**Access Technology Affordability Act Estimated Cost**

**National Federation of the Blind**

**January 5, 2017**

**General Figures**

Blind individuals who claimed the additional standard deduction (2014): 312,433[[1]](#endnote-1)

Blind individuals under the age of 21 (2016): 62,528[[2]](#endnote-2)

**SSI Figures (2016)**

People receiving federally administered monthly SSI benefits: 8,300,000[[3]](#endnote-3)

Avg. monthly payment: $542.38[[4]](#endnote-4)

Avg. yearly benefit: $6,508.56

Blind recipients of federally administered SSI payments: 68,344[[5]](#endnote-5) (about 1% of total SSI recipients)

Avg. monthly payment to blind recipients (2016): $559.76[[6]](#endnote-6)

Avg. yearly benefit to blind recipients: $6,717.12

**SSDI Figures (2016)**

People receiving federally administered monthly SSDI benefits: 10,153,205[[7]](#endnote-7)

Blind recipients: 101,532 (assume the percentage of blind SSDI recipients equals blind SSI recipients)

Avg. monthly payment: $ 1,115.82[[8]](#endnote-8)

Avg. yearly benefit: $13,389.84

**Assumptions & Calculations**

Total Blind (IRS + APH + SSI) (Assume those on SSDI file IRS 1040): 443,305

Assume 10 percent of Total number of blind use ATAA credit per year: 44,330

Assume credit claimed is one-third of three year max: $833

ANNUAL COST TO GOVERNMENT: ($36,962,890)

Assume increased access to technology allows 1 percent of blind SSI recipients (683) to stop receiving benefits: $4,587,792 saved

Assume increased access to technology allows 1 percent of blind SSDI recipients (1,015) to stop receiving benefits: $13,590,687 saved

“Working blind” (Legally blind (IRS) + blind recipients of SSI): 380,777

Assume 10 percent of the working blind (38,077), i.e. those who used the ATAA credit, are able to pay, on average, $750 more in federal income and payroll taxes due to increased productivity, raises, better jobs, etc.: $28,557,750 gained

**SUMMARY**

Annual Cost of ATAA: ($36,962,890)

Annual SSI Savings: $4,587,792

Annual SSDI Savings: $13,590,687

Additional Annual Tax Revenue: $28,557,750

**TOTAL ANNUAL SAVINGS: $9,773,339**

1. Austin, Jeffrey V. (Disclosure Manager, Internal Revenue Service). 2017. Response to a Freedom of Information Act request submitted by Kimie Beverly (National Federation of the Blind). Received January 31, 2017. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. American Printing House for the Blind. 2016. *Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2016*. American Printing House for the Blind, Inc. <http://www.aph.org/files/annual-reports/APH-Annual-Report-FY16.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Social Security Administration. 2017. *SSI Annual Statistical Report, 2016,* (Table 4). <https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/ssi_asr/2016/ssi_asr16.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. *Ibid*. (Table 11). [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. *Ibid.* (Table 6). [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. *Ibid*. (Table 11). [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Social Security Administration. 2017. *Annual Statistical Report on the Social Security Disability Insurance Program, 2016*, (Chart 1). <https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/di_asr/2016/di_asr16.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. *Ibid*. (Table 4). [↑](#endnote-ref-8)