

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 59008)

**Joshua Barnes,**

*Acting Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.*

[FR Doc. 2022-17044 Filed 8-8-22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8026-09-P**

## **SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**[Disaster Declaration #17546 and #17547; KENTUCKY Disaster Number KY-00093]**

### **Presidential Declaration Amendment of a Major Disaster for the Commonwealth of Kentucky**

**AGENCY:** Small Business Administration.

**ACTION:** Amendment 1.

**SUMMARY:** This is an amendment of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Kentucky (FEMA-4663-DR), dated 07/30/2022.

*Incident:* Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides.

*Incident Period:* 07/26/2022 and continuing.

**DATES:** Issued on 08/02/2022.

*Physical Loan Application Deadline Date:* 09/28/2022.

*Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date:* 05/01/2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit completed loan applications to:

U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** A. Escobar, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW, Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416, (202) 205-6734.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The notice of the President's major disaster declaration for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, dated 07/30/2022, is hereby amended to include the following areas as adversely affected by the disaster:

*Primary Counties (Physical Damage and Economic Injury Loans):* Floyd, Pike.

*Contiguous Counties (Economic Injury Loans Only):*

Kentucky: Johnson, Martin.

Virginia: Buchanan, Dickenson.

West Virginia: Mingo.

All other information in the original declaration remains unchanged.

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[FR Doc. 2022-17041 Filed 8-8-22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8026-09-P**

## **SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**

**[Docket No: SSA-2022-0043]**

### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request**

The Social Security Administration (SSA) publishes a list of information collection packages requiring clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with Public Law 104-13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, effective October 1, 1995. This notice includes a revision of an OMB-approved information collection.

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 ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Mail, email, or fax your comments and

recommendations on the information collection(s) to the OMB Desk Officer and SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the following addresses or fax numbers. (OMB) Office of Management and Budget, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA

*Comments:* <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. Submit your comments online referencing Docket ID Number [SSA-2022-0043].

(SSA) Social Security Administration, OLCA, Attn: Reports Clearance Director, 3100 West High Rise, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235, Fax: 410-966-2830. Email address: [OR.Reports.Clearance@ssa.gov](mailto:OR.Reports.Clearance@ssa.gov)

Or you may submit your comments online through <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>, referencing Docket ID Number [SSA-2022-0043].

SSA submitted the information collection below to OMB for clearance. Your comments regarding this information collection would be most useful if OMB and SSA receive them 30 days from the date of this publication. To be sure we consider your comments, we must receive them no later than September 8, 2022. Individuals can obtain copies of the OMB clearance package by writing to [OR.Reports.Clearance@ssa.gov](mailto:OR.Reports.Clearance@ssa.gov).

*Electronic Protective Filing Tool—20 CFR 404.630, and 20 CFR 416.340–416.345—0960-0826.* The COVID-19 pandemic limited the public's access to SSA Field Offices (FOs), requiring SSA to rapidly expand online services available to the public. During the time when SSA stopped accepting walk-in visitors, the agency noticed a sharp decrease in SSI claims from underserved populations who have historically relied on in-office appointments and service. SSA uses the term "People facing barriers" to refer to these vulnerable populations, which include low-income individuals (especially those over age 65), the homeless, people with limited English proficiency, and disabled children.

### **Background**

Historically, individuals contact SSA by phone, in person, or by mail to express interest in filing for benefits. Because same-day service to file an application is not always possible, and because some individuals prefer to make an appointment, SSA technicians use eLAS (OMB No. 0960-0822) to set up appointments and record the protective filing date for potential claimants. This process ensures that potential claimants do not miss out on possible benefits due to the lack of same-day service.

Protective filing is the precursor to filing an application for benefits. Protective filing refers to the date by which SSA receives an individual's intent to file for SSI payments, which SSA then uses as the application date provided the individual files an application within a specific amount of time after that date. Therefore, it is as if the application was filed on the day the individual contacted SSA to express interest in filing, which may result in additional payments to that individual.

SSA developed an online tool to allow internet users to request an appointment to file an application for benefits and to establish a protective filing date with SSA. The electronic protective filing tool allows individuals to submit information for the appointment request using a computing device, such as a personal computer or handheld (mobile) device instead of calling SSA by phone or visiting an FO. The tool is available on SSA's website to potential claimants, as well as those individuals assisting them.

### *Information the Electronic Protective Filing Tool Collects*

After entering the ePFT from SSA's website, individuals begin on a welcome screen that displays a link to the Terms of Service. Next, a user sees