

# Policy Clarifications

**Submitted: 10/2013**

**Agency: CAOs**

**Subject: Social Security Number Delays Due to the Shutdown**

**Question:** An applicant is unable to get verification of application for a SSN because of the federal government shutdown and its effects on Social Security Administration field offices.

Can benefits be authorized?

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**Response By: Luellen Schmidt**

**Date: 10/2013**

Yes, benefits may be authorized. Consider this as verification pending from a third party if the applicant is willing to apply for a Social Security number but is unable to do so because of the shutdown. If the applicant is otherwise eligible, benefits will not be delayed given the circumstances of the shutdown.

Narrate the situation and review at least every 30 days or until the shutdown is resolved...whichever comes first.