

SW, Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416, (202) 205-6734.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of the President's major disaster declaration for the Crow Nation, dated November 14, 2024, is hereby amended to extend the deadline for filing applications for physical damages as a result of this disaster to February 28, 2025.

All other information in the original declaration remains unchanged.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 59008)

Rafaela Monchek,

Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Disaster Recovery & Resilience.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

[Docket No. SSA-2024-0019]

Youth Transition Exploration Demonstration

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Social Security Administration (SSA) is announcing the *Youth Transition Exploration Demonstration (YTED)* project for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program under title XVI of the Social Security Act (Act). This project is a randomized controlled trial (RCT) of an employment intervention for youth with disabilities, who are transitioning into the adult workforce. SSA will modify the program rules that apply to income for certain project participants who receive SSI payments under title XVI of the Act. This modification will not apply to income for project participants who receive Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance (OASDI) benefits under title II or receive concurrent benefits under title II and title XVI of the Act.

DATES: This project begins January 17, 2025 and ends by December 31, 2028.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eunsong Park, Social Security Administration, Office of Retirement and Disability Policy, Youth Transition Exploration Demonstration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD, 21235. Telephone: (410) 965-3570; Email: eunsong.park@ssa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Youth Transition Exploration Demonstration

Under the YTED, youth with disabilities may receive enhanced

counseling services and referrals to training programs and other employment services. We are conducting this project under section 1110 of the Social Security Act, which authorizes the Commissioner to conduct demonstration projects that are likely to assist in promoting the objectives or facilitate the administration of the title XVI program. This demonstration will test the effectiveness of providing enhanced counseling and referral services to youth with disabilities in achieving long-term employment outcomes.

Through SSA's Interventional Cooperative Agreement Program (ICAP), we acquired a cooperative agreement with Mathematica to implement and evaluate YTED. Mathematica is a research and data analytics consultancy driven by a mission to improve public well-being. Other partners for the YTED are the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and University of Maryland's Center for Transition and Career Innovation.

For the evaluation, we will modify the program rules that apply to certain project participants and provide individual level SSA data to Mathematica that will compare outcomes between treatment group and control group participants regarding benefits, earnings, and application frequency. Mathematica and OVR will recruit participants, and OVR will provide enhanced counseling and referral services.

Potential participants are youth with disabilities ages 16 through 24 who are eligible for services from OVR, but do not have an open case with OVR. They must be residents of the state of Pennsylvania in the following counties:

- City of Philadelphia,
- Montgomery,
- Chester,
- Delaware, and
- Bucks.

Mathematica expects to recruit up to 700 individuals to participate in the YTED. Participation is voluntary and individual participants will sign an informed consent. Mathematica will randomly assign participants to a treatment group and a control group. The treatment group will receive enhanced counseling and referral services by a vocational rehabilitation counselor with specialized YTED training (VRC-YTED). The VRC-YTED will provide services, including connections to intensive training programs, submitting an application for training programs on behalf of the youth, coordinating placement with a program representative, and benefits counseling including information on

waiving earned income counting and deeming. The control group will only be eligible for standard OVR services, such as case management, and will receive information on how to apply for the OVR services.

Under title XVI of the Act, we make SSI payments to persons who are aged, blind, or disabled, and who also have limited income and resources. We expect that some YTED participants may currently receive SSI payments. Additionally, we expect some YTED participants may apply for SSI once they learn about the program and seek eligibility for benefits per 20 CFR 416.202. All participants can withdraw from the project at any time. We will apply all usual program rules, including reporting requirements, to all applicable participants no later than December 31, 2028. Especially relevant, SSI recipients must report changes in their work and generally must report their wages monthly. We will also apply the alternate rules, as described below, to those participants in the treatment group who consent to sharing their data with us in the informed consent and who are SSI recipients (not OASDI or concurrent recipients) no later than December 31, 2028.

Provisions of the Act and Regulations We are Waiving For the YTED Treatment Group

We are waiving rules that offset SSI payments based on YTED participants' earnings. The following alternate program rules will apply to the YTED treatment group participants who are SSI recipients:

- The first waiver applies to earnings that directly affect participants' own benefits. SSA will not offset SSI payments for participants when the participants earn income. In other words, all earned income by participants is excluded from SSI income counting.

- The second waiver applies to any deeming that results from participants' earnings. For example, a participant's earnings will not count against the SSI benefit of their child who receives SSI or their spouse who receives SSI. However, if a person under the age of 18 is a participant, any income (earned or unearned) from their non-participant deeming parent(s) will still be subject to deeming. Additionally, if a participant is married, any income from the non-participant spouse will still be subject to deeming.

Applying these alternate rules involves waiving or altering certain provisions included in sections of:

- Statutory Waivers

Social Security Act 1611(a)(1)(A), (a)(2)(A), (a)(3)(A) as applicable to earned income; 1612(b)(1), (b)(3)(B), (b)(4); 1614(f)(1), (f)(2)(A) as applicable to earned income; and 1619(a)(1).

- Regulatory Waivers

20 CFR 416.202 (c); 416.1104; 416.1110; 416.1111; 416.1112; 416.1163 as applicable to earned income; and 416.1165 as applicable to earned income.

Authority for the Waivers Under YTED

Section 1110(b) of the Act authorizes us to waive any requirements, conditions, or limitations of title XVI necessary to carry out demonstration projects. Consistent with the requirements in section 1110(b)(2)(B) of the Act, participation in the YTED is voluntary and based on informed consent, and the voluntary agreement to participate may be withdrawn by the participant at any time.

Carolyn Colvin, the Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, having reviewed and approved this document, is delegating the authority to electronically sign this document to Erik Hansen, who is a **Federal Register** Liaison for the Social Security Administration, for purposes of publication in the **Federal Register**.

Erik Hansen,

Associate Commissioner, Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Legislative Development and Operations, Social Security Administration.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

[Docket No. SSA 2024-0045]

Notice of Tier Subscription Expansion and Fee Decrease for Our Electronic Consent Based Social Security Number Verification Service

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Notice of Tier Subscription Expansion and Fee Decrease for the Electronic Consent Based Social Security Number Verification Service.

SUMMARY: The Social Security Administration (SSA) is announcing two additional subscription tiers and a decrease in the fees across all tiers for the electronic Consent Based Social Security Number (SSN) Verification (eCBSV) service. In accordance with statutory requirements, a permitted entity (PE) is required to provide payment to reimburse SSA for the development and support of the eCBSV system.

DATES: The revised subscription tier structure will go into effect for subscription payments made on or after February 3, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter Worstell, Office of Data Exchange, Policy Publications, and International Negotiations, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235-6401, (866) 395-8801, email: eCBSV@ssa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 215 of the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act¹ (the Banking Bill) directed SSA to modify or develop a database for accepting and comparing fraud protection data² provided electronically by a PE.³ In response to this statutory directive, we created eCBSV, a fee-based SSN verification service. The eCBSV allows SSA to verify and disclose to a PE, based on the number holder's consent,⁴ whether a number holder's SSN, name, and date of birth match SSA's records. The PE's request for SSA's verification of the fraud protection data must be in connection with a credit transaction or a circumstance described in section 604 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Each PE must submit a certification statement⁵ that the PE is compliant

¹ Public Law 115-174, codified at 42 U.S.C. 405b.

² The Banking Bill defines "Fraud Protection Data" to mean a combination of an individual's name (including the first name and any family forename or surname), SSN, and date of birth (including month, day, and year). Public Law 115-174, title II, 215(b)(3), codified at 42 U.S.C. 405b(b)(3).

³ The Banking Bill defines a PE to mean a financial institution or service provider, subsidiary, affiliate, agent, subcontractor, or assignee of a financial institution. Public Law 115-174, title II, 215(b)(4), codified at 42 U.S.C. 405b(b)(4). They must possess an Employer Identification Number and a Data Universal Number System (DUN) and Bradstreet number.

⁴ Under the eCBSV User Agreement, valid written consent must meet the requirements of applicable Federal law, SSA's regulations, and section IV of the eCBSV User Agreement. Valid written consent must include a wet or electronic signature. Section IV A.1. eCBSV User Agreement. Electronic signatures must meet the definition in section 106 of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (15 U.S.C. 7006). 42 U.S.C. 405b(f)(2); section IV. E. eCBSV User Agreement. The written consent must clearly specify to whom the information may be disclosed, the information to be disclosed (e.g., SSN verification) and, where applicable, during which timeframe the information may be disclosed (e.g., whenever the subject individual is receiving specific services). 20 CFR 401.100.

⁵ The PE must certify that (1) the entity is a PE; (2) the entity is in compliance with section 215; (3) the entity is, and will remain, in compliance with its privacy and data security requirements in title V of 15 U.S.C. 6801, *et seq.*, with respect to the information the entity receives from the Commissioner of Social Security pursuant to this section; and (4) the entity will retain sufficient

with the Banking Bill as part of their application to SSA.

Based on feedback from PEs received by email and during monthly direct PE conference calls, we are adding two additional tiers for purchase within the eCBSV program. We are adding a new smaller eCBSV tier capped at a maximum of 75,000 transactions to better serve smaller eCBSV customers. This addition will give smaller PEs additional and more affordable tier options. Additionally, we are adding a new eCBSV tier capped at 500,000 maximum transactions. These new tiers allow us to maintain our pricing structure and provide small and medium customers an avenue to directly use the eCBSV service instead of having to go through a third-party service. We anticipate that this new fee structure will incentivize higher transactional volume. In addition, we are decreasing the annual fee for all tiers, which we explain in more detail in the Fees section below.

Fees

The public cost burden is dependent upon the number of PEs using the service and the annual transaction volume. We based the revised tier fee schedule below on 20 participating PEs in fiscal year (FY) 2025. The total cost for developing and operating the service is approximately \$66.5 million through FY 2024. Of this amount, \$25.7 million remains unrecovered. The subscription fees are set to ensure we collect these remaining costs in a reasonably timely manner to ensure that we break-even on prior year and ongoing costs for the development and operation of the program. By breaking even, we mean that we will have collected enough revenue to fully cover our costs of developing and operating the eCBSV service. Assuming projected enrollment and transactions are met,⁶ we will collect the outstanding balance of \$25.7 million through FY 2027. Upon breaking even, we will further adjust our fee structure to ensure that ongoing costs of the program are covered.

During our evaluation for FY 2025, we noted the following:

- We collected approximately \$16.1 million in FY 2024.
- Operating costs of approximately \$5 million per year in FY 2023 and FY 2024 continued to be lower than historic

records to demonstrate its compliance with its certification and section 215 for a period of not less than 2 years. 42 U.S.C. 405b(e)(1)-(3).

⁶ Our projected enrollment is 20 PEs each year and a total annual usage of 58 million transactions per year. These figures align with reported usage in the last few years.