

Social Security Administration (SSA)

# Congressional Update



## The 2023 Trustees Report and the 2023 SSI Report

On March 31, 2023, the Social Security Board of Trustees released its annual report on the long-term financial status of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Funds. The Trust Funds are used to pay benefits for Title II programs; they do not pay for Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

The combined reserves of the OASI and DI Trust Funds are projected to become depleted in 2034, with 80 percent of benefits payable at that time. This is one year earlier than was projected in 2022.

The OASI Trust Fund, out of which retirement benefits are paid, is projected to become depleted in 2033, again one year sooner than last year's estimate. At that time, 77 percent of benefits will be payable. The DI Trust Fund Asset Reserves are not projected to become depleted during the 75-year projection period, through 2097. Similarly, last year's report projected that the DI Trust Fund would be able to pay scheduled benefits through at least 2096, the last year of the projection period.

In 2022, we paid approximately \$1.232 trillion in benefits. At the end of the year, there were 57.2 million OASI beneficiaries and 8.8 million DI beneficiaries. During 2022, an estimated 181 million people had earnings covered by Social Security and paid payroll taxes.

You may view the 2023 Trustees report at <https://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/TR/2023>.

On May 30, 2023, Social Security released the 2023 *Annual Report of the Supplemental Security Income Program*, in compliance with section 231 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

In January 2023, 7.4 million individuals received monthly federal SSI payments averaging \$654. In January 2022, there were 7.6 million individuals receiving an average payment of \$603. Expenditures for payments under SSI during calendar year 2022 were \$57.1 billion, while administrative expenditures totaled \$4.8 billion. In 2021, the corresponding program and administrative expenditures were \$55.4 billion and \$4.6 billion, respectively.

You may view the 2023 SSI Annual Report at <https://www.ssa.gov/oact/ssir/SSI23/ssi2023.pdf>

If you have questions on either report, please contact the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs at 202.358.6030.

## NEW WAYS TO STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH SOCIAL SECURITY

We are pleased to announce two new ways for you and your constituents to stay in touch with SSA.

In May, we launched our new audio series, SSA Talks. In the first episode, Acting Commissioner Kilolo Kijakazi and Associate Commissioner for Operational HR Services Janet Walker, explain SSA's priority hiring initiative and strategies for success. You can find SSA Talks at <https://www.ssa.gov/news/audio-series.html>.

We have also recently unveiled our new Communications Corner, which provides a central hub for news about us and our programs. You can find our press releases, blog, newsletter, research bulletins, videos, and SSA Talks at <https://www.ssa.gov/news/>

[SSA.gov](https://ssa.gov)

## WANT MORE INFORMATION FROM SOCIAL SECURITY?

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### 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/conguide.html](https://ssa.gov/legislation/conguide.html)



### 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.

## Four New States Added to the Online Name Change Option

We are pleased to announce that U.S. Citizens with a marriage certificate issued by the states of Maine, Michigan, Montana, or North Dakota can now use the [my Social Security](#) portal to complete a marriage-related name change replacement card request online, without a visit to a field office or card center. There are now a total of nine States that offer this feature. The other States are Arkansas, Georgia, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wyoming. We plan to expand the service to other States.

To use this option, constituents must have or create a [my Social Security](#) account and will need to provide information from a State-issued driver's license (DL) or identification (ID) from any of the 48 jurisdictions (47 States and the District of Columbia) currently participating in our DL/ID verification service. We are working with the remaining States (Alaska, New Hampshire, and Oklahoma) to find solutions for their participation in the DL/ID verification service.

## Recent Hearings

On May 24, 2023, SSA's Deputy Commissioner for Systems and Chief Information Officer, Sean Brune, testified at the House Committee on Ways and Means hearing entitled "Social Security Administration's Role in Combatting Identity Fraud"

On June 21, 2023, SSA's Deputy Commissioner for Budget, Finance, and Management, Chad Poist, testified at the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce hearing entitled "Please Leave Your Message at the Tone: Addressing Post-Pandemic Backlogs and Delays at Federal Agencies."

The written testimony from these hearings is available at <https://www.ssa.gov/legislation/118th.html>. You can find testimony from previous Congresses (back to the 112th) at <https://www.ssa.gov/legislation/priorcongress.html>

## Outreach and Access for Supplemental Security Income

We expanded our outreach to people facing barriers who may be eligible for SSI. We have identified communities in rural and urban areas across the country where we have noticed the greatest decline in SSI applications since the pandemic and where the majority of citizens are people of color or living at or below 150 percent of the Federal poverty threshold. We are reaching out in a variety of ways (including radio and television public service announcements, radio ads, mailers, bus shelter and other large signs, flyers distributed to local stores, and printed publications in several language offices) to tell people about the eligibility criteria for SSI and how to contact us online or by phone for more information or an appointment.

## New Medicare Special Enrollment Periods

Pursuant to the authority granted in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, Medicare has created new special enrollment periods (SEP) for Parts A and B to allow your constituents to sign up for or change their Medicare coverage with no late enrollment penalty in certain circumstances. Those eligible for these new SEPs include:

- Individuals impacted by certain government-declared emergencies or disasters declared or starting on or after January 1, 2023;
- Individuals who did not enroll in Medicare because of inaccurate or misleading information from their health plan or employer on or after January 1, 2023;
- Individuals who were released from incarceration on or after January 1, 2023 and missed a chance to sign up during their incarceration;
- Individuals who lost Medicaid coverage on or after January 1, 2023; and
- Individuals who missed the chance to sign up due to other exceptional conditions, after contacting SSA to request this SEP.

Additional information about these SEPs can be found at <https://www.medicare.gov/basics/get-started-with-medicare/sign-up/when-does-medicare-coverage-start>.

## Contact Information for the Office of the Inspector General

If you need to get in touch with SSA's Office of the Inspector General (OIG), please contact Congressional Affairs Advisor Jonathan Blyth at [Jonathan.J.Blyth@ssa.gov](mailto:Jonathan.J.Blyth@ssa.gov) or Congressional Affairs Analyst Nichole Swafford at [Nichole.Swafford@ssa.gov](mailto:Nichole.Swafford@ssa.gov). They are available to assist with any questions you or your bosses might have for the SSA OIG.

