

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. However, our regulations can impose burdens on the private sector in the course of evaluating a claimant's initial or continued eligibility. 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 represent issues of major importance to the Agency. Through our regulatory plan, we intend to:

- A. Modify the medical criteria we use when evaluating digestive disorders and skin disorders for adults under titles II and XVI, and children under title XVI of the Act (RIN 0960-AG65);
- B. Implement access to and use of information held by payroll data providers to help administer the title II disability insurance and title XVI supplemental security income programs, reduce reporting burdens on beneficiaries, and prevent improper payments (RIN 0960-AH88);
- C. Simplify a specific policy within the SSI program by no longer considering food expenses as a source of In-Kind Support and Maintenance (ISM) (RIN 0960-AI60); and
- D. Clarify the circumstances under which SSA may disclose social security numbers (SSN) to other Federal agencies (RIN 0960-AI80).

II. Regulations in the Proposed Rule Stage

Our proposed regulations would implement the Commissioner's access to and use of the information held by payroll data providers. We are required to publish regulations implementing our access and use of this data, which is to include: guidelines for the information exchanges, authorizations, reduced wage reporting responsibilities, and procedures for notifying individuals of reduced reporting (RIN 0960-AH88).

Also, our proposed regulations would clarify the circumstances under which SSA may disclose SSN information to other Federal agencies. We disclose to other Federal agencies certain SSN information as authorized pursuant to a framework of Federal statutes, including the Act, the Privacy Act, and related regulations (RIN 0960-AI80).

Lastly, our proposed regulations would target changes to the ISM policy in our SSI program. They would simplify a specific policy within the SSI program by no longer considering food expenses as a source of ISM (RIN 0960-AI60).

III. Regulations in the Final Rule Stage

Our regulation would modify the medical criteria we use when evaluating digestive disorders and skin disorders for adults under titles II and XVI, and children under title XVI of the Act. We are revising the criteria in these sections to ensure that the medical evaluation criteria are up-to-date and consistent with the latest advances in medical knowledge and treatment (RIN 0960-AG65).

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.