

For updates regarding the Social Security Fairness Act which includes the repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset, please visit the Social Security website:

<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html>

Below are a few questions and answers pulled from their website that may be of interest.

When will a person see their Social Security benefit increase because of the Social Security Fairness Act? ×

SSA is finalizing its plan to implement the Act while limiting negative effects on our regular workloads and services to the public. We cannot yet provide an estimated timeframe for when we will adjust a person's past or future benefits, but we will continue to provide updates on this webpage. We thank the public for its patience.

How can someone avoid scams about the repeal of WEP and GPO? ×

Unfortunately, bad actors might attempt to take advantage of situations when money is involved. SSA will never ask or require a person to pay either for assistance or to have their benefits started, increased, or paid retroactively. Hang up and do not click or respond to anyone offering to increase or expedite benefits. Learn more about Social Security-related scams, and how to report them to SSA's Office of the Inspector General, at www.ssa.gov/scams.

What is SSA doing to tell people about the repeal of WEP and GPO? ×

SSA has taken several steps to tell people what it is doing to implement the Act and to provide important updates. SSA wants people to avoid unnecessarily calling or visiting while SSA is finalizing its implementation plan. SSA:

- created this Social Security Fairness Act webpage to explain what the Act does, what steps—if any—someone should take, and other helpful information. The webpage offers the option to subscribe to receive alerts when SSA updates the webpage, eliminating the need to return to the webpage to check for updates. SSA encourages media and organizations to direct people to this webpage for information.
- added some upfront messaging to its National 800 Number about the Act so callers do not need to wait to speak to a representative. The webpage has more detailed information.
- plans to share updates with state retirement boards, labor unions, financial planners, and human resources professionals.

What challenges does SSA face implementing the Social Security Fairness Act? ×

SSA's ability to implement the law in a timely manner and without negatively affecting day-to-day customer service relies on funding. The Act did not provide money to implement the law. The law requires SSA to adjust benefits for over 3 million people. Since the law's effective date is retroactive, SSA must adjust people's past benefits as well as future benefits. Though SSA is helping some affected beneficiaries now, under SSA's current budget, SSA expects that it could take more than one year to adjust benefits and pay all retroactive benefits.

Callers to SSA's National 800 Number hear a message about the Act. This message has helped tens of thousands of people avoid holding for a representative. However, more than 7,000 people each day still choose to wait to speak to a representative about the Act. These calls, as well as visitors and appointments in local offices, will continue to increase over the coming weeks and months.

Helping people with this new and unfunded workload is made more difficult by SSA's ongoing staffing shortages, including operating under a hiring freeze since November 2024. This hiring freeze is likely to continue. All SSA customers, including those not affected by the Act, will face delays and increased wait times as SSA prioritizes this new workload.