



**SOCIAL SECURITY**  
The Commissioner

The Honorable Robert Byrd  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter transmits the Operating Plan for the Social Security Administration (SSA), as required by section 518 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-161). The attached plan provides a comparison of the fiscal year (FY) 2008 President's budget to the FY 2008 enacted appropriation for each of SSA's accounts, displaying the impact of congressional action on the President's request.

The final page of the plan displays the workload and performance measures as shown in the Justification of Estimates for the committees, including actual experience in FY 2007 and an update of FY 2008 commitments to incorporate enacted funding levels and the most recent workload estimates.

We will be glad to work with your staff on any questions you may have about this Operating Plan. If there are any questions, please have them contact Ms. Mary Glenn-Croft, Deputy Commissioner for Budget, Finance and Management, at (410) 965-2910.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Astrue

Enclosure



**SOCIAL SECURITY**  
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The Honorable Thad Cochran  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cochran:

This letter transmits the Operating Plan for the Social Security Administration (SSA), as required by section 518 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-161). The attached plan provides a comparison of the fiscal year (FY) 2008 President's budget to the FY 2008 enacted appropriation for each of SSA's accounts, displaying the impact of congressional action on the President's request.

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**SOCIAL SECURITY**  
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The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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The Honorable Arlen Specter  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

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**SOCIAL SECURITY**  
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The Honorable David R. Obey  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Michael J. Astrue

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**SOCIAL SECURITY**  
The Commissioner

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Lewis:

This letter transmits the Operating Plan for the Social Security Administration (SSA), as required by section 518 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-161). The attached plan provides a comparison of the fiscal year (FY) 2008 President's budget to the FY 2008 enacted appropriation for each of SSA's accounts, displaying the impact of congressional action on the President's request.

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Sincerely,

Michael J. Astrue

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**SOCIAL SECURITY**  
The Commissioner

The Honorable James T. Walsh  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Walsh:

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**SSA FY 2008 Operating Plan**  
**(Appropriated FY 2008 Funds and Carryover/Transfers  
of Unobligated Prior-Year Funds)**  
(\$ in millions)

<b><u>Budget Authority:</u></b>	<b><u>President's Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Available Funding</u></b>
<b><u>Payments to the Social Security Trust Funds (PTF)</u></b>		
Pension Reform.....	\$6.4	\$6.4
Unnegotiated Checks.....	14.0	14.0
Special Benefits for Certain Uninsured Persons.....	0.0	0.0 <sup>1/</sup>
Military Service Wage Credits.....	7.7	7.7
Total Appropriation (P.L. 110-161).....	<u>\$28.1</u>	<u>\$28.1</u>
<b><u>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</u></b>		
FY 2008 Benefit Payments, Total.....	<u>\$40,675.0</u>	<u>\$40,675.0</u>
- FY 2008 First Quarter Advance (P.L. 110-5).....	16,810.0	16,810.0
- FY 2008 Appropriation (P.L. 110-161).....	23,865.0	23,865.0
Payments to the Social Security Trust Funds (PTF).....	2,983.0	3,018.5 <sup>2/</sup>
Beneficiary Services.....	36.0	36.0
Research and Demonstration (R&D) Projects.....	<u>27.0</u>	<u>26.7 <sup>2/</sup></u>
Total Appropriations (P.L. 110-5 and P.L. 110-161).....	<u>\$43,721.0</u>	<u>\$43,756.2</u>
Carryover of Unobligated FY 2007 Balances and Actual Recoveries: <sup>3/</sup>		
- Benefits.....	\$1,001.2	\$639.2
- SSI PTF.....	0.0	0.0
- Beneficiary Services.....	70.4	70.4
- R&D.....	<u>17.9</u>	<u>26.5</u>
Total, Carryover of Unobligated FY 2007 Balances and Actual Recoveries.....	<u>\$1,089.5</u>	<u>\$736.1</u>
 Total Funds Available for FY 2008.....	 \$44,810.5	 \$44,492.3

<sup>1/</sup> Requested and appropriated amount is \$13,000.

<sup>2/</sup> Reflects the impact of the Congressional action, including the 1.747 percent across-the-board reduction.

<sup>3/</sup> The carryover amounts shown in the available funding column represent unobligated FY 2007 funding needed to cover FY 2008 estimated SSI costs. The remaining carryover from FY 2007 unobligated balances will be applied to future SSI costs.

	<u>President's Budget</u>	<u>Available Funding</u>
<b><u>Limitation on Administrative Expenses (LAE)</u></b>		
Regular LAE.....	\$9,459.0	\$9,609.0 <sup>1/</sup>
SSA Advisory Board.....	2.0	2.0
SSI User Fees.....	135.0	132.6 <sup>1/</sup>
Non-Attorney Certification User Fee.....	1.0	1.0
Total Appropriated (P.L. 110-161).....	<u>\$9,597.0</u>	<u>\$9,744.6</u>

Other Available Funds:

Automation Investment Fund (AIF) (No-Year)

- Carryover from FY 2007 Unobligated AIF Balances.....	\$8.4	\$12.2
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Information Technology Systems (ITS) (No-Year)

- Carryover from FY 2007 Unobligated ITS Balances.....	\$31.3	\$184.6
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Carryover of Other Unobligated Balances.....	\$0.0	\$10.8 <sup>2/</sup>
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**Office of the Inspector General, SSA**

Federal Funds.....	\$27.0	\$26.0 <sup>1/</sup>
Trust Funds.....	68.0	65.9 <sup>1/</sup>
Total Appropriated (P.L. 110-161).....	<u>\$95.0</u>	<u>\$91.9 <sup>1/</sup></u>

<sup>1/</sup> Reflects the impact of the Congressional action, including the 1.747 percent across-the-board reduction.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes authority from prior years carried over for the following purposes: \$9.3M for operation and maintenance of specific facilities delegated to SSA by the General Services Administration, \$1.5M for construction and \$26K for Disaster Relief.

<b><u>Estimated Outlays:</u></b>	<u>President's Budget</u>	<u>Current Estimate</u>
<b>PTF</b> .....	\$29	\$29
<b>LAE</b> .....	\$9,493	\$9,670
<b>SSI</b> .....	\$44,743	\$44,352
<b>OIG</b> .....	\$95	\$92

**Social Security Administration**  
**Workload and Outcome Measures**

	FY 2007		FY 2008	
	Enacted Appropriation	Actual	President's Budget	Enacted Appropriation
<b>RESOURCES (\$ in millions)</b>				
Appropriation (Limitation on Administrative Expenses) (New BA only)	\$9,298	\$9,298	\$9,597	\$9,745

<b>SELECTED OUTCOME MEASURES</b>				
Initial Disability Claims Pending (thousands)	577	555	627	519
SSA Hearings Pending (thousands)	738	747	768	752
Average Processing Time for Initial Disability Claims (days) <sup>1/</sup>	N/A	110	N/A	107
Average Processing Time for Hearing Decisions (days)	524	512	541	535
Disability Decisions, Per Worker Per Year	252	249	267	264
SSA Hearing Decisions, Per Worker Per Year	106	101	108	101
Disability Determination Services Accuracy Rate	97%	97%	97%	97%

<b>SELECTED WORKLOAD MEASURES</b>				
800 Number Transactions Handled (millions)	61	58	63	63
Retirement and Survivors Claims Processed (thousands)	3,837	3,864	4,057	4,065
Initial Disability Claims Processed (thousands)	2,530	2,530	2,462	2,582
SSA Hearings Processed (thousands)	555	548	548	559
Periodic Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs) Processed (thousands)	729	765	1,118	1,065
Periodic Medical CDRs (included above)	198	208	398	235
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Non-Disability Redeterminations Processed (thousands)	1,026	1,039	1,526	1,200
Social Security Statements Issued (millions)	147	147	148	148
Annual Earnings Items Processed (millions)	265	270	268	273
Social Security Numbers Issued (millions)	18	18	18	19

<sup>1/</sup> Measure revised for FY 2009 President's Budget to exclude processing time for abbreviated applications and technical denials - actuals reflect revised measure, not then-current goal.