

Dated: October 4, 1999.
Aida Alvarez,
Administrator.
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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Request

In compliance with Public Law 104-13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, SSA is providing notice of its information collections that require submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The information collections listed below will be submitted to OMB within 60 days from the date of this notice.

Therefore, comments and recommendations regarding the information collections would be most useful if received by the Agency within 60 days from the date of this publication. Comments should be directed to the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the address listed at the end of the notices. You can obtain a copy of the collection instruments by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer on (410) 965-4145, or by writing to him.

1. Worker Compensation Letter, SSA-L1708; Worker Compensation Questionnaire, SSA-1708-0960-NEW. A review of SSA records revealed that beneficiaries receiving disability benefits, who were first placed in workers compensation offset, have an extremely high potential for payment error, because an increase in or expiration of workers compensation was not reported for/by such beneficiaries. Therefore, SSA is proposing to test a new form that collects information on changes in WC status. The information collected will be used to evaluate whether this is an effective method of detecting changes in workers

compensation payments and determining payment accuracy. The respondents are a random sample of beneficiaries receiving disability benefits with workers compensation offset.

Number of Respondents 200.
Frequency of Response 1.
Average Burden Per Response 10 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden 33 hours.
 2. Payee Interview, SSA-835; Beneficiary Interview, SSA-836; Custodian Interview, SSA-837-0960-0588. SSA is conducting a three-tier review process of the representative payee program. As part of this review process, SSA will conduct interviews with title II Disability Insurance and title XVI Supplemental Security Income recipients and their representative payees. The information obtained on the interview forms will be used to assess the effectiveness of the policies and procedures that govern the postentitlement selection and appointment of the approximately 7 million payees in the title II and title XVI programs.

| | SSA-835 | SSA-836 | SSA-837 |
|---------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of Respondents | 1,000 | 500 | 190 |
| Frequency of Response | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Average Burden Per Response (Minutes) | 20 | 15 | 10 |
| Estimated Annual Burden (Hours) | 333 | 125 | 32 |

Social Security Administration,
 DCFAM, Attn: Frederick W.
 Brickenkamp, 6401 Security Blvd., 1-
 A-21 Operations Bldg., Baltimore, MD
 21235.

Dated: October 7, 1999.
Frederick W. Brickenkamp,
Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security Administration.
 [FR Doc. 99-26729 Filed 10-13-99; 8:45 am]
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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Disability Research Institute Request for Applications (RFA) (Program Announcement No. SSA-ORES-00-1)

AGENCY: The Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (ORES), Office of Policy, Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Request for applications for a cooperative agreement to establish a Disability Research Institute (DRI).

SUMMARY: The Social Security Administration's disability programs play a vital role in society, paying benefits to over 8 million disabled

individuals. It is essential that the nation invest in research designed to examine the disability programs and ensure that these programs are designed effectively to improve the lives of disabled Americans. The Social Security Administration plans to establish a Disability Research Institute (DRI). This institute would help fill the need for more extensive research in the disability area for policymakers around the country. The DRI is an important initiative on the part of SSA's Office of Policy to strengthen the Agency's research capacity since it became independent in 1995.

Authorized under section 1110 of the Social Security Act, SSA announces the solicitation of applications for a cooperative agreement to create a DRI in order to inform the public and policymakers about disability policy alternatives and their consequences. Initially, we anticipate the Institute will be one, university-based, multi-disciplinary center. The Institute will have an annual budget consisting of \$1.25 million for the first year and \$1 million per year for subsequent years. SSA expects to fund this Institute for a

period of 5 years, contingent upon a successful annual review process, continued funding availability and continued relevance to SSA initiatives. The grantee is strongly encouraged to collaborate with SSA's and other government-related research and development activities to avoid duplication of research. After award, SSA will help identify such activities and their funding agencies and facilitate any collaboration as necessary.

PURPOSE: This announcement seeks applications to establish a DRI that will serve as a national resource fostering high quality research, communication, and education. The Institute's program purpose is to benefit the public through four tasks:

(1) *Research and evaluation.* The DRI will be expected to plan, initiate, and maintain a research program of higher caliber. There will be special emphasis on research that will inform the debate on disability policy.

(2) *Dissemination.* The DRI will develop resources to inform the academic community, policymakers, and the public on issues concerning disability policy.