

SSA 2026 Regulatory Plan

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (SSA)

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 State or local governments, except for the States' Disability Determination Services. However, our regulations can occasionally impose burdens on select parts of the private sector when 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.

Our regulations reflect policy initiatives consistent with Administrative priorities for regulatory reform, as well as specific actions to support these initiatives. For example, we are pursuing rules that support items below.

- 1) Regulatory reform and deregulation.
- 2) Fiscal responsibility and program integrity.

- 3) The directives of Executive Orders 14219¹ and 14192.² For example, we will continue to follow the “10-for-1” directive of E.O. 14192 to ensure that we appropriately offset any items categorized as “regulatory.”

Also, we aim to promote transparency and public notice by providing meaningful information about our regulations to the public.

Specifically, through regulations on our Regulatory Plan and Unified Agenda, we intend to:

- Update Select Elements of our Disability Adjudication Process.
 - We are updating the criteria in the Listing of Impairments (listings) that we use to evaluate claims involving cardiovascular disorders in adults and children. The revisions reflect our adjudicative experience, advances in medical knowledge since the last revision in 2006, and comments we received from the public in response to a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM). The revisions achieve program simplification, improve customer service to the public, and reduce waste. (RIN: 0960-AI43).
- Increase and Enhance Electronic Services to Better Serve the Public.
 - We propose to reduce processing time for cases and streamline the hearing scheduling process. We would reduce hearing wait times and provide efficient service and flexibility for scheduling to all claimants. We would also seek to standardize the process of requesting and scheduling a hearing by minimizing the number of forms required. (RIN 0960-AJ01).

¹ [*Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Deregulatory Initiative*](#) (Feb. 19, 2025).

² [*Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation*](#) (Jan.31, 2025).

- Deregulate in Accordance with E.O.s 14219 and 14192.
 - We propose to rescind changes to our definition of a Public Assistance Household, thus adopting our former longstanding definition of a public assistance household, according to which every household member has to receive a public income maintenance payment for the household to constitute a public assistance household. This would promote program integrity and would meet the directives of E.O. 14219 (RIN: 0960-AI94).

We will pursue deregulatory direct-to-final rules that will: 1) remove obsolete regulations addressing drug addiction and alcoholism (RIN: 0960-AJ05); and 2) remove outdated regulations about making referrals to vocational rehabilitation (RIN: 0960-AJ08).

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