
UPDATE: SOCIAL SECURITY EXPANDS INCENTIVE PAYMENTS TO JAILS

The U.S. Congress passed a new law in December 1999 extending provisions of a 1996 statute that authorized payments from the Social Security Administration (SSA) to jails that reported inmate information to SSA. The previous law authorized payments to state and local correctional and certain mental institutions that entered into an agreement to furnish SSA with information that resulted in the suspension of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments. The new law extends the incentive payment provisions now in effect to include information about inmates eligible for Social Security old age, survivors, and disability insurance (OASDI) benefits. The incentive payments and amounts remain the same:

- \$400 for information received within 30 days after the individual's date of confinement.
- \$200 for information received between 30 and 90 days after an individual's date of confinement.
- No payment for information received on or after the 91st day.

When the reported inmate is a concurrent beneficiary of both SSI and OASDI, the jail will receive only a single incentive payment, the cost to be split between the two programs. Social Security benefits (both SSI and OASDI) to inmates will be suspended for any periods of confinement in a correctional institution that last for more than 30 days. The bill also prohibits payment of benefits to any person who, upon completion of a prison term, remains confined by court order to a public institution as a sexually dangerous person or a sexual predator.

Social Security Administration staff will contact jail and prison administrators in the near future to discuss the changes in the law and to negotiate expanded incentive payment agreements with them. For additional information, contact your local Social Security office. To locate the nearest office, call (800) 772-1213 or see the Social Security Administration's web site at <http://www.ssa.gov>. ■
