

Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers (320 word count)

Customize and provide the following article in your communication vehicles for your audience.

An important SSA change affects taxpayers on August 1

The Social Security Administration recently announced changes in how they will provide some services to their customers and shared an easy way to access information instantly online.

Beginning Aug. 1, 2014, SSA will no longer issue Social Security number verification printouts in their field offices. Individuals who need proof of their SSN and cannot locate their card, will need to apply for a **replacement card**, which takes 7 to 10 business days.

Also, in January 2013, SSA made benefit verifications available online. Individuals can now instantly obtain a letter online showing proof of benefits received using a personal “*my Social Security*” account. But, you still have the option of going to your local field office to obtain a copy if you choose not to set up an online account.

SSA has designated the week of **August 17** as ***My Social Security Sign-up Week***. This is an opportunity for you to create an account and have easy access to valuable information pertaining to your working years and continuing throughout the time you receive Social Security benefits.

Anyone who receives benefits or has Medicare can check benefit and payment information, earnings record and more using a *my Social Security* account. Even if you do not currently receive benefits, you can use *my Social Security* online to get your *Social Security Statement* and review items, such as estimates of your retirement, disability and survivors benefits; earnings record; and the estimated Social Security and Medicare taxes you’ve paid. You can even get a benefit verification letter stating that you have never received Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medicare.

Setting up a *my Social Security* account is easy. To create an account, you just provide some personal information and answers to some questions that only you are likely to know. Next step is to create a username and password to access your online account. This process keeps personal Social Security information private.

For more details about ***My Social Security*** go to <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount/>.