

Social Security Administration (SSA)

Congressional Update



Introducing the Redesign of the *Social Security Statement*

The *Social Security Statement* (*Statement*) is one of our most effective tools to educate your constituents about their earnings record and future Social Security benefits. In FY 2021, we provided more than 76 million *Statements* to the public via mail and our *my Social Security* online portal.

We are pleased to announce that we released a redesign of the *Statement* in early October. We based the *Statement* redesign on research; feedback we've received; and input from advocates, other Federal agencies, and the general public.

Now, your constituents will be able to quickly find information in the *Statement*, whether they access it online or receive a hard copy through the mail. We made the redesigned *Statement* available online to *my Social Security* account holders on October 2, and began mailing the *Statement* on October 6.

The new *Statement*:

- is shorter;
- uses plain language and visuals to make it easier to skim, read, and understand,
- displays a bar chart of personalized retirement benefit estimates for up to 9 ages at which benefits can start; and
- includes up to two supplemental fact sheets targeted to the recipient's age group and earnings situation.

The *Statement* is intended to help your constituents understand how much they and their family members may receive in disability, survivors, and retirement benefits. It also provides a record of the individual's earnings history. We encourage your constituents to review their earnings history at least once a year and let us know if they find an error.

To view samples of the redesigned *Statement* and all of the supplemental fact sheets in English and Spanish, please visit our *Statement* page at <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/statement.html>. For more information on the *Statement* redesign, please contact your local Regional Communications Director (<http://www.ssa.gov/agency/rcds.html>) or our Office of Congressional Affairs (202.358.6030).

NEW COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCE CONDITIONS

Our Compassionate Allowances (CAL) quickly identify medical conditions and diseases that, by definition, meet Social Security's standards for disability benefits. Due to the severe nature of these conditions, disability claims based on CAL are often allowed based solely on medical confirmation of a diagnosis.

On August 16, 2021, Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, announced 12 new CAL conditions, helping to reduce waiting time for more individuals with the most serious conditions.

For more information on CAL, including a list of qualifying conditions, please visit <https://www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances/conditions.htm>

Want more information from Social Security?
Check our other **publications**

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

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS BLOG
blog.SSA.gov

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



Securing today
and tomorrow



CASEWORK CORNER

We publish a biannual Congressional Inquiries Guide for congressional use only. We send caseworkers in district offices a copy upon entering Congress. You can request a copy at ssa.gov/legislation/congguide.html

Your local Regional Communications Director can assist you with everything from casework to connecting advocates for People Facing Barriers with SSA. To find your RCD, visit www.ssa.gov/agency/rcds.html



HILL STAFF HELP

You can access OLCA's fact sheets to help you answer inquiries from your boss or constituents at ssa.gov/legislation/resources.html

The Effect of Pandemic-Related Assistance Payments on SSI Eligibility and Monthly Payment Amounts

Some of your constituents may be concerned about how federal pandemic-related assistance payments can affect their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program benefits.

Much of the new pandemic-related federal assistance is treated as disaster assistance under our rules. **We do not count disaster assistance when we determine SSI eligibility or benefit amounts.**

The following payments will not affect an individual's eligibility for SSI benefits or SSI monthly payment amounts:

- Economic Impact Payments;
- Expanded Unemployment Insurance Benefits;
- Emergency Assistance for Renters and Homeowners;
- Housing Assistance and Supportive Services Programs for Native Americans;
- Emergency Assistance for Farmers and Ranchers;
- Support for Foster Youth and Families during the Pandemic;
- Emergency Assistance to Children and Families through the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund; and
- COVID-19 Funeral Assistance.

Some forms of pandemic-related assistance provided by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act*, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021*, the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*, and the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* do **not** meet disaster assistance criteria, such as child tax credits, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, or the Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program. We will follow our regular rules for treatment of these payments.

You can find more details about how we treat pandemic-related assistance for SSI purposes in our September 30 message to our operational staff, available at: <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps10/reference.nsf/links/09302021025535PM>.

If you have questions or would like further information, please contact the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs at (202) 358-6030. For questions about specific cases, please contact your local field office or Regional Communications Director (RCD). RCD information can be found at <https://www.ssa.gov/agency/rcds.html>.

Other News

Senate Finance Hearing on Policy Options for Improving SSI

On September 21, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Retirement and Disability Policy Stephen Evangelista testified at a Senate Finance Committee Social Security Subcommittee hearing entitled "Policy Options for Improving SSI." Acting Deputy Commissioner Evangelista's testimony is available at <https://mwww.ba.ssa.gov/legislation/117th.html>.

Expansion of Enumeration Beyond Entry

The Enumeration Beyond Entry (EBE) program allows noncitizens who apply for temporary work authorization with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to also apply for an original or replacement Social Security Number (SSN) card using the same form (Form I-765 Application for Employment Authorization). Beginning August 9, 2021, in partnership with USCIS, we expanded EBE to include individuals applying for lawful permanent resident (LPR) status via an Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status (Form I-485). EBE allows us to use the information USCIS collected and verified to automatically assign SSNs to noncitizens lawfully present in the United States who were granted temporary work authorization or LPR status. EBE eliminates the need to visit a Social Security office.

For more information about this EBE expansion, please see USCIS's press release at <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/news-releases/uscis-expands-partnership-with-social-security-administration>. To learn more about applying for an SSN card when applying for a work permit or LPR status, please see <https://www.ssa.gov/ssnvisa/ebe.html>.

