

1724 is used by the Social Security Administration to determine whether an individual is entitled to the underpayment. The respondents are applicants for the underpayment of a deceased beneficiary.

Number of Respondents: 300,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 50,000 hours.

4. Supplement to Claim of Person Outside the United States—0960-0051. The information collected on Form SSA-21 is used to determine the continuing entitlement to Social Security benefits and the proper benefit amounts of alien beneficiaries living outside the United States. It is also used to determine whether benefits are subject to tax withholding. The respondents are individuals entitled to Social Security benefits who are, will be, or have been residing outside the United States.

Number of Respondents: 35,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 2,917 hours.

5. Statement of Care and Responsibility for Beneficiary—0960-0109. When an individual requests to act as representative payee for someone not in their custody, the Social Security Administration must determine if this individual is the most qualified to serve in the beneficiary's best interests. The information collected on Form SSA-788 is used to corroborate the statements of concern made by the representative payee applicant and to identify other potential representative payees. The respondents are individuals who have custody of the beneficiaries for whom someone else has filed to be the representative payee.

Number of Respondents: 130,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden of Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 21,667 hours.

6. Statement of Claimant or Other Person—0960-0045. Form SSA-795 is completed by Social Security or SSI applicants when additional information is needed and there is no standard form which collects the information. The information is used by the Social Security Administration to process claims for benefits. The respondents are applicants for Social Security or SSI benefits.

Number of Respondents: 305,500.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 75,375 hours.

7. Application for Disability Insurance Benefits—0960-0060. The information collected on Form SSA-16 by the Social Security Administration is used to determine an applicant's entitlement to Social Security disability benefits. The respondents are applicants for Social Security disability benefits.

Number of Respondents: 1,000,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 20 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 333,333.

8. Statement for Determining Continuing Eligibility for Supplemental Security Income Payment—0960-0145. The information collected on Form SSA-8202 is used by the Social Security Administration to determine a beneficiary's continuing eligibility for and the amount of their SSI payments. The information collected also assists SSI recipients to obtain food stamps and is used by agencies administering Medicaid programs in ascertaining the legal liability of third parties to pay for care and services. The respondents are recipients of SSI benefits.

Number of Respondents: 818,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 11 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 149,967 hours.

Written comments and recommendations regarding the information collection(s) should be sent within 60 days from the date of this publication, directly to the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the following address: Social Security Administration, DCFAM; Attn: Judith T. Hasche; 6401 Security Blvd., 1-A-21 Operations Bldg.; Baltimore, MD 21235.

In addition to your comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate, we are soliciting comments on 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.

To receive a copy of any of the forms or clearance packages, call the SSA Reports Clearance Officer on (410) 965-4123 or write to her at the address listed above.

Dated: March 31, 1997.

Frederick W. Brickenkamp,
Forms Management Officer, Social Security Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-8564 Filed 4-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4190-29-P

Testing Modifications to the Disability Determination Procedures; Federal Processing Center Testing

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Notice of the test site and the duration of testing involving modifications to the disability determination procedures.

SUMMARY: The Social Security Administration (SSA) is announcing the location and the duration of additional testing that it will conduct under the current rules at 20 CFR §§ 404.906, 404.943, 416.1406, and 416.1443. Those rules authorize the testing of several modifications to the disability determination procedures that we normally follow in adjudicating claims for disability insurance benefits under title II of the Social Security Act (the Act) and claims for supplemental security income (SSI) based on disability under title XVI of the Act. This notice announces the test site and duration of testing involving a combination of features of the proposed redesigned disability process. The notice also describes additional features that will allow us to test the effectiveness of processing cases under a combination of the models in a Federal processing center.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harry Pippin, Disability Models Team Leader, Office of Disability, Disability Process Redesign Staff, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235, 410-965-9203.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Current regulations at 20 CFR §§ 404.906, 404.943, 416.1406, and 416.1443 authorize us to test different modifications to the disability determination procedures. We describe the use of all four features of the testing modifications to the disability determination procedures as the full process model. Those modifications are: the use of a single decisionmaker who may make the disability determination without requiring the signature of a medical consultant; the conducting of a predecisional interview in which a claimant, for whom SSA does not have sufficient information to make a fully favorable determination or the evidence requires an initial determination denying the claim, can present additional information to the decisionmaker; the elimination of the reconsideration step in the administrative review process; and the use of an adjudication officer who will conduct prehearing procedures and, if appropriate, will issue a decision wholly favorable to the claimant.

We intend to test the full process model in a Federal processing center. The location for this test will be: Social Security Administration, Western Program Service Center, 2121 Nevin Avenue, Richmond, California, 94802.

We may add other Federal sites later. If we add other Federal sites, we will publish another notice in the **Federal Register** identifying the added sites. The test in Richmond will involve claims by individuals who wish to file by telephone. These cases will be referred to the Richmond processing center by teleservice centers that service residents of Arizona.

This test will combine the four process modifications mentioned above, plus two features designed to maximize the resources of a Federal processing center: having a two-person team complete the application interview by telephone; and effectuating, in the processing center, the payment of benefits to claimants who are found disabled. We will begin selecting cases for processing in this test on or about April 28, 1997, will continue to select cases for approximately one year, and may continue to have cases processed for an additional six months. In addition, we may choose to extend the test to obtain additional data. We will publish another notice in the **Federal Register** if we extend the duration of the test. The adjudication officers under this model will process cases as they are doing in those States in which that feature is being tested separately. (Refer to 20 CFR §§ 404.943 and 416.1443.) The single decisionmaker will process cases as single decisionmakers are doing in those States in which that feature is being tested separately (see 20 CFR §§ 404.906(b)(2) and 416.1406(b)(2)), except that the single decisionmaker in this model also will assist in the claims interview and will offer a predecisional interview to a claimant for whom a fully favorable determination cannot be made based on the initial information obtained. If a claimant is dissatisfied with the initial determination, he or she may appeal directly to an administrative law judge. The adjudication officer will be the claimant's primary point of contact before a hearing is held with an administrative law judge. Claims authorizers will participate in the telephone claims interview and will effectuate payment to claimants who are found disabled.

Dated: March 28, 1997.

Carolyn W. Colvin,

Deputy Commissioner for Programs and Policy.

[FR Doc. 97-8711 Filed 4-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4190-29-P

Testing Modifications to the Disability Determination Procedures; Disability Determination Services Full Process Model

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Notice of the additional test sites and the duration of tests involving modifications to the disability determination procedures.

SUMMARY: The Social Security Administration (SSA) is announcing the locations and the duration of additional tests that it will conduct under the current rules at §§ 404.906, 404.943, 416.1406, and 416.1443. Those rules authorize the testing of several modifications to the disability determination procedures that we normally follow in adjudicating claims for disability insurance benefits under title II of the Social Security Act (the Act) and claims for supplemental security income (SSI) payments based on disability under title XVI of the Act. This notice announces the test sites and duration of tests involving a combination of features of the proposed redesigned disability process.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Harry Pippin, Disability Models Team Leader, Office of Disability, Disability Process Redesign Staff, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235, 410-965-9203.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Current regulations at §§ 404.906, 404.943, 416.1406, and 416.1443 authorize us to test different modifications to the disability determination procedures. The tests are designed to provide us with information so that we can determine the effectiveness of the models in improving the disability process. On or about April 7, 1997, we will begin tests of a full process model that combines four features of the proposed redesigned disability process. These features are: The use of a single decisionmaker who may make the disability determination without requiring the signature of a medical consultant; the conducting of a predecisional interview in which a claimant, for whom SSA does not have sufficient information to make a fully favorable determination or the evidence requires an initial determination denying the claim, can present additional information to the decisionmaker; the elimination of the reconsideration step in the administrative review process; and the use of an adjudication officer who will conduct prehearing procedures and, if appropriate, issue a decision wholly favorable to the claimant. We plan to

test this model in eight States. We will select cases for evaluation of these tests for approximately nine months, and may continue to have cases processed for another six months. In addition, we may choose to extend the test to obtain additional data. We will publish another notice in the **Federal Register** if we extend the duration of the test. For the purpose of these tests, the single decisionmaker will be an employee of the State agency that makes disability determinations for us, while the adjudication officer will be either a State employee or a Federal employee. The sites selected represent a mix of geographic areas, case loads, and both Federal and State employees. The adjudication officer under this model will process cases as adjudication officers are doing in those States in which that feature is being tested separately. (Refer to **Federal Register**, February 1, 1996 (61 FR 3757).) The single decisionmaker will process cases as single decisionmakers are doing in those States in which that feature is being tested separately (see **Federal Register**, May 3, 1996 (61 FR 19969)), except that the single decisionmaker in this combined model will offer a predecisional interview to a claimant for whom a fully favorable determination cannot be made based on the initial information obtained. If a claimant is dissatisfied with the initial determination, he or she may appeal directly to an administrative law judge. The adjudication officer will be the claimant's primary point of contact before a hearing is held with an administrative law judge. Tests of the model will be held at the following locations: *COM007*

- Disability Determination Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services, Department of Social Services, 10065 Harvard Avenue, Denver, CO 80231-5941;
- Disability Adjudication Section, Division of Rehabilitation, Clark Harrison Building, 330 W. Ponce De Leon Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030;
- Office of Disability Determinations, New York State Department of Social Services, 99 Washington Avenue, Room 1239, Albany, NY 12260;
- Office of Disability Determinations, New York State Department of Social Services, 300 Cadman Plaza West, 13th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2701;
- Office of Disability Determinations, New York State Department of Social Services, Ellicott Square Building, Room 664, 295 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14203-2412;
- Bureau of Disability Determination, Office for Collections and Compensation, Room 220—Central