



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

SAVE Optimization for Voter Verification



July 31, 2025

Immigration Records and Identity Services (IRIS)
Verification Division (VER)



Disclaimer

This presentation is intended for federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local benefit-granting agencies. This presentation provides basic guidance about the rules and responsibilities during the U.S. citizenship and immigration status verification process. This guidance may change. For up-to-date information, visit uscis.gov/SAVE.

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Key Topics

- 1 SAVE Overview
- 2 SAVE Optimization for Voter Verification
- 3 SAVE Verification – How it Works
- 4 Registering for SAVE

SAVE Overview

Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) is an information service for authorized federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local agencies to verify the U.S. Citizenship or immigration status of individuals within their jurisdiction.

Provides fast, secure, and reliable U.S. Citizenship and immigration status verification and information to assist user agencies in maintaining program integrity.

Types of Registered Agencies

- ☆ Federal Agencies – **50+**
- ☆ State Agencies – **400+**
- ☆ Local Government Agencies – **700+**
- ☆ Department of Motor Vehicles – **50+**

Types of Entitlements

- ☆ Social Security Benefits
- ☆ Education Grants and Assistance
- ☆ State Driver's Licenses & State ID Cards
- ☆ Occupational & Professional Licenses



Health Care



Social Security Benefits



Education Grants and Assistance



State Driver's Licenses
State ID Cards



Occupational &
Professional
Licenses



What SAVE Does Not Do

SAVE does not:

- X** ...store citizenship and immigration information in a database. Instead, SAVE accesses numerous systems (DHS, DoJ, SSA) to verify the U.S. citizenship and immigration status of program applicants and participants.
- X** ...determine eligibility for participation. These determinations are made by the administering agency.
- X** ...provide all necessary information to determine voter eligibility. For example, SAVE does not provide place of residence, criminal records, etc.
- X** ...provide historical citizenship or immigration information. SAVE responses are a point-in-time check.

SAVE Optimization – The Challenge

REQUIREMENT

USCIS is required by 8 U.S.C. § 1373(c) to respond to inquiries from Federal, state, or local government agencies seeking to verify or ascertain the U.S. citizenship or immigration status of any individual within the jurisdiction of the agency for any purpose authorized by law - including for voting agencies to conduct voter verification (i.e., voter registration and/or voter list maintenance).

CHALLENGE

States raised concerns about the ability of SAVE to meet their needs due to:

- Cost/fees for system use;
- Inability to obtain and provide DHS-issued enumerators; and
- Having to submit cases individually instead of in bulk.



Voter Registration Application
Before completing this form, review the General, Application, and State specific instructions.

Are you a citizen of the United States of America?		Yes ☐ No ☐		This space for office use only.	
Will you be 18 years old on or before election day?		Yes ☐ No ☐			
If you checked "No" in response to either of these questions, do not complete form. (Please see state specific instructions for rules regarding eligibility to register prior to age 18.)					
1	Mr. ☐ Miss ☐ Mrs. ☐	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	II ☐ Jr. ☐ III ☐ Sr. ☐ IV ☐
2		Home Address		Apt. or Lot #	City/Town
3		Address Where You Get Your Mail If Different From Above		State	Zip Code
4		Date of Birth		Telephone Number (optional)	State
5		Month Day Year		Zip Code	
6		Choice of Party		ID Number - (See item 6 in the instructions for your state)	
7		Race or Ethnic Group		6	
8		(See item 7 in the instructions for your state)		8	
I have reviewed my state's instructions and I swear/affirm that:					
• I am a United States citizen					
• I understand the requirements of my state and					
• I agree to provide the information requested and to be					
• I agree to be subject to any oath required.					
9					
The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information, I may be fined, imprisoned, or (if not a U.S. citizen) deported from or refused entry to the United States.					
Please sign full name (or put mark) ▲					
Date: Month Day Year					

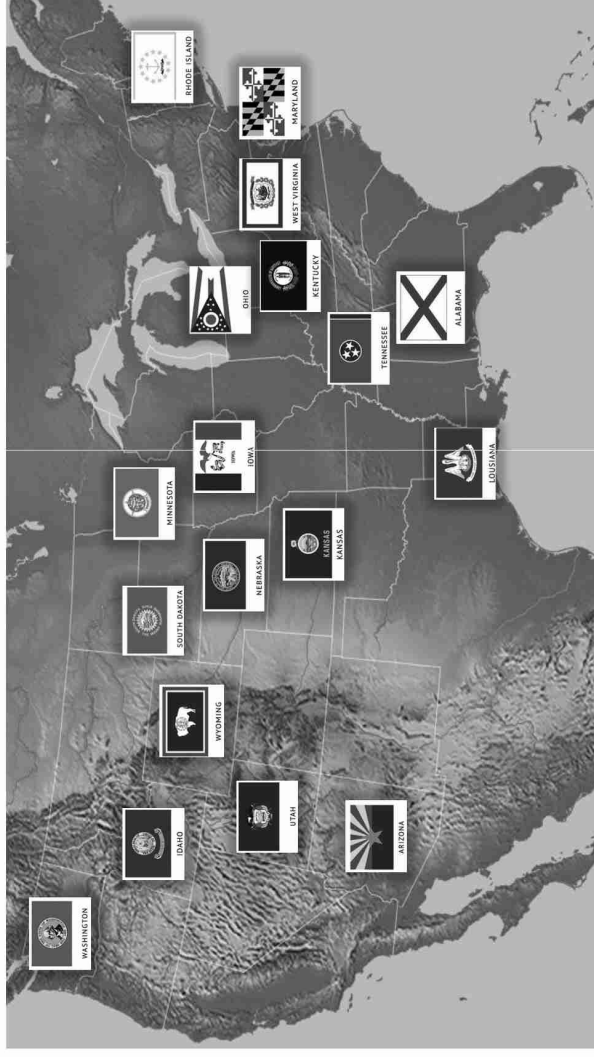
SAVE Optimization – What we’ve Learned

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

USCIS met with representatives from 18+ states, the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), and the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED) for listening sessions regarding the current voter registration processes and their ideas about future functionality.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM STATES

- Top 2 items needed to verify is U.S. Citizenship status and Death Status
- Top 2 features expressed were ability to submit cases in bulk and provide the capability to verify using a non-DHS enumerator
- Top budget item was eliminating SAVE transaction charges

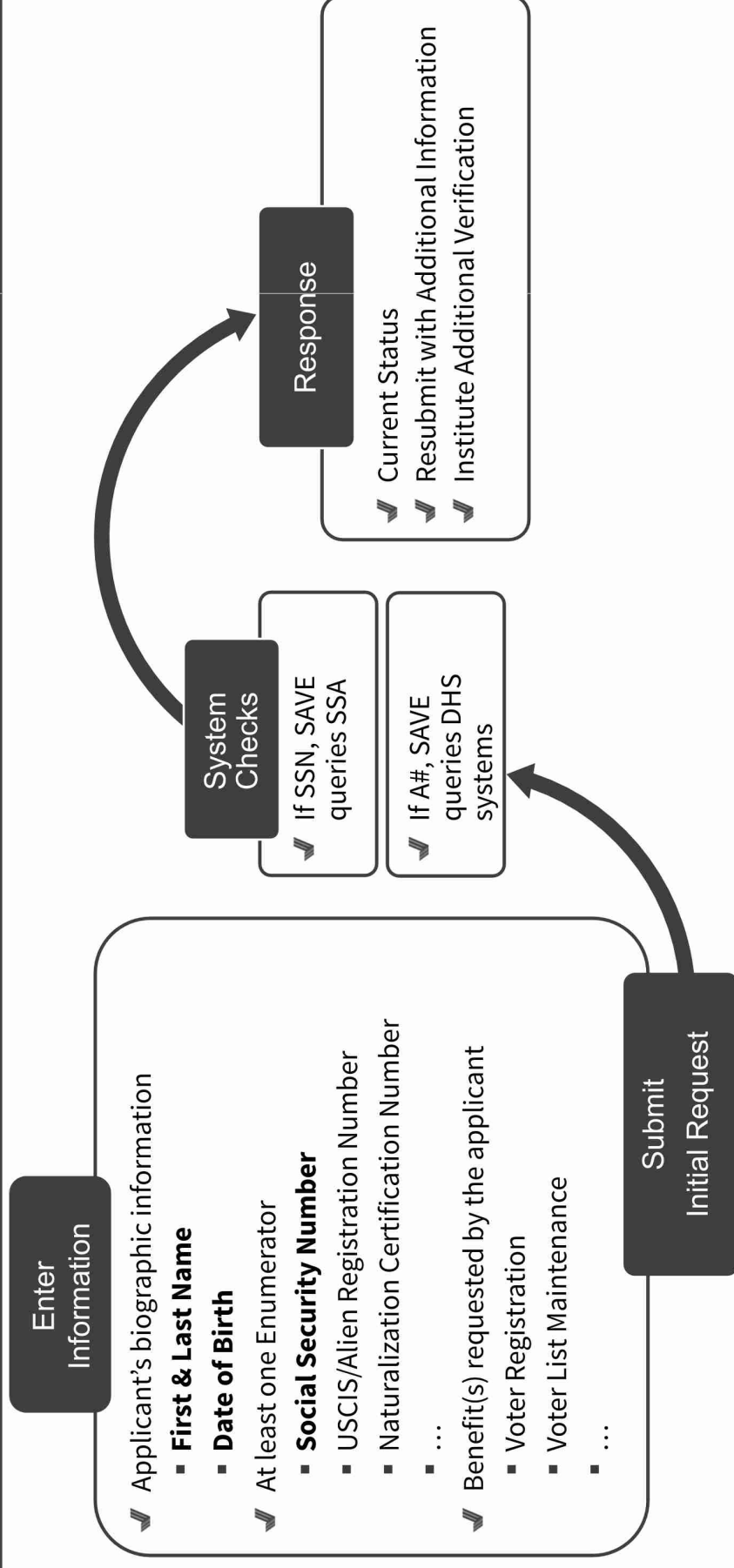


SAVE Optimization – Where We Are (and Going)

- ✓ **Elimination of Fees** for state and local agencies (April 15)
- ✓ **Bulk Upload capability** to reduce manual case submission process (May 1)
- ✓ **Web Agency Audit Report** to improve ability to view and download cases (May 1)
- ✓ **Integration with SSA and case submission using Social Security Number** as non-DHS enumerator (May 16)
- ✓ **Error File Download** to improve error identification and resubmission (July 11)
- ✓ **File History Dashboard** to improve file retrieval for bulk uploaded cases (July 11)
- ✓ **Bulk Escalation Capability** to improve user ability to escalate IAV cases (July 11)



SAVE Verification – How it Works



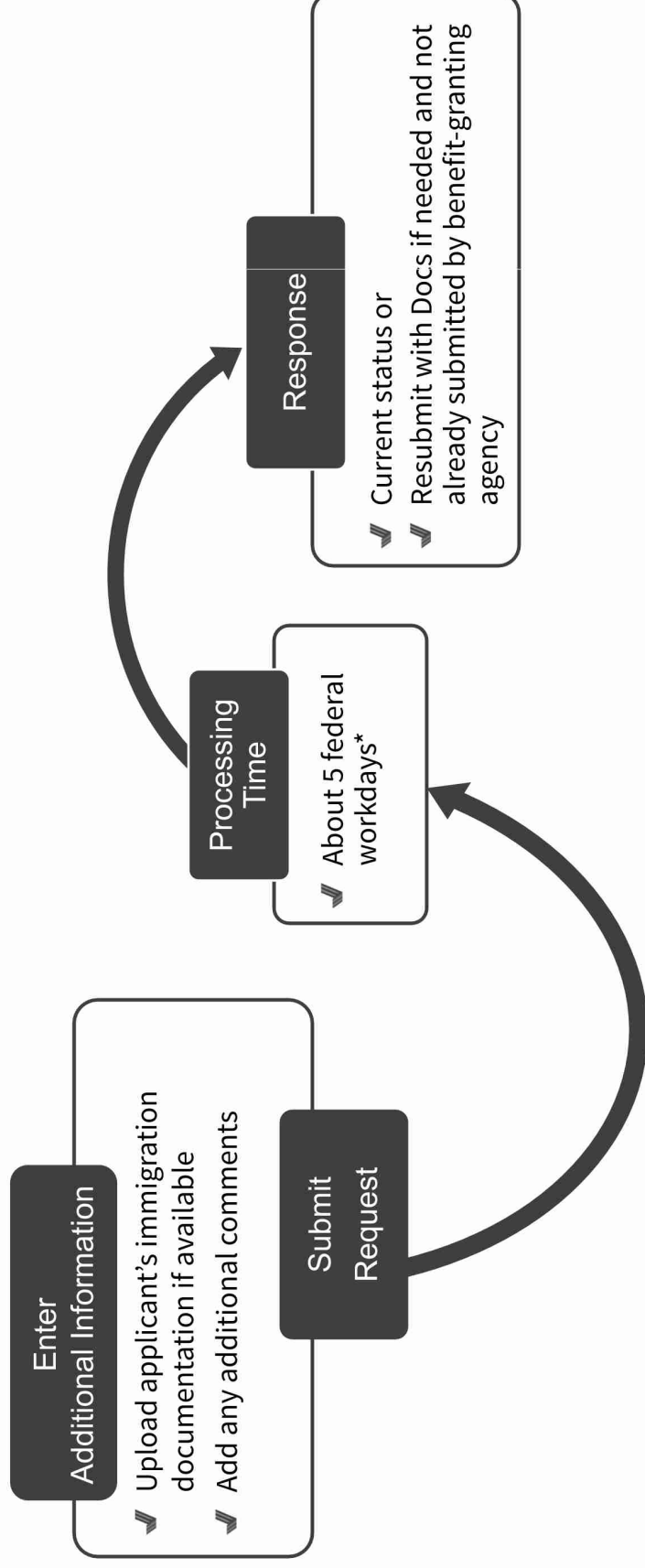
SAVE Verification – How it Works

SAVE Responses include:

SAVE Response	Description
United States Citizen (per SSA Record)	If case matches SSA record and citizenship code is USC, without a foreign-born indicator.
Deceased (per SSA)	If case matches the SSA Death Master File record.
Unable to Return Record from SSA – Resubmit with Additional Information	If no match with SSA. Case is closed with no escalation.
Immigration Enumerator Required – Resubmit with Additional Information	If match with SSA with Foreign Born indicator but no A-number available to determine citizenship or immigration status.
Full Social Security Number Required – Resubmit with Additional Information	If multiple matches with SSA using Name, DoB, and last four digits of SSN.
United States National	If case matches SSA and is from American Samoa without record of naturalization.
SAVE Immigration Status Response	If the case matches SSA record, has a foreign indicator, and A# is returned that matches DHS records. <i>Note: This response may include USC or any of the Non-USC immigration statuses.</i>
Institute Additional Verification	If the case matches SSA record, has foreign indicator, and A# is returned that does not match DHS records.

Manual Verification Process

If SAVE response is Non-USC or Institute Additional Verification:



SAVE Registration

Agencies may be eligible to register for SAVE if they:

- Are a federal, state, territorial, tribal, or local government agency; and
- Are authorized by law to verify the citizenship or immigration status of individuals within their agency's jurisdiction.

Agencies must provide the legal authority for:

- Verifying the U.S. citizenship or immigration status of their applicants and/or participants.

Businesses, companies, organizations, and/or individuals may not register.



Current Participation (as of July 21)

23
States with SAVE Voter
Verification MOA

53
Agencies with SAVE
Voter Verification MOA

SAVE Registration



Step 1: Apply for SAVE

- Determine eligibility to register and check if already registered
- Complete and return SAVE registration checklist within 30 days
- Await USCIS Legal Review



Step 2: Sign SAVE Agreements

- Enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with USCIS outlining the terms (including financial and billing terms), conditions, and guidelines for participating in SAVE
- Review, sign and return the Agreements



Step 3: Receive SAVE Access

- Receive a link to register to use SAVE
- Upon completed registration receive an Agency ID, Username and Password and Training

SAVE

SAVE Resources for Voter Verification

SAVE Website Message Center – News & Alerts – The SAVE website provides News & Alerts on the most up-to-date information about SAVE.

Guide to Understanding SAVE Responses - This guide introduces seven new responses when a SAVE case is created using a Social Security Number (SSN) as the applicant's enumerator.

SAVE Tutorial - The SAVE tutorial helps SAVE users use SAVE correctly and efficiently.

SAMPLE MOA on Website (for voter verification)

The SAMPLE MOA provides an example of templated language for agencies that would like to participate in the SAVE program for voter registration and voter list maintenance purposes.

SAVE System of Record Notice (SORN)

This system of records allows DHS/USCIS to collect and maintain records on applicants for public benefits, licenses, grants, governmental credentials, or other statutorily authorized purposes to operate SAVE.



Message Center

Optimizing SAVE: New Options to Create Cases with a Social Security Number and by Bulk Upload

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has enhanced the SAVE case creation process for users that log in to SAVE using a web browser. Please see the USCIS Deploys Common Sense Tools to Verify Voters press release.

Users are now able to create cases using a Social Security number (SSN) as the applicant's enumerator. Cases created with an SSN will receive a standard SAVE case response. If SAVE is unable to locate a record when only an SSN is provided, a message will be returned: "Unable to Locate a Record Using SSN". Please contact the Customer Support team for more information.

[illegible]

Updated Versions Coming Soon:

SAVE Digital Poster – Used by agencies as a method to provide written notice

SAVE Fast Facts for Voter Registration & List Maintenance – Summarizes key facts and addresses frequently asked questions

SAVE Program Guide – Full program guide

Questions?

