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APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

Office of the Inspector General
(Including Transfer of Funds)

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$32,000,000, together with not to exceed \$82,665,000, to be transferred and expended as authorized by section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act from the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund: Provided, That \$2,000,000 shall 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.

In addition, an amount not to exceed 3 percent of the total provided in this appropriation may be transferred from the “Limitation on Administrative Expenses”, Social Security Administration, to be merged with this account, to be available for the time and purposes for which this account is available: Provided, That notice of such transfers shall be transmitted promptly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

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

GENERAL STATEMENT

OVERVIEW

The Social Security Administration (SSA) Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) [strategic path](#), including the SSA OIG mission, vision, and strategic goals, forms the foundation for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Budget. The FY 2026 Budget includes **\$114.7** million for SSA OIG direct appropriations and includes **\$2** million to remain available until expended for information technology (IT) modernization.

SSA OIG's mission is to serve the public through independent oversight of SSA's programs and operations. SSA OIG accomplishes this mission by conducting independent audits, evaluations, and investigations; searching for and reporting systemic weaknesses in SSA's programs and operations; and providing recommendations for program, operations, and management improvements. SSA OIG's vision is to drive meaningful change to protect taxpayer dollars. In FY 2024, SSA OIG identified \$97 in returns to the government for every \$1 in appropriations.¹

The FY 2026 Budget will allow SSA OIG to perform its core mission of auditing and investigating SSA programs and operations more efficiently and effectively. In particular, SSA OIG's oversight responsibilities will increasingly rely upon building its data analytics capacity; investing in information technology modernization and automation tools; devoting resources to better understand the significance that artificial intelligence (AI) will play in SSA's program and operations and the oversight needed by SSA OIG to help identify and minimize vulnerabilities in agency systems and programs; and monitoring the agency's focus on its human capital needs to keep up with technological advances and other evolving and emerging areas. These improvements will lead to a more innovative, nimble, and responsive organization.

Cooperative Disability Investigations (CDI) Program

In addition to the request for \$114.7 million for direct base appropriations, the FY 2026 Budget requests SSA transfer **\$24.6** million from SSA's Limitation on Administrative Expenses (LAE) program integrity adjustment to the SSA OIG for the SSA OIG's direct costs of leading the jointly operated anti-fraud CDI Program. This funding level represents an increase of \$9.5 million over the FY 2025 enacted level of \$15.1 million to fund additional investigative staff for our CDI units, helping us close more cases and increase our monetary accomplishments.

¹ FY 2024 was unique due to three audits issued by SSA OIG that discovered over \$9 billion in funds that SSA could use more efficiently if action was taken to implement SSA OIG's recommendations. Excluding these audits, SSA OIG's return-on-investment (ROI) would be 23-to-1.

Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency

In FY 2026, SSA OIG will contribute an estimated \$450,700² to the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), an annual amount determined by CIGIE.

CIGIE is an independent entity established within the Executive Branch to address integrity, economy, and effectiveness issues that transcend individual Government agencies and aid in the establishment of a professional, well-trained, and highly skilled workforce in the Offices of Inspectors General.

*Based on an average from the last three fiscal years, each additional investigative full-time equivalent (FTE) could potentially result in an estimated **35** additional cases closed and almost **\$1** million in additional monetary accomplishments. For every additional audit FTE, SSA OIG could produce an additional audit report. Over the past three years, an SSA OIG audit, on average, has identified about **\$33** million in questioned costs and about **\$29** million in funds put to better use.*

STRATEGIC GOALS

SSA OIG consistently delivers valuable oversight information to SSA, the U.S. Congress, other stakeholders, and the American public. SSA OIG is committed to providing oversight and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse within SSA's programs and operations while remaining steadfast in our mission to ensure accountability and integrity in accordance with our statutory obligations and Administration's priorities.

SSA OIG will continue to prioritize our work to focus on those areas in SSA programs and operations that are most vulnerable to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. The U.S. Congress and the American people can expect us to continue our statutory work to promote the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of SSA's programs and operations. As workloads increase and evolve, SSA OIG will continue to provide products that drive meaningful change.

SSA OIG's strategic path lays the foundation for the FY 2026 Budget. SSA OIG's strategic goals, nested within the strategic path, are:

Strategic Goal 1: Deliver solutions to promote positive change

Strategic Goal 2: Prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse in SSA programs and operations

Strategic Goal 3: Optimize operations

Strategic Goal 4: Strengthen our workforce

Table 4.1—OIG Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY 2024 Target	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Targets
Review and take action on 90% of hotline allegations within 5 days of receipt	90%	99.99%	90%
Substantially complete investigative fieldwork on 75% of Social Security program fraud investigations within 180 days	75%	73%	75%
Exceed the 3-year trailing average return-on-investment as reported by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency	26-to-1	97-to-1 ¹	21-to-1 ²
Work with SSA to ensure 80% of the recommendations we made within the last 4 fiscal years, which SSA agreed to implement, have been resolved	80%	79%	80%
Ensure that 75% of audits are issued within one year from the entrance conference	75%	60%	75%

¹ FY 2024 was unique due to three audits issued by SSA OIG that discovered over \$9 billion in funds that SSA could use more efficiently if action was taken to implement SSA OIG's recommendations. Excluding these audits, SSA OIG's return-on-investment (ROI) would be 23-to-1.

² FY 2025 target reflects the 3-year trailing average return on investment reported by CIGIE.

Strategic Goal 1: Deliver Solutions to Promote Positive Change

This goal aligns with SSA OIG’s vision to drive meaningful change to protect American taxpayer dollars. To meet this goal, SSA OIG will prioritize initiatives in three key areas: expanded oversight responsibilities, impactful audits, and education and outreach.

Expanded Oversight Responsibilities

SSA OIG continues to devote significant resources to expanded oversight responsibilities that include areas related to artificial intelligence (AI), Social Security-related imposter scams, executive mandates, such as the April 15, 2025 Presidential Memorandum, [*Preventing Illegal Aliens from Obtaining Social Security Act Benefits*](#), and emerging fraud schemes, such as Social Security’s online services fraud and fraudulent direct deposit diversions.

Examining AI and Fighting AI-Related Fraud

Public and private sector entities continue to explore using advances in AI technology. In accordance with the Administration’s directive to focus on utilizing AI to modernize the Federal government, *see* [Fact Sheet: Eliminating Barriers for Federal Artificial Intelligence Use and Procurement](#), SSA is leveraging this emerging technology to improve operations. While AI will improve customer service and create efficiencies, AI can be exploited to commit various forms of fraud, such as using AI-powered chatbots to divert direct deposits to fake accounts, using AI-generated email imposter scams, using AI tools to generate fraudulent identification documents enabling identify theft and impersonation schemes, using AI to create an audio deep-fake or a deep-fake video, and using AI to create synthetic identities, which can be used to fraudulently claim benefits or direct funds away from SSA beneficiaries and recipients, resulting in significant financial losses. In FY 2023, SSA OIG established an internal AI Task Force comprised of investigators, auditors, IT specialists, and attorneys to confront these issues.

Beginning in 2024, SSA’s AI Core Team and SSA OIG’s AI Task Force began regular meetings on AI as a result of a mutually agreed upon action item stemming from SSA’s National Anti-Fraud Committee Summit. To better position the organization to respond to potential threats created by AI, several members of the AI Task Force completed advanced training on the topic.

In FY 2026, SSA OIG’s oversight responsibilities will increase significantly in this area to identify and minimize vulnerabilities in agency systems, security, and programs and make recommendations to SSA’s AI efforts as appropriate. To prepare for this challenge, significant investments are required in hardware, software, and training to ensure SSA OIG personnel possess the appropriate tradecraft to investigate AI-enabled criminal activity. The goal is to protect vulnerable Americans and provide Federal and State prosecutors with the forensic data required to successfully prosecute fraud against SSA. In recent years, SSA OIG identified best practices and lessons learned from analytical and investigative work performed combatting pandemic and imposter-related fraud. These best practices and lessons learned are the foundation for developing additional tools and investigative techniques to confront these new AI challenges. We have also started to collaborate with other federal agencies in an effort to expedite our response to potential AI-related fraud efforts and in sharing the best AI tools

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available to combat fraud generally. Investigative support, analytical resources, and technological capabilities are pivotal to deterring and dismantling emerging organized fraud schemes using AI technology to exploit SSA programs and operations.

Executive Orders and Presidential Memorandums

The Office of Investigations (OI) has remained nimble with the ability to prioritize Executive Orders and Presidential directives. Recently, Presidential Memorandum, [*Preventing Illegal Aliens from Obtaining Social Security Act Benefits*](#), included several directives that will impact and enhance existing and future investigative work conducted by OI. Generally, the memorandum requires the Commissioner of SSA, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, to take measures that ensure ineligible aliens are not receiving funds from Social Security Act programs. This included the expansion of SSA's Special Assistant United States Attorneys (SAUSA) program to 50 offices.

In addition to our core investigative mission, in January 2025, OI pivoted and engaged with our law enforcement partners on the following initiatives that align with the priorities of the Administration:

- The Removable Alien Project – which looks to identify individuals who are receiving benefits from SSA and were ordered deported but remained in the country.
- Unaccompanied Alien Children – which looks to locate unaccounted for minors who remain in the country and their whereabouts are known – and may result in human trafficking or Rep Payee misuse investigations.
- Travel & Residency Enforcement Coop – which looks to identify Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients that conceal foreign travel and residency.

These initiatives involve analysis of large data sets to identify investigative leads. As these leads come to fruition, additional OI personnel will be needed to conduct investigations on individuals defrauding SSA programs and support the workload stream for the newly assigned SAUSAs and subsequent criminal prosecutions.

SSA OIG has the delegated authority to verify the use of a Social Security Number (SSN) when we receive an official request from a law enforcement entity. In the last several months, OI has received a significant increase in requests to verify SSNs. Since late January, OI has received more than double the requests to verify SSNs compared to all of fiscal year 2024. To address the additional workloads, OI realigned and trained staff to perform analytical work that support these efforts.

For example:

SSA OIG has become more agile and responsive to threats, primarily from highly organized transnational criminal organizations seeking to exploit both the SSA and their most vulnerable beneficiaries for financial gain. These investigations required the adoption of techniques and

tools to manage our cases, gather information from various sources, triage and examine digital evidence, and store and analyze large datasets. Our software and hardware must comply with [*EO 14141 – Strengthening and Promoting Innovation in the Nation’s Cybersecurity*](#) which requires Federal agencies to implement advanced security measures to significantly reduce the risk of successful cyberattacks on the government’s digital infrastructure.

The SSA OIG is undertaking a critical shift in its digital forensics operations by transitioning from the legacy National Forensic Information Network (NFIN) to standalone forensic workstations. This change is driven by growing cybersecurity concerns, operational inefficiencies, and the increasing demands of modern forensic workflows. The current NFIN platform, while once effective, now presents heightened security vulnerabilities and suffers from significant performance limitations due to its dependence on aging centralized infrastructure and inconsistent network connectivity.

The new forensic workstations provide a decentralized, high-performance solution that enhances data security, processing speed, and examiner autonomy. Each unit is purpose-built for forensic analysis, featuring cutting-edge hardware configurations-including multi-core AMD processors, enterprise-grade storage arrays in RAID configurations, and built-in write-blockers to ensure rapid and secure evidence acquisition and analysis. Isolating each workstation from a shared network reduces exposure to outside threats and aligns with the zero-trust architecture principles mandated by [*EO 14141 – Strengthening and Promoting Innovation in the Nation’s Cybersecurity*](#).

This modernization approach significantly improves system resiliency and investigative effectiveness. It reduces examiner downtime, removes latency barriers associated with remote server access, and enables a more agile forensic response in the field and at headquarters. Additionally, it lowers long-term costs by minimizing IT maintenance burdens and reducing reliance on centralized server support, while still providing scalable and consistent forensic capabilities across the agency.

This transition positions SSA OIG at the forefront of forensic and cybersecurity innovation within the Federal space. By replacing outdated infrastructure with state-of-the-art forensic platforms, SSA OIG is reinforcing its mission to protect the integrity of SSA programs and ensuring continued compliance with Federal cybersecurity mandates.

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Investigating SSA's Online Services Fraud / Direct Deposit Diversions

SSA OIG during FY 2026 and beyond will focus on Online Services fraud through targeted investigations and program oversight. SSA offers a suite of public-facing applications through which the public interacts with SSA. See [Online Services | SSA](#). Through these applications, users can apply for benefits, retrieve status updates on pending applications, project retirement calculations, and even order replacement Social Security Number cards. During the COVID-19 pandemic, SSA closed its field offices to the public, resulting in a dramatic increase in the utilization of these online services. As the use of online services increased, so did the opportunity for fraudsters to manipulate SSA's online platforms. In one such example, fraudsters used stolen personally identifiable information (PII), much of which is obtained from data breaches and trafficked by transnational criminal organizations using the dark web, to file fraudulent online applications or redirect benefit payments to alternate bank accounts.

Since the start of FY 2021, SSA OIG has received more than 240,000 online services-related allegations, including fraud schemes that misuse or are facilitated by SSA's online platforms, such as [my Social Security](#). In FY 2026, SSA OIG aspires to fully deploy advanced data analytics and generative AI tools to expeditiously identify and flag clusters of the most egregious cases of potential fraud for immediate investigation. As E-Service fraud continues to evolve, SSA OIG will require both analytical and investigative resources to provide oversight that is pivotal to protecting the public through FY 2026 and beyond.

Investigating Social Security-Related Government Imposter Scams

In FY 2024, SSA OIG received close to 89,000 allegations involving imposter scams. While this number has decreased from previous years, it still represents a persistent problem that threatens the integrity of SSA programs and operations.

In one case example, the SSA OIG and law enforcement partners conducted a money laundering investigation over the past five years into a group of Government imposter scammers operating in the Mid- and Southwest United States. The scammers ran a telemarketing scheme originating from call centers in India, where victims were coerced into thinking they were under investigation by fake Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), Drug Enforcement Administration, and SSA agents. Victims were instructed to send funds to clear their names, with methods including purchasing gift cards and sending cash via FedEx. The scheme involved "runners" in the United States collecting the funds and disposing of them as instructed. The investigation led to the identification and prosecution of over a dozen members of the criminal enterprise, resulting in substantial jail terms and restitution. The operation was responsible for over \$13 million in losses to hundreds of victims.

In another case example, the SSA OIG investigative team in conjunction with the FBI, obtained seven guilty pleas in a government imposter scam case involving transnational money laundering. The first defendant was sentenced to 51 months and ordered to pay \$600k in restitution. Four defendants are awaiting sentencing and two are scheduled for trial in June 2025. The scammers used robocalls originating in India to impersonate SSA officials to get victims to liquidate their savings. The victim funds were laundered throughout the U.S. and to

Central and South America. In addition, the team's efforts have assisted multiple separate investigations by the FBI, Homeland Security Investigations, and Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration involving transnational money laundering and a target of the HSI investigation will plead guilty due to this cooperation. The investigative team continues to work with other Federal agencies, including the Secret Service, to share intelligence, generate leads, and prosecute targets across the United States. The investigative team seized over \$1.4 million in victim funds from various shell companies and defendant bank accounts.

SSA OIG will continue to investigate these types of scams and leverage data analytics, partnerships with the private sector, regulatory agencies and our law enforcement partners, as well as other technology enhancements to identify scam trends, promote public awareness, and prosecute scammers. In FY 2026, SSA OIG will continue to commit staff to analyze imposter scam allegations, develop investigative leads, and deploy effective investigative strategies to combat fraud schemes.

The FY 2026 Budget will allow SSA OIG to better anticipate, recognize, and efficiently mitigate new and emerging fraud schemes, including those related to pandemic relief and government imposter scams.

Impactful Audits

SSA OIG's core audit oversight efforts revolve around SSA's most significant [management challenges](#). SSA OIG annually identifies these challenges based on congressional mandates, audits, and investigative work.

During FY 2024 and the first half of FY 2025, SSA OIG completed audits that promoted positive change in SSA policies and procedures, such as [Challenges in Recovering Supplemental Security Income Overpayments](#), which included nine recommendations to improve SSA's use of policies and available tools to prevent, detect, and recover SSI overpayments. Similarly, [Rejection of State Death Reports](#) reviewed the appropriateness of rejected State death reports and the impact rejections had on SSA program and administrative costs, and included three recommendations to improve the accuracy of death information in SSA's Numident and payment records. SSA OIG also promotes positive change by conducting audits that identify underpayments to beneficiaries caused by insufficient policies and controls, such as SSA's application of [Disability Waiting Period Exclusions](#).

During FY 2024 and the first half of FY 2025, SSA OIG issued 60 audits and identified almost \$2 billion in questioned costs and over \$10.7 billion in funds that could have been put to better use. Largely contributing to the questioned costs totals were the following audit reports:

- [Supplemental Security Income Recipients who Under-report Financial Account Balances](#);
- [Rejection of State Death Reports](#); and
- [Impact of Undetected Marriages on Social Security Administration Payments](#).

In [Supplemental Security Income Recipients who Under-report Financial Account Balances](#), SSA OIG determined SSA's SSI financial account validation process for applicants and

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recipients who alleged having less than \$400 in financial accounts did not always lead to accurate SSI determinations resulting in projected improper payments of almost \$718 million.

Year after year, one consistently reported challenge by SSA is focused on improving the prevention, detection, and recovery of improper payments. SSA OIG continues working on impactful audits that will promote cost savings and positive change in SSA policies and procedures. As of April 30, 2025, SSA OIG had 23 audits in process related to improving the prevention, detection, and recovery of improper payments.

A list of all SSA OIG ongoing audit work is available at our [website](#).

Audits Reviewing Customer Service at SSA

SSA OIG continues to focus on customer service issues at SSA to promote positive change, which is addressed in the following reports from FY 2024.

[Customer Wait Times in the Social Security Administration's Field Offices and Card Centers](#) (May 2024): We observed customer wait times in select SSA field offices and Social Security Card Centers and determined the (1) factors that may affect customer wait times and (2) steps SSA took to reduce wait times.

Findings:

- For the 76 field offices and card centers visited, the average wait time for customers before check-in ranged from 5 to 12 minutes. Once checked in, customers waited an average of 32 to 45 minutes to receive services.
- We noted five factors that may affect customer wait times: number of customers; the check-in process; staffing; appointments; and the availability of telephone and online services.
- SSA has not developed processes to measure the effectiveness of reducing customer wait times in its offices.
- SSA did not set goals specific to wait times for customers in the office or the time customers must wait for scheduled appointments.

Recommendations:

- Develop and/or enhance systems to capture data that measure the effectiveness of initiatives to reduce customer wait times.
- Develop goals specific to wait times for customers in the office and time customers wait for scheduled appointments.

[Follow-up: The Social Security Administration's Implementation of Mail Procedures](#) (January 2024): We determined whether SSA's offices were complying with the requirements established in the agency's Mail Handling Business Process Document (BPD).

Findings:

- Most offices were meeting the requirements of 6 of the 10 BPD key issues.
- Some offices did not always meet the metrics for four key issues: the undeliverable returned mail, remittances and returned unendorsed Treasury checks, mail triaging and timeliness, and scanning mail.
- The agency needs to continue monitoring and adapting its oversight of the mail to ensure it meets the needs of the public.

Recommendations:

- Evaluate and adjust, where appropriate, the timeliness metrics for mail handling to correspond with, and support, the current mail workload.
- Evaluate and adjust, where appropriate, the monitoring process for mail handling to better identify non-compliant offices that require remediation.
- Take action, as needed, for offices we identified as non-compliant with the BPD requirements.

SSA OIG has also completed audits identifying underpayments, potential underpayments, or untimely payments of funds due or benefits to child beneficiaries, widows, SSI recipients, surviving spouses, and beneficiaries whose medical condition was not expected to improve. For example, in August 2024, SSA OIG completed an audit estimating that initial disability applications that qualify as [priority cases](#), such as Quick Disability Determination, Compassionate Allowance, Terminal Illness, Military Casualty/Wounded Warrior, Homeless, and Presumptive Disability/Blindness, among others, for over 40,000 claimants were delayed.

SSA OIG has work in progress to determine if SSA paid OASDI beneficiaries' benefits it withheld pending the selection of representative payees. SSA OIG is also working on audits to determine whether SSA accurately denied Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) benefits to children for reasons unrelated to disability and paid retroactive payments to child beneficiaries receiving OASDI benefits when they were due.

SSA OIG plans to soon initiate a review to determine whether Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) appropriately dismissed claimants' requests for hearings. In 2011, SSA conducted a quality review of dismissal orders issued by ALJs in FY 2010. In 2010, ALJs issued 737,616 hearings dispositions, of which 97,574 were dismissals (13 percent). SSA found that, of the ALJ dismissals they reviewed, approximately 29,272 (30 percent) had errors. In FY 2023, ALJs issued 377,685 hearings dispositions, of which 89,640 (24 percent) were dismissals. During the FY, the average processing time for a hearing was 450 days. If ALJs inappropriately dismiss claimants' requests for hearings, the claimants must file new appeals or new claims, further delaying the benefits to which some are entitled.

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In September 2024, we looked at SSA's compliance with the Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2018 and its policies and procedures related to [representative payee reviews and educational visits](#). We also completed audits to identify 1) [discrepancies in SSA's Electronic Representative Payee System \(eRPS\)](#), 2) [representative payees who were not properly established in eRPS](#), and 3) [disabled beneficiaries receiving direct payments who previously had representative payees](#) managing their payments.

Additionally, SSA OIG is reviewing customer service areas such as identifying SSI recipients who may also be eligible for Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) benefits and SSA's oversight of field office workloads. These reports are expected to be issued during FY 2025.

Audits Concerning IT Security at SSA

SSA OIG continues to be concerned as Federal information systems—and the information they hold—are increasingly becoming targets of cyber-attacks. SSA must implement a strong information security program to detect and prevent intrusions. Prior SSA OIG audit¹ and investigative work has revealed serious concerns with the security of SSA's information systems. SSA OIG performs a vital role in ensuring the agency's IT investments are economically prudent and inform the agency, the United States Congress, and the American public.

To ensure SSA OIG is positioned to provide timely, effective oversight of SSA's information security efforts in an ever-changing environment, staff need the necessary knowledge and skills. SSA OIG hired additional IT audit staff to backfill for separated IT auditors and plans to invest in ongoing training on evolving technology, new vulnerabilities, and emerging threats. During FY 2023, SSA OIG worked with contractors to assess the effectiveness of SSA's information security policies, procedures, and practices on a representative subset of the agency's information systems.² This is required by Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA) oversight and allows SSA OIG to perform audits that address imminent cybersecurity threats to SSA. SSA OIG continued to use contractor support to supplement IT audit resources during FY 2024 to complete important audits timely to meet agency needs. These audits resulted in 14 recommendations for the security of [Business Services Online](#) and 8 recommendations related to legacy systems modernization and movement to cloud services. Ongoing audits will make recommendations in other priority areas including protections against

¹ See the following reports: [Audit Summary - The Social Security Administration's Information Security Program and Practices for Fiscal Year 2024](#); [Summary of the Audit of the Social Security Administration's Information Security Program and Practices for Fiscal Year 2023](#); [Security of the Social Security Administration's Disability Case Processing System](#); [The Social Security Administration's Implementation of iPaySSA](#); [The Social Security Administration's Controls Over Malware Introduced by Email Phishing](#); [The Social Security Administration's Controls Over Malicious Software and Data Exfiltration](#); and [Security of the Social Security Administration's Cloud Environment](#).

² See the following summaries of contractor reports: [Security of the Web Identification, Authentication, and Access Control Systems](#); and [Security of the Earnings Record Maintenance System - Cloud](#).

personally identifiable information losses, firewall administration, and SSA's information security program and practices for FY 2025.

Education and Outreach

SSA OIG remains proactive through its education and outreach efforts which include areas related to disrupting social security-related imposter scams, whistleblower rights and protections, collaboration with SSA, and promoting the SSA-OIG mission.

Disrupting Social Security-Related Government Imposter Scams

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reported that, in 2024, consumers lost \$12.5 billion to scams, including government imposter scams. SSA remains the top Federal agency used in schemes by criminals to defraud Americans out of their hard-earned money. As scams continue to rise, our coordinated scam outreach and education efforts are more important than ever to protect consumers and empower them to "slam the scam."

Throughout the year, SSA OIG collaborates with all levels of government, leverages anti-fraud interests of private companies, and engages with special interest groups who focus on combatting fraud. SSA OIG regularly engages with the news media to broaden consumer education efforts, including through television and podcast interviews, radio engagement, social media content, and print media. We continue to amplify anti-fraud messages by fostering strategic relationships and identifying new alliances. SSA OIG, in collaboration with SSA, manages ssa.gov/scam, providing current anti-scam content and resources.

SSA OIG educates the public about the tactics scammers use and encourages the public not to engage with scammers annually through National Slam the Scam Day. The U.S. Senate, in support of our efforts to protect consumers from scams, passed a resolution by Unanimous Consent designating March 6, 2025, as National Slam the Scam Day. On March 12, 2025, U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging Chairman Rick Scott (R-FL) held a hearing where witnesses testified about the impacts of senior loneliness, including an increased vulnerability to scams. The sixth annual National Slam the Scam Day garnered a social media audience of 25.5 million across X (Twitter), Facebook, and Instagram; a television and radio audience of almost 1 million, and a print and online audience of potentially 282 million.

Further, in collaboration with SSA, SSA OIG provides stakeholders and State Disability Determination Services (DDS) with training programs, presentations, and outreach materials to help employees better identify potentially fraudulent claims activity and scams. SSA OIG, in collaboration with SSA, plans to lead and expand upon Slam the Scam Day activities and efforts in FY 2026.

Section 1140 Education Outreach

Section 1140 of the *Social Security Act* is a consumer protection law that prohibits misleading consumers by giving a false impression of association with, or authorization or endorsement by, the Social Security Administration through any type of communication. In FY 2026, SSA OIG

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will continue to perform Section 1140 outreach and education across industries and local communities by:

- Providing presentations and mailers to the telecommunications industry;
- Providing public libraries with targeted print materials and trainings;
- Educating law firms and disability representatives on how to avoid potential Section 1140 violations; and
- Engaging with Internet Service Providers who host IP addresses associated with malicious traffic.

Engaging with SSA and External Stakeholders

SSA OIG proactively engages with the U.S. Congress and keeps them informed of SSA OIG's audits, criminal investigations, resulting prosecutions, civil enforcement, public outreach, and education. SSA OIG provides the Semiannual Report, Quarterly Scam Reports, bi-monthly news spotlights, and weekly news clips to the U.S. Congress. Further, SSA OIG participates in oversight hearings, briefs Congressional Staff, responds to inquiries from Members of Congress and Congressional Committees, and answers constituent inquiries. SSA OIG ensures the U.S. Congress is aware of pressing issues and addresses questions involving fraud, waste, and abuse at SSA.

SSA OIG also engages with the U.S. Attorney's Office to issue press releases through the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). This demonstrates SSA OIG's commitment to investigating Social Security fraud, thereby deterring potential fraudsters and criminals.

SSA OIG leadership continues to collaborate with SSA leadership through the National Anti-Fraud Committee (NAFC). The NAFC is a partnership between SSA and SSA OIG that supports strategies for combatting fraud, waste, and abuse in SSA programs and operations. The NAFC meets quarterly to share information and create concrete steps for addressing SSA fraud. OMB has heralded the NAFC as a model for agency/OIG partnership consistent with OMB Memo M-22-04.

Strategic Goal 2: Prevent and Detect Fraud, Waste, and Abuse in SSA Programs and Operations

SSA OIG's second strategic goal is to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse in SSA programs and operations. SSA OIG is responsible for protecting the integrity and efficiency of SSA's administration of approximately \$1.6 trillion in benefit payments annually to more than 70 million people.

During FY 2024 and the first half of FY 2025, SSA OIG issued 60 audit reports with recommendations to improve SSA's programs and operations. During that same time, investigations conducted by SSA OIG resulted in 833 criminal convictions and contributed to over \$322 million in monetary accomplishments, which includes court-ordered restitution,

recoveries, settlements, judgments, fines, civil and administrative actions, and estimated savings resulting from investigations.

Ensuring Stewardship of SSA Programs

Completing audits that ensure the accuracy of benefit payments

In its FY 2024 Agency Financial Report, SSA estimated it made approximately \$4.1 billion in OASDI improper payments and \$6.5 billion in SSI improper payments in FY 2022. Of those, \$3.3 billion were OASDI overpayments and \$5.6 billion in SSI overpayments; \$800 million in OASDI underpayments and \$900 million in SSI underpayments.

The FY 2026 Budget will allow SSA OIG to continue to focus on stewardship by completing audits that ensure the correct person is paid and benefit payments are accurate by:

- Performing additional data matches with States and other localities and third parties to identify payments made to individuals who are not eligible for benefits;
- Reviewing SSA's processes to ensure SSI and OASDI applicant claims are accurately and timely processed; and
- Evaluating processes such as work and earnings reporting that impact payment accuracy to identify the root cause of errors and challenges SSA faces in resolving overpayments.

Prior work in these areas has uncovered improper payments and internal control issues. For example, SSA OIG issued a December 2024 report that matched death information from New York City against SSA records and a March 2025 report that matched death information from Idaho against SSA records. These reports estimated that SSA issued \$90 million and \$5.5 million in improper payments after the beneficiaries' deaths.

In May 2024, SSA OIG also completed an audit to match U.S. Department of State death information against SSA records that identified 1,596 current or suspended payment status beneficiaries who were deceased according to State Department death data. We estimated that SSA issued approximately \$37.8 million in payments to beneficiaries who were deceased according to State Department death data.

Challenges recovering SSI overpayments and benefit eligibility impacts

For many years, SSA OIG audits have made recommendations to help ensure SSA collects overpayments timely and uses available tools to collect overpayments.¹ In July 2024, SSA OIG

¹ See the following reports: [Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance Overpayments Pending Collection](#) (A-02-15-35001); [Overpayments Not Collected Through Benefit Withholding](#) (A-07-18-50278); [Cross-program Recovery to Collect Overpayments](#) (A-13-15-15029); [Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance Debtors Who Were Not Current on an Installment Agreement](#) (A-04-18-50265); [Status of Title II Installment Agreements](#) (A-02-08-18074); [Supplemental Security Income Overpayments](#) (A-01-04-24022).

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issued a [report](#) that identified instances where SSA did not follow its policies or use all available tools to prevent, detect or recover SSI overpayments for 1.9 million recipients. SSA OIG made nine recommendations to improve SSA's use of policies and available tools.

In addition, SSA OIG audit work helps identify some of the sources of such improper payments. For example, in [April 2024](#), we issued a report to determine whether SSA properly updated payment records to prevent improper payments when individuals changed their name because of marriage. We estimated SSA improperly paid 16,631 SSI recipients and OASDI beneficiaries approximately \$240.9 million when there was a name change because of marriage. One of the recommendations from this report was for SSA to evaluate the feasibility of obtaining electronic marriage data to match against SSI and OASDI payment records to prevent improper payments. In May 2024, we issued a report that found SSA's controls did not always identify Illinois or Texas workers' compensation benefits paid to Disability Insurance (DI) beneficiaries and SSI recipients. As a result of this audit, we estimated SSA issued approximately \$28.6 million in overpayments and recommended SSA evaluate the feasibility of a legislative proposal requiring States to provide workers' compensation payment information to SSA.

Follow-up on prior audits and recommendations

SSA OIG conducts follow-up audits to ensure action has been taken on recommendations to address improper payments and other significant problems within SSA. For example, in [July 2024](#), we issued a report to determine whether SSA had taken corrective action in response to the recommendation in our September 2016 review, *Numident Death Information Not Included on the Death Master File*. Although we made several new recommendations, we found that as part of its Continuing Death Data Improvements clean-up project, SSA took corrective action on approximately 7.7 million of the 8.7 million records we identified in our 2016 report and now includes those numberholders' death information in the full Death Master File (DMF). However, SSA continued to exclude from the DMF information on 941,383 numberholders with death information on the Numident, and we disagreed with SSA's rationale for the continued exclusion from the DMF for most of those records.

In [July 2024](#), SSA OIG issued another report that summarized our prior audit work related to SSA's efforts to prevent, detect, and recover improper payments. In 2025, we began an audit to determine whether SSA's corrective actions in response to our [prior audit](#) recommendations effectively improved its monitoring and collection of court-ordered restitutions. Also in 2025, we began an audit to follow-up on [prior recommendations](#) related to capturing the average cost to collect overpayments and determine whether there are actions SSA could take to improve the processing of low-dollar overpayments.

Identify and prevent improper payments

SSA OIG continues to oversee the SSI and OASDI programs through various audits. Each quarter, our Audit Work Plans include a number of audits we plan to begin related to improper payments. In addition, Inspectors General are required to review their respective agencies' improper payments and high-dollar overpayment reporting requirements. In [May 2024](#), SSA OIG issued a report on SSA's FY 2023 compliance with the Payment Integrity Information Act

of 2019 (PIIA). In FY 2023, SSA complied with nine PIIA reporting requirements, but SSA did not comply with one PIIA reporting requirement when it failed to demonstrate improvements to payment integrity or reach a tolerable improper payment and unknown payment rate for the SSI and OASDI programs.

SSA must be a responsible steward of the funds entrusted to its care by minimizing the risk of making improper payments and recovering overpayments when they occur. Preventing improper payments is more advantageous than recovering them because the agency has to expend additional resources to recover the overpayments or process additional payments to rectify underpayments. SSA OIG continues to prioritize audit work that will help SSA identify and prevent improper payments. For example, in [February 2024](#), SSA OIG issued a report that found SSA did not accurately or timely pay beneficiaries subject to the earnings test. We estimated SSA inaccurately calculated approximately 47,000 of the 294,000 earnings-test overpayments established in FY 2021, totaling more than \$148 million, and did not timely pay approximately 176,000 beneficiaries \$81 million in monthly benefit increases they were due. We made 10 recommendations that will help SSA improve its administration of the earnings test going forward.

Detecting and Preventing Social Security Disability Fraud

CDI Program

In addition to the request for \$114.7 million for direct base appropriations, the FY 2026 Budget requests SSA transfer **\$24.6** million from SSA's LAE program integrity adjustment, which funds the CDI Program, to the SSA OIG for the SSA OIG's direct costs of leading the jointly operated anti-fraud CDI Program. This funding level represents an increase of \$9.5 million over the FY 2025 enacted level of \$15.1 million to fund additional support for our CDI units.

The CDI Program is an anti-fraud initiative that promotes the integrity of SSA's disability programs. The CDI Program accomplishes its mission, in part, by closely examining questionable disability claims to stop payment before disability fraud occurs. The program also conducts criminal investigations of in-pay beneficiaries suspected of committing disability fraud, as individuals may have feigned physical impairments, concealed work activity, or failed to report other benefits or earnings to receive disability benefits they are not entitled to receive. In all cases, CDI obtains factual evidence sufficient to resolve questions of fraud and abuse in SSA's disability programs. Each CDI unit consists of an SSA OIG special agent who serves as a team leader, and personnel from SSA, State DDS, and State or local law enforcement partners. CDI units combine Federal and State resources and expertise to benefit not only Social Security programs, but also other Federal and State programs, such as food and nutrition assistance, housing assistance, Medicare, and Medicaid.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 mandated CDI coverage to all 50 states and U.S. territories by October 2022, subject to law enforcement availability. Today, 50 CDI units cover all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and all U.S. territories. Since the program's inception, CDI investigations have contributed to a projected savings to taxpayers of more than \$8.1 billion. Accomplishments of the CDI Program include the following:

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Category	October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025	October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024
Disability claims denied or ceased	620	1,188
Projected savings for SSA programs	\$41.5 million	\$80.6 million
Projected recoveries for SSA programs	\$11.9 million	\$15.5 million
Projected savings for non-SSA programs	\$45.7 million	\$101.6 million

SSA OIG is committed to the success of the CDI Program by increasing oversight and improving operations through dedicated leadership and management. To provide national investigative oversight of the CDI Program and meet the operational demands of the nationwide coverage, SSA OIG increased the number of employees supporting the program from 54 in 2022 to 64 in 2024.

As of May 2025, 17 CDI units are operating without a law enforcement partner. Operating CDI units without full partner participation threatens the success and impact of this critical program integrity initiative by decreasing investigative capacity and delaying timely disability determinations. Despite direct outreach to State governors by the Commissioner of SSA and SSA OIG, no new partners were acquired. This \$9.5 million additional transfer authority will provide the CDI program with an additional **17 FTEs** and facilitate a solution to the law enforcement recruitment and retention challenges without additional appropriations or increasing the overall cost of the program, as these are program integrity funds already appropriated for SSA to pay for law enforcement partners. We will use the additional funding transferred to OIG to cover increases to CDI operational and personnel costs, as well as directly hire investigative personnel to support units without a law enforcement partner.

Legal Oversight: Enforcing the Social Security Act

Combatting Section 1140 violations

SSA OIG combats Section 1140 violations involving imposter websites, emails, telephone solicitations, U.S. mail, radio, television, Internet broadcasts, app stores, and social media platforms through education and enforcement. SSA OIG educates businesses and individuals, assists entities and individuals in understanding and complying with Section 1140, and, as appropriate, takes civil enforcement and/or other corrective action, against entities operating in violation of Section 1140. This work protects the public from being misled about their rights to benefits, ensure those Social Security benefits obtained improperly are returned to the Social Security Trust Funds, and that the tax-payer dollars inappropriately used to process improper claims are recovered. The return of monies to the Trust Funds and General Treasury protects the public's rights to Social Security benefits.

In FY 2026, SSA OIG will continue to issue take-down requests for fraud and imposter websites and social media pages that violate Section 1140. SSA OIG will pursue entities that send misleading mailers, call centers and corporations that engage in fraudulent or misleading phone campaigns, and telecommunications companies that transit SSA-related scam calls into the

country from overseas. Further, due to the increase in AI-related fraud scams, like generative AI and voice cloning, SSA OIG will continue utilizing data collected on AI-enabled Section 1140 violations, and bringing Section 1140 actions in these matters as warranted.

Strategic Goal 3: Optimize Operations

SSA OIG's third strategic goal is to optimize operations through five key initiatives: (1) intragovernmental collaboration; (2) modernizing information technology systems; (3) data analytics; (4) cybersecurity; and (5) cost-saving efforts.

Intragovernmental Collaboration

DOJ, Civil Division, and other Federal Law Enforcement Agencies on Imposter Scams and Elder Justice Initiatives

SSA OIG continues to collaborate with other agencies in the fight against fraud in its programs and operations, and against its beneficiaries. SSA OIG is an active member of the DOJ Elder Justice Initiative, which brings together and facilitates coordination among numerous State, local, and Federal entities with capabilities and authority to fight elder fraud and elder abuse. SSA OIG is also involved with several regulatory agencies in the fight against SSA-related fraud, chiefly the Federal Trade Commission, and an anti-fraud working group formed under auspices of the Federal Communications Commission to combat phone scams.

SSA OIG is also enhancing its analytical capabilities to identify clusters of direct deposit fraud by leveraging data from three primary sources: the Social Security Administration, SSA OIG's Case Management System, and the Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Fiscal Services (BFS). This allows SSA OIG to acquire transactional data from the SSA's Enterprise Metadata Repository (EMR) for all recent direct deposit changes and then query our case management system to search for allegations related to the most used bank accounts identified from EMR. SSA OIG then sends the most used bank accounts, corroborated with fraud allegations, to the BFS to acquire non-receipt information and identify other possible government payments made to the same accounts.

This comprehensive approach enhances our ability to detect and prevent fraudulent activities, optimize resources, and improve the accuracy of fraud detection. By integrating data from multiple sources and using advanced analytical tools, SSA OIG ensures a more effective and efficient response to combating direct deposit fraud.

CIGIE Committees

SSA OIG also participates in committees, subcommittees, and workgroups under the auspices of CIGIE, including the CIGIE Chief Information Officer (CIO) Council, CIGIE Cybersecurity Workgroup and other investigations and training committees. These partnerships facilitate collaboration within the IG community to share best practices, training, and professional

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development opportunities. SSA OIG will continue to pursue new partnerships and collaborations strategically and proactively in FY 2026.

Law Enforcement Collaboration

SSA OIG proactively shares data, information, and best practices with partner organizations to support a government-wide approach to combatting fraud and protecting American citizens. In June 2021, SSA OIG began sharing information collected via its online imposter scam complaint form with the Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Sentinel Network. SSA OIG also shares reports of COVID-19 pandemic-related unemployment insurance fraud with the U.S. Department of Labor OIG.

SSA OIG regularly collaborates with the Federal Bureau of Investigation on joint investigations, bringing a wealth of data and expertise in identity-related matters. One such investigation involved a Mexican national, previously deported from the United States on two occasions, who assumed the identity of a deceased U.S. citizen to obtain multiple U.S. passports. Using the stolen identity, he fraudulently applied for and received over \$88,000 in Social Security Retirement Insurance Benefits. Beyond the benefits fraud, the individual engaged in the production and nationwide distribution of counterfeit identification documents, including fraudulent Social Security cards. After pleading guilty to conspiracy to distribute false identity documents and aggravated identity theft, he was sentenced to 54 months' incarceration and 3 years' supervised release. He was also ordered to be deported upon completion of his prison sentence.

SSA OIG actively participates on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Document and Benefit Fraud Task Forces around the country. These task forces focus on investigating use and trafficking of illegal documents and SSNs, as well as the fraudulent application and receipt of government benefits by those not eligible to receive them. We have also permanently embedded our most senior analyst with the HSI Cross Border Financial Fraud Crime Center where we work jointly on matters related to illegal immigration, transnational organized crime, and worksite enforcement.

Our Boston agents along with our HSI partners investigated a referral from the U.S. Attorney's Office alleging that a former Bosnian prison camp supervisor and a former Bosnian combatant used fraudulent documents to obtain an SSN and U.S. citizenship.

The two Bosnian nationals originally came to the United States as refugees in the 1990's falsely claiming to be half-brothers. Furthermore, both men falsely claimed they had been the subject of persecution by Serbian forces during the Bosnian War stating, among other things, that Serbian forces had captured, interrogated, beaten, and forced them to pull wounded soldiers from the front lines.

Once in the United States, the former Bosnian combatant continued to make false statements about his past, including that he had never assisted anyone enter the country illegally, when in fact, he assisted the Bosnian prison camp supervisor to enter into the United States by falsely claiming they were half-brothers.

The Bosnian prison camp supervisor engaged in a 25-year scheme to conceal his involvement in the persecution of Serbian prisoners at the notorious Celebici prison camp in Bosnia in 1992. He served as a supervisor of the guards at the prison camp and twenty-one former detainees described him as one the most notable guards at the camp, who was widely known for his particularly vicious treatment of prisoners.

One of the defendants, the former Bosnian combatant, pled guilty to passport fraud was sentenced to 18 months of probation and following a two-week trial, the former Bosnian prison camp supervisor was convicted of making false statements, passport fraud, use of a fraudulently obtained naturalization certificate, and possession and use of a fraudulently obtained authorization document. He was subsequently sentenced to 65 months in Federal prison.

Our Orlando agent along with our HSI partners investigated a Florida man who fraudulently obtained a Florida identification card, Social Security card, and birth certificate, using a victim's identity in the 1990s. Without the victim's knowledge or consent, the man used the stolen identity to unlawfully obtain various government benefits, including a driver's license, Social Security Disability Benefits, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. After pleading guilty to theft of government funds and identity theft, he was sentenced to 45 months' incarceration and ordered to pay restitution of \$22,024 to the SSA and \$20,239 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Further, SSA OIG leadership serves as members on Joint Terrorism Task Forces executive boards throughout the nation.

Modernizing Information Technology Systems

SSA OIG continues to make significant progress in modernizing and transforming applications that support our investigative processes and workloads as well as administrative lines of business applications. In FY 2024, SSA OIG used dedicated IT modernization funding for critical enhancements to our Enterprise suite of existing applications. To fulfill OIG's investigative mission, IT specialists and contractors continued to perform necessary maintenance and enhance the Investigative Case Management System to ensure a secure, stable, and scalable platform. We also made enhancements to our administrative human resources, budget, training, and property management applications to support the business mission.

In FY 2024, SSA OIG designed, developed, and implemented an IT Change Management System to increase operational process efficiencies. We also redesigned the web forms used by the public to report alleged fraud and imposter scams to improve the user experience.

We will continue to execute our multi-year IT Modernization plan in FY 2025 and beyond. We will continue to retire antiquated applications while simultaneously responding to our customer's evolving needs.

SSA OIG continues to implement technological advancements such as Natural Language Processing (NLP) in our Investigative Case Management System's workflow processes to maximize the efficiency of our investigative resources. Using advanced analysis and logic-based

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techniques allows us to increase automation, thereby reducing human resources which can be re-allocated to different areas of investigative field work.

Incorporating NLP has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of allegations for manual review. Some allegation types now rely solely on NLP for categorization without any manual review. NLP is currently triaging approximately 40 percent of all allegations submitted to SSA OIG. From that subset, less than 10 percent are being manually validated to ensure continued model accuracy. Our agile process allows us to adjust the percentages based on error rates and continue to incorporate additional topics into NLP in the Investigative Case Management System's workflow process.

In FY 2026 and beyond, SSA OIG will also continue to leverage emerging technologies and introduce modernizations that improve usability and functionality and enhance our business processes. Adoption of emerging technologies such as cloud platforms require that we modernize our application and platform architecture to optimize security, performance, agility, and scalability. In FY 2025, SSA OIG will implement application platform architectural improvements to eliminate use of old technologies in our systems. We will deploy these mandatory enhancements to all of our systems as we transition to a cloud hosted environment. Using cloud managed solutions will aid SSA OIG in minimizing future application maintenance and allowing easier enhancements.

As we continue to invest in IT modernization and advance our capabilities, it is imperative that we also make investments in employee technical trainings that will provide our IT staff with a broader spectrum of tools and enhance their skills in low code/no code platforms, and skills in cloud capabilities to effectively transition and use these emerging technologies.

Data Analytics

SSA OIG's data objects were released into production in early 2024. These data objects provide refined and reconciled data from the Investigative Case Management System and allow for real-time ad hoc data requests as well as enhanced efficiency in mission-critical business intelligence reporting. In FY 2025, we significantly expanded our data objects and incorporated the creation of a third phase in the Case Management System – preliminary assessments. We expanded the scope of snapshots to include all data leveraged for official reporting purposes for both reproducibility and the expansion of our data analytics warehouse.

In FY 2025, several key enhancements took place regarding reporting tools. The expansion of the underlying data objects reduced, and in some cases eliminated, calculations done within our reporting software, MicroStrategy, which resulted in reduced processing times. Additional work was undertaken to meet the needs of our customers and provide additional business intelligence reports. In FY 2026, SSA OIG plans to construct position-related dashboard landing pages focusing on the needs of individual customers as they operate within their components. In addition, we will continue providing data drill-down and filtering capabilities, allowing SSA OIG to leverage data in innovative ways, enhancing efficiency and accessibility.

In FY 2026, we will continue expanding the data analytics platform to provide self-service tools and data access to our customers. Thus far, we created an initial set of index files for seven of

the major data streams from SSA utilized by auditors and investigators to meet Strategic Goal #2. In the remainder of FY 2025, we will work collaboratively with auditors and investigators to test and deploy the initial index files so that in FY 2026 we can explore additional automation and continue to enhance the platform. We created several automated tools enabling investigators to run queries that generate automatic results, like representative payee files and direct deposit information. We plan to add additional self-service tools that will enable customers to extract data pertaining to FBI missing persons cases, immigration and other law enforcement endeavors, as well as aged beneficiaries.

Cybersecurity

As cyber threats evolve, SSA OIG must continue to enhance the security posture of our enterprise applications and develop staff skillsets.

SSA OIG is committed to advance toward zero-trust architecture to ensure least-privileged access to OIG's enterprise applications and data. In FY 2024, we enhanced our systems to implement phishing resistant Multi-Factor Authentication models.

SSA OIG continues to facilitate intercomponent coordination, education, and exchange of cyber efforts through the SSA OIG Cybersecurity Workgroup. As cyber threats evolve, SSA OIG continues to remediate security vulnerabilities and manage security assessment activities to ensure continued compliance with Federal regulations and agency policy.

In addition, audit reviews are conducted per the standards of the Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) of 2014. The evaluation and effectiveness of SSA's information security program is based on the prescribed IG FISMA Reporting Metrics. Evaluation includes testing the effectiveness of information security policies, procedures, and practices of some of SSA's information systems.

SSA OIG continues to be a contributing member of the SSA Insider Threat Hub, providing valuable cyber and investigative expertise during inquiries of mutual interest.

Cost-saving Efforts

SSA OIG remains committed to maximizing its resources through several cost-saving efforts, including analyzing options to utilize space efficiently, reduce wasteful spending and ensure compliance with return-to-work policies.

In FY 2025, SSA OIG continues to collaborate with SSA in identifying unused SSA space that OIG investigators may use, as leases expire. For example, construction was completed in a Field Office in Las Vegas, Nevada that allowed SSA OIG to vacate a Federal space and move in with the CDI Unit, saving taxpayer's funds. Additionally, SSA OIG is collaborating with SSA to collocate investigative agents and the CDI Unit in St. Louis, Missouri and collocating SSA CDI staff and SSA OIG staff in Boston, Massachusetts. These projects will result in reduced footprint and rent costs for both SSA OIG and SSA. OIG will continue to review properties across the country and collaborate with SSA to identify where space reductions are feasible.

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SSA OIG also enhances organizational efficiencies by centralizing logistical and operational efforts and identifying efficiencies in processes. For example, over the last 4 years, SSA OIG has also worked with SSA to transfer all nationwide existing local phone lines to a central SSA contract. As part of this process, SSA OIG has identified local phone lines no longer needed or used and eliminated phone expenses in most locations nationwide.

Strategic Goal 4: Strengthen our workforce

SSA OIG's fourth strategic goal is focused on strengthening our workforce within SSA OIG and aligning our workforce and organizational structure with the priorities of the Administration and our statutory obligations. SSA OIG is committed to building an innovative and agile organization by attracting, developing, and retaining a high-performing workforce and providing them the resources to maximize their individual potential and improve operations. In FY 2025, SSA OIG conducted a comprehensive top-down review of our operations, staffing, and performance needs to further maximize our ability to efficiently accomplish our statutory mission. As a result, we developed a data-driven workforce plan that prioritizes hiring in areas of greatest need in accordance with mandates set forth in the Administration's Executive Orders and directives.

Employee Performance and Development

To ensure an efficient and merit-based workforce, SSA OIG continues to prioritize increasing productivity and accountability in accordance with the following Executive Orders and Presidential Memorandum:

- Executive Order 14170: [Reforming The Federal Hiring Process And Restoring Merit To Government Service](#)
- Executive Order 14173: [Ending Illegal Discrimination And Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity](#)
- Executive Order 14284: [Strengthening Probationary Periods in the Federal Service](#)
- Presidential Memorandum, [Restoring Accountability for Career Senior Executives](#)

To develop and maintain a workforce capable of responding to future demands, SSA OIG leadership continues to empower its managers to consider and approve job-specific trainings and programs that will increase employee knowledge, skills, and abilities to help them carry out their assigned roles and responsibilities.

SSA OIG 1811 Training Programs:

As fraudsters become more sophisticated in their tactics, training of SSA OIG's federal agents is vital, not just for the quality of our investigations, but also for officer and public safety. Without appropriate funding, our agents become less agile in their ability to respond to emerging fraud schemes, such as imposter scams, potential threats posed by AI, and direct deposit fraud, in a timely manner that protects the American public.

The SSA OIG is responsible for investigating threats and assaults against Social Security Administration employees, visitors, and facilities. This includes potentially responding to active shooter or threat situations. SSA OIG's FY 2026 budget request includes funding for an active shooter training initiative with the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center at Texas State University to provide the best research-based active shooter response training in the nation.

In addition, in FY 2026, SSA OIG will continue funding new agent training, new manager trainings, realistic de-escalation, and tactical medical trainings for an estimated 240 special agents.

Government Vehicles

The SSA OIG leases a fleet of vehicles from the General Services Administration. Historically, the SSA OIG has leased standard sedans or small sport utility vehicles and equipped them with aftermarket law enforcement equipment. As these vehicles have become more intricate, the aftermarket installation of law enforcement and emergency equipment such as lights and sirens has become increasingly complex, uneconomical, and in many instances the ability to mount the equipment in safe, but concealed location has been significantly diminished. Additionally, we have had several issues involving our standard leased vehicles where electrical malfunctions occurred after installing aftermarket equipment, rendering the vehicles inoperable. Some of the aftermarket installations have also created safety hazards for the operators and passengers in the vehicles. To ensure the aftermarket installation of equipment does not decrease the safety of operation of vehicles, the OIG has a need to transition to leasing "Police Use Vehicles" from GSA at an increased expense at approximately **\$150,000** a year. This will ensure compliance with by [Executive Order 14240: Eliminating Waste and Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Consolidating Procurement](#) and ensure the vehicles come with the necessary law enforcement equipment factory installed that complies with the executive order while supporting unique business needs of our special agents, increasing safety, and reducing downtime.

Recruitment Efforts

SSA OIG is committed to fulfilling our statutory responsibilities by ensuring we retain and recruit staff that enables our workforce to meet the demand for independent, high-quality oversight. For our components performing statutory obligations related to investigations, law enforcement, and audit work, the Offices of Investigations and Audit requires additional staffing to maintain our current productivity levels and mandated workloads. SSA OIG developed a data-driven hiring plan that prioritizes recruitment of positions that will improve the efficiency of the Federal government. Our recruitment efforts will be focused on the following principles in accordance with [Executive Order 14170: Reforming the Federal Hiring Process And Restoring Merit To Government Service](#):

- decrease government-wide time-to-hire to under 80 days
- improve communication with candidates to provide greater clarity regarding application status, timelines, and feedback, including regular updates on the progress of applications and explanations of hiring decisions where appropriate

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- integrate modern technology to support the recruitment and selection process, including the use of data analytics to identify trends, gaps, and opportunities in hiring, as well as leveraging digital platforms to improve candidate engagement

BUDGETARY RESOURCES

The SSA OIG annual appropriation consists of appropriations from both the general fund and the trust funds. The President’s Budget for FY 2026 consists of \$32,000,000 appropriated from the general fund, and \$82,665,000, which will be transferred and expended as authorized by Section 201(g) (1) of the Social Security Act from the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund. The table below displays budget authority, split by type of funding, and obligations.

Table 4.1—OIG Budget Authority and Amounts Available for Obligation

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 President's Budget	FY25 to FY26 Change
FTE	508	479	471 ¹	(8)
General Fund Appropriation	\$32,000,000	\$32,000,000	\$32,000,000	\$0
Trust Fund Appropriation	\$82,665,000	\$82,665,000	\$82,665,000	\$0
Subtotal²	\$114,665,000	\$114,665,000	\$114,665,000	\$0
No-Year Carryover (IT Mod)	\$1,961,476	\$543,180	\$0	(\$543,180)
Program Integrity Transfer ³	\$15,100,000	\$15,100,000	\$24,600,000	\$9,500,000
Program Integrity Carryover ⁴	\$281,569	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Authority:	\$132,008,045	\$130,308,180	\$139,265,000	\$8,956,820
Total Obligation ⁵	\$131,042,979	\$129,754,795	\$135,760,150	\$6,005,355
Unobligated balance lapsing	\$421,886	\$553,385	\$0	\$0

¹ Based on point-in-time estimates from April 2025.

² Of the amount, \$2 million is available for IT Modernization in each year.

³ P.L. 118-47 allowed SSA to transfer \$15.1 million in FY 2024 from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units. P.L. 119-4 allowed SSA to transfer \$15.1 million in FY 2025 from the LAE account to the OIG for the costs associated with jointly operated CDI units. FY 2026 estimates reflect a transfer of \$24.6 million, as reflected in the FY 2026 President’s Budget.

⁴ SSA OIG’s PI adjustment is an 18-month account. The carryover represents the unobligated funds that will be obligated within the first six months of the following fiscal year.

⁵ Total Obligations for IT Modernization include \$3.4 million in FY 2024, \$2.5 million in FY 2025 and \$1 million in FY 2026.

Table 4.3—Explanation of OIG Budget Changes

	FY 2025		FY 2026		Change	
	WYs (FTEs)	Obligations	WYs (FTEs)	Obligations	WYs (FTEs)	Obligations
<u>BUILT-IN INCREASES</u>						
Payroll Expenses	479	\$114,664,700	471	\$111,881,600	-	(\$2,783,100)
· Change in base payroll expenses related to career ladder promotions and within-grade increases	-	-	-	\$309,400	-	\$309,400
· Change in base expenses for employee benefits including health benefits and new employees hired under the Federal Retirement Employees System	-	-	-	\$405,000	-	\$405,000
Non-Payroll Costs - All other built-in non-payroll changes, travel management support and equipment	-	\$10,672,100	-	\$18,807,700	-	\$8,135,600
Rent	-	\$4,418,000	-	\$4,418,000	-	\$0
Subtotal, Built-in increases	479	\$129,754,800	471	\$135,821,700	-	\$6,066,900
<u>PROGRAM INCREASES</u>						
Payroll Increase - Net Increase in OIG WYs	-	-	0		0	\$0
Subtotal, Program Increases	-	-	0	\$0	0	\$0
Total Increases	479	\$129,754,800	471	\$135,821,700	0	\$6,066,900

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	FY 2025		FY 2026		Change	
	WYs (FTEs)	Budgetary Resources	WYs (FTEs)	Budgetary Resources	WYs (FTEs)	Budgetary Resources
<u>BUILT-IN DECREASES</u>		--		--	--	--
Base Payroll Expenses—						
Decrease in all other payroll costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Payroll Costs						
Rent				(\$61,600)		(\$61,600)
Subtotal, Built-in decreases	0	0	0	(\$61,600)	0	(\$61,600)
<u>PROGRAM DECREASES</u>						
Decrease in costs for training, other support, services, and supplies	-	-	0	-	-	-
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Decreases	0	\$0	0	(\$61,600)	0	(\$61,600)
Net Change¹	479	\$129,754,800	471	\$135,760,100	(8)	\$6,005,300

Note: 2026 FTEs are based on point-in-time estimates from April 2025.

¹ Total includes funding from Program Integrity Transfer and IT Modernization no-year funding.

Table 4.4—Budget Resources by Object

	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	<i>FY25 to FY26 Change</i>
Full-time permanent	\$79,641,000	\$80,601,900	\$78,817,200	<i>(\$1,784,700)</i>
Other than full-time permanent	\$459,800	\$106,100		<i>(\$106,100)</i>
Other compensation				
Subtotal, Personnel Compensation	\$80,100,800	\$80,708,000	\$78,817,200	<i>(\$1,890,800)</i>
Civilian personnel benefits	\$35,727,100	\$33,956,700	\$33,778,900	<i>(\$177,800)</i>
Total, Compensation and Benefits	\$115,827,900	\$114,664,700	\$112,596,100	<i>(\$2,068,600)</i>
Travel	\$2,032,000	\$2,326,000	\$2,751,000	<i>\$425,000</i>
Transportation of things	\$66,100	\$58,000	\$69,000	<i>\$11,000</i>
Rental payments to GSA	\$3,768,000	\$3,999,000	\$3,885,000	<i>(\$114,000)</i>
Rental payments to others	\$101,000	\$119,000	\$137,000	<i>\$18,000</i>
Communications, utilities, and others	\$335,000	\$299,000	\$334,000	<i>\$35,000</i>
Printing and reproduction	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$9,000	<i>\$7,000</i>
Other services	\$7,997,000	\$7,135,000	\$13,898,000	<i>\$6,763,000</i>
Supplies and materials	\$143,000	\$100,000	\$132,000	<i>\$32,000</i>
Equipment	\$791,000	\$1,052,000	\$1,949,000	<i>\$897,000</i>
Insurance Claims	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	<i>\$0</i>
Land and Structure	\$0	\$0	\$0	<i>\$0</i>
Total Budgetary Resources¹	\$131,043,000	\$129,754,700	\$135,760,100	<i>\$6,005,400</i>

Table 4.5—FTE Employment and WYs

	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 President's Budget
FTE	508	479	471 ²
Overtime / Lump Sum Leave	4	9	5
Total:	512	488	476

¹ Total includes funding from Program Integrity Transfer and IT Modernization no-year funding.

² Based on point-in-time estimates from April 2025.

Table 4.6—Average Grade and Salary

	FY 2024 Actual
Average ES	\$207,000
Average GS	13
Average GS Salary	\$136,800

APPROPRIATION HISTORY

The table below displays the President’s budget request, amounts passed by the House and Senate, and the actual amount appropriated for the period FY 2015 to FY 2025.

Table 4.7—Appropriation History Table

Fiscal Year	Budget Estimate to Congress	House Committee Passed	Senate Committee Passed	Enacted Appropriation
General Funds	\$29,000,000	\$28,829,000		\$ 29,000,000
Trust Funds	\$75,622,000	\$74,249,000		\$ 74,350,000
2015 Total	\$104,622,000	\$103,078,000 ¹		\$103,350,000²
General Funds	\$31,000,000	\$30,000,000	\$28,829,000	\$ 29,787,000
Trust Funds	\$78,795,000	\$78,795,000	\$74,521,000	\$ 75,713,000
2016 Total	\$109,795,000	\$108,795,000 ³	\$103,350,000 ⁴	\$105,500,000⁵
General Funds	\$31,000,000	\$29,787,000	\$29,787,000	\$ 29,787,000
Trust Funds	\$81,000,000	\$75,713,000	\$75,713,000	\$ 75,713,000
2017 Total	\$112,000,000	\$105,500,000 ⁶	\$105,500,000 ⁷	\$105,500,000⁸
General Funds	\$30,000,000	\$29,796,270	\$29,796,270	\$30,000,000
Trust Funds	\$75,500,000	\$74,987,280	\$74,987,280	\$75,500,000
2018 Total	\$105,500,000	\$104,783,550 ⁹	\$104,783,550 ¹⁰	\$105,500,000¹¹
General Funds	\$30,000,000	\$31,000,000	\$30,000,000	\$30,000,000
Trust Funds	\$75,500,000	\$77,500,000	\$75,500,000	\$75,500,000
2019 Total	\$105,500,000	\$108,500,000 ¹²	\$105,500,000 ¹³	\$105,500,000¹⁴
General Funds	\$30,000,000	\$31,000,000	\$30,000,000	\$30,000,000
Trust Funds	\$75,500,000	\$77,500,000	\$75,500,000	\$75,500,000
2020 Total	\$105,500,000	\$108,500,000 ¹⁵	\$105,500,000 ¹⁶	\$105,500,000¹⁷
General Funds	\$33,000,000	\$31,000,000	\$30,000,000	\$30,000,000
Trust Funds	\$83,000,000	\$77,500,000	\$75,500,000	\$75,500,000
2021 Total	\$116,000,000	\$108,500,000 ¹⁸	\$105,500,000 ¹⁹	\$105,500,000²⁰
General Funds	\$32,000,000	\$32,000,000	\$32,000,000	\$30,900,000
Trust Funds	\$80,000,000	\$80,000,000	\$80,000,000	\$77,765,000
2022 Total	\$112,000,000	\$112,000,000 ²¹	\$112,000,000 ²²	\$108,665,000²³
General Funds	\$33,000,000	\$33,000,000	\$32,000,000	\$32,000,000
Trust Funds	\$84,500,000	\$84,500,000	\$82,665,000	\$82,665,000
2023 Total	\$117,500,000	\$117,500,000 ²⁴	\$114,665,000 ²⁵	\$114,665,000²⁶
General Funds	\$34,000,000	\$32,000,000	\$32,000,000	\$32,000,000
Trust Funds	\$86,400,000	\$82,665,000	\$82,665,000	\$82,665,000
2024 Total	\$120,400,000	\$114,665,000	\$114,665,000	\$114,665,000²⁷
General Funds	\$34,000,000	\$32,000,000	\$32,000,000	\$32,000,000
Trust Funds	\$87,254,000	\$82,665,000	\$82,665,000	\$82,665,000
2025 Total	\$121,254,000	\$114,665,000	\$114,665,000	\$114,665,000²⁸
General Funds	\$32,000,000			
Trust Funds	\$82,665,000			
2026 Total	\$121,254,000			

Office of the Inspector General

¹ H.R. 5464.

² Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2015 (P.L. 113-235).

³ H.R. 3020

⁴ S. 1695.

⁵ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114-113).

⁶ H.R. 5926.

⁷ S. 3040.

⁸ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31).

⁹ Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-56). Funding includes a rescission of 0.6791% of FY 2017 appropriation. The \$30,000,000 in general funds and \$75,500,000 in trust funds included in the language for this account for FY 2018 were reduced by \$415,284 and \$301,166 respectively, in accordance with P.L. 115-56.

¹⁰ Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-56). Funding includes a rescission of 0.6791% of FY 2017 appropriation. The \$30,000,000 in general funds and \$75,500,000 in trust funds included in the language for this account for FY 2018 were reduced by \$415,284 and \$301,166 respectively, in accordance with P.L. 115-56.

¹¹ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-56).

¹² H.R. 6157.

¹³ H.R. 6157.

¹⁴ Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 115-245).

¹⁵ H.R. 1865.

¹⁶ H.R. 1865.

¹⁷ Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-94).

¹⁸ H.R. 133.

¹⁹ H.R. 133.

²⁰ Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260).

²¹ H.R. 4502

²² H.R. 4502

²³ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-103)

²⁴ H.R. 2617

²⁵ H.R. 2617

²⁶ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117- 328)

²⁷ Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-47)

²⁸ Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (P.L. 119-4)