-150 collects the information needed to make all the necessary benefit computations. SSA requires respondents to furnish the information on Form SSA-150 so we can calculate their benefits using the data they supply. SSA calculates the benefits of

applicants who do not respond to this questionnaire using the full WEP reduction. SSA employees collect this information once from the applicant at the time they file their claim. The respondents are applicants for old age and disability benefits.

Type of Request: Revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

Modality of Completion	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)
SSA-150	90,000	1	8	12,000

4. Modified Benefit Formula Questionnaire-Employer -- 20 CFR 401 & 402 --

0960-0477. Sections 215(a)(7) and 215(d)(3) of the Act require SSA to use a modified benefit formula to compute Social Security retirement or disability benefits for persons first eligible (after 1985) for both a Social Security benefit and a pension or annuity, based on employment not covered by Social Security. This method is the WEP. SSA makes a determination regarding whether the WEP is applicable and when to apply it to a person's benefit. SSA uses Form SSA-58 to verify the claimant's allegations on Form SSA-150 (OMB #0906-0395, Modified Benefits Formula Questionnaire). SSA also uses Form SSA-58 to determine if the modified benefit formula is applicable and when to apply it to a person's benefits. SSA sends Form SSA-58 to an employer for pension related information, if the claimant is unable to provide it. The respondents are employers of people who are eligible after 1985 for both Social Security benefits and a pension based on work not covered by SSA.

Type of Request: Revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

Modality of Completion	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)
SSA-58	30,000	1	20	10,000

5. Questionnaire for Children Claiming Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Benefits -- 0960-0499. Section 1631(d)(2) of the Act allows SSA to determine the eligibility of an applicant's claim for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments. Parents or legal guardians seeking to obtain or retain SSI eligibility for their children use Form SSA-3881-BK to provide SSA with the addresses of non-medical sources such as schools, counselors, agencies, organizations, or therapists who would have information about a child's functioning. SSA uses this information to help determine a child's claim or continuing eligibility for SSI. The respondents are applicants who appeal SSI childhood disability decisions or recipients undergoing a continuing disability review.

Type of Request: Revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

Modality of Completion	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)
SSA-3881-BK (Paper Version)	84,500	1	30	42,250
SSA-3881-BK (Electronic Disability Collect System)	45,500	1	30	22,750
Totals	130,000			65,000

6. Work History Report -- 20 CFR 404.1515, 404.1560, 404.1565, 416.960 and 416.3965 -- 0960-0578. Under certain circumstances, SSA asks individuals applying for disability about work they have performed in the past. Applicants use Form SSA-3369, Work History Report, to provide detailed information about jobs held prior to becoming unable to work. State Disability Determination Services evaluate the information, together with medical evidence, to determine eligibility for disability payments. Respondents are disability applicants and third parties assisting applicants.

Type of Request: Revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

Modality of Completion	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)
SSA-3369 (Paper Version)	1,553,900	1	60	1,553,900
SSA-3369 (Electronic Disability Collect System)	38,049	1	60	38,049
Totals	1,591,949			1,591,949

7. Authorization to Obtain Earnings Data From the Social Security

Administration -- 0960-0602. On occasion, public and private organizations and agencies need to obtain detailed earnings information about specific Social Security number (SSN) holding wage earners for business purposes (e.g. pension funds, State agencies, etc.). Respondents use Form SSA-581 to identify the SSN holder whose information they are requesting, and provide authorization from the SSN holder, when applicable. SSA uses the information provided on Form

SSA-581 to: (1) Identify the wage earner; (2) establish the period of earnings information requested; (3) verify the wage earner authorized SSA to release this information to the requesting party; and (4) produce the Itemized Statement of Earnings (SSA-1826). The respondents are private businesses, state or local agencies, and other federal agencies.

Type of Request: Revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

Modality of Completion	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)
SSA-581	24,000	1	2	800

8. Appeal of Determination for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan

Costs -- 0960-0695. Public Law 108-173, the MMA of 2003 established the Medicare Part D program for voluntary prescription drug coverage for certain low-income individuals. The MMA stipulates the provision of subsidies for individuals who are eligible for the program and who meet eligibility criteria for help with premium, deductible, and co-payment costs. SSA uses Form SSA-1021, Appeal of Determination for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs, to obtain information from individuals who appeal SSA’s decisions regarding eligibility or continuing eligibility for a Medicare Part D subsidy. The respondents are Medicare beneficiaries, or proper applicants acting on behalf of a Medicare beneficiary, who do not agree with the outcome of an SSA subsidy eligibility determination, and are filing an appeal.

Type of Request: Revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

Modality of Completion	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)
SSA-1021 (Paper Version)	3,283	1	10	547
SSA-1021 (Internet Version; Medicare Application Processing System)	11,037	1	10	1,840
Totals	14,320			2,387

9. Sheltered Workshop Wage Reporting -- 0960-0771. Sheltered workshops are non-profit organizations or institutions that implement a recognized program of rehabilitation for handicapped workers, or provide such workers with remunerative employment or other occupational rehabilitating activity of an educational or therapeutic nature. Sheltered workshops perform a service for their clients by reporting monthly wages directly to SSA. SSA uses the information these workshops provide to verify and post monthly wages to the SSI recipient's record. Most workshops report monthly wage totals to their local SSA office so we can adjust the client's SSI payment amount in a timely manner and prevent overpayments. Sheltered workshops are motivated to report wages voluntarily as a service to their clients. Respondents are sheltered workshops that report monthly wages for services performed in the workshop.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

Modality of Completion	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)
Sheltered Workshop Wage Reporting	800	12	15	2,400

10. Medicare Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount -- Life-Changing

Event Form -- 0960-0784. Federally mandated reductions in the Federal Medicare Part B and prescription drug coverage subsidies result in selected Medicare recipients paying higher premiums with income above a specific threshold. The amount of the premium subsidy reduction is an income-related monthly adjustment amount (IRMAA). The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) transmits income tax return data to SSA for SSA to determine the IRMAA. SSA uses the Form SSA-44 to determine if a recipient qualifies for a reduction in the IRMAA. If affected Medicare recipients believe SSA should use more recent tax data because of a life-changing event that significantly reduces their income, they can report these changes to SSA and ask for a new initial determination of their IRMAA. The respondents are Medicare Part B and prescription drug coverage recipients and enrollees with modified adjusted gross income over a high-income threshold who experience one of eight significant life-changing events.

Type of Request: Revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

Modality of Completion	Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Average Burden per Response (minutes)	Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)
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SSA-44 (Personal Interview in SSA field office)	140,378	1	30	70,189
SSA-44 (Paper Version)	60,162	1	45	45,122
Totals	200,540			115,311

Dated: April 21, 2017

Naomi R. Sipple

Reports Clearance Officer

Social Security Administration

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