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#### APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE/BACKGROUND

#### **AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION**

The Limitation on Administrative Expenses (LAE) account is authorized by section 201(g) of the Social Security Act. The authorization language makes available for expenditure, out of any or all of the Trust Funds, such amounts as Congress deems appropriate for administering Title II, Title VIII, Title XVI, and Title XVIII of the Social Security Act for which we are responsible and Title XVIII of the Act for which the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services is responsible.

# Table 3.1—Authorizing Legislation

(Dollars in thousands)

	2024 Amount Authorized	2024 Enacted <sup>1,2</sup>	2025 Amount Authorized	2025 Enacted <sup>3,4</sup>	2026 Amount Authorized	2026 Estimate <sup>5</sup> ,
Title II, Section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act	Indefinite	\$14,226,978	Indefinite	\$14,298,978	Indefinite	\$14,792,978

FY 2026 Congressional Justification

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-47). The total includes \$1,851,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including the costs associated with SSI redeterminations, full medical Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR), work CDRs, Continuing Disability Investigation (CDI) units, and the prosecution of fraud by Special Assistant United States Attorneys (SAUSA), comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding and a \$1,578,000,000 allocation adjustment to remain available for 18 months through March 31, 2025. P.L. 118-47 allows us to transfer up to \$15,100,000 of program integrity funds from the LAE account to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The total also includes \$150,000,000 for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) State Supplement user fees and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the Social Security Protection Act (SSPA).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (P.L. 119-4). The total includes \$1,903,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including the costs associated with SSI redeterminations, full medical CDRs, work CDRs, CDI units, and the prosecution of fraud by SAUSAs, comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding and a \$1,630,000,000 allocation adjustment to remain available for 18 months through March 31, 2026. P.L. 119-4 allows us to transfer up to \$15,100,000 of program integrity funds from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The total also includes \$170,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the SSPA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The FY 2026 Budget includes \$2,397,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including the costs associated with SSI redeterminations, full medical CDRs, work CDRs, CDI units, and the prosecution of fraud by SAUSAs, comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding and a \$2,124,000,000 allocation adjustment, to remain available until March 31, 2027. The Budget includes transferring \$24,600,000 of program integrity funds from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The total includes up to \$170,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the SSPA.

#### **APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE**

For necessary expenses, including the hire and purchase of two passenger motor vehicles, and not to exceed \$20,000 for official reception and representation expenses, not more than \$14,621,978,000 may be expended, as authorized by section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act, from any one or all of the trust funds referred to in such section: Provided, That unobligated balances of funds provided under this paragraph at the end of fiscal year 2026 not needed for fiscal year 2026 shall remain available until expended to invest in the Social Security Administration information technology and telecommunications hardware and software infrastructure, including related equipment and non-payroll administrative expenses associated solely with this information technology and telecommunications infrastructure: Provided further, That the Commissioner of Social Security shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate prior to making unobligated balances available under the authority in the previous proviso: Provided further, That reimbursement to the trust funds under this heading for expenditures for official time for employees of the Social Security Administration pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 7131, and for facilities or support services for labor organizations pursuant to policies, regulations, or procedures referred to in section 7135(b) of such title shall be made by the Secretary of the Treasury, with interest, from amounts in the general fund not otherwise appropriated, as soon as possible after such expenditures are made.

From funds provided under the first paragraph under this heading, not more than \$2,397,000,000, to remain available through March 31, 2027, is for the costs associated with continuing disability reviews under titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act, including work-related continuing disability reviews to determine whether earnings derived from services demonstrate an individual's ability to engage in substantial gainful activity, for the cost

associated with conducting redeterminations of eligibility under title XVI of the Social Security Act, for the cost of co-operative disability investigation units, and for the cost associated with the prosecution of fraud in the programs and operations of the Social Security Administration by Special Assistant United States Attorneys: Provided, That, of such amount, \$273,000,000 is provided to meet the terms of section 251(b)(2)(B)(ii)(III) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and \$2,124,000,000 is additional new budget authority specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(B) of such Act: Provided further, That, of the additional new budget authority described in the preceding proviso, \$24,600,000 shall be transferred to the "Office of Inspector General", Social Security Administration, for the cost of jointly operated co-operative disability investigation units: Provided further, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: Provided further, That the Commissioner shall provide to the Congress (at the conclusion of the fiscal year) a report on the obligation and expenditure of these funds, similar to the reports that were required by section 103(d)(2) of Public Law 104-121 for fiscal years 1996 through 2002: Provided further, That none of the funds described in this paragraph shall be available for transfer or reprogramming except as specified in this paragraph.

In addition, \$170,000,000 to be derived from administration fees in excess of \$5.00 per supplementary payment collected pursuant to section 1616(d) of the Social Security Act or section 212(b)(3) of Public Law 93-66, which shall remain available until expended: Provided, That to the extent that the amounts collected pursuant to such sections in fiscal year 2026 exceed \$170,000,000, the amounts shall be available in fiscal year 2027 only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts.

In addition, up to \$1,000,000 to be derived from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c)

of the Social Security Protection Act, which shall remain available until expended.

Note—This account is operating under the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (Division A of Public Law 119-4).

#### LANGUAGE ANALYSIS

The Limitation on Administrative Expenses (LAE) appropriation language provides SSA with \$14,792,978,000 to administer the Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI), Disability Insurance (DI), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs, and to support the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in administering their programs. The LAE account receives funding from the OASI, DI, and Medicare trust funds for their shares of administrative expenses, from the General Fund of the Treasury for the SSI program's share of administrative expenses, and through applicable user fees. The language provides the limitation on the amounts that may be expended from these separate sources for our administrative expenses.

The American public depends on SSA to deliver timely and accurate Social Security services, and our request allows us to carry over unobligated balances for non-payroll automation and telecommunications investment costs in future fiscal years so that we can enhance our technology to improve customer service and reduce customer wait times.

SSA has a responsibility to safeguard the integrity of benefit programs, and we are requesting a total of \$2,397,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including funding for full medical Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR), SSI non-medical redeterminations of eligibility (redeterminations), work-related CDRs, CDR appeals workloads, cooperative disability investigation (CDI) units, and fraud prosecutions by Special Assistant United States Attorneys (SAUSAs). Our FY 2026 program integrity request is comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding to meet the terms of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, and a \$2,124,000,000 adjustment. In FY 2026, SSA may transfer up to \$24,600,000 from the adjustment funds to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units. This is an authorized use of the adjustment.

In addition to the appropriated amounts, we are requesting to spend up to \$170,000,000 in SSI State Supplement user fees and up to \$1,000,000 in non-attorney representative fees.

**Table 3.2—Appropriation Language Analysis** 

Language Provision	Explanation
"For necessary expenses, including the hire and purchase of two passenger motor vehicles, and not to exceed \$20,000 for official reception and representation expenses, not more than \$14,621,978,000	The language allows us to rent or purchase two passenger vehicles for official use and limits spending for hosted events or gatherings intended to promote the agency's mission to distinguished guests to no more
may be expended, as authorized by section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act, from any one or all of the trust funds referred to in such section."	than \$20,000. It also provides the annual appropriation for program administration, financed from the Social Security and Medicare trust funds and the General fund in accordance with section 201(g) of the Social Security Act.

Language Provision	Explanation
"Provided, That unobligated balances of funds provided under this paragraph at the end of fiscal year 2026 not needed for fiscal year 2026 shall remain available until expended to invest in the Social Security Administration information technology and telecommunications hardware and software infrastructure, including related equipment and non-payroll administrative expenses associated solely with this information technology and telecommunications infrastructure: Provided further, That the Commissioner of Social Security shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate prior to making unobligated balances available under the authority in the previous proviso"	The language allows us to carryover unobligated balances for non-payroll automation and telecommunications investment costs in future fiscal years.
"Provided further, That reimbursement to the trust funds under this heading for expenditures for official time for employees of the Social Security Administration pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 7131, and for facilities or support services for labor organizations pursuant to policies, regulations, or procedures referred to in section 7135(b) of such title shall be made by the Secretary of the Treasury, with interest, from amounts in the general fund not otherwise appropriated, as soon as possible after such expenditures are made."	The language provides that the general fund of the United States Treasury will reimburse the Social Security trust funds, with interest, for the portion of official expenses attributable to the trust funds.
"From funds provided under the first paragraph under this heading, not more than \$2,397,000,000, to remain available through March 31, 2027, is for the costs associated with continuing disability reviews under titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act, including work-related continuing disability reviews to determine whether earnings derived from services demonstrate an individual's ability to engage in substantial gainful activity, for the cost associated with conducting redeterminations of eligibility	The language appropriates \$2,397,000,000 for dedicated program integrity funding, to remain available through March 31, 2027, for full medical CDRs, redeterminations, work-related CDRs, CDI units, and fraud prosecutions by SAUSAs. The language transfers \$24,600,000 from the program integrity adjustment to the OIG to fund CDI unit activities. Additionally, this language prohibits the transfer or reprogramming of program integrity funding, except for the \$24,600,000 transfer to OIG. For additional

#### **Explanation Language Provision** under title XVI of the Social Security Act, for information, please refer to the Program the cost of co-operative disability Integrity section. investigation units, and for the cost associated with the prosecution of fraud in the programs and operations of the Social Security Administration by Special Assistant United States Attorneys: Provided, That, of such amount, \$273,000,000 is provided to meet the terms of section 251(b)(2)(B)(ii)(III) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and \$2,124,000,000 is additional new budget authority specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(B) of such Act: Provided further, *That, of the additional new budget authority* described in the preceding proviso, \$24,600,000 shall be transferred to the "Office of Inspector General", Social Security Administration, for the cost of jointly operated co-operative disability investigation units: Provided further, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: Provided further, That the Commissioner shall provide to the Congress (at the conclusion of the fiscal year) a report on the obligation and expenditure of these funds, similar to the reports that were required by section 103(d)(2) of Public Law 104-121 for fiscal years 1996 through 2002: Provided further, That none of the funds described in this paragraph shall be available for transfer or reprogramming except as specified in this paragraph." "In addition, \$170,000,000 to be derived The language makes available up to from administration fees in excess of \$5.00 \$170,000,000 collected from States for per supplementary payment collected administration of their supplementary pursuant to section 1616(d) of the Social payments to the SSI program. This assumes Security Act or section 212(b)(3) of Public the fee will increase from \$15.22 per check in Law 93-66, which shall remain available until FY 2025 to \$15.60 in FY 2026 according to increases established by statute. We receive expended: Provided, That to the extent that the amounts collected pursuant to such the amount collected above \$5.00 from each

fee.

sections in fiscal year 2026 exceed

\$170,000,000, the amounts shall be available

Language Provision	Explanation
in fiscal year 2027 only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts."	
"In addition, up to \$1,000,000 to be derived from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the Social Security Protection Act, which shall remain available until expended."	The language provides for the use of up to \$1,000,000 derived from fees charged to non-attorneys who apply for certification to represent claimants.

#### SIGNIFICANT ITEMS IN APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (P.L. 119-4) did not include a joint explanatory statement or report in conjunction with the enacted appropriation. We fulfilled all reporting requirements as requested in the explanatory statement accompanying the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-47), and consistent with Senate Report 118-84.

#### IMPROPER PAYMENTS AND ANTI-FRAUD

We take seriously our responsibilities to protect Social Security and to ensure eligible individuals receive the benefits to which they are entitled. Our internal quality reviews, validated by a third-party auditor, indicate that our FY 2023 Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) benefit payments were 99.76 percent free of overpayments and 99.94 percent free of underpayments. For the same year, 90.82 percent of all Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments were free of overpayment and 98.56 percent were free of underpayment. FY 2024 data are not yet available. While our payment accuracy rates are high, even small error rates add up to substantial improper payment amounts given the magnitude of the benefits we pay each year. For instance, in FY 2023, we issued about \$1.4 trillion in benefit payments, and our projected combined improper payments totaled \$4.1 billion for OASDI and \$6.5 billion for SSI.

We are committed to stewardship of taxpayer resources and improving the integrity of our programs by reducing improper payments through efforts such as targeting the root causes directly, streamlining our policies and procedures, automating our business processes, leveraging data through exchanges with Federal, State, and private partners, performing quality reviews, and conducting employee training. We are also simplifying our notices and increasing our communication with the public about how people can prevent improper payments, including reminders about reporting responsibilities.

We safeguard the integrity of our programs by efficiently and effectively preventing, detecting, deterring, and mitigating fraud and improper payments. We administer our anti-fraud program and improper payment initiatives and support the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) efforts to investigate fraud, develop consistent anti-fraud policies and processes, formulate anti-fraud initiatives, and align anti-fraud efforts with industry standards.

For additional information about our payment accuracy, root cause of improper payments, and efforts we are taking to improve payment accuracy, please refer to the Program Integrity exhibit, our <u>Annual Performance Report</u>, our <u>Agency Financial Report</u>, and <u>PaymentAccuracy.gov</u>.

#### **IMPROPER PAYMENT REDUCTION EFFORTS**

#### **Electronic Wage Reporting**

Wages are a leading cause of improper payments in the DI and SSI programs, because both programs rely on beneficiaries and recipients to report changes to their wage and employment information. Despite reporting requirements, beneficiaries and recipients do not always report or report timely, which leads to improper payments.<sup>3</sup> To combat these payment errors, we implemented the Payroll Information Exchange (PIE). PIE is an automated method of collecting wage and employment information from payroll providers. For those who provide authorization,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> We derive accuracy rates for OASDI based on a monthly sample of beneficiaries who reside in the U.S and outside of the 50 States or U.S. territories.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> We derive accuracy rates using data collected from the review of a national sample of SSI cases.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For DI, improper payments are generally due to work at Substantial Gainful Activity levels; for SSI, improper payments are largely due to wages contributing to countable income and related payment errors.

PIE reduces customer burden to report wage information and lessens the time our technicians spend obtaining and verifying wage data. On April 7, 2025, we began the phased implementation of PIE with an initial exchange of 1 million Social Security numbers. We will gradually increase the exchanges each month until reaching full implementation of the authorized population by September 2025. With implementation, we began receiving individuals' wage data directly from payroll providers and are using that data to adjust SSI benefits timely and flag DI records potentially requiring work reviews. Because PIE does not eliminate the need for beneficiary and recipient reporting in all cases, we continue to offer electronic wage reporting options to facilitate efficient self-reporting of wages. We built several reporting channels: the myWageReport online application, the automated SSI Telephone Wage Reporting system, and the SSA Mobile Wage Reporting application. Individuals can sign up to receive a text message or email reminder to report their prior month's wages. To promote the use of online wage-reporting applications, in FYs 2024 and 2025, we posted videos on wage reporting mechanisms on YouTube, Facebook, and Social Security TV in field office reception areas.

#### **Social Security Fairness Act**

On January 5, 2025, the <u>Social Security Fairness Act (SSFA) of 2023</u> was signed into law, repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). WEP and GPO reduced or offset Social Security benefits for beneficiaries who received a pension based on non-covered earnings. WEP and GPO no longer apply to benefits payable for months after December 2023. Errors relating to WEP and GPO had been one of the leading causes of OASDI improper payments. We moved quickly to implement the SSFA on an expedited schedule, releasing 2.2 million retroactive payments totaling \$15 billion by the end of April 2025. We manually processed an additional 83,000 complex cases that could not be automated. Since January 2025, we have received about 182,000 new applications from people who did not previously file for Social Security benefits because of WEP/GPO offset. Information on SSFA implementation is posted to SSA's website.

#### **Treasury Offset Program**

In March 2025, we resumed collection on delinquent debts referred to the Treasury Offset Program (TOP), which had been suspended in March 2020. TOP, operated by the Department of the Treasury's Bureau of Fiscal Service (BFS), is a fully automated, centralized offset program that intercepts Federal and State payments to collect delinquent debts owed to Federal and State agencies. Individuals who received pre-offset notifications prior to March 2020 may have their tax refunds or other Federal or State administrative payments offset to repay outstanding debts owed to SSA. We will resume mailing pre-offset notices in August 2025 to debtors who became eligible after March 2020 with referral to TOP no less than 60 days later. This initiative aims to enhance the recovery of delinquent debts and ensure compliance with Federal debt collection policies. Since the March 2025 resumption, Treasury has collected over \$50 million in delinquent SSA debts.

#### **Online Remittance Processing**

Our online remittance processing gives individuals multiple options for repaying debts. In FY 2024, we processed over 469,000 remittances and collected over \$94 million through our Pay.gov remittance channel, slightly more than was collected in FY 2023. In FY 2024, our Online Bill Pay option processed over 49,000 remittances—slightly more than in FY 2023—and collected over \$5 million. Combined with our previously implemented Social Security Electronic Remittance System, these remittance channels now process 67 percent of our remittances—an increase of 2 percent over FY 2023.

#### ANTI-FRAUD INITIATIVES

## **National Anti-Fraud Committee**

The National Anti-Fraud Committee (NAFC) provides a forum for senior leadership to collaborate and provide guidance on national and regional fraud challenges and mitigation opportunities at a strategic level. In March 2025, we updated the NAFC Charter to reflect current roles, responsibilities, objectives, and initiatives. We are convening regular meetings and the annual Anti-Fraud Summit, as mandated by the Charter. We plan to continue these efforts in FY 2026.

## **Enterprise Fraud Risk Management Program**

Our Enterprise Fraud Risk Management Program conducts Fraud Risk Assessments (FRA) and documents Fraud Risk Profiles for our major lines of business and services, consistent with the Government Accountability Office Framework, Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019, and OMB Circular No. A-123. Since the FY 2022 introduction of the Fraud Risk Review (FRR) and the Fraud Risk Determination (FRD), we have completed 7 FRRs and 17 FRDs through FY 2024. In FY 2024, we re-assessed fraud risks in the eServices and Administrative programs. We also completed the Enumeration and Debt Management Fraud Risk Profiles. In FYs 2025 and 2026, we anticipate initiating the re-assessment of fraud risk in the Representative Payee, SSI, OASDI, and Occupational programs. We also plan to complete the re-assessment and Fraud Risk Profiles of the eServices, Administrative, Representative Payee, and Disability programs.

Our Deputy Commissioners (DCs) play a critical role in EFRM governance. The DCs review and provide concurrence at the conclusion of the FRAs, annotate risk responses, and approve final Fraud Risk Profiles to ensure that we strategically assess fraud risks and allocate resources to address the most significant risks. As an example, the agency allocated resources to implement additional control measures to combat diversion of benefit fraud schemes perpetrated online and over the telephone. In FYs 2024–2026, the DCs will strategize fraud mitigation for the agency's various programs based on the results of our risk assessments.

#### **Enhanced Identity Proofing**

To mitigate fraud from identity theft, we have been strengthening identity-proofing controls

across all service channels. In April 2025, we introduced new anti-fraud capabilities for claims filed over the telephone. If irregularities are detected, the individual will be asked to complete in-person identify proofing to continue processing their claim. We also continually monitor our online services for evolving fraud threats and make appropriate adjustments to identity proofing controls as warranted.

We are currently strengthening our fraud controls. In March 2025, we began implementing the Department of the Treasury's BFS's Account Verification Service (AVS). AVS provides instant bank verification services to proactively and timely prevent fraud associated with direct deposit change requests.

## **Employee Training**

Our employees are the first line of defense against fraud. We remain dedicated to equipping employees with the tools they need to effectively prevent, detect, deter, and mitigate fraud. We regularly supplement initial new hire training with detailed policy instructions, reminders, and instructional videos. In FY 2024, our employees participated in annual, mandatory anti-fraud training, including content on the key elements of fraud, protecting vulnerable adults from abuse and exploitation, preventing enumeration fraud, and working with the Cooperative Disability Investigations (CDI) program.

## **Cooperative Disability Investigations**

CDI units are highly successful at detecting fraud before we make a disability decision, during appeals, and as part of continuing disability reviews. CDI units have contributed to a projected savings to taxpayers of more than \$8.2 billion since their inception. During the reporting period April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024, the work of CDI units led to 627 disability claims being denied or ceased due to participant ineligibility, \$40.9 million in projected savings for SSA programs, and \$9.9 million in SSA monetary accomplishments in the form of recoveries, fines, judgments, restitutions, and settlements. The CDI unit efforts also led to \$54.2 million in projected savings for non-SSA programs. The CDI program links our OIG and local law enforcement with Federal and State workers who handle disability cases. We currently have 50 CDI units covering all 50 States and U.S. territories.

#### **Fraud Prevention Units**

We have Federal Prevention Units (FPU) based in New York City, Kansas City, and San Francisco, which process fraud redeterminations involving schemes to defraud the agency. Each unit is comprised of disability processing specialists, management officials, and administrative support. These units improve our capacity to provide expert analytical and programmatic support to disability fraud investigations. As new schemes emerge, policy evolves, and legal disputes arise, we continuously adapt our support so the FPUs can effectively carry out the redetermination process. FPU actions help mitigate fraud losses for the agency and our customers.

### **Special Assistant United States Attorneys**

The Office of the General Counsel maintains a robust Criminal Fraud Program in which criminal fraud prosecutors are recruited, hired, and assigned as Special Assistant United States Attorneys (SAUSA) to 33 United States Attorney Offices around the country. These SAUSAs work with OIG and other law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute cases of alleged Social Security fraud and related crimes that would not otherwise be prosecuted in Federal courts. The Budget will support an expansion of SAUSAs to 50 offices by October 1, 2025, consistent with the Presidential memorandum, Preventing Illegal Aliens from Obtaining Social Security Act Benefits.

#### **CONSULTATIVE EXAMS**

In some cases, a claimant does not provide adequate evidence about their impairment(s) for the State Disability Determination Services (DDS) to determine whether they are disabled or blind. If we are unable to obtain adequate evidence from the claimant's medical source(s), we may request to purchase a physical or mental examination or test from a medical provider as evidence for the claim. We call these consultative examinations, or CEs.

The DDSs are responsible for maintaining good working relationships with the medical community to recruit and sustain a sufficient pool of physicians and specialists who are qualified and willing to conduct CEs. Since the beginning of FY 2022, the DDSs have been focused on restoring the network of active CE providers, which reached an inadequate level during the COVID-19 pandemic. The recruitment efforts of the DDSs have helped maintain a net gain of over 1,500 CE providers since FY 2022. The higher number of active providers in the network allows us to schedule CEs timely for all cases that need them, which improves overall processing time for disability claims. Although CE wait times can vary for claimants, as of March 2025, the average time between schedule date and the CE appointment date was 26.4 days—an improvement of around 8 days from FY 2022.

In FY 2024, the national CE rate was 35.5 percent, unchanged from FY 2023. The national CE cost per case increased from \$302.78 to \$317.53, and total CE costs also increased from \$355 million in FY 2023 to \$379 million in FY 2024. We include these higher medical costs for CEs in our fixed cost increases. The Budget assumes these rates continue into FY 2026 by state, and the recent regional realignment will not affect the overall totals.

Table 3.3 – FY 2024 Consultative Examination Counts and Cost Data<sup>1</sup>

FY 2024 CEs (All Workloads)	Annual Number of Cases Completed with at Least One CE <sup>2</sup>	CE Rate <sup>3</sup>	CE Costs <sup>4</sup>	CE Costs per Case <sup>5</sup>
National Total (DDS + Federal)	1,193,703	35.5%	\$379,035,537	\$317.53
ALL DDS	1,193,444	35.60%	\$378,936,940	\$317.52
<b>Boston Region</b>	39,825	28.20%	\$11,142,130	\$279.78
CT	10,595	32.60%	\$2,630,090	\$248.24

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Extended Service Team (EST) CE data and costs are included in the State amounts (VA, AR, OK). Number of cases include initial disability claims, disability reconsiderations, continuing disability reviews, and disability hearings completed with at least one CE.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Our systems track the number of cases with at least one paid CE, not the total number of CEs ordered and completed for any given case.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> CE rate is the number of completed cases for which at least one CE is ordered and paid compared to the total number of completed cases. This rate does not reflect the total volume of CEs ordered and paid. Our systems do not include the level of detail to identify if CEs were conducted by the treating medical provider.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> CE costs represent costs for all CEs, including if there were more than one CE per case.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> CE cost per case represents total CE costs divided by the number of cases with at least one CE.

FY 2024 CEs (All Workloads)	Annual Number of Cases Completed with at Least One CE <sup>2</sup>	CE Rate <sup>3</sup>	CE Costs <sup>4</sup>	CE Costs per Case <sup>5</sup>
ME	4,088	28.10%	\$1,317,880	\$322.38
MA	14,412	23.80%	\$4,198,945	\$291.35
NH	4,945	34.10%	\$1,644,857	\$332.63
RI	3,285	26.90%	\$637,861	\$194.17
VT	2,500	36.70%	\$712,497	\$285.00
New York Region	149,948	47.00%	\$37,841,850	\$252.37
NJ	30,532	36.10%	\$9,123,496	\$298.82
NY	107,769			
	,	49.80%	\$25,240,295	\$234.21
PR	11,647	63.80%	\$3,478,059	\$298.62
Philadelphia Region	118,330	34.30%	\$37,856,857	\$319.93
DE	3,121	31.90%	\$1,425,462	\$456.73
DC	2,889	32.40%	\$1,685,409	\$583.39
MD	15,715	35.40%	\$8,281,565	\$526.98
PA	61,699	37.50%	\$16,048,848	\$260.12
VA	23,298	25.70%	\$6,598,525	\$283.22
WV	11,608	43.40%	\$3,817,048	\$328.83
Atlanta Region	290,291	36.40%	\$93,657,848	\$322.63
AL	29,564	41.50%	\$10,780,386	\$364.65
FL	76,601	34.60%	\$23,865,292	\$311.55
GA	34,616	37.80%	\$11,457,518	\$330.99
KY	31,118	38.10%	\$9,040,250	\$290.52
MS	18,225	39.90%	\$5,559,589	\$305.05
NC	49,292	37.80%	\$14,821,932	\$300.70
SC	13,250	22.70%	\$4,056,357	\$306.14
TN	37,625	38.60%	\$14,076,524	\$374.13
Chicago Region	194,707	33.80%	\$58,664,383	\$301.30
IL	41,241	34.70%	\$13,038,991	\$316.17
IN	32,250	46.20%	\$10,064,875	\$312.09
MI	41,405	34.00%	\$10,711,137	\$258.69
MN	11,863	27.00%	\$5,100,574	\$429.96
ОН	49,410	31.20%	\$13,292,440	\$269.02
WI	18,538	29.70%	\$6,456,366	\$348.28
Dallas Region	140,364	31.10%	\$43,993,583	\$313.42
AR	16,692	26.80%	\$5,027,598	\$301.20
LA	18,453	33.40%	\$5,045,371	\$273.42
NM	8,197	33.60%	\$2,698,497	\$329.21
OK	22,156	39.60%	\$6,147,497	\$277.46
TX	74,866	33.80%	\$25,074,620	\$334.93
Kansas City Region	50,938	34.10%	\$17,899,889	\$351.41
IA	9,689	27.80%	\$3,212,924	\$331.61
KS	9,997	40.80%	\$4,721,370	\$472.28
MO	26,006	35.20%	\$7,757,913	\$298.31
IVIU	<b>4</b> 0,000	33.4070	\$1,131,913	<b>カ470.31</b>

FY 2024 CEs (All Workloads)	Annual Number of Cases Completed with at Least One CE <sup>2</sup>	CE Rate <sup>3</sup>	CE Costs <sup>4</sup>	CE Costs per Case <sup>5</sup>
NE	5,246	32.50%	\$2,207,682	\$420.83
Denver Region	24,853	29.10%	\$12,804,538	\$515.21
CO	11,690	32.20%	\$5,102,254	\$436.46
MT	2,758	27.80%	\$1,334,321	\$483.80
ND	1,421	23.60%	\$634,911	\$446.81
SD	1,993	23.20%	\$1,591,687	\$798.64
UT	5,586	27.80%	\$2,627,442	\$470.36
WY	1,405	31.90%	\$1,513,923	\$1,077.53
San Francisco Region	148,385	39.90%	\$48,566,771	\$327.30
AZ	22,331	34.70%	\$11,153,678	\$499.47
CA	114,863	42.90%	\$33,583,529	\$292.38
HI	1,815	19.20%	\$857,111	\$472.24
NV	9,376	31.30%	\$2,972,453	\$317.03
Seattle Region	35,803	30.90%	\$16,509,091	\$461.11
AK	758	21.30%	\$770,288	\$1,016.21
ID	5,238	26.00%	\$2,085,929	\$398.23
OR	10,270	32.00%	\$4,030,390	\$392.44
WA	19,537	32.50%	\$9,622,484	\$492.53
Federal	259	3.90%	\$98,597	\$380.68

#### APPROPRIATION HISTORY

The table below includes the amount requested by the President, passed by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, and ultimately appropriated for the LAE account, including any rescissions and supplemental appropriations, for the last 10 years. The annual appropriation includes amounts authorized from SSI State Supplement user fees and non-attorney representative user fees.

<b>Table 3.4—</b>	Appropriation	History	Table
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Fiscal Year	Budget Estimate to Congress	House Committee Passed	Senate Committee Passed	Enacted Appropriation
2016	\$12,513,000,000 1	\$11,817,945,000 <sup>2</sup>	\$11,620,945,000 <sup>3</sup>	\$12,161,945,000 4
2017	\$13,067,000,000 5	\$11,898,945,000 <sup>6</sup>	\$12,481,945,000 <sup>7</sup>	\$12,481,945,000 <sup>8</sup>
2018	\$12,457,000,000 <sup>9</sup>	\$12,392,945,000 10	\$11,992,945,000 11	\$12,872,945,000 12
2019	\$12,393,000,000 13	\$12,557,045,000 14	\$12,951,945,000 <sup>15</sup>	\$12,876,945,000 16
2020	\$12,773,000,000 17	\$13,071,945,000 18	<sup>19</sup>	\$12,870,945,000 20
CARES Act 21				\$338,000,000
Final				\$13,208,945,000
2021	\$13,351,473,000 22	\$12,970,945,000 23	24	\$12,930,945,000 25
Supplemental <sup>26</sup>				\$38,000,000
Final				\$12,968,945,000
2022	\$14,188,896,000 <sup>27</sup>	\$14,066,945,000 <sup>28</sup>	29	\$13,341,945,000 30
2023	\$14,773,300,000 31	\$14,441,945,000 32	33	\$14,126,978,000 34
2024	\$15,489,200,000 <sup>35</sup>	\$13,953,978,000 36	\$14,418,978,000 <sup>37</sup>	\$14,226,978,000 38
2025	\$15,401,924,000 <sup>39</sup>	\$13,825,776,000 40	\$14,735,978,000 41	\$14,298,978,000 42
2026	\$14,792,978,000 <sup>43</sup>			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Total included \$1,439,000,000 in dedicated funding designated for SSI redeterminations and CDRs – \$273,000,000 in base funding and \$1,166,000,000 in funds outside the discretionary caps as authorized by the BCA of 2011. Included up to \$136,000,000 from user fees paid by States for Federal administration of SSI State Supplement payments and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the Social Security Protection Act (P.L. 108-203).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> H.R. 3020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> S.1695.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114-113). Total included \$1,426,000,000 in funding designated for SSI redeterminations and CDRs. Included up to \$124,000,000 from user fees paid by States for Federal administration of SSI State Supplement payments and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the Social Security Protection Act (P.L. 108-203).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The FY 2017 request included \$1,819,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding for, including the costs associated with SSI redeterminations, full medical CDRs, work CDRs, cooperative disability investigation (CDI) units, and the prosecution of fraud by Special Assistant United States Attorneys (SAUSAs), comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding and \$1,546,000,000 in funds outside the discretionary caps as authorized by the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) of 2015 (P.L. 114-74). Additionally, the LAE account carved out funding to support the fully loaded costs of performing 1.1 million CDRs and approximately 2.8 million SSI redeterminations, \$126,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees, and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected

pursuant to section 303(c) of the Social Security Protection Act (P.L. 108-203).

- <sup>8</sup> Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31). Total included \$90,000,000 in available funding through September 30, 2018, for activities to address the hearings backlog within the Office of Hearings Operations (formerly the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review). Included \$1,819,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including the costs associated with SSI redeterminations, full medical CDRs, work CDRs, CDI units, and the prosecution of fraud by SAUSAs, comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding and \$1,546,000,000 in funds outside the discretionary caps as authorized by the BBA of 2015 (P.L.114-74) to remain available until March 31, 2018. Included \$123,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the Social Security Protection Act (P.L. 108-203).
- <sup>9</sup> The FY 2018 request included \$1,735,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including the costs associated with SSI redeterminations, full medical CDRs, work CDRs, CDI units, and the prosecution of fraud by SAUSAs, comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding and \$1,462,000,000 in funds outside the discretionary caps as authorized by the BBA of 2015 (P.L.114-74). Included up to \$118,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees, and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the Social Security Protection Act (P.L. 108-203).

- 12 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141). Total included \$280,000,000 to remain available until expended for information technology modernization, including related hardware and software infrastructure and equipment, and for administrative expenses directly associated with information technology modernization. Total included \$100,000,000 in available funding through September 30, 2019, for activities to address the hearings backlog within the Office of Hearings Operations. Included \$1,735,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including the costs associated with SSI redeterminations, full medical CDRs, work CDRs, CDI units, and the prosecution of fraud by SAUSAs, comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding and \$1,462,000,000 in funds outside the discretionary caps as authorized by the BBA of 2015 (P.L.114-74) to remain available for 18 months through March 31, 2019. Included \$118,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the Social Security Protection Act (P.L. 108-203).
- <sup>13</sup> The FY 2019 request included \$1,683,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including the costs associated with SSI redeterminations, full medical CDRs, work CDRs, CDI units, and the prosecution of fraud by SAUSAs, comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding and \$1,410,000,000 in funds outside the discretionary caps as authorized by the BBA of 2015 (P.L.114-74) to remain available until March 31, 2020. Beginning in FY 2019, the Budget proposed that we may transfer up to \$10,000,000 of program integrity funds from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units. Included up to \$134,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees, and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the Social Security Protection Act (P.L. 108-203).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> H.R. 5926.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> S. 3040.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> H.R.3358.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> S. 1771.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> H.R. 6470.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> S. 3158.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 115-245). Total included \$45,000,000 to remain available until expended for information technology modernization, including related hardware and software infrastructure and equipment, and for administrative expenses directly associated with information technology modernization. Total included \$100,000,000 in available funding through September 30, 2020, for activities to address the hearings backlog within the Office of Hearings Operations. Included \$1,683,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including the costs associated with SSI redeterminations, full medical CDRs, work CDRs, CDI units, and the prosecution of fraud by SAUSAs, comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding and \$1,410,000,000

- in funds outside the discretionary caps as authorized by the BBA of 2015 (P.L.114-74) to remain available for 18 months through March 31, 2020. Public Law 115-245 allowed us to transfer up to \$10,000,000 of program integrity funds from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units in FY 2019. Included \$134,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the Social Security Protection Act (P.L. 108-203).
- <sup>17</sup> The FY 2020 Budget proposed that the total LAE budget authority request of \$12,773,000,000 be offset by fees collected for replacement Social Security cards (estimated at \$270,000,000). The total included \$1,582,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including the costs associated with SSI redeterminations, full medical CDRs, work CDRs, CDI units, and the prosecution of fraud by SAUSAs, comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding and \$1,309,000,000 in funds outside the discretionary caps as authorized by the BBA of 2015 (P.L.114-74) to remain available until March 31, 2021. In FY 2020, the Budget proposed to transfer up to \$10,000,000 of program integrity cap adjustment funds in the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units. Included up to \$130,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees, and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the Social Security Protection Act (P.L. 108-203).
- <sup>18</sup> H.R. 2740.
- <sup>19</sup> The Senate Committee on Appropriations did not report a bill. The Committee posted a draft bill which provided the FY 2020 President's Budget request of \$12,773,000,000.
- Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-94). The total included \$45,000,000 to remain available until expended for IT modernization, including related hardware and software infrastructure and equipment, and for administrative expenses directly associated with IT modernization. The total included \$100,000,000 in available funding through September 30, 2021, for activities to address the hearings backlog within the Office of Hearings Operations. The total also included \$1,582,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including the costs associated with SSI redeterminations, full medical CDRs, work CDRs, CDI units, and the prosecution of fraud by SAUSAs, comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding and \$1,309,000,000 in funds outside the discretionary caps as authorized by the BBA of 2015 (P.L.114-74) to remain available for 18 months through March 31, 2021. P.L. 116-94 allowed us to transfer up to \$10,000,000 of program integrity funds from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units in FY 2020. The total also included \$130,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the SSPA.
- <sup>21</sup> The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136) provided \$300,000,000 in funding, available through September 30, 2021, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus, including paying the salaries and benefits of all employees affected as a result of office closures, telework, phone and communication services for employees, overtime costs, supplies, and for resources necessary for processing disability and retirement workloads and backlogs. It also provided \$38,000,000 for administrative costs related to assisting the Department of Treasury/Internal Revenue Service in coordinating a public awareness campaign and administering economic impact payments (EIPs) to qualifying individuals.
- The FY 2021 Budget proposed that the total requested LAE budget authority of \$13,351,473,000 be offset by fees collected for replacement Social Security cards (estimated at \$270,000,000). The total included \$1,575,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including the costs associated with SSI redeterminations, full medical CDRs, work CDRs, CDI units, and the prosecution of fraud by SAUSAs, comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding and \$1,302,000,000 in funds outside the discretionary caps, as authorized by the BBA of 2015 (P.L.114-74) to remain available until March 31, 2022. The Budget proposed allowing us to transfer up to \$11,200,000 of program integrity funds from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units in FY 2021. The total included up to \$135,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees, and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the SSPA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> H.R.7614.

- <sup>24</sup> The Senate Committee on Appropriations did not report a bill. The Committee posted a draft bill which included \$12,868,945,000 for LAE.
- <sup>25</sup> Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260). The total included \$45,000,000 to remain available until expended for IT modernization, including related hardware and software infrastructure and equipment, and for administrative expenses directly associated with IT modernization. The total included \$50,000,000 in available funding through September 30, 2022, for activities to address the hearings backlog within the Office of Hearings Operations. The total also included \$1,575,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including the costs associated with SSI redeterminations, full medical CDRs, work CDRs, CDI units, and the prosecution of fraud by SAUSAs, comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding and \$1,302,000,000 in funds outside the discretionary caps as authorized by the BBA of 2015 (P.L.114-74) to remain available for 18 months through March 31, 2022. P.L. 116-260 allowed for the transfer of up to \$11,200,000 of program integrity funds from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units. The total also included \$135,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the SSPA.
- <sup>26</sup> The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260, Section 272, Division N) provided \$38,000,000 in funding, available through September 30, 2021, for administrative costs related to assisting the Department of Treasury/Internal Revenue Service in coordinating a public awareness campaign and administering a second round of EIPs first authorized under the CARES Act.
- <sup>27</sup> The FY 2022 Budget proposed \$1,708,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including a \$1,435,000,000 allocation adjustment, to remain available until March 31, 2023. Dedicated program integrity funding allowed us to conduct CDRs and SSI redeterminations to confirm that participants remain eligible to receive benefits, and it supported anti-fraud cooperative disability investigation units and special attorneys for fraud prosecutions. The Budget proposed transferring up to \$12,100,000 of program integrity funds from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units. The total included up to \$138,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees, and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the SSPA.
- <sup>28</sup> H.R. 4502.
- <sup>29</sup> The Senate Committee on Appropriations did not report a bill. The Committee posted a draft bill which included \$13,967,945,000 for LAE.
- <sup>30</sup> Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-103). The total included \$55,000,000 in available funding through September 30, 2023, for activities to address the hearings backlog within the Office of Hearings Operations. The total also included \$1,708,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including the costs associated with SSI redeterminations, full medical CDRs, work CDRs, CDI units, and the prosecution of fraud by SAUSAs, comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding and \$1,435,000,000 in funds outside the discretionary caps as authorized by the BBA of 2015 (P.L.114-74) to remain available for 18 months through March 31, 2023. P.L. 117-103 allowed us the ability to transfer up to \$12,100,000 of program integrity funds from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units. The total also included \$138,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the SSPA.
- <sup>31</sup> The FY 2023 Budget proposed \$1,799,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including a \$1,511,000,000 allocation adjustment, to remain available until March 31, 2024. Dedicated program integrity funding allowed us to conduct CDRs and SSI redeterminations to confirm that participants remain eligible to receive benefits, and it supported anti-fraud cooperative disability investigation units and special attorneys for fraud prosecutions. The Budget proposed transferring up to \$15,100,000 of program integrity funds from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units. The total included up to \$140,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees, and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the SSPA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> H.R. 8295.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> The Senate Committee on Appropriations did not report a bill. The Committee posted a draft bill which included \$14,244,014,000 for LAE.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328). The total included \$55,000,000 in available funding through September 30, 2024, for activities to address the disability hearings backlog within the Office of Hearings Operations. The total also included \$1,784,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including the costs associated with SSI redeterminations, full medical CDRs, work CDRs, CDI units, and the prosecution of fraud by SAUSAs, comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding and a \$1,511,000,000 adjustment to remain available for 18 months through March 31, 2024. P.L. 117-328 provided a transfer of up to \$15,100,000 of program integrity funds from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units. The total also included \$140,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the SSPA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> The FY 2024 Budget included \$50,000,000 in no-year funding in the LAE account to modernize our benefits system. The FY 2024 Budget also included \$2,000,000 for the purchase and hire of zero emission passenger motor vehicles and supporting charging or fueling infrastructure available through September 30, 2025, of which, \$700,000 was for the OIG for the purchase and hire of zero emission passenger motor vehicles and supporting charging or fueling infrastructure. The FY 2024 Budget proposed \$1,870,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including \$287,000,000 in base program integrity funding and a \$1,583,000,000 allocation adjustment, to remain available until March 31, 2025. Dedicated program integrity funding allows us to conduct CDRs and SSI redeterminations to confirm that participants remain eligible to receive benefits, and it supports anti-fraud CDI units and SAUSAs for fraud prosecutions. The Budget proposed transferring \$19,100,000 of program integrity funds from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units. The total included up to \$150,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees, and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the SSPA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> H.R. 5894. The House bill was passed at the subcommittee level and did not go to the full committee.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> S. 2624

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-47). The total included \$1,851,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including the costs associated with SSI redeterminations, full medical CDRs, work CDRs, CDI units, and the prosecution of fraud by SAUSAs, comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding and a \$1,578,000,000 allocation adjustment to remain available for 18 months through March 31, 2025. P.L. 118-47 provided a transfer of up to \$15,100,000 of program integrity funds from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units. The total also included up to \$150,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the SSPA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> The FY 2025 Budget included \$50,000,000 in no-year funding in the LAE account to modernize our benefits system. The FY 2025 Budget also included \$2,000,000 for the purchase and hire of zero emission vehicles and supporting charging or fueling infrastructure available through September 30, 2026, of which \$700,000 is for the OIG for the purchase and hire of zero emission passenger motor vehicles and supporting charging or fueling infrastructure. The FY 2025 Budget proposed \$1,903,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including \$273,000,000 in base program integrity funding and a \$1,630,000,000 cap adjustment, to remain available until March 31, 2026. Dedicated program integrity funding allows us to conduct CDRs and SSI redeterminations to confirm that participants remain eligible to receive benefits, and it supports anti-fraud CDI units and SAUSAs for fraud prosecutions. The Budget proposed transferring \$19,600,000 of program integrity funds from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units. The total included up to \$170,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees, and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the SSPA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> H.R. 9029

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> S. 4942

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (P.L. 119-4). The total includes \$1,903,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including the costs associated with SSI redeterminations, full medical CDRs, work CDRs, CDI units, and the prosecution of fraud by SAUSAs, comprised of \$273,000,000 in base funding and a \$1,630,000,000 cap adjustment to remain available for 18 months through March 31, 2026. P.L. 119-4 provides a transfer of up to \$15,100,000 of program integrity funds from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units. The total also includes up to \$170,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the SSPA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> The FY 2026 Budget proposes \$2,397,000,000 in dedicated program integrity funding, including \$273,000,000 in base program integrity funding and a \$2,124,000,000 adjustment, to remain available until March 31, 2027. Dedicated program integrity funding covers the costs associated with CDRs and SSI redeterminations, anti-fraud CDI units, and SAUSAs for fraud prosecutions. The Budget proposes transferring \$24,600,000 of program integrity funds from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units. The total includes up to \$170,000,000 for SSI State Supplement user fees and up to \$1,000,000 from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the SSPA.

#### GENERAL STATEMENT/BUDGETARY RESOURCES/PERFORMANCE

#### LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OVERVIEW

The Limitation on Administrative Expenses (LAE) account funds our operating expenses to administer our three major programs—Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI), Disability Insurance (DI), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)—as well as certain health insurance and Medicare prescription drug functions and the Special Benefits for Certain World War II Veterans program. We utilize LAE funds to carry out our core mission, including processing benefit applications, conducting hearings and appeals, protecting our customers through the prevention of fraud, and completing program integrity work to strengthen our programs. With LAE account funds, we provide vital services to millions of Americans in our field offices, over the phone, and online at www.ssa.gov.

Please see the Budget Overview for more information.

#### SIZE AND SCOPE OF OUR PROGRAMS

Our administrative budget is driven by the programs we administer—in terms of both the amount of work performed and the number of people needed to process it—and by our continuing efforts to improve service, efficiency, and stewardship.

Between the three major programs we administer—OASI, DI, and SSI—benefit payment outlays totaled over \$1.5 trillion in FY 2024; and under current law, we expect benefit payment outlays to be approximately \$1.6 trillion in FY 2025 and \$1.7 trillion in FY 2026. This includes the SSI State supplementary payments that we administer on behalf of some States.

Table 3.5—Benefit Outlays<sup>1</sup> (Dollars in billions)

	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
	Actuals	Estimate	Estimate
Old-Age and Survivors Insurance	\$1,293.8	\$1,404.2	\$1,478.0
Disability Insurance	\$153.7	\$163.9	\$173.6
Supplemental Security Income <sup>2,3</sup>	\$60.7	\$67.5	\$70.3
Total Outlays <sup>4</sup>	\$1,508.2	\$1,635.6	\$1,721.8

We expect the total number of beneficiaries and recipients of the three major programs we administer to increase from 74.9 million in FY 2024 to 76.6 million in FY 2025 and 78.3 million in FY 2026. We expect OASI beneficiaries to increase in FY 2025 and FY 2026, while we expect DI beneficiaries and SSI recipients to slightly decrease in FY 2025 and then increase in FY 2026.

Table 3.6—Beneficiaries<sup>2</sup> (Average in payment status, in millions)

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Estimate
Old-Age and Survivors Insurance	59.0	60.8	62.3
Disability Insurance	8.4	8.4	8.5
Supplemental Security Income <sup>5</sup>	7.4	7.4	7.5
Total Beneficiaries <sup>6</sup>	74.9	76.6	78.3

<sup>2</sup> SSI benefit payments include State supplementary payments of around \$3.1 billion in FY 2024, \$3.4 billion in FY 2025, and \$3.5 billion in FY 2026.

FY 2026 Congressional Justification

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> There were 11 monthly benefit payments in FY 2024, and there will be 12 in both FY 2025 and FY 2026.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Benefit payment totals include less than \$500,000 for the Special Benefits for Certain World War II Veterans program in FYs 2024, 2025, and 2026, which is not broken out separately.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> SSI recipients include about 133,000 in FY 2024, 135,000 in FY 2025, and 138,000 in FY 2026 who only receive a State supplementary payment.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Beneficiary totals include approximately 2.5 million concurrent recipients who receive SSI as well as OASI or DI.

#### **FUNDING REQUEST**

Our FY 2026 LAE budget request of \$14.793 billion supports our ongoing commitment to improve customer service, fight fraud and waste, strengthen program integrity, and optimize our workforce. We will automate workloads, modernize information technology, and leverage artificial intelligence to increase employee productivity and improve the customer experience, which will ultimately provide better service to the American public.

Table 3.7—Budgetary Request<sup>1</sup> (Dollars in millions)

	FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request
Budget Authority, One-Year (Dollars in Millions)			
Limitation on Administrative Expenses (LAE) <sup>2</sup>	\$14,227	\$14,299	\$14,793
(Dedicated Program Integrity, Base and Adjustment, included in LAE) <sup>3, 4</sup>	(\$1,851)	(\$1,903)	(\$2,397)
Research and Demonstrations <sup>5, 6</sup>	\$91	\$91	\$91
Office of the Inspector General (OIG) <sup>7, 8</sup>	\$115	\$115	\$115
Total, Budget Authority	\$14,433	\$14,505	\$15,000
Workyears (WY) <sup>9</sup>			
Full-Time Equivalents	57,998	53,851	50,278
Overtime	2,154	1,668	1,700
Lump Sum Leave	153	375	284
Total SSA Workyears	60,305	55,894	52,262
Disability Determination Services (DDS)	13,643	13,094	13,094
Total SSA/DDS Workyears	73,948	68,988	65,356
OIG	512	488	476
Total SSA/DDS/OIG Workyears	74,460	69,476	65,832

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> LAE funding includes \$150 million in FY 2024, \$170 million in FY 2025, and \$170 million in FY 2026 for SSI user fees. LAE funding also includes \$1 million in Social Security Protection Act (SSPA) user fees.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> P.L. 118-47 – The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 includes 18-month authority to obligate PI funds through March 31, 2025. P.L 119-4 – The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 includes 18-month authority to obligate PI funds through March 31, 2026. The FY 2026 Budget assumes appropriations language for FY 2026 will provide for similar 18-month authority to obligate PI funds.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> P.L. 118-47 and P.L. 119-4 allows SSA to transfer \$15.1 million in FY 2024 and FY 2025 from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units. The President's Budget assumes a \$24.6 million transfer in 2026.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> These amounts include \$7 million in base research funding classified as mandatory.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Congress appropriated \$91 million in 2-year authority in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 for research and demonstration projects. The FY 2026 President's Budget proposes \$91 million in FY 2026 (available through September 30, 2028) for research and demonstration projects.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> OIG funds do not include transfers from the SSA LAE account, Dedicated Program Integrity, to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> P.L. 118-47, The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, and P.L. 119-4, The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extension Act, 2025, OIG totals include \$2,000,000, which remain available until expended for information technology modernization, including related hardware and software infrastructure and equipment, and for administrative expenses directly associated with information technology modernization. The FY 2026 Budget assumes the OIG totals include \$2,000,000 for similar no-year authority to obligate funds for information technology modernization.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>A workyear (WY) is a measure of time spent doing work or being paid for some element of time (e.g., leave). It is the equivalent of one person working for one year (2,080 hours) and may consist of regular hours, overtime, or lump sum leave, which is payment for unused annual leave upon leaving the agency. WYs include time spent in full-time or part-time employment. Full-time equivalents and overtime WYs include those funded from dedicated funding to reduce the hearings backlog, dedicated funding for IT modernization, and dedicated funding for PI. Full-time equivalents include those funded by the CDI unit PI transfer from the LAE account to the OIG.

## ALL PURPOSE TABLE

# Table 3.8—All Purpose Table (APT)1 (in thousands)

	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 20	26
	Further Consolidated Appropriations Act <sup>2</sup>	Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act	President's Budget	FY 2026 +/- FY 2025
	P.L. 118-47	P.L. 119-4		
Payments to Social Security Trust Funds				
Pension Reform	3,000	6,000	6,000	-
Unnegotiated Checks	7,000	9,000	9,000	-
Total PTF	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	-
Supplemental Security Income				
Federal Benefits Payment	56,328,000	62,228,000	66,762,000	4,534,000
Beneficiary Services	137,000	137,000	75,000	(62,000)
Research & Demonstration <sup>3,4</sup>	91,000	91,000	91,000	-
Administration <sup>5</sup>	4,609,042	4,609,042	4,619,966	10,924
Subtotal SSI Program Level	61,165,042	67,065,042	71,547,966	4,482,924
Advance from PY	(15,800,000)	(21,700,000)	(22,100,000)	(400,000)
Subtotal Current Year SSI New Advance SSI	\$45,365,042 \$21,700,000	\$45,365,042 \$22,100,000	\$49,447,966 \$23,500,000	4,082,924 \$1,400,000
Limitation on Administrative Expenses		. , ,	. , ,	. , ,
Regular LAE				
OASDI Trust Funds	5,828,373	5,627,076	5,548,091	(78,985)
HI/SMI Trust Funds	3,114,163	3,364,226	3,730,789	366,563
Social Security Advisory Board	2,700	2,700	-	(2,700)
SSI	3,279,742	3,230,976	2,946,098	(284,878)
Subtotal Regular LAE	\$12,224,978	\$12,224,978	\$12,224,978	-
Program Integrity Funding				
OASDI Trust Funds	521,700	524,934	723,132	198,198
SSI	1,329,300	1,378,066	1,673,868	295,802
Subtotal Program Integrity Funding <sup>6</sup>	\$1,851,000	\$1,903,000	\$2,397,000	\$494,000
Base Program Integrity	273,000	273,000	273,000	-
Adjustment <sup>7</sup>	1,578,000	1,630,000	2,124,000	494,000
User Fees				
SSI User Fee	150,000	170,000	170,000	-
SSPA User Fee	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
Subtotal User Fees	\$151,000	\$171,000	\$171,000	-
Total LAE	\$14,226,978	\$14,298,978	\$14,792,978	\$494,000
Non-PI LAE	12,375,978	12,395,978	12,395,978	-
Office of the Inspector General				
Federal Funds	32,000	32,000	32,000	-
Trust Funds	82,665	82,665	82,665	
Total, OIG 8,9	\$114,665	\$114,665	\$114,665	-
Total, Social Security Administration, New BA	\$76,807,643	\$77,284,643	\$83,250,643	\$5,966,000
Federal Funds	\$67,258,042	\$67,683,042	\$73,165,966	\$5,482,924
Current Year	\$45,558,042	\$45,583,042	\$49,665,966	\$4,082,924
New Advance	\$21,700,000	\$22,100,000	\$23,500,000	\$1,400,000
Trust Funds	\$9,549,601	\$9,601,601	\$10,084,677	\$483,076

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

- <sup>2</sup> The regular LAE and program integrity program splits included in this APT are different than those included in the FY 2024 Further Consolidated Appropriations Act report language due to updated estimates. The program integrity splits included in the FY 2024 Further Consolidated Appropriations Act report language are \$389 million and \$1.462 billion for OASDI and SSI, respectively.
- <sup>3</sup> These amounts include \$7 million in base research funding classified as mandatory.
- <sup>4</sup> The 2024 Further Consolidated Appropriations Act includes \$91 million in FY 2024 (available through September 30, 2026) for research and demonstration projects. The Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 includes \$91 million in FY 2025 (available through September 30, 2027) for research and demonstration projects. The FY 2026 President's Budget assumes \$91 million in FY 2026 (available through September 30, 2028) for research and demonstration projects.
- <sup>5</sup> Total SSI Administration reflects the sum of SSI regular LAE and SSI Program Integrity included in the LAE section.
- <sup>6</sup> P.L. 118-47 The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 includes 18-month authority to obligate PI funds through March 31, 2025. P.L 119-4 The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 includes 18-month authority to obligate PI funds through March 31, 2026. The FY 2026 Budget assumes appropriations language for FY 2026 will provide for similar 18-month authority to obligate PI funds.
- <sup>7</sup> P.L. 118-47 and P.L. 119-4 allow SSA to transfer \$15.1 million in FY 2024 and FY 2025 from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units. The President's Budget assumes a \$24.6 million transfer.
- <sup>8</sup> P.L. 118-47, The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, and P.L. 119-4, The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extension Act, 2025, OIG totals include \$2,000,000, which remain available until expended for information technology modernization, including related hardware and software infrastructure and equipment, and for administrative expenses directly associated with information technology modernization. The FY 2026 Budget assumes the OIG totals include \$2,000,000 for similar no-year authority to obligate funds for information technology modernization.
- <sup>9</sup> OIG funds do not include transfers from the SSA LAE account, Dedicated Program Integrity, to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units.

#### SSI STATE SUPPLEMENTATION/IMPACT OF STATES DROPPING OUT

The SSI program was designed to provide a nationwide uniform floor of cash assistance to individuals who are aged, blind, and disabled, with limited income and resources. In recognizing that there were variations in living costs across the Nation, Congress added section 1618 to the Social Security Act to encourage States to supplement the Federal payment. This ensured that SSI recipients received the full benefit of each cost-of-living adjustment. States may administer their own State supplement programs or have us administer the programs on their behalf. States electing to have us administer their programs reimburse us monthly in advance for these benefit payments, and we make eligibility determinations and payments on behalf of the States.

Table 3.9—State Supplement Payments

(Dollars in millions)

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Estimate
Federally Administered State Supplement Payments	\$3,082	\$3,410	\$3,505
Offsetting Collections	\$3,357	\$3,418	\$3,516

Participating States pay us user fees to administer their programs, based on a schedule established by the Social Security Act. The user fee was \$14.78 per SSI check payment in FY 2024 and is \$15.22 in FY 2025. We estimate that the user fee will increase to \$15.60 per payment in FY 2026. The Department of Treasury receives the first \$5.00 of each fee and we retain the amount over \$5.00. This user fee is discretionary budget authority that supplements our LAE account.

Table 3.10—SSI User Fee Collections<sup>1,2</sup> (Dollars in millions)

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2025 to FY 2026 Change
SSA User Fee Collections	\$144	\$164	\$170	+\$6
<b>Treasury User Fee Collections</b>	\$74	\$80	\$81	+\$1
<b>Total User Fee Collections</b>	\$218	\$244	\$251	+\$7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The enacted user fee authority was up to \$150,000,000 for FY 2024 and up to \$170,000,000 for FY 2025. Any fees collected in excess of the appropriated amount may be used to cover a shortfall in collections for future years.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> FY 2024 had 11 payments. FY 2025 and FY 2026 have 12 payments.

#### **Impact of States Dropping Out of State Supplementation Program**

Currently, we help administer the State supplementation for 20 States and the District of Columbia. However, participation in the State supplementation program is voluntary. States can opt out of the program but must provide notice to us at least 90 days in advance before dropping out. The result of States dropping out of the program is a loss of LAE authority in the current fiscal year and possibly the following fiscal year when it is too late to adjust our request. When a State drops out of the program, we use LAE to make up the difference in authority. We adjust our estimates for the budget year and the outyears, when possible, to accommodate any changes. California and New Jersey are the two States with the highest collections for whom we administer State supplementation. If either State opted to administer their own State supplementation, our estimate would dramatically decrease.

**Table 3.11—Estimated SSA User Fee Collections by State** (Dollars in thousands)

State	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Estimate
Arkansas	*	*	*
California	\$120,930	\$137,584	\$142,357
Delaware	\$55	\$63	\$66
District of	\$107	\$117	\$122
Columbia			
Georgia	*	\$1	\$1
Hawaii	\$229	\$257	\$268
Iowa	\$95	\$98	\$103
Kansas	*	*	*
Louisiana	*	*	*
Maryland	*	*	*
Michigan	\$1,123	\$1,293	\$1,353
Mississippi	\$1	\$1	\$1
Montana	\$63	\$67	\$70
Nevada	\$1,785	\$2,085	\$2,182
New Jersey	\$17,737	\$20,284	\$21,227
Ohio	*	*	*
Pennsylvania	\$386	\$427	\$447
Rhode Island	\$37	\$43	\$45
South Dakota	*	*	*
Tennessee	\$1	\$1	\$1
Vermont	\$1,491	\$1,679	\$1,757
Total	\$144,040	\$164,000	\$170,000

<sup>\*</sup> Less than \$500

#### **BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAYS**

The Limitation on Administrative Expenses (LAE) account, our basic administrative account, is an annual appropriation and is financed from the Social Security and Medicare trust funds, the General Fund, and applicable user fees. This account provides resources to administer the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs, as well as certain aspects of the Medicare program. Section 201(g) of the Social Security Act provides that SSA determine the share of administrative expenses that should have been borne by the appropriate trust funds for the administration of their respective programs and the General Fund for administration of the SSI program. SSA calculates the administrative costs attributable to each program using our Government Accountability Office approved Cost Analysis System (CAS).

In addition to our base operating expenses, we occasionally receive one-time appropriations. In FY 2009, we received additional funds from the General Fund of the Treasury, provided by the Recovery Act and the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA). We also received \$98 million funded incrementally from FY 2015 to FY 2018, of which \$27 million is available until expended, for costs associated with the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) provisions. In FY 2022, we received \$16 million for the Postal Service Reform Act (PSRA) to assist the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the United States Postal Service (USPS) with outreach, program eligibility and inquiries, and administering a special Medicare enrollment period for Postal Service employees, Postal Service annuitants, and their family members.

We received a total of \$23.3 million, split between \$15 million in FY 2023 and \$8 million in FY 2024, in Technology Modernization Funds (TMF) to accelerate our Multifactor Authentication project to further improve our information security posture and reduce risks from compromised credentials. We received approximately \$30 million (\$23 million in FY 2025 and \$7 million in FY 2026) in TMF to digitize forms and modernize beneficiary notifications to enhance service delivery and utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI) to support the disability claims process.

**Table 3.12—Budget Authority and Outlays**<sup>1</sup> (Dollars in thousands)

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Estimate
Budget Authority			
OASI and DI Trust Funds	\$6,350,073 <sup>2</sup>	\$6,152,010 <sup>3</sup>	\$6,271,223 <sup>4</sup>
HI and SMI Trust Funds	\$3,114,163	\$3,364,226	\$3,730,789
SSA Advisory Board	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$0
SSI Administrative Expenses	\$4,609,042	\$4,609,042	\$4,619,966 <sup>10</sup>
SSI State Supplement User Fees	\$150,000	\$170,000	\$170,000
Non-Attorney Representative User Fees	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Estimate
Technology Modernization Funds (TMF)	\$8,000	\$23,000	\$7,000
<b>Total Budget Authority</b>	\$14,234,978	\$14,321,978	\$14,799,978
Administrative Outlays			
OASI and DI Trust Funds	$$6,404,000^5$	\$6,232,000 <sup>6</sup>	\$6,342,000 <sup>7</sup>
HI and SMI Trust Funds	\$3,392,000	\$3,407,000	\$3,773,000
SSI Administrative Expenses	\$4,607,000	\$4,669,000	\$4,673,000
SSI State Supplement User Fees	\$150,000	\$170,000	\$170,000
Non-Attorney Representative User Fees	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
MIPPA – LIS	$\$0^{8}$	\$0	\$0
Postal Service Recovery Act (PSRA)	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$0
Technology Modernization Fund (TMF)	\$14,000	\$23,000	\$7,000
Total Administrative Outlays <sup>9</sup>	\$14,571,000	\$14,503,000	\$14,966,000

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The total includes \$3,786,270 in OASI and \$2,563,803 in DI budget authority.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The total includes \$3,668,224 in OASI and \$2,483,786 in DI budget authority.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The total includes \$3,386,592 in OASI and \$2,884,631 in DI budget authority.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The total includes \$3,744,000 in OASI and \$2,660,000 in DI outlays.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The total includes \$3,717,000 in OASI and \$2,515,000 in DI outlays.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The total includes \$3,424,000 in OASI and \$2,918,000 in DI outlays.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> A total of \$22,000 was outlaid in MIPPA-LIS.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Outlays are from the LAE account. Due to variations in timing in the reporting of outlays, these outlays will not match those included in the Budget Appendix. Outlay totals include outlays made from budget authority enacted in prior years.

#### AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR OBLIGATION/ANALYSIS OF CHANGES

**Table 3.13—Amounts Available for Obligation**<sup>1,2,3</sup> (Dollars in thousands)

	FY 2024 <sup>4</sup> Actual	FY 2025 <sup>5</sup> Enacted	FY 2026 <sup>6</sup> Estimate	FY 2025 to FY 2026 Change
Limitation on Administrative Expenses (LAE)				
Unobligated Balance, start-of-year <sup>7</sup>	\$594,888	\$284,926	\$253,392	-\$31,534
<b>Unrealized Non-Attorney User Fees</b>	-\$863	\$0	\$0	\$0
Unrealized SSI User Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LAE Appropriation	\$14,226,978	\$14,298,978	\$14,792,978	\$494,000
Subtotal LAE Resources	\$14,821,003	\$14,583,904	\$15,046,370	\$462,466
Total Obligations, LAE	\$14,503,609	\$14,530,512	\$14,993,393	\$462,881
Unobligated Balance, lapsing	-\$69,209	\$0	\$0	\$0
Unobligated Balance, end-of-year (LAE Carryover)	\$248,185	\$53,392	\$52,977	-\$415
Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (M	AIPPA) – Medic	care Savings Pl	an (MSP)	
Unobligated Balances, start-of-year	\$14,903	\$14,903	\$14,903	\$0
Obligations, MIPPA – MSP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Unobligated Balances, end-of-year	\$14,903	\$14,903	\$14,903	\$0
MIPPA - Low Income Subsidy (LIS)				
Unobligated Balances, start-of-year	\$11,285	\$11,263	\$11,263	\$0
Obligations, MIPPA – LIS	\$22	\$0	\$0	\$0
Unobligated Balances, end-of-year	\$11,263	\$11,263	\$11,263	\$0
State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)				
Unobligated Balances, start-of-year	\$1,899	\$1,899	\$1,899	\$0
Obligations, MIPPA – SCHIP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Unobligated Balances, end-of-year	\$1,899	\$1,899	\$1,899	\$0

<sup>1</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

FY 2026 Congressional Justification

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Table does not include reimbursables, Technology Modernization Fund, or Vehicle Recharging Station funding.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Due to variations in timing in the reporting of obligations, these obligations may not match those included in the Budget Appendix.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> FY 2024 unobligated balances, end-of-year, include approximately \$82,000,000 of Program Integrity 18-month carry-out, and \$166,000,000 carryover/transferred from prior-year accounts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> FY 2025 unobligated balance, start-of-year, includes approximately \$82,000,000 of Program Integrity 18-month funds and \$203,000,000 transferred from prior-year accounts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> FY 2026 unobligated balance, start-of-year, includes approximately \$51,000,000 of Program Integrity 18-month funds and \$203,000,000 transferred from prior-year accounts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Includes multi-year carryover funds and recoveries for IT Systems, hearings backlog, and dedicated Program Integrity funding.

	FY 2024 <sup>4</sup> Actual	FY 2025 <sup>5</sup> Enacted	FY 2026 <sup>6</sup> Estimate	FY 2025 to FY 2026 Change
Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA)	)			
Unobligated Balances, start-of-year	\$25,982	\$25,982	\$25,982	\$0
Obligations, MACRA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Unobligated Balances, end-of-year	\$25,982	\$25,982	\$25,982	\$0
Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 (PSRA)				
Unobligated Balances, start-of-year	\$14,891	\$12,334	\$11,076	-\$1,258
Obligations, PSRA	\$2,556	\$1,258	\$0	-\$1,258
Unobligated Balances, end-of-year	\$12,334	\$11,076	\$11,076	\$0
GRAND TOTAL, OBLIGATIONS	\$14,506,187	\$14,531,770	\$14,993,393	\$461,623

## SUMMARY OF CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET AUTHORITY

Table 3.14—Summary of Change in Administrative Budget Authority from FY 2025 to FY 2026

			FY 2025	FY 2026		•	Change	
	<u>MAJOR CATEGORIES</u> – This section (not included in totals and subtotals below) attempts to crosswalk the major spending categories shown below (dollars in thousands)							
I.	Payroll Expenses	\$	8,003,878	\$	7,627,378	\$	(376,500)	
	Built-In Increase			\$	198,855	\$	198,855	
	Program Increase			\$	(575,355)	\$	(575,355)	
II.	Non-Payroll Expenses	\$	2,357,000	\$	2,461,000	\$	104,000	
	Built-In Increase			\$	70,915	\$	70,915	
	Program Increase			\$	33,085	\$	33,085	
III.	<b>Disability Determination Services</b>	\$	2,654,000	\$	2,820,000	\$	166,000	
	Built-In Increase			\$	105,395	\$	105,395	
	Program Increase			\$	60,605	\$	60,605	
IV.	Information Technology Systems	\$	1,269,000	\$	1,860,000	\$	591,000	
	Built-In Increase			\$	0	\$	0	
	Program Increase	\$	1,269,000	\$	1,860,000	\$	591,000	
IV.	OIG Reimbursable Transfer	\$	15,100	\$	24,600	\$	9,500	
Total	l, Budget Authority	<b>\$</b>	14,298,978	\$	14,792,978	\$	494,000	

## SUMMARY OF CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATIVE OBLIGATIONS FROM FY 2025 TO FY 2026

Table 3.15—Summary of Change in Administrative Obligations from FY 2025 to FY 2026 (Dollars in thousands)<sup>1,2</sup>

FY 2025	FY 2026			Change
Obligations (thousands)	Federal WYs	Obligations (thousands)	Federal WYs	Obligations (thousands)
\$8,035,412		\$8,234,267		\$198,855
		\$157,296		\$157,296
		\$41,559		\$41,559
\$1,506,872		\$1,576,868		\$69,996
\$2,654,000		\$2,759,395		\$105,395
\$11,487		\$12,406		\$919
\$12,207,771	_	\$12,582,936		\$375,165
	Obligations (thousands) \$8,035,412 \$1,506,872 \$2,654,000	Obligations (thousands)  \$8,035,412  \$1,506,872  \$2,654,000  \$11,487	Obligations (thousands)         Federal WYs         Obligations (thousands)           \$8,035,412         \$8,234,267           \$157,296         \$41,559           \$1,506,872         \$1,576,868           \$2,654,000         \$2,759,395           \$11,487         \$12,406	Obligations (thousands)         Federal WYs         Obligations (thousands)         Federal WYs           \$8,035,412         \$8,234,267         \$157,296           \$157,296         \$41,559         \$41,559           \$1,506,872         \$1,576,868         \$2,759,395           \$11,487         \$12,406

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Figures include Program Integrity

_	FY 2025	FY 2026			Change
	Obligations	Federal	Obligations	Federal	Obligations
<del>-</del>	(thousands)	WYs	(thousands)	WYs	(thousands)
PROGRAM CHANGES – Program changes are year-over-year cost increases or decreases not captured in the section above. These result from changes in agency priorities, policy decisions, or dedicated funding.					
PROGRAM INCREASES					
B1. Net Increase in Disability  Determination Services – Funds increased medical expenses for over 300,000 additional cases completed in the DDSs			\$60,605		\$60,605
B2. Non-Payroll Costs – Fully funds Payroll Information Exchange (PIE), which will generate significant program savings	\$838,641		\$871,726		\$33,085
B3. <u>Information Technology (IT) –</u> <u>Base Funding (excludes</u> <u>reimbursables)</u>	\$1,269,000		\$1,860,000		\$591,000
B4. OIG Reimbursable Transfer for CDI Payroll (funded by PI adjustment)	\$15,100		\$24,600		\$9,500
Subtotal, Program Increases	\$2,122,741		\$2,816,931		\$694,190
Subtotal, Gross Increases	\$14,330,512		\$15,399,867		\$1,069,355
PROGRAM DECREASES					
C1. Payroll Decreases – Net Decrease in SSA WYs		-3,632	-\$606,474	-3,632	-\$606,474
C2. Postal Service Reform Act	\$1,258		\$0		-\$1,258
Subtotal, Program Decreases	\$1,258	-3,632	-\$606,474	-3,632	-\$607,732
Subtotal, Gross Decreases	\$1,258	-3,632	-\$606,474	-3,632	-\$607,732
NO NET CHANGE					
D1. IT Obligations Funded from Prior-Year Unobligated Balances	\$200,000		\$200,000		\$0
Subtotal, No Net Change	\$200,000		\$200,000		\$0
Total Obligations, Net	\$14,531,770	-3,632	\$14,993,393	-3,632	+ \$461,623

### **BUDGETARY RESOURCES BY OBJECT**

Table 3.16—Budgetary Resources by Object

(Dollars in thousands) $^{1,2,3}$ 

	FY 2025	FY 2026	Change
Personnel Compensation			
Permanent positions	\$5,531,532	\$5,203,165	(\$328,368)
Positions other than permanent	\$82,550	\$43,752	(\$38,799)
Other personnel compensation	\$241,173	\$246,487	\$5,314
Special personal service payments	\$2,000	\$2,000	-
Subtotal, personnel compensation	\$5,857,255	\$5,495,403	(\$361,852)
Personnel Benefits	\$2,191,515	\$2,153,990	(\$37,525)
Benefits for former personnel	\$3,000	\$3,000	-
Travel and transportation of persons	\$10,923	\$10,894	(\$29)
Transportation of things	\$5,914	\$5,899	(\$15)
Rent, communications, and utilities			
Rental payments to GSA	\$703,842	\$726,359	\$22,517
Rental payments to others	\$189	\$236	\$47
Communications, utilities, misc.	\$433,642	\$478,558	\$44,916
Printing and reproduction	\$35,217	\$35,125	(\$92)
Other contractual services (DDS, guards, etc.)	\$4,809,882	\$5,538,807	\$728,925
Supplies and materials	\$23,873	\$23,811	(\$62)
Equipment	\$320,746	\$385,894	\$65,149
Land and structures	\$24,852	\$24,787	(\$65)
Grants, subsidies, and contributions	\$48,467	\$48,341	(\$127)
Insurance claims and indemnities	\$50,008	\$49,877	(\$131)
Financial Transfers	\$12,446	\$12,413	(\$33)
<b>Total Obligations</b>	\$14,531,770	\$14,993,393	\$461,623
Resources not being obligated in the current year (carrying over or lapsing)	\$119,015	\$52,977	(\$66,038)
<b>Total Budgetary Resources</b>	\$14,650,785	\$15,046,370	\$395,585
Payments to State DDS (funded from other services and Communications, utilities, and misc.)	\$2,654,000	\$2,820,000	\$166,000

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<sup>1</sup> Totals are shown in thousands, do not include reimbursables and may not add due to rounding.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The obligations include the base LAE appropriation, MIPPA, LIS, SCHIP, MACRA, Postage Reform, and the Altmeyer Renovation. Total budgetary resources in the table reflect FY 2025 and FY 2026 projections of spending by object class. Resources are not managed at the object class level and SSA has the flexibility within the LAE account to modify projected spending during the budget execution process.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> These figures do not include Technology Modernization Fund (TMF) funding.

### ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION OF AGENCY COSTS

The Estimated Distribution of Agency Costs exhibit displays SSA's workyears and costs by major component group.

In FY 2025, we realigned our workforce to increase staff in our direct-service operations, streamlined our headquarters and regional structures, and consolidated like functions across offices. With these changes, we are right-sizing essential services to our frontline workers to fulfill statutorily directed functions and complete integrity work to protect taxpayer dollars. In FY 2026, we plan to continue increasing employee productivity through more efficient business processes, automated workloads, IT improvements, and accelerated investment in artificial intelligence.

Table 3.17—FY 2024 - Estimated Distribution of Agency Costs<sup>1</sup> (Dollars in thousands)

Component	FTEs	Lump Sum	Overtime	Workyears	Salaries/ OT	Benefits	Other Objects	Total
Field Offices	26,839	58	863	27,760	\$2,480,824	\$968,106	\$509,814	\$3,958,745
Teleservice Centers	3,947	5	36	3,988	\$268,830	\$105,529	\$21,922	\$396,281
Regional Offices, <sup>2</sup>	1,396	6	21	1,423	\$180,213	\$65,758	\$318,602	\$564,573
Subtotal, Regional/Field	32,182	69	920	33,171	\$2,929,867	\$1,139,393	\$850,338	\$4,919,598
Program Service Centers and Office of Central Operations	9,214	25	728	9,967	\$819,048	\$318,519	\$120,348	\$1,257,914
Subtotal, Operations	41,396	94	1,648	43,138	\$3,748,915	\$1,457,911	\$970,685	\$6,177,511
Office of Hearings Operations	7,512	22	396	7,930	\$876,335	\$340,797	\$244,474	\$1,461,605
Office of the Chief Information Officer	3,293	17	25	3,335	\$441,016	\$171,506	\$48,387	\$660,908
Office of Analytics, Review, and Oversight	1,923	6	61	1,990	\$244,513	\$95,088	\$8,912	\$348,513
Office of General Counsel	713	2	0	715	\$109,176	\$42,457	\$66,134	\$217,767
Headquarters	3,161	12	24	3,197	\$411,160	\$159,479	\$939,958	\$1,510,598
Subtotal, SSA	57,998	153	2,154	60,305	\$5,831,114	\$2,267,239	\$2,278,549	\$10,376,902
ITS							\$1,482,641	\$1,482,641
DDS	13,424	0	219	13,643			\$2,646,622	\$2,646,622
Total LAE	71,422	153	2,373	73,948	\$5,831,114	\$2,267,239	\$6,407,812	\$14,506,165

Table 3.18—FY 2025 - Estimated Distribution of Agency Costs<sup>1,3</sup> (Dollars in thousands)

Component	FTEs	Lump Sum	Overtime	Workyears	Salaries/ OT	Benefits	Other Objects	Total
Field Offices	25,595	150	1,224	26,969	\$2,586,855	\$1,005,814	\$545,695	\$4,138,364
Office of Telephone Service	4,046	19	50	4,115	\$310,556	\$120,749	\$23,464	\$454,769
Program Service Centers and Office of Central Operations	8,339	56	120	8,515	\$789,885	\$307,121	\$128,818	\$1,225,824
Regional Offices <sup>2</sup>	848	11	4	863	\$117,377	\$45,638	\$341,025	\$504,040
Office of Disability Adjudication	9,193	66	222	9,481	\$1,143,700	\$444,691	\$285,345	\$1,873,736
Subtotal, Direct Service	48,021	302	1,620	49,943	\$4,948,372	\$1,924,014	\$1,324,346	\$8,196,732
Office of the Chief Information Officer	3,032	31	29	3,092	\$448,230	\$174,279	\$48,063	\$670,572
Office of Law and Policy	959	13	0	972	\$155,630	\$60,511	\$182,253	\$398,394
Agency-Level Support Offices <sup>4</sup>	1,839	29	19	1,887	\$245,341	\$95,393	\$802,338	\$1,143,072
Subtotal, SSA	53,851	375	1,668	55,894	\$5,797,572	\$2,254,198	\$2,357,000	\$10,408,770
ITS				-			\$1,469,000	\$1,469,000
DDS	12,834	0	260	13,094			\$2,654,000	\$2,654,000
Total, LAE	66,685	375	1,928	68,988	\$5,797,572	\$2,254,198	\$6,480,000	\$14,531,770
OIG Transfer <sup>5</sup>				-			- \$15,100	- \$15,100
Total, LAE and OIG Transfer	66,685	375	1,928	68,988	\$5,797,572	\$2,254,198	\$6,464,900	\$14,516,670

Table 3.19—FY 2026 - Estimated Distribution of Agency Costs<sup>1,3</sup> (Dollars in thousands)

Component	FTEs	Lump Sum	Overtime	Work years	Salaries/ OT	Benefits	Other Objects	Total
Field Offices	24,505	132	1,220	25,857	\$2,577,284	\$1,004,834	\$563,961	\$4,146,079
Office of Telephone Service	3,789	8	50	3,847	\$294,884	\$114,656	\$23,464	\$433,004
Program Service Centers and Office of Central Operations	7,581	35	120	7,736	\$725,712	\$282,169	\$128,818	\$1,136,699
Regional Offices <sup>2</sup>	306	9	0	315	\$42,553	\$16,545	\$346,616	\$405,714
Office of Disability Adjudication	9,136	41	261	9,438	\$1,146,513	\$445,784	\$289,787	\$1,882,084
Subtotal, Direct Service	45,317	225	1,651	47,193	\$4,786,945	\$1,863,989	\$1,352,645	\$8,003,579
Office of the Chief Information Officer	2,671	24	30	2,725	\$390,308	\$151,758	\$48,063	\$590,129
Office of Law and Policy	732	9	0	741	\$117,846	\$45,821	\$214,887	\$378,554
Agency-Level Support Offices <sup>4</sup>	1,558	26	19	1,603	\$212,934	\$82,792	\$845,405	\$1,141,131
Subtotal, SSA	50,278	284	1,700	52,262	\$5,508,033	\$2,144,360	\$2,461,000	\$10,113,393
ITS				-			\$2,060,000	\$2,060,000
DDS	12,744	0	350	13,094			\$2,820,000	\$2,820,000
Total LAE	63,022	284	2,050	65,356	\$5,508,033	\$2,144,360	\$7,341,000	\$14,993,393
OIG Transfer <sup>5</sup>				-			- \$24,600	- \$24,600
Total, LAE and OIG Transfer	63,022	284	2,050	65,356	\$5,508,033	\$2,144,360	\$7,316,400	\$14,968,793

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Includes Reimbursable workyears (178 FTEs in FY 2024, 225 FTEs in FY 2025, and 225 FTEs in FY 2026). FY 2024 includes dedicated funding to reduce the hearings backlog, Postage Reform, and Altmeyer building renovation. FY 2025 includes dedicated funding for Postage Reform.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Other Objects includes field office guard services and other centralized Operations contracts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Due to ongoing reorganization and realignment, this table reflects point-in-time operating assumptions as of 5/1/2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Costs in this category include Office of Mission Support, Office of External Affairs, Office of Chief Actuary, and Office of Commissioner. Other Objects totals include multiple items which cover expenditures for the entire agency. Examples include Return to Work Incentives, Department of Interior Payroll IAA, GSA Delegations, Data Exchanges, Suitability and Reinvestigations, Facilities and Maintenance, and Headquarters Guard Services.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> P.L. 118-47 and P.L. 119-4 allow SSA to transfer \$15.1 million in FY 2024 and FY 2025 from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly-operated CDI units. The President's Budget assumes a \$24.6 million transfer.

### **PERFORMANCE TARGETS**

The President's FY 2026 request will allow us to achieve the following key performance targets:

**Table 3.20—Key Performance Targets** 

Workload and Outcome Measures	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Enacted <sup>1</sup>	FY 2026 President's Budget
Retirement and Survivor Claims (includes Medicare)			Ţ.
Retirement and Survivor Claims Completed (thousands) <sup>2</sup>	6,818	6,880	6,886
Disability Claims			
Initial Disability Claims Receipts (thousands)	2,317	2,209	2,307
Initial Disability Claims Completed (thousands)	2,229	2,349	2,322
Initial Disability Claims Pending (thousands)	1,178	1,015	1,000
Average Processing Time for Initial Disability Claims (days)	231	225	220
Disability Reconsiderations			
Disability Reconsiderations Receipts (thousands)	566	634	627
Disability Reconsiderations Completed (thousands)	514	570	649
Disability Reconsiderations Pending (thousands)	332	394	372
Average Processing Time for Disability Reconsiderations (days)	231	248	248
Hearings			
Hearings Receipts (thousands)	363	400	478
Hearings Completed (thousands)	423	390	403
Hearings Pending (thousands)	262	272	347
Annual Average Processing Time for Hearings Decisions (days)	342	280	270
National 800 Number			
National 800 Number Calls Handled (millions) <sup>3</sup>	32	35	35
Average Speed of Answer (ASA) (minutes) <sup>4</sup>	28	18	12
Agent Busy Rate (percent)	0.9%	9.0%	10.0%
Program Integrity			
Periodic Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR) Completed (thousands)	1,342	1,200	1,400
Full Medical CDRs (included above, thousands)	381	400	600
SSI Non-Medical Redeterminations Completed (thousands)	2,550	2,482	2,600
Selected Other Agency Workload Measures			
Social Security Numbers (SSN) Completed (millions)	19	18	18
Annual Earnings Items Completed (millions)	299	300	305
Social Security Statements Issued (millions) <sup>5</sup>	14	11	15
Selected Production Workload Measures			
Disability Determination Services Production per Workyear <sup>6</sup>	246	267	288
Office of Hearings Operations Production per Workyear	76	83	87

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> FY 2025 does not incorporate pending reassignments of support staff to mission-critical jobs.

Our budget is fully integrated with our Annual Performance Plan (APP), which is included as the last tab in this *Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees*, and online at <u>our website</u>. The budget estimates are linked to the key performance measures above and support all of the more detailed measures outlined in the APP.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Includes Medicare.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Includes calls handled by automation. In FY 2024, we handled almost 3.7 million calls by automation. For FY 2025 and FY 2026, we project about 4 million automated calls handled in each year.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> We are currently developing an alternative performance measure to supplement ASA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The Social Security Statements Issued measure includes paper Statements only. It does not include electronic statements issued. In FY 2024, *my* Social Security users accessed their Social Security Statements 40 million times. Consistent with FYs 2024 and 2025, in FY 2026, we will send paper Statements to people aged 60 and older who are not receiving Social Security benefits and who are not registered for a *my* Social Security account, at a cost of approximately \$12 million.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> DDS Production Per Workyear (PPWY) includes cases completed via Federal assistance.

#### **PROGRAM INTEGRITY**

The FY 2026 President's Budget demonstrates our commitment to ensure only eligible individuals receive the benefits to which they are entitled, and to safeguard the integrity of our benefit programs.

The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (P.L. 119-4) provided \$1.903 billion in dedicated funding for program integrity (PI) activities in FY 2025, including a \$1.630 billion cap adjustment. Our FY 2026 request includes \$2.397 billion in dedicated funding for PI activities, including a \$2.124 billion adjustment, \$494 million above the FY 2025 enacted level.

We utilize dedicated PI funding to ensure responsible spending of taxpayer funds and to make certain that we are providing the correct benefit amounts only to those who qualify. The funding pays for continuing disability reviews (CDRs) and related workloads (e.g., appeals) to confirm that only qualified individuals receive disability payments. The funding also pays for non-medical redeterminations (RZs) to determine whether recipients receiving SSI continue to meet the program's income and resource limits. PI funding also supports Cooperative Disability Investigation (CDI) units, which review questionable disability claims and investigate cases of suspected disability fraud in order to stop payment before it occurs, and the prosecution of beneficiary-side program fraud and identity theft by Special Assistant United States Attorneys (SAUSAs).

From the adjustment funding, we make an annual transfer to the OIG for costs associated with jointly-operated CDI Unit costs. For FY 2025, we transferred \$15.1 million to OIG, and the President's Budget would support a \$24.6 million transfer in FY 2026.

Dedicated PI funds are a subset of our total LAE funding and are available for 18 months from the start of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated. The Budget assumes 18-month availability for PI funding,, restricting funds exclusively for dedicated PI activities.

The PI funding also supports an expansion of Special Assistant United States Attorneys (SAUSA) to 50 offices, consistent with the White House memorandum, <u>Preventing Illegal Aliens from Obtaining Social Security Act Benefits</u>.

Our FY 2026 discretionary request assumes continued funding of these activities in the outyears, which would produce significant savings.

CDRs conducted in FY 2026 will yield an estimated return on investment (ROI) of about \$8 on average in net Federal program savings over 10 years per \$1 budgeted for dedicated program integrity funding, including OASDI, SSI, Medicare, and Medicaid program effects. Similarly, the ROI for non-medical redeterminations conducted in FY 2026 will be about \$3 on average of net Federal program savings over 10 years per \$1 budgeted for dedicated PI funding, including SSI and Medicaid program effects.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As reflected in our <u>2024 Operating Plan</u>, we realigned our accounting to ensure that we fund the full costs of our PI activities (including CDR appeals) with dedicated funding provided for that purpose. To this end, our estimated CDR ROI now accounts for the full CDR costs.

Completing medical CDRs timely is critical to good stewardship. The President's Budget assumes we will eliminate the CDR backlog and be current on all full medical CDR diaries in outyears and remain current throughout the Budget window.

In FY 2024, we completed 381,143 full medical CDRs and 2,550,132 RZs. We plan to complete 400,000 full medical CDRs in FY 2025 and 600,000 in FY 2026, making progress toward CDR currency. We also plan to complete 2.482 million RZs in FY 2025 and 2.6 million RZs in FY 2026.

**Table 3.21—Program Integrity Workloads and Funding by Source<sup>2</sup>** (Dollars in millions)

	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Estimate
Volumes			
Full Medical CDRs Completed	381,143	400,000	600,000
SSI Non-Medical RZs Completed	2,550,132	2,482,000	2,600,000
Funding <sup>3,4</sup>			
Unobligated Balance, start-of-year	\$114	\$82	\$51
Dedicated Program Integrity Funding	\$1,851	\$1,903	\$2,397
Subtotal PI Resources	\$1,965	\$1,985	\$2,448
Less Unobligated Balance, end-of-year	-\$82	-\$51	-\$50
Total PI Obligations <sup>5</sup>	\$1,883	\$1,935	\$2,397
Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI)	\$122	-	-
Disability Insurance (DI)	\$274	\$534	\$723
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	\$1,340	\$1,401	\$1,674
Medicare Part A, Hospital Insurance (HI)	\$60	-	-
Medicare Part B, Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI)	\$77	-	1
Medicare Part D, Drug Coverage	\$10	-	-
Total PI Obligations <sup>6</sup>	\$1,883	\$1,935	\$2,397

#### **Budgeting and Managing Program Integrity Workloads**

While we take many steps to ensure we analyze and budget for the costs of our CDR and SSI RZ workloads, we do not know actual costs until after the end of the fiscal year. The 18-month

<sup>3</sup> Dedicated program integrity funds have 18-month availability. The Budget assumes funding to complete planned program integrity workloads in FY 2026, including through base funding and an adjustment.

<sup>4</sup> Includes a \$15,100,000 transfer in FY 2024, a \$15,100,000 transfer in FY 2025, and a \$24,600,000 transfer in FY 2026 from LAE to the SSA's Inspector General (OIG) for the cost of jointly operated anti-fraud CDI units.

<sup>5</sup> Totals include the combined costs of CDRs (Full Medical, Work, and due process appeals), SSI RZs, CDI units, and the SAUSAs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> We do not project workload costs for OASI, HI, SMI, or Medicare Part D. We report these costs with the actuals.

authority allows us the flexibility to obligate our dedicated program integrity funding responsibly. The individual unit costs and the volume of work processed for CDRs and RZs are the primary drivers that determine the actual total program integrity costs. Fluctuations in our PI unit costs occur throughout the year due to a variety of factors, such as:

- hiring and training, which can impact productivity in the work units where PI work is done;
- information technology investments (e.g. timing of development and acquisitions);
- policy changes;
- business process changes;
- timing of work completion (e.g. work can start in a prior fiscal year and clear in the next); and
- the types of cases processed in a year (e.g. processing a greater number of more time-consuming types of CDRs in a year can increase unit costs in that year).

In addition to these variables that add costs to the PI workloads, it can be difficult for the agency to control the volume of PI work that is completed. PI work occurs across the country in every field office, processing center, and State DDS. Some PI work must be done on-demand when we become aware of an issue with a claimant's situation and cannot be planned. Therefore, it is difficult to predict final workload processing levels in advance.

We track PI spending and analyze and review cyclical trends in PI costs throughout the fiscal year. We do not know what our final costs for these workloads are until the fiscal year closes and all charges are applied. Therefore, we make a conservative estimate of total expected costs at the end of the year to stay within the total available program integrity funding.

We calculate the unit costs for PI workloads using data from our Cost Analysis System. This system allocates our administrative costs to all workloads, including CDRs and RZs. Changes in other agency workloads, as well as in other large agency cost categories such as information technology (IT), can impact the overall total unit costs for PI workloads, which can make it difficult to predict end-of-year costs for CDRs and RZs throughout the year.

Our PI unit costs include direct payroll, direct other objects, information technology systems (ITS), and agency shared costs that include both payroll and other objects. Our direct payroll includes costs of our employees in the front-line workload processing components like our field offices, program service centers, and State DDSs. ITS costs include all non-payroll costs associated with our IT investments. Direct other objects costs include non-payroll, non-ITS costs of our front-line workload processing components. Lastly, agency shared costs include all other component costs, like headquarters components as well as a portion of rent, postage, and guards.

We closely monitor and adjust our workload processing plans for PI workloads based on our real experience, while striving to hit all performance and spending targets. We also regularly monitor the effects of the cost factors described above to pace this workload throughout the fiscal year and to inform our spending decisions.

#### Allow Initial Level Deny 38% 2,086,885 Allow Deny Reconsiderations 16% 84% 495,700 Administrative Allow **Dismiss** Deny Law Judge 51% 16% 33% Hearing 289,492 **Appeals** Council Review Allow Dismiss Remand Denv 1% 3% 16% 80% 45,641 Federal Court Decisions 1/ Allow Dismiss Remand Denv 15,753 63% 4% 32%

FISCAL YEAR 2024 DISABILITY DECISION DATA

Table 3.22—Fiscal Year 2024 Disability Decision Data\*

\*Workload volumes for initial claims, reconsiderations, and hearings do not align with performance reported in our key performance measures table because the data definition for the key performance measures table captures broader activity.

<sup>1/</sup>Only Federal Court data includes appeals of Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs). Data Sources:

- 1. Initial and Reconsideration Data: SSA State Agency Operations Report
- 2. Administrative Law Judge and Appeals Council data: SSA Office of Hearing Operations (OHO) and SSA Office of Appellate Operations (OAO)
- 3. Federal Court data: SSA Office of General Counsel (OGC)

Includes Title II, Title XVI, and concurrent initial disability determinations and appeals decisions issued in FY 2024, regardless of the year in which the initial claim was filed, and regardless of whether the claimant ever received benefits (in a small number of cases with a favorable disability decision, benefits are subsequently denied because the claimant does not meet other eligibility requirements). Does not include claims where an eligibility determination was reached without a determination of disability. If a determination or appeals decision was made on Title II and Title XVI claims for the same person, the results are treated as one concurrent decision.

NOTE: Due to rounding, data may not always total 100%.

Prepared by: SSA, Office of Decision Support and Strategic Information (ODSSI)Date Prepared: January 30, 2025

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### Introduction

### **Operational Modernization**

We are transforming customer service through strategic investments in modern information technology with a digital-first organization that conducts hundreds of millions of customer interactions every year. We are working toward a customer-first future where everything is available online, related services seamlessly share relevant customer data, interactions are painless, and our technology is transformed.

Modernizing our information technology (IT) is integral to our efficient operations and delivering improved services for our customers. With this mindset, we are expanding our online and mobile capabilities, developing tools for seamless online form completion, and strengthening data-sharing partnerships with healthcare providers. Our commitment to first contact resolution will result in improved phone support and field office services, including reduced wait times and enhanced service quality. We are also actively modernizing our foundational technology while responsibly decommissioning legacy systems to ensure reliability, security, and cost-effectiveness by utilizing modern information architecture, implementing artificial intelligence (AI) for task automation, and partnering with industry-leading providers to support customer-first solutions. Our efforts in 2025 and 2026 contribute to our longer-term IT modernization strategy, which is under development.

Table 3.23—Total Information Technology Systems (ITS) Budget Authority

(Dollars in Millions) <sup>1</sup>	TAFS Code <sup>2</sup>	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Estimate
ITS New Budget Authority	28258704	\$1,116	\$1,269	\$1,860
Prior Year Transfer/Carryover	028X8704	\$367	\$200	\$200
IT Reimbursables	28258704	\$10	\$10	\$19
Subtotal ITS		\$1,492	\$1,479	\$2,079
Internal Labor (Payroll)	28258704	\$744	\$751	\$542
Total		\$2,236	\$2,230	\$2,621

# **Modernizing IT for Mission Delivery**

account symbol, and the period of availability of the resources in the account.

Our strategy for IT modernization focuses on enhanced service delivery and higher customer satisfaction levels where every interaction is meaningful, responsive, and tailored to the diverse needs of the public we serve.

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FY 2026 Congressional Justification

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol (TAFS) combines the Treasury agency or department code, the Federal

Our IT request aligns with and will help us achieve our Service Delivery Strategy goals to:

- Provide new world-class online services and mobile apps with 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (24/7) availability;
- Implement a modern, unified platform for customer communication;
- Simplify customer interactions;
- Develop technician-facing capabilities and platforms that incorporate modern technology and are integrated across service channels;
- Shift from localized workloads to portable, national workloads and evolving business processes; and
- Leverage efficient delivery models.

Below are the fiscal year (FY) 2026 projects and investments that will enable us to execute and achieve these goals:

## **Optimizing the Service Catalog for Online and Mobile**

We recognize the public expects the same efficient and user-friendly services they experience with other businesses. To meet our customers' expectations, we are prioritizing the expansion of our online and mobile capabilities. This includes not only enhancing our existing digital products but also developing new solutions to better serve our customers.

Initiative	Description and Outcomes	FY 2026 (in millions)
National	Streamlines and expands appointment scheduling for	\$13.0
Appointment	Social Security services by increasing the number and	
Scheduling	types of customers who can self-schedule appointments.	
Calendar	Outcomes: Adds new appointment types, such as post	
	entitlement and claims. Increases the number of	
	customers who can self-schedule appointments, resulting	
	in fewer phone calls and shorter wait times at field offices.	
<i>my</i> Social Security	Enhances business services on <i>my</i> Social Security for	\$5.0
on Mobile	deployment on a mobile platform to improve access and	
	communication with customers. Outcomes: Increases	
	self-service options and digital communication methods to	
	meet customer expectations while reducing the need for	
	customers to make phone calls or visit a field office.	
Claims Status	Provides detailed claim status information to claimants	\$5.0
Tracker	and representatives regarding the status of their cases	
	online. Outcomes: Provides online statuses, which will	
	decrease calls and visits to field offices.	

Notices and	Provides timely, clear, and accurate communications	\$20.0
Customer	tailored to preferred delivery methods—mail, email,	
Communications on	online, or text. Outcomes: Provides information through	
<i>my</i> Social Security	channels our customers prefer and increases the	
	likelihood that our communications reach them. Reduces	
	manual printing by approximately 100,000 notices and	
	saves \$11 million annually in maintenance, printing	
	materials, and postage.	

### Systems and processes to drive first contact resolution

We are working to simplify and streamline the processes for collecting essential information from our customers. This includes enabling customers to complete forms entirely online, strengthening data-sharing partnerships with healthcare providers, and ensuring that related lines of business can share information seamlessly. We are actively taking the necessary steps to make these processes better for our customers.

Initiative	Description and Outcomes	FY 2026 (in millions)
Enterprise Document Intake <sup>3</sup>	Allows customers to electronically upload evidence, ensuring submitted evidence and signed forms are automatically transmitted to downstream systems.  Outcomes: Reduces field office visits and simplifies downstream processing, resulting in faster and more	\$36.0
Forms Modernization	accurate services.  Allows customers to fill and submit forms online. Data from forms is available for use in other steps of the benefit adjudication process. Outcomes: Reduces adjudication time and simplifies downstream processing, resulting in faster and more accurate services.	\$10.0
Online Social Security Number (SSN)	Consolidates multiple SSN card applications and provides a digital SSN option. <i>Outcomes: Allows customers on-demand access to their SSN, reducing phone and field office traffic.</i>	\$15.0
National Case Processing System (NCPS) – Scheduling	Integrates calendar availability into NCPS for all parties necessary for scheduling hearings. The public will also be able to see when representatives are available.  Outcomes: Decreases technician time by 35 minutes per case and increases the public's ability to see when representatives are available.	\$3.0
Electronic Work Continuing Disability Review (eWCDR)	Provides functionality to accept wage and employment information from payroll data providers. <i>Outcomes</i> :	\$8.0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Technology Modernization Funding (TMF) is outside of this budget request. TMF is not reflected in the amount listed because we separately secured that funding to support this work.

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Initiative	Description and Outcomes	FY 2026 (in millions)
	Reduces manual processing of notices and forms.	
	Reduces improper payments due to concealed earnings.	
Electronic Evidence	Provides electronic exchange of Health IT information	\$18.0
Acquisition Product	with healthcare partners to simplify medical document	
	collection. Outcomes: Increases number of cases using	
	Health IT, onboards new healthcare industry partners to	
	make it easier for customers to provide medical	
	documentation, and allows SSA to make accurate	
	disability determinations more quickly.	

#### **First Contact Resolution**

While we encourage our customers to utilize our more efficient online and mobile channels, we understand that some may still prefer to conduct business over the phone, speak directly with a representative, or visit a field office for support. To accommodate these preferences, we are committed to strengthening these channels to ensure that we can address customer needs effectively on the first contact, minimizing wait times and enhancing overall service quality.

Initiative	Description and Outcomes	FY 2026 (in millions)
Enterprise Contact	Includes phone channel management and processing	\$15.0
Center (ECC)	system IVR features to increase self-service capabilities.	
includes 800 Number	Outcomes: Increases call routing to automated systems	
Interactive Voice	by 15 percent and integrates claim status and	
Response (IVR)	appointment scheduling into IVR. Allows SSA to serve	
	more people and reduce wait times for customers who	
	cannot use self-service.	
Technician	Gives technicians a more holistic view of the customer	\$32.0
Experience	to provide faster, integrated services. <i>Outcomes</i> :	
Dashboard (TED)	Introduces more ways to help customers and builds in AI	
	policy chatbot to increase speed of service to more	
	customers.	
Consolidated Claims	Provides a centralized hub to process benefits inquiries	\$30.0
Experience (CCE)	faster as part of larger Benefits Modernization initiative.	
	Outcomes: Reduces the number of systems SSA staff	
	must use to complete tasks, increasing speed of service	
	for customers.	

## Modernize foundational field office technologies

The transformation of our underlying technology infrastructure to optimize reliability, security, and cost effectiveness is essential for supporting the modern, customer-first solutions we will deliver. We are modernizing our information architecture, while responsibly decommissioning legacy systems, to simplify maintenance of complex systems. AI will augment and automate

routine tasks to enhance and streamline technicians' review. We will outsource commodity IT functions to more efficient partners while industry-leading digital identity solutions will address fraud.

Initiative	<b>Description and Outcomes</b>	FY 2026 (in millions)
Modern Data Layer	Builds a layer of data products to connect the front-end applications to the back-end data stores. Data will be organized with the customer at the center of the model. Outcomes: Organizes data and reduces deployment time to ensure new services and functionality is delivered to customers more efficiently.	\$30.0
Automated Exhibiting and Prep Work	Upgrades existing software to allow for the automation of prep work by reviewing and exhibiting evidence and eliminating duplicate information. <i>Outcomes:</i> Decreases the time spent by technicians by 15 minutes per case at the reconsideration, initial, and hearing levels, allowing us to process more claims.	\$6.0
Business Resilience Automation	Allows for movement of workloads between data centers as business or environmental circumstances demand. Outcomes: Enable 99.99% uptime to better support 24x7 system availability and align with our focus on providing online and mobile apps for customer self-service	\$110.0
Improve and Integrate Identity Assurance across channels	Expands customer identity verification and access levels, which is critical for online services. <i>Outcomes:</i> Provides additional fraud prevention measures and modernizes our Federated Identity System (FIS), strengthening program integrity.	\$50.0
National Workload Management System	Creates the ability to send work to the next available technician regardless of where the case was initiated. Enables a national queue where work can be processed in a first-in, first-out manner. Outcomes: Shares workloads more efficiently across regions and reduces wait times in busier regions.	\$8.0
Analytics and Disability Decision Support (ADDS) - IMAGEN <sup>4</sup>	Leverages AI and machine learning to analyze medical evidence and support disability determinations, particularly increasing disability determination services (DDS) usage and expanding functionality to hearings offices. Outcomes: Shortens disability claims processing times, allowing us to process more disability decisions.	\$16.0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> TMF is not reflected in the amount listed because we separately secured that funding to support this work.

Initiative	Description and Outcomes	FY 2026 (in millions)
AI for Drafting Medical Summaries and Dispositions	Provides AI summary of medical evidence. Uses AI to read the evidence in the file and generate a summary of the facts. <i>Outcomes: Disability adjudicators and</i>	\$9.0
Management Information for NCPS	reviewers will save 30 minutes per case.  Enables optimization of workload allocation.  Outcomes: Decreases task time and improves processing time at the appeals level for case closure.	\$5.0
Automated Medical Acquisition and Processing	Automates medical evidence of record requests at DDS case receipt and obtains medical evidence earlier in the disability adjudication process. Leverages AI technologies to identify determination ready claims once evidence is in file. Outcomes: Decreases processing time by 15 minutes per case at the initial level.	\$6.0
Automation for Processing Center (PC)	Automating top issues that cause fall out to PCs via real-time feedback from PC technicians. Outcomes: Addressing root-cause of fallouts will prevent cases from going to the PCs, which will lower case volumes that are backlogged in the PCs as well as quicken claims processing for the public.	\$10.0

### **Investing in Customer Experience and Artificial Intelligence Solutions**

We are allocating budget resources to develop innovative data products that create centralized, customer experience-oriented data solutions. These solutions will streamline the collection, access, and sharing of data across various products and services, ensuring timely and accurate information for our customers. By centralizing our data, we enhance our product delivery engine, providing consistent and reliable information that improves operational processes and ensures seamless service across different product lines. This approach also accelerates our time to market for new products, allowing us to respond quickly to customer needs and market demands. Utilizing modern technologies like microservices and application program interfaces will help us phase out outdated systems, simplify data integration, and migrate our data and applications to the cloud, ultimately leading to a better customer experience.

In parallel, we are committed to investing in innovative AI solutions to enhance processing efficiencies, improve service delivery, and bolster customer satisfaction while detecting and preventing fraud. Our initiatives include implementing customer service automation through an IVR system, deploying AI chatbots and virtual assistants for 24/7 support, and automating large-scale document and form processing. We will also develop internal AI tools to provide staff with instant access to relevant policy and process information to enhance decision-making and program integrity. Additionally, we will create AI-enabled productivity tools tailored for SSA, streamlining operations and improving service delivery.

# **IT Investments for Mission Support Services**

We are investing in management and analysis tools to support employee productivity and accountability. Investment areas include E-Government Initiatives, Financial Systems, Human Resources (HR) Investments, and Records Management. Key initiatives include:

- Enhance Teleservice Center Performance Monitoring: Includes HR product functionality that allows us to better monitor and respond to staff-level teleservice center performance metrics.
- Transition to New Time and Attendance System: We are working with our current payroll provider, the Department of the Interior, to find an alternate time and attendance application that meets the requirements of both agencies.

# IT Infrastructure, IT Security, and IT Management

We are committed to enhancing our operations by investing in IT infrastructure, cybersecurity, and IT management to help us transition to an online organization that fulfills our mission to deliver millions of customer interactions every year.

#### IT Infrastructure

Our infrastructure initiatives provide the foundation for building and operating our IT with best-in-class uptime and support continuity of service and systems growth. We will invest in critical refreshments that have been delayed from previous years and modernization initiatives that are foundational to building the secure, available, multi-channel services our public demands. Key infrastructure initiatives include:

- IT Operations Management (ITOM) Improvements: We are replacing our ITOM technologies and practices in a multi-year effort to improve how we manage our IT capabilities in a hybrid cloud ecosystem.
- Mainframe Business Resilience: Business resilience automation will allow us to move workloads between data centers as business or environmental circumstances demand. Our target is to enable 99.99 percent uptime to better support a 24/7 system availability to align with our focus on providing online and mobile apps for customer self-service.
- **Deferred Hardware Refresh:** Funding will support storage hardware refreshments and end user laptop refreshments deferred over several budget cycles, and enhancements for critical virtual infrastructure that hosts many public-facing services.
- Moving to Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6): We are transitioning communications to IPv6 in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memorandum M-21-07, Completing the Transition to Internet Protocol Version 6, and Executive Order 14208, Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity.
- **Application Development Infrastructure:** Funding will support enterprise-wide analysis, design, development, coding, testing, and release services for application development that integrates user-centered development, testing, and standards, ensuring that applications comply with Section 508 and Enterprise Architecture standards.

## IT Security<sup>5</sup>

We are committed to maintaining the public's trust in our ability to protect sensitive data. We will do this by utilizing advanced cybersecurity controls and continuously assessing the threat landscape. Key initiatives include:

- Expanding our Zero Trust Architecture: While focusing on High Value Assets as described in OMB M-19-03, Strengthening the Cybersecurity of Federal Agencies by Enhancing the High Value Asset Program, and OMB M-22-09, Moving the U.S. Government Toward Zero Trust Cybersecurity Principles.
- Improving Critical Cybersecurity Infrastructure: As mentioned in OMB M-24-04, Fiscal Year 2024 Guidance on Federal Information Security and Privacy Management Requirements
- Enhancing Enterprise Logging Capabilities: In support of OMB M-21-31, Improving the Federal Government's Investigative and Remediation Capabilities Related to Cybersecurity Incidents
- Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) Program: In compliance with EO <u>13556</u>, Controlled Classification Information, employees must apply markings to CUI when sending sensitive information to outside entities that are not part of the agency's process for administering claims, post-entitlements, enumerations, earnings, etc., and when disseminating, physically safeguarding, decontrolling, destroying, and transferring CUI.

## IT Management

The IT management investment captures all costs associated with IT management and strategic planning (including Chief Information Officer [CIO] and other senior leadership full-time equivalent costs), enterprise architecture, capital planning, IT budget and finance, IT vendor management, general IT policy and reporting, and IT governance. Key initiatives include:

- Advance Technology Business Management (TBM) Practices: Build TBM practices into the agency's IT portfolio summary to meet Federal requirements.
- Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) Practices: Establish and execute processes in direct support of CIO authority enhancements per FITARA, employing sound risk management processes in alignment with the agency's enterprise risk management principles, including identifying, measuring, monitoring, and controlling risks; transparent decision-making; effective communication; and prioritization of risk.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> TMF supported the successful acceleration of our multifactor authentication initiatives in FY 2024 and FY 2025.

Table 3.24—FY 2026 Agency IT Portfolio Summary

		Total Cost <sup>6</sup>		
Costs in Millions	2024	2025	2026	
IT Portfolio Total*	\$2,236.20	\$2,230.00	\$2,620.80	
Mission Delivery	\$464.40	\$504.00	\$799.70	
Benefits	\$82.20	\$110.80	\$98.00	
Benefits Modernization	\$31.40	\$63.50	\$56.30	
Rep Payee Support Systems	\$1.30	\$1.40	\$1.40	
Benefits Systems Support	\$29.60	\$28.20	\$22.10	
Benefits Systems Updates	\$19.90	\$17.70	\$18.20	
Data and Business Intelligence	\$33.20	\$38.30	\$52.30	
Business Intelligence - Data Analytics	\$16.70	\$33.40	\$34.10	
Data Modernization	\$16.50	\$4.90	\$18.20	
Disability, Hearings, & Appeals	\$129.00	\$75.20	\$124.80	
DDS Automation	\$5.70	\$0.90	\$0.10	
Disability Claim Processing Applications	\$40.30	\$40.30	\$43.50	
Disability Modernization	\$83.00	\$34.00	\$81.20	
Earnings & Enumeration	\$23.70	\$14.30	\$20.80	
Earnings and Enumeration Modernization	\$13.60	\$6.30	\$16.70	
Earnings Support Systems	\$6.80	\$4.40	\$0.30	
Enumerations Support Systems	\$3.30	\$3.60	\$3.80	
Program Integrity	\$61.10	\$138.40	\$176.20	
Anti-Fraud Product	\$6.90	\$28.10	\$6.60	
Anti-Fraud Support Systems	\$9.50	\$21.70	\$21.60	
Debt Management Product	\$2.00	\$0.90	\$0.00	
Debt Collection Modernization	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22.90	
Digital Identity	\$39.20	\$73.80	\$116.10	
Payment Accuracy Support Systems	\$3.50	\$13.90	\$9.00	
Service Delivery	\$135.20	\$127.00	\$216.20	
Enterprise Contact Center	\$59.80	\$95.70	\$111.70	
Electronic Services	\$6.70	\$12.70	\$13.10	
Notice Improvements	\$4.50	\$4.80	\$5.00	
Service Delivery Modernization <sup>7</sup>	\$64.20	\$13.80	\$86.40	
<b>Business Resilience Automation</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$111.40	
Mission Support Services	\$153.10	\$141.40	\$104.90	
Admin	\$30.40	\$39.10	\$45.40	
Financial Management Systems	\$14.20	\$24.60	\$32.00	
Human Resources Support Systems	\$14.50	\$12.70	\$11.40	

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Total Cost includes both ITS and internal labor expenses.
 <sup>7</sup> The Service Delivery Modernization initiative focuses on expanding and streamlining self-service channels for our customers while also improving tools our technicians use to serve the public.

	Total Cost <sup>6</sup>		
Costs in Millions	2024	2025	2026
Office of General Counsel Product	\$1.70	\$1.80	\$2.00
Non-OCIO FTEs	\$121.10	\$101.60	\$58.80
E-Gov	\$1.60	\$0.70	\$0.70
Benefits.gov	\$0.20	\$0.00	\$0.00
Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business (LoB)	\$0.10	\$0.00	\$0.00
Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.10
E-Rulemaking	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.10
Federal Audit Clearinghouse LoB	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Federal PKI Bridge	\$0.30	\$0.30	\$0.20
Financial Management LoB	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.10
Freedom of Information Act Portal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.10
Geospatial LoB	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grants.gov	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Human Resources LoB	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.10
Integrated Award Environment	\$0.60	\$0.00	\$0.00
Performance Management LoB	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
IT Infrastructure, IT Security, and IT Management	\$1,618.70	\$1,517.50	\$1,716.20
Cybersecurity	\$194.40	\$198.60	\$237.50
IT Security & Compliance	\$194.40	\$198.60	\$237.50
Infrastructure	\$1,194.20	\$1,165.40	\$1,365.10
Application	\$120.00	\$99.40	\$117.00
Data Center and Cloud	\$629.30	\$573.50	\$626.20
End User	\$173.50	\$184.50	\$299.50
Network	\$251.10	\$291.70	\$306.30
Output	\$4.90	\$5.30	\$6.10
Platform	\$15.40	\$11.00	\$10.00
IT Governance & Other Support	\$230.10	\$153.50	\$113.60
Agency Communications	\$6.20	\$8.10	\$8.40
Data Exchange Product	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Data Exchange Support Systems	\$3.50	\$5.20	\$5.30
Delivery	\$12.70	\$16.60	\$19.20
Electronic Records Management Product	\$0.30	\$0.40	\$0.40
IT Management	\$194.60	\$111.30	\$68.70
Reimbursable Services	\$12.80	\$11.90	\$11.60
Optimization	\$0.00	\$67.10	\$0.00

**Table 3.25—Total Agency Cybersecurity Spend FY 2026 President's Budget** (Cost in Millions)

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Function	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Detect	\$20.2	\$37.0	\$36.6
Identify	\$60.2	\$73.8	\$71.1
Protect	\$166.8	\$173.0	\$221.1
Recover	\$2.7	\$2.9	\$1.4
Respond	\$21.2	\$17.9	\$26.1
Other	\$2.4	\$1.9	\$1.7
Total	\$273.5	\$306.5	\$358.0