

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**[OMB Control No. 2900–0736]****Agency Information Collection Activity: Authorization To Disclose Personal Information to a Third Party****AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed revision of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 17, 2026.**ADDRESSES:** Comments must be submitted through www.regulations.gov.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Program-Specific Information: Kendra McCleave, 202–461–9568, kendra.mccleave@va.gov.

VA PRA Information: Dorothy Glasgow, 202–461–1084, VAPRA@va.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Authorization to Disclose Information to a Third Party (VA Form 21–0845).

OMB Control Number: 2900–0736. <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRASearch>. (Once at this link, you can enter the OMB Control Number to find the historical versions of this Information Collection).

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA Form 21–0845 is used to release information in its custody or control in the following circumstances: where the individual identifies the information and consents to its use; for the purpose for which it was collected, or for a consistent purpose (*i.e.*, a purpose which the individual might have reasonably expected). Without this information, VA cannot share claim information to an individual or organization.

No changes were made to this form. The respondent burden has increased due to the number of receivables averaged over the past year.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 12,828 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 5 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 153,938 per year.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

Shunda Willis,

Acting, VA PRA Clearance Officer, (Alt.) Office of Information Technology/Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2025–22952 Filed 12–15–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–P**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS****[OMB Control No. 2900–0849]****Agency Information Collection Activity: Alternate Signer Certification****AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed revision of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 17, 2026.**ADDRESSES:** Comments must be submitted through www.regulations.gov.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Program-Specific Information: Kendra McCleave, 202–461–9568, kendra.mccleave@va.gov.

VA PRA Information: Dorothy Glasgow, 202–461–1084, VAPRA@va.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Alternate Signer Certification (VA Form 21–0972).

OMB Control Number: 2900–0849. <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRASearch>. (Once at this link, you can enter the OMB Control Number to find the historical versions of this Information Collection).

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA Form 21–0972 is used to collect the alternate signer information necessary for VA to accept benefit application forms signed by individuals on behalf of Veterans and claimants. The information collected is used to contact the alternate signer for verification purposes. Without this information, VA would be unable to verify information related to the alternate signer who has been appointed to represent the claimant in the prosecution of VA claims, the extent of such representation, and access to appropriate records.

No changes have been made to this form. The respondent burden has increased due to the estimated number of receivables averaged over the past year.

Affected Public: Individuals and Households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 5,570 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 22,278 per year.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

Shunda Willis,

*Acting, VA PRA Clearance Officer, (Alt.)
Office of Information Technology/Data
Governance Analytics, Department of
Veterans Affairs.*

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974; Matching Program

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

ACTION: Notice of a new matching program.

SUMMARY: Under this re-established matching program, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will disclose return information, relating to unearned income, to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), for the Disclosure of Information to Federal, State and Local Agencies (DIFSLA). The purpose of this matching program is to make available to VBA certain return information needed to determine eligibility for, and amount of benefits for, VBA applicants and beneficiaries of needs-based benefits, and to adjust income-dependent benefit payments, as prescribed by law. Currently, the most cost-effective and efficient way to verify the annual income of applicants and recipients of these benefits is through a computer match.

DATES: Comments on this matching program must be received no later than January 15, 2026. If no public comment is received during the period allowed for comment or unless otherwise published in the **Federal Register** by VA, the new agreement will become effective a minimum of 30 days after the date of publication in the **Federal Register**. If VA receives public comments, VA shall review the comments to determine whether any changes to the notice are necessary. This matching program will be valid for 18

months from the effective date of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted through www.Regulations.gov or mailed to VA Privacy Service, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, (005X6F), Washington, DC 20420. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to IRS, DIFSLA matching program. Comments received will be available at regulations.gov for public viewing, inspection or copies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bartolo A. Reyes, Management and Program Analyst, Pension and Fiduciary Service (21P), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20420, 202-461-8394.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The matching program between VA and IRS DIFSLA expires on December 31, 2025. VBA has a legal obligation to reduce the amount of pension and of parents' dependency and indemnity compensation by the amount of annual income received by the VBA beneficiary. VA will use this information to verify the income information submitted by beneficiaries in VA's needs-based benefit programs and adjust VA benefit payments as prescribed by law. By comparing the information received through the matching program between VBA and IRS, VBA will be able to timely and accurately adjust benefit amounts. The match information will help VBA minimize overpayments and deter fraud and abuse. The legal authority to conduct this match is 38 U.S.C. 5106, which requires any Federal department or agency to provide VA such information as VA requests for the purposes of determining eligibility for benefits or verifying other information with respect to payment of benefits. The VA records involved in the match are in "Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational and Rehabilitation and Employment Records—VA (58 VA 21/22/28)," a system of records which was first published at 41 FR 9294 (March 3, 1976), amended and republished in its entirety at 86 FR 61858 (November 8, 2021). The IRS records consist of information from the system records and will extract return information related to unearned income of the VBA applicant or beneficiary, and when applicable, the spouse of such individual's, from the Information Return Master File (IRMF), Treasury/IRS 22.061, at 80 FR 54081-082 (September 8, 2015). In accordance with the Privacy

Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)(2) and (r), copies of the agreement are being sent to both Houses of Congress and to the Office of Management and Budget. This notice is provided in accordance with the provisions of Privacy Act of 1974 as amended by Public Law 100-503.

Participating Agencies: Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Authority for Conducting the Matching Program: 26 U.S.C. 6103 and 38 U.S.C. 5106.

Purpose(s): To re-establish a matching program with IRS to provide VBA with certain return information needed to determine eligibility for and amount of benefits for VBA applicants and beneficiaries of needs-based benefits and to adjust income-dependent benefit payments as prescribed by law.

Categories of Individuals: Veterans and beneficiaries who apply for VA income benefits.

Categories of Records: VBA will furnish the IRS with records in accordance with the current IRS Publication 3373, DIFSLA Handbook. The requests from VBA will include: The Social Security Number (SSN) and name control (first four characters of the surname) for each individual for whom unearned income information is requested. IRS will provide a response record for each individual identified by VBA. The total number of records will be equal to or greater than the number of records submitted by VBA. In some instances, an individual may have more than one record on file. When there is a match of individual SSN and name control, IRS will disclose the following to VBA: Payee account number; payee name and mailing address; payee Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN); payer name and address; payer TIN; and income type and amount.

System(s) of Records: VBA records involved in this match are in "VA Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records—VA" (58VA21/22/28), a system of records that was first published at 41 FR 9294 (March 3, 1976), amended and republished in its entirety at 86 FR 61858 (November 8, 2021). IRS will extract return information with respect to unearned income of the VBA applicant or beneficiary, and when applicable, of such individual's spouse from the Information Return Master File (IRMF), Treasury/IRS 22.061, as published at 80 FR 54081-082 (September 8, 2015).