

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (SSA)

I. Statement of Regulatory Priorities

We administer the Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance programs under title II of the Social Security Act (Act), the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program under title XVI of the Act, and the Special Veterans Benefits program under title VIII of the Act. As directed by Congress, we also assist in administering portions of the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Act. Our regulations codify the requirements for eligibility and entitlement to benefits and our procedures for administering these programs. Generally, our regulations do not impose burdens on the private sector or on State or local governments, except for the States' Disability Determination Services. We fully fund the Disability Determination Services in advance or via reimbursement for necessary costs in making disability determinations.

The entries in our regulatory plan (plan) represent issues of major importance to the Agency. Through our regulatory plan, we intend to:

- A. Update the medical criteria used to evaluate disability applications to keep pace with medicine, science, technology, and workforce changes; and
- B. Update SSA disability evaluation criteria and the frequency of continuing disability reviews.

Regulatory Reform

In compliance with the Administration's Regulatory Reform efforts, as prescribed by E.O. 13771 and E.O. 13777, SSA is committed to engaging in regulatory activity only when strictly necessary and to reducing regulatory burden wherever possible. Accordingly, our Unified Agenda and Regulatory Plan include only those regulatory activities needed to administer our Social Security benefits and payments programs. Finally, we remain committed to innovate in ways that ease burden on the public even outside the realm of formal de-regulation, such as through developing online reporting and application tools.

II. Regulations in the Proposed Rule Stage

Our regulations will revise how we make disability determinations and decisions for adults by modifying the criteria in which we assess vocational factors (RIN 0960-AI40).

III. Regulations in the Final Rule Stage

Our regulations will add a new category to the existing medical diary categories that we use to schedule continuing disability reviews and revise the criteria we follow to place a case in each of the categories (0960-AI27).

Retrospective Review of Existing Regulations

Pursuant to section 6 of Executive Order 13563, "Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review" (January 18, 2011), SSA regularly engages in retrospective review and analysis for multiple existing regulatory initiatives. These initiatives may be proposed or completed actions, and they do not necessarily appear in The Regulatory Plan. You can find more information on these completed rulemakings in past publications of the Unified Agenda at www.reginfo.gov in the "Completed Actions" section for the Social Security Administration.