PURPOSE

The Section 218 Council ("The Council") is an informal, multi-organizational workgroup consisting of representatives from the Social Security Administration (SSA), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the National Conference of State Social Security Administrators (NCSSSA) intended to meet on a quarterly basis, or as needed. The most recent Charter of the Section 218 Council is attached to this SOP.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Council will serve as a forum to increase communication between the federal agencies and state administrators, provide a venue in which to raise and address developing issues, and facilitate feedback regarding ongoing efforts to address State concerns. The Council will also attempt to reduce administrative burdens by fostering coordination between agencies; reinforce knowledge and understanding of Section 218 policy and mandatory regulatory provisions; and emphasize the importance of education and training for state and local government employees.

2. The Council has no independent authority to establish or alter policy. The Council will consider and address concerns and make recommendations to the standing Section 218 Committee¹ for further action.

3. The NCSSSA President shall appoint NCSSSA members to serve on the Section 218 Council. Each NCSSSA Council member will serve a two-year term with the appointment of the two members being staggered.

4. The NCSSSA Council members will request topics for discussion by the Section 218 Council from the states throughout the conference year by the most efficient and effective means possible (usually via participation in NCSSSA committees, telephone, surveys, and/or email). The NCSSSA Council members may ask the Legislative Committee to facilitate such requests. Following all Council meetings, NCSSSA Council members will provide reports to the Executive and Legislative Committees and, if deemed necessary and appropriate by the members of one or both of those committees, to the full NCSSSA membership.

5. The NCSSSA members of the Section 218 Council shall prepare and present a Report at the Annual Conference highlighting Council activities. The written report must be prepared consistent with the Secretary’s prescribed requirements.

6. During the beginning of each NCSSSA conference year, the outgoing NCSSSA Council member and continuing member shall confer with the incoming NCSSSA Council member to explain the Section 218 Council’s processes and ensure continuity, including any necessary follow-up to topics of interest to NCSSSA that were not resolved during the conference year.

¹ The Section 218 Committee is composed of representatives from the SSA and IRS. NCSSSA is not a member of that Committee.
7. NCSSSA Council members should identify any proposed changes that are recommended to the Section 218 Council's SOP. Any suggested changes to the NCSSSA Council's SOP shall be sent to the Governing Documents Committee within 90 days following the Annual Conference. Changes may also be recommended during the conference year if deemed necessary and appropriate.

8. The NCSSSA Council members shall be members of the Legislative Committee.