

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 has been an important year for the agency with regard to financial management. We continued our commitment to excellence in financial reporting by receiving an unqualified audit opinion on our FY 2009 financial statements for the 16th consecutive year. The unqualified opinion attests to the fair presentation of our financial statements and demonstrates the discipline and accountability essential to our responsibilities as stewards of Social Security funds.

We also received an unqualified opinion from our auditors on our assertion that SSA's internal control over financial reporting was operating effectively during FY 2009. The auditors determined that we had no material weaknesses, but did identify a significant deficiency in internal control by reporting that we need to further strengthen controls to protect our information. We are committed to pursuing corrective action until the deficiency is corrected. Further discussion of the significant deficiency may be found in the *Systems and Controls* and the *Auditor's Reports* sections of this report.

For the 11th consecutive year, we also received the prestigious Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting from the Association of Government Accountants for our *FY 2008 Performance and Accountability Report*. The receipt of this award demonstrates our commitment to accountability and quality reporting.

We also continued our tradition of implementing, developing, and using information technology advancements that will provide relevant, reliable, and timely accounting and management information. During FY 2009, SSA became the first Federal agency to upgrade our existing accounting system with Release 12, the latest Federal Financials software from Oracle. Release 12 is a major milestone toward meeting the Financial Management Line of Business requirements and offers enhancements to improve internal controls. It enables us to review and analyze financial data with greater ease, as well as increasing the integrity of accounting data. We also continued planning the implementation of an improved cost accounting system which will better manage and account for resources and enhance decision-making.

In addition, we have several important and ambitious projects that we are undertaking with the funds appropriated to us through the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (Recovery Act) of 2009. As the Senior Accountable Official, I am responsible for overseeing how we use and account for the Recovery Act resources. We received funding to process retirement and disability workloads and to construct and partially equip a new data center to replace our aging National Computer Center. We also received funding to issue one-time economic recovery payments totaling over \$13 billion to almost 53 million eligible individuals. SSA's Recovery Act Risk Management Plan includes effective procedures to ensure full accountability and transparency in accordance with the standards established by Congress. These projects are continuously monitored and sound internal controls are in place to aid us in effectively accounting for all Recovery Act Funds.

I would like to acknowledge our SSA employees who are committed to building upon a tradition of sound fiscal stewardship and responsible management of the programs entrusted to us. We share a deep commitment to upholding the highest standards of integrity in discharging our fiduciary responsibilities to our fellow Americans.

Mary Glenn-Croft

Mary Glenn-Croft
Chief Financial Officer
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