

Social Security Administration (SSA)

# Congressional Update



## CASES Act Implementation

In July 2023, we implemented an electronic consent to disclose limited record types consistent with the requirements of the Creating Advanced Streamlined Electronic Services for Constituents (CASES) Act (H.R. 1079 in the 116th Congress). The Electronic Request for Consent to Disclose is now available to your adult constituents who are identity proofed and authenticated with a Login.gov or ID.me account, or via our internal authentication systems. Please note that at this time, we cannot accept electronic requests for consent to disclose information from a parent or guardian of a minor child or guardian of an incompetent adult.

The request will give us consent to disclose the record holder's own records to another person or entity.

The electronic consent authorizes SSA to disclose any or all of the following records:

- Verification of Social Security Number
- Current monthly Social Security benefit amount
- Current monthly Supplemental Security Income payment amount
- Social Security benefit amounts
- Supplemental Security Income payment amounts
- Medicare entitlement
- Medical records from the requestor's claims folder(s)
- Application(s) for benefits
- Award notice(s)
- Denial notice(s)
- Appeal request(s)

The Electronic Request for Consent to Disclose is available at [https://www.ssa.gov/privacy/electronic\\_request\\_for\\_consent\\_to\\_disclose.html](https://www.ssa.gov/privacy/electronic_request_for_consent_to_disclose.html)

In addition to the CASES Electronic Request for Consent to Disclose, we continue to work to expand our online services to make it easier for you and your constituents to submit forms and complete business with us online.

If you have questions, please contact the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs at 202.358.3060

## VIDEO SERVICES IN TRIBAL AND COMMUNITY LOCATIONS

For over a decade, we have offered video services to customers in locations nationwide, using specialized equipment. This helps us serve your constituents who may not have access to a local office, telephone, or the Internet.

Now, Tribal and community service organizations can partner with SSA to provide video service using Microsoft Teams to connect your constituents with Social Security.

We invite Tribal and community service organizations interested in learning more about this service option to contact their local Social Security office. Our office locator is available at <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>

## WANT MORE INFORMATION FROM SOCIAL SECURITY?

Check our other [publications](#)

**SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE**  
[SSA.gov/news/newsletter](https://ssa.gov/news/newsletter)

**SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS BLOG**  
[blog.SSA.gov](https://blog.SSA.gov)

**PRESS RELEASES**  
[ssa.gov/news/press/releases](https://ssa.gov/news/press/releases)



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and tomorrow



### COLA REMINDER

Please visit [ssa.gov/cola](https://ssa.gov/cola) to learn more about the Cost of Living Adjustment for Social Security and SSI in 2024.



### HILL STAFF HELP

OLCA's fact sheets to help you answer inquiries from your boss or constituents are available at [ssa.gov/legislation/resources.html](https://ssa.gov/legislation/resources.html)



### CONGRESSIONAL STATISTICS

Visit [ssa.gov/policy/docs/factsheets/cong\\_stats](https://ssa.gov/policy/docs/factsheets/cong_stats) for the number of Social Security and SSI beneficiaries in each state and district.

## Collection of Voluntary Race and Ethnicity Data

On September 9, 2023, we began collecting voluntary race and ethnicity (R&E) data through our Internet Social Security Number (SSN) Replacement Cards (ISSNRC) application. This collection is consistent with Executive Order 13985 and our Agency Equity Action Plan. Based on current usage, we anticipate about 2 million more respondents will provide voluntary responses to the R&E questions. Individuals may also voluntarily provide R&E data on their original and replacement SSN cards processed at our local offices.

On August 16, 2023, we published a Federal Register notice for obtaining Paperwork Reduction Act Approval to collect voluntary consent-based R&E data for parents and their newborns through our Enumeration at Birth (EAB) process. We will amend the existing EAB contracts to include R&E data. Participating States will need to amend hospital worksheets, make systems updates, and train hospital staff. We look forward to onboarding the State of Maryland in early 2024.

Increasing our R&E data will help us promote equitable delivery of benefits and identify and address systemic inequities relating to R&E in the programs we administer. You can find more information on related research, statistics, and policy analysis on our website at: <https://www.ssa.gov/policy/about/racial-equity-resources.html>

If you have questions, or for more information, please contact the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs at 202.358.3060

## Senate Finance Committee Hearing to Consider Public Trustee Nominees

On September 28, 2023, the Senate Finance Committee held a hearing to examine nominations to be Members of the Board of Trustees for the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds, including Patricia Hart Neuman and Demetrios L. Kouzoukas. The Committee voted on November 2 to report both nominations favorably to the Senate. If confirmed, Ms. Neuman and Mr. Kouzoukas would be the two public trustees on the Board, positions that have been vacant for over eight years. Public trustees serve for four years but may continue to serve after term expiration until the next annual report is issued or their successors are confirmed.

### Updated Address for the Appeals Council

As of September 30, 2023, the Falls Church, VA address will no longer accept mail for the Appeals Council (AC). To avoid delays, your constituents should use the following address:

Social Security Administration  
Office of Appellate Operations  
6401 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 23235-6401

As a reminder, the preferred method to request an AC review of an Administrative Law Judge decision or dismissal is by using the secure AC iAppeal Online process, available at <https://secure.ssa.gov/iAppINMD/oao>.

### New Compassionate Allowance Conditions

On August 14, 2023, we added 12 new Compassionate Allowances (CAL) conditions, bringing the total number of conditions to 278. The CAL program allows us to quickly identify claims where the applicant's medical condition or disease clearly meets our statutory standard for disability. Due to the severe nature of many of these conditions, such claims are often allowed based on medical confirmation of the diagnosis alone. Over 900,000 people have been approved through this accelerated, policy-compliant disability process. For more information, please visit our CAL website at <https://www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances/>.

### FOIAXpress

Effective July 29, 2023, we implemented a new system, FOIAXpress, to process Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. Your constituents may submit FOIA requests directly to SSA through the FOIAXpress Public Access Link (PAL), available at <https://foia.ssa.gov/app/Home.aspx>.

