

[Declaration of Disaster #2938]**State of West Virginia; (AMENDMENT No. 1)**

In accordance with a notice from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, dated March 15, 1997, the above-numbered Declaration is hereby amended to establish the incident period for this disaster as beginning on February 28, 1997 and continuing through March 15, 1997.

All other information remains the same, i.e., the termination date for filing applications for physical damage is May 6, 1997, and for loans for economic injury the deadline is December 8, 1997.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008.)

Dated: March 20, 1997.

Bernard Kulik,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

[Program Announcement No. SSA-ORES-97-1]

Federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance; Fiscal Year 1997 Funds for Section 1110 Research Grants Availability

AGENCY: Social Security Administration

SUMMARY: The Social Security Administration (SSA) announces that competing applications will be accepted for new research grants authorized under Section 1110 of the Social Security Act. This announcement, consisting of three parts, describes the nature of the grant activities and gives notice of the anticipated availability of fiscal year (FY) 1997 funds in support of the proposed activities. Part I discusses the purpose of the announcement and briefly describes the application process. Part II describes the programmatic priorities under which SSA is soliciting applications for funding. Part III describes the application process and provides guidance on how to submit an application.

DATES: The closing date for the receipt of grant applications in response to this announcement is June 26, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: *For information on the application or for an application kit:* Mr. E. Joe Smith, Grants Management Team; Office of Operations Contracts and Grants; Office of Acquisition and Grants; Social Security Administration; 1-E-4 Gwynn Oak

Building; 1710 Gwynn Oak Avenue; Baltimore, Maryland 21207; telephone (410) 965-9503.

For information on the program content of the announcement: Ms. Eleanor Cooper, Coordinator for Extramural Research; Office of Research, Evaluation and Statistics; Social Security Administration; 4-C-15 Operations; 6401 Security Boulevard; Baltimore, Maryland 21235; telephone (410) 966-9824.

Part I. Purpose and the Grants Process**A. Program Purpose**

This research is intended to add to existing knowledge about components of economic security and about the changing economic status of the aged or disabled, with emphasis on Social Security beneficiaries. Policy makers and social scientists are potential users of the results.

In general, SSA will fund a select number of projects in the following areas:

1. Research that makes use of the New Beneficiary Data System to examine changes in the economic security of beneficiaries over time—in particular, changes related to one or more of the following: employer-provided pensions, post-retirement employment, and changing levels of income from assets.

2. Research on “integration” provisions of private pension plans (benefit formulas that reduce pension payments to individuals by some portion of their Social Security benefits), the effect of these provisions on income inequality among the aged, and the impact of recent changes in integration provisions.

B. FY 1997 Grant Process

The grant application process for FY 1997 will consist of a one-stage, full application. Applications are limited to 20 single- or 40 double-spaced pages (excluding resumes, forms, etc.) and must relate to the selection criteria established for review of applications.

Priority areas in this announcement permit applicants to propose research efforts from 12 to 24 months in duration. In item 11 of the Face Sheet (page 1 of form SSA-96-BK) indicate the priority area under which the application is submitted; i.e., ORES-97-001 or ORES-97-002.

Part II. Priority Research Areas

In particular, the following projects will be considered for funding:

A. Analyses of the New Beneficiary Data System—ORES-97-001

This project is intended to encourage research using the New Beneficiary Data

System (NBDS), a data base developed by SSA over the past decade to study the changing circumstances of aged and disabled beneficiaries. Based initially on a survey of new beneficiaries and spouses in 1982, the data set was expanded through followup interviews in 1991 with those included in the original survey, and with information from administrative records (on benefits, covered earnings, Supplemental Security Income, and Medicare). With the exception of the Medicare records, all administrative data have been obtained both for primary respondents and for spouses.

The original survey design included representative samples of new Social Security beneficiaries who filed for benefits as retired workers, disabled workers, wives, widows, divorced wives, and surviving divorced wives. There was also a representative sample of persons aged 65 or older who were entitled to Medicare benefits but who had not yet received Social Security cash benefits. The aged sample was, for the most part, in its mid- to late-60's in 1982 and in its mid- to late-70's in 1991.

The original interview covered a wide range of topics, including demographic characteristics, marital and childbearing history, employment history, current income and assets, and health. The followup interview updated the comprehensive profile of economic circumstances obtained in the original survey, and added or expanded sections on health, family contacts, and post-retirement employment. The interviews also explored major changes in life circumstances that might underlie changes in economic status (such as widowhood or divorce, work cessation, migration, and the sale of a home).

As with other survey-based sources, many data elements, especially those relating to income and assets, initially had significant numbers of refusals, “don't knows,” and other forms of nonresponse; and missing data were imputed for both the 1982 and 1991 waves. While these cross-sectional imputations reflected the current state of the art, they did not take advantage of the fact that in many cases valid data were available in one wave when missing in the other. Utilizing these partial responses, a new set of expressly longitudinal imputations has been prepared and incorporated in the NBDS.

Background material and a compilation of studies based on the original survey are available. Additional reports on the NBDS have been published in recent years in the *Social Security Bulletin*. Much of the NBDS data and documentation are available on the Internet at www.ssa.gov/statistics/