

Effective Nov. 19, the North Platte Social Security office will be open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. CT—a reduction of 30 minutes each weekday.

In addition, beginning Jan. 2, 2013, the office will close to the public at 12 noon every Wednesday.

While agency employees will continue to work their regular hours, this shorter public window will allow them to complete face-to-face interviews and process claims work without incurring the cost of overtime.

The significantly-reduced funding provided by Congress under the continuing resolution for the first six months of the fiscal year makes it impossible for the agency to provide the overtime needed to handle service to the public as it has done in the past, according to office staff at North Platte.

In addition, on Nov. 23, the day after Thanksgiving, all Social Security field offices will be closed to the public. As done last year, employees working that day will focus on reducing backlogged workloads.

Most Social Security services do not require a visit to a local office.

Many services, including applying for retirement, disability or Medicare benefits, signing up for direct deposit, replacing a Medicare card, obtaining a proof of income letter or informing us of a change of address or telephone number are available at www.socialsecurity.gov or by dialing the toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213.

People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call our TTY number, 1-800-325-0778.