

Cordova for President

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The United States Constitution

Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution imposes only three eligibility requirements on persons serving as president, based on the officeholder's age, time of residency in the U.S., and citizenship status:

U.S. Constitution – Presidential Candidate Eligibility

"No person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty-five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States."

IMPLEMENTATION STANDARDS

National Retirement Dignity, Autonomy, and Economic Security Initiative

Administrative and Operational Implementation Standards

For the Proposed Social Security Dignity, Autonomy, and Housing Security Act of 2029

A Presidential Policy Recommendation

Document NRDAESI-003 · Version 1.1 · Discussion Draft

Revised November 26, 2026

Cordova 2028

Status of this document. This document sets out proposed administrative and operational standards for implementing the policy framework in NRDAESI-001 Version 2.4, which governs wherever the two differ. It is proposed policy, not enacted law, and it does not change anyone's existing benefits. It distinguishes throughout between **existing administrative authority**, **actions potentially available through lawful executive action** (subject to counsel review), and **proposed congressional authorization**. No statutory deadline, penalty, benefit amount or appropriation is proposed here; where timing matters, this document states that it is to be set in statute or regulation after review. Nothing here has been reviewed by outside counsel.

Audience. Federal administrators, legislative staff, legal professionals and implementation specialists.

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PART 1: PURPOSE, SCOPE AND AUTHORITY

1.1 Purpose

These standards describe how the proposed framework would be administered: who is responsible, how agencies coordinate, what procedures protect people, how data are collected and reported, how people appeal, what must be ready before any program begins, how outcomes are measured independently, and how unintended harm is found and corrected.

1.2 Scope

The standards apply to every program created or changed under the proposed Act and to the interagency work needed to implement it, including retirement income adequacy reporting; Social Security administration within existing law; housing and rental security; long-term care accountability; independent living; healthcare affordability; financial autonomy; caregiver and survivor security; territorial equality; outcome evaluation; and public participation.

1.3 Three Categories of Authority

Every action in this document is labeled with one of three categories:

Category	Meaning	Examples
A. Existing authority	Authority agencies already hold under current statutes and regulations	Social Security administrative review; Medicaid fair hearings; Section 508 accessibility; fair-lending and integration enforcement
B. Executive action (subject to counsel)	Actions potentially available within existing law, subject to legal review	Interagency working group; outreach using existing data; review of notices and withholding within statutory discretion
C. Congressional authorization	Actions requiring a new or amended statute, and usually appropriations	Changes to benefits, eligibility ages or financing; new programs and entitlements; new rights and remedies; the Civil Results Office

The President cannot change Social Security benefits, create statutory entitlements, or abolish or regulate state and local taxation by executive action. Social Security changes cannot be made through budget reconciliation, and revenue legislation originates in the House of Representatives.

1.4 Governing Commitments

1. Protecting existing benefits and protections is a design requirement for every legislative proposal, carried by an explicit hold-harmless provision and verified by independent review.
2. Earned Social Security benefits, needs-based assistance and new programs are financed and accounted for separately; new supplemental programs are financed outside the Social Security trust funds.
3. Federal protections are a floor; states may provide stronger protections; national reporting is standardized.
4. Government activity is never treated as proof of success; outcomes are measured independently.
5. A candidate decision alone does not establish the factual accuracy, affordability or legal validity of a proposal.

PART 2: GOVERNANCE AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

2.1 Interagency Working Group (Category B)

A Retirement Dignity interagency working group would be established under the Domestic Policy Council to coordinate implementation, resolve jurisdictional questions, track readiness and report progress. Its charter would name participating agencies, a coordinating official, a schedule of meetings and a public summary of activities.

2.2 Lead and Supporting Agencies

Area	Lead	Supporting	Enforcement
Benefit adequacy and reality-standard reporting	Social Security Administration	HUD, HHS, CMS, Treasury; BLS (data)	—
Cost-of-living index	Department of Labor (BLS data)	Social Security Administration	—
Social Security financing	SSA Office of the Chief Actuary; Treasury	—	—
Retirement homeownership	HUD	USDA (rural); Treasury	—
Rental security in covered housing	HUD	Treasury; USDA (rural rental)	Department of Justice (fair housing)
Homelessness	HUD	HHS, CMS, ACL, SSA	—
Facility ownership and quality	CMS	HUD; ACL (Ombudsman)	Department of Justice
Independent living and home-based care	CMS and ACL	HUD, HHS, DOT	Department of Justice (integration)

Area	Lead	Supporting	Enforcement
Healthcare affordability	CMS	SSA, HHS	—
Savings and exploitation	Shared; no single lead	SSA (payees), CMS, ACL (Adult Protective Services), Treasury	Department of Justice; CFPB
Employment	Department of Labor	SSA (earnings test)	EEOC
Caregivers and survivors	SSA (survivor benefits); ACL (caregiver support)	HHS, CMS, DOL	—
Food security	USDA	ACL	—
Transportation	Department of Transportation	CMS, ACL	Department of Justice (ADA)
Territorial equality	Domestic Policy Council (coordination)	SSA, CMS, USDA, HUD, Treasury, Interior	—
Outcome verification	Civil Results Office (proposed; Category C) or, until enacted, GAO and Inspectors General	All agencies supply data	—

Agency structures will be re-verified before implementation, because several agencies have been reorganized or are in litigation over reorganization.

2.3 Interagency Agreements

Implementation requires written agreements among agencies covering: data sharing (legal basis, minimum necessary data, security, retention, deletion); referral protocols between programs; joint outreach; dispute resolution between agencies; and joint reporting. Each agreement is reviewed for privacy and published in summary.

2.4 Coordination with Independent Bodies

GAO, Inspectors General, CBO, the Joint Committee on Taxation and the SSA and CMS actuaries remain independent. Agencies respond in writing to their findings and recommendations. Nothing in these standards directs their conclusions.

PART 3: INTERGOVERNMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

This Part allocates responsibilities among federal, state, territorial, Tribal and local governments.

3.1 Allocation of Responsibilities

Level	Responsibilities
Federal	Benefit administration; program rules; financing and grants; data standards; enforcement of federal rights; outcome evaluation
States	Medicaid administration and home and community-based services; property tax law and relief; landlord-tenant law; facility licensing, including assisted living; guardianship; Adult Protective Services; SSI state supplements
Territories	Responsibilities under each territory's law, which differ from the states in several federal programs under current law (Part 12)
Tribal nations	Government-to-government consultation on every program affecting Tribal members, including Indian Health Service and Tribal facilities
Local governments	Property tax administration and assessment; local housing and transportation; senior services

3.2 Conditions on Federal Funds

Conditions attached to federal funds must be unambiguous, related to the program and not coercive. Federal law cannot commandeer state officials or abolish state taxes. Where states are invited to adopt protections (for example, income-based property tax relief or model tenant protections), participation is voluntary and supported by incentive grants authorized by Congress (Category C).

3.3 Floor, Not Ceiling

Federal standards set minimum protections. A state, territory or locality may provide stronger protections. National reporting uses common definitions so that results are comparable.

PART 4: OPERATIONAL STANDARDS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

4.1 Notices

Every notice that affects eligibility, benefits, rent, coverage or services states: the decision; the reason and the rule applied; the amount and effective date, where relevant; how to appeal and the deadline; how to request a waiver where available; where to get free help; and how to get the notice in another format or language. Notices are tested with users, including people with disabilities and people with limited English proficiency, before use.

4.2 Access Channels

No service is digital-only. Every service is available by telephone, by mail and in person, with reasonable accommodation. Online services meet federal accessibility requirements (Part 7). People may designate a trusted representative.

4.3 Eligibility Determinations

Determinations use data the government already holds wherever lawful, to reduce burden; ask only for information that eligibility requires; explain any information the agency used; and allow a person to correct errors before an adverse decision.

4.4 Timeliness

Each program publishes processing-time standards for applications, determinations, appeals and complaints, measured and reported independently. **Specific time standards are to be set in regulation after review of agency capacity;** none is proposed here.

4.5 Recertification and Changes in Circumstances

Recertification is simplified and, where possible, automatic. Changes that would reduce assistance are applied only after notice and an opportunity to respond. A benefit increase is never treated as a reason to reduce assistance in a way that leaves the person worse off, consistent with any disregard enacted for assisted housing (Category C).

4.6 Overpayment Recovery

Improvements within existing statutory discretion are Category A; statutory protections are Category C.

Within existing statutory discretion, agencies would: use plain-language notices stating the cause, period and amount; explain waiver and appeal rights; consider waiver automatically where the agency caused the overpayment and the person was without fault; and set recovery at a level the person can afford. The current default withholding rate for Social Security retirement and disability overpayments is 50 percent of the monthly benefit [R1]. Statutory protections, such as a protected benefit floor or a time limit on recovering old agency-caused overpayments, require Congress.

4.7 Phase Gating

No program launches until regulations are final, systems are tested, accessible notices are ready, the appeals process is staffed and outcome baselines are recorded (Part 10).

PART 5: AUTHORITY MAP

The "Type" column gives the authority category defined in section 1.3.

Action	Type	Basis or requirement
Interagency working group	B	Presidential management of the executive branch
Assess making an elderly price index official (no change to the cost-of-living adjustment)	B	Existing statistical authority
Review overpayment notices, waiver processing and withholding	A/B	Existing statutory discretion
Outreach for Medicare Savings Programs and Extra Help using existing data	B	Existing data-sharing authorities, subject to review
Review of assisted-housing rent recertification rules	B	Program regulations
Publication of facility ownership and related-party data within existing disclosure rules	A	Existing disclosure authority
Fair-lending guidance on older borrowers and benefit income	A	Equal Credit Opportunity Act
Integration enforcement priorities for older adults	A	Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II
Tribal consultation	B	Government-to-government consultation policy
Retirement reality standard and adequacy statement	C	New statutory duties
Any change to Social Security benefits, ages or financing	C	Act of Congress; actuarial scoring
New housing, credit and rental-assistance programs	C	Act of Congress; appropriations
Facility staffing minimums; new payment conditions	C	Act of Congress

Action	Type	Basis or requirement
SSI resource and estate-recovery changes	C	Act of Congress
Retirement Bill of Rights items that become enforceable	C	Act of Congress
Civil Results Office	C	Separate government-wide act
Territorial program changes (SSI, Medicaid financing, drug assistance, nutrition)	C	Act of Congress; territorial consultation

PART 6: DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING STANDARDS

6.1 Principles

Collect only what is needed; use existing administrative data before new collection; protect privacy; report results honestly, including uncertainty and data gaps.

6.2 Legal Framework

Data collection and sharing comply with the Privacy Act for federal records, the confidentiality protections for statistical data, health-information privacy law where applicable, tax confidentiality rules, and the Paperwork Reduction Act for new surveys and forms.

6.3 Reporting Standards

- Every published measure states its population, period, source and margin of error.
- Results are disaggregated by program, region, age band, sex, disability and, where lawful and statistically reliable, race, ethnicity and Tribal status, with small-cell suppression and no individual records.
- Results are reported for each state, the District of Columbia and each territory where data allow; where federal surveys do not cover a territory adequately, the gap itself is reported.
- Program activity (spending, enrollment, services delivered) is reported **separately** from human outcomes.
- Causal language is used only where a credible research design supports it.

6.4 Data Security and Retention

Each data system has a documented security plan, access controls limited to authorized staff, audit logs, a retention schedule and a deletion procedure. Breaches are reported as required by law.

6.5 Publication Schedule

Each reporting duty has a published schedule. The proposed quarterly retirement cost tracker and the annual adequacy statement (Category C) would follow schedules set in statute.

PART 7: ACCESSIBILITY AND HUMAN PROTECTIONS

7.1 Accessibility

Federal electronic and information technology must provide individuals with disabilities access comparable to that of others, unless an undue burden would be imposed, in which case an alternative means of access is required [R2]. Beyond that requirement, every program provides plain-language materials, large-print and audio formats, accessible forms, and offline alternatives.

7.2 Language Access

Materials in languages other than English are published only after **qualified human review**. Machine translation is never represented as professionally reviewed. Language access plans identify the languages most used by people each program serves, including in each territory.

7.3 Human Protections

- **Voluntary participation:** no person is required to retire, buy a home, move, or enter or leave any form of care.
- **Supported decision-making** as a less restrictive alternative to guardianship.
- **Privacy and consent** for personal and benefit data.
- **Anti-retaliation** for people who complain or appeal.
- **Protection from exploitation:** coordination with Adult Protective Services and financial institutions.
- **Technology-assisted services** are opt-in and revocable; a named human is responsible for every automated alert or decision affecting care; data are minimized and never sold; there is no covert monitoring, and sensors in private spaces require informed consent.
- **Safeguarding** of people in crisis: every service lists emergency and crisis resources and refers people appropriately.

7.4 Human Impact and Cumulative Assessment

Before implementation, each program documents its intended beneficiaries, populations that may be disadvantaged, foreseeable harms, populations that may have been overlooked (including people in the territories, people with disabilities, people with limited English proficiency, people without internet access, Tribal communities and rural residents), and its interactions with existing programs and other proposed policies, including benefit cliffs.

PART 8: ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS AND REMEDIES

8.1 Existing Appeal Systems (Category A)

Program	Existing process	Source
Social Security	Initial determination; reconsideration; hearing before an administrative law judge; Appeals Council review; review in federal district court	[R3]
Social Security judicial review	A civil action in the district court of the United States, commenced within sixty days after notice of the final decision (with further time allowed by the Commissioner)	[R4]
Medicaid	The State agency must grant an opportunity for a hearing to any individual who believes the agency has taken an action erroneously, among others	[R5]
Public housing	The public housing agency's grievance procedure applies to individual grievances between the tenant and the agency, subject to stated exceptions	[R6]

These systems are preserved. Proposed changes improve access to them (notices, representation, timeliness) rather than replacing them.

8.2 Due Process Standards

Notice and an opportunity to be heard before benefits are reduced or ended; an impartial decision-maker; a written decision with reasons; and information on the next level of appeal.

8.3 Proposed Complaint and Ombudsman Routes (Category C; decision open)

Option	Description	Considerations
Existing agencies only	Enforcement through current authority	No new cost; uneven protection

Option	Description	Considerations
Ombudsman and complaint process	An independent complaint route with response time standards	Moderate cost; accessible to individuals
Private right of action plus agency enforcement	Individuals may enforce specified rights in court	Strongest protection; litigation and cost considerations

The choice among these is an open legislative decision. Remedies are specified in statute for every proposed statutory right before statutory text is drafted.

8.4 Remedies Within Existing Authority

Corrected determinations; retroactive payment where the law provides; waiver of overpayments; reinstatement of services; referral to enforcement agencies for discrimination or integration violations.

PART 9: FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL DEPENDENCIES

9.1 Separate Ledgers

Ledger	Includes	Scoring body
A. Social Security trust funds	Benefit and payroll-tax changes	SSA Office of the Chief Actuary; CBO
B. General-fund benefits	SSI; any retirement reality supplement	CBO
C. Credit programs	Retirement mortgage; reverse-mortgage alternative	CBO; OMB under federal credit reform
D. Discretionary programs	Housing production, Ombudsman, Adult Protective Services, the reality-standard board, the Civil Results Office, outreach	CBO
E. Medicaid and Medicare	Home and community-based services, estate recovery, staffing, health benefits	CBO; CMS Office of the Actuary
F. Tax expenditures	Any credits or deductions	Joint Committee on Taxation

Ledger A is never netted against Ledgers B through F in public materials.

9.2 Operational Dependencies

Dependency	Why it matters
Appropriations	New programs, outreach, systems and staffing cannot proceed without them
Systems	Eligibility, payment, notice and data systems must be built and tested
Workforce	Field offices, call centers, appeals staff, ombudsman staff and direct-care workers
Data agreements	Interagency and federal–state–territorial agreements

Dependency	Why it matters
State and territorial capacity	Medicaid, housing and nutrition programs are administered locally
Independent estimates	No proposal proceeds to legislative text without the required estimates
Legal review	Authority, federalism and due-process questions

9.3 Service Delivery

Social Security field-office access, telephone wait times and disability decision times depend on appropriations and staffing. Baselines are to be established and reported independently.

PART 10: IMPLEMENTATION READINESS REQUIREMENTS

10.1 Readiness Gates

A program may launch only when each of the following is documented and verified:

1. Statutory authority confirmed by counsel.
2. Appropriations available.
3. Final regulations published after notice and comment.
4. Systems built, tested and secured.
5. Accessible notices and forms tested with users.
6. Language materials reviewed by qualified human reviewers.
7. Appeals and complaint processes staffed.
8. Data-sharing agreements signed and privacy reviews completed.
9. Outcome baselines recorded (Part 11).
10. Human impact and cumulative assessments completed (Part 7.4).
11. Corrective-action procedures in place (Part 13).
12. Territorial and Tribal consultation completed where the program affects them.

10.2 Sequencing

First 100 days (Categories A and B, subject to counsel): establish the working group; direct the statistical assessment of an elderly price index; review overpayment notices, waiver processing and withholding; begin outreach for Medicare Savings Programs and Extra Help; review assisted-housing recertification rules; improve facility ownership data publication; issue fair-lending guidance; set integration enforcement priorities; begin Tribal consultation; transmit legislative proposals with independent estimates.

After enactment (Category C): appoint the reality-standard board and propose the retirement methodology; issue housing program regulations; issue home and community-based services guidance; launch programs as they pass the readiness gates; publish the first adequacy statement and outcome report; obtain a baseline review from GAO.

10.3 Transition Protections

No person is to lose a benefit, eligibility or protection during transition. Where a new rule is more favorable, it applies; where existing law is more favorable, it continues. Notices explain every change before it takes effect.

PART 11: INDEPENDENT OUTCOME MEASUREMENT

11.1 The Civil Results Office (Category C)

An independent, government-wide **Office of Civil Results Evaluation** ("Civil Results Office"), established by separate legislation, would set baselines before programs begin; agree measurable objectives; independently verify agency-reported outcomes through data audits, sampling and surveys; report by program, region and population; publish annual outcome reports separate from activity reports; and recommend reopening issues when indicators deteriorate. It would not run programs, enforce laws or decide individual cases. It is distinct from the Office of Constitutional Rights Enforcement proposed in earlier Cordova 2028 materials. Until it exists, GAO and Inspectors General would be asked to perform comparable reviews.

11.2 Outcome Domains

Income adequacy; housing affordability and stability; homelessness; emergency savings; food security; healthcare access and medication affordability; voluntary employment; retirement freedom (preferred versus feasible and actual retirement age); independent living; avoidable institutionalization; quality of care; elder abuse and exploitation; social connection; caregiver well-being; personal autonomy; public service; and intergenerational sustainability.

11.3 Baselines and Reopening

Baselines are recorded before any program starts. An issue in the National Retirement Issues Register is never marked resolved because a law passed or money was spent. It is reopened if its main indicator worsens beyond a set threshold in two consecutive reporting periods, or if verified public submissions show a material new harm.

PART 12: TERRITORIAL IMPLEMENTATION

12.1 Current-Law Differences

Under current law, SSI applies in the fifty states, the District of Columbia and the Northern Mariana Islands; Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands operate earlier adult assistance programs under payment ceilings; territorial Medicaid financing is capped; and Puerto Rico and American Samoa receive nutrition block grants [R7][R8][R9]. Any change requires Congress (Category C).

12.2 Implementation Standards

- Consultation with territorial governments, legislatures and residents before any change, reporting governmental positions separately from resident and community views.
- Respect for freely supported local arrangements, after independent evaluation of their adequacy.
- Transition provisions that preserve the protections of existing recipients.
- Technical assistance and administrative capacity for territorial agencies.
- Outcome reporting for each territory, including data gaps.
- No presumption of consent from historical arrangements or administrative silence; no predetermined political status.

PART 13: CORRECTIVE ACTION AND UNINTENDED-HARM REVIEW

13.1 Purpose

Every program must be able to find, investigate and correct unintended harm, subject to appropriate legal authority and procedural safeguards.

13.2 Triggers for Review

- An outcome indicator worsens beyond its threshold.
- A pattern of complaints, appeals reversals or ombudsman findings.
- An independent evaluation, GAO or Inspector General finding.
- Verified public submissions showing a material new harm.
- A disproportionate effect on a particular population or jurisdiction.

13.3 Procedure

1. **Identify** the potential harm and the affected population; record the evidence.
2. **Investigate** under a documented method, with the responsible agency and an independent reviewer where appropriate.
3. **Decide** on corrective action within existing authority, or recommend statutory change to Congress where authority is lacking.
4. **Remedy** affected individuals where the law allows (corrected determinations, retroactive payment, waivers, reinstated services).
5. **Report** publicly what was found and what was done, protecting individual privacy.
6. **Monitor** whether the correction worked.

13.4 Safeguards

Procedural fairness for affected individuals and providers; no public naming of an entity without primary-source evidence, legal review and an opportunity to respond; separation between the evaluating body and the program being evaluated.

PART 14: LONG-TERM AND INTERGENERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Implementation decisions are assessed for consequences beyond a single administration: the long-term financing of each program, institutional sustainability, and the effects on people already retired, people approaching retirement, and younger and future generations. Long-term effects are reported with their uncertainty and the independent projections on which they rely.

PART 15: OPEN DECISIONS AFFECTING IMPLEMENTATION

Twenty legislative decisions remain open in the comprehensive policy paper, and their outcomes will shape implementation. Those with the largest operational effect are: the enforcement model; which rights become enforceable; housing eligibility and mortgage terms; the reach of rental protections; care-facility ownership conditions and staffing; SSI resource limits and estate recovery; and the full retirement age, including voluntary full eligibility at 60, which would be evaluated together with healthcare eligibility, coverage continuity before Medicare and the healthcare-bridge alternatives. Territorial financing and transition mechanisms are also open and are being studied separately. Eight foundational directions have been approved for drafting; they are not final adoption.

References

[R1] Social Security Administration, Program Operations Manual System, Emergency Message EM-25029 REV (overpayment withholding).

[R2] 29 U.S.C. 794d (Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act). https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2023-title29/html/USCODE-2023-title29-chap16-subchapV-sec794d.htm

[R3] 20 C.F.R. 404.900 (Social Security administrative review process). https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2024-title20-vol2/xml/CFR-2024-title20-vol2-sec404-900.xml

[R4] 42 U.S.C. 405(g) (judicial review). https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2023-title42/html/USCODE-2023-title42-chap7-subchapII-sec405.htm

[R5] 42 C.F.R. 431.220 (Medicaid: when a hearing is required). https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2024-title42-vol4/xml/CFR-2024-title42-vol4-sec431-220.xml

[R6] 24 C.F.R. 966.51 (public housing grievance procedure: applicability). https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2024-title24-vol4/xml/CFR-2024-title24-vol4-sec966-51.xml

[R7] 42 U.S.C. 1382c(e) and 1301(a)(1); Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, §502.

[R8] 42 U.S.C. 1308 and 1396d(b) (territorial payment limits and matching).

[R9] 7 U.S.C. 2028 (nutrition block grants for Puerto Rico and American Samoa).

The Social Security Dignity, Autonomy, and Housing Security Act of 2029 is proposed policy under development. It is not enacted law and does not change anyone's existing benefits.

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