



## DEAR TRIBAL LEADER LETTER

### Announcement for SSA Updates

June 4, 2024

Via Email

Dear Tribal Leader & Urban Indian Organization Leader:

On behalf of Martin O'Malley, Commissioner of Social Security, I am pleased to share our agency's updates to policies, pursuant to the [Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#). In alignment with the [Fiscal Year 2024 Tribal Consultation Call To Action Plan](#), the Office of Native American Partnerships continues to improve outreach with Tribal Leaders and Urban Indian Organization Leaders by sharing up-to-date information about the programs offered by the Social Security Administration (SSA).

To be inclusive of opportunity deadlines, here are some updates:

- SSA held an information session on April 25<sup>th</sup> about applying for the [Interventional Cooperative Agreement Program](#) and invited Tribal Nations to attend.
- [Request for Information: SSA's Plan for Increasing Public Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research](#) Public Comment 30-day period end **Wednesday, June 12, 2024**.

We are sharing the following key [Press Releases](#):

- On May 9, [Expand Access to SSI Program by Updating Definition of a Public Assistance Household](#) announces one of several updates to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) regulations that will help people receiving and applying for SSI.
- On May 7, [Launched Online Performance Tracker for Customer Service Priorities](#) offers a new and unprecedented level of transparency for the agency's stakeholders.
- On April 17, [Expand SSI Rental Subsidy Policy](#) which provides the second of several updates to the agency's SSI regulations that will help people receiving and applying for SSI.

In summary, please review the following [Blog](#) postings:

- On May 23, [National Foster Care Month](#).
- On May 9, [Updating Definition on a Public Assistance Household](#).
- On April 30, [Social Security Publishes Native Language Action Plan to Improve Access to Our Programs and Services](#).
- On April 25, [Representative Payees Help You Manage Your Social Security](#).
- On April 11, [Why It's Important To Tell Us About Your Financial Accounts](#).

I acknowledge that keeping track of these changes that affect Tribal Members receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) can be challenging. If you can, please assist in communicating these up-to-date information and reporting responsibilities in applying for or receiving SSI benefits. Additionally, informing SSA of any changes that may affect payments is critical, especially changes in income,

resources, or living situation, no later than 10 days after the end of the month in which the change occurred.

Visit our [SSI Wage Reporting](#) page to learn more and to sign up for monthly SSI wage reporting email or text reminders.

For information about the SSI claims development process, visit our [Supplemental Security Income Eligibility Requirements](#) webpage.

Sincerely,

Reneé Ferguson, Director  
Office of Native American Partnerships  
Office of the Commissioner  
Social Security Administration  
[www.SSA.gov/people/aian](http://www.SSA.gov/people/aian)