

## **VI. Costs of Service**

The Permitted Entity must provide SSA with advance payment for the full annual cost of all services rendered under this user agreement, and submit to SSA proof of such advance payment each year in the manner directed by SSA. SSA will not perform any services under this user agreement for any year until the Permitted Entity provides such advance payment, and proof of such advance payment, to SSA. Moreover, SSA may incur obligations by performing services under this user agreement only on a 365-day agreement year basis.

SSA will use a tiered subscription-based pricing model. The Permitted Entity must select from one of five tiers, depending on annual estimated number of transactions. Information on the current tiers and pricing model can be found on SSA's internet website at: <https://www.ssa.gov/dataexchange/eCBSV/index.html#fees>. If transactions are not used within that tier range during the 365-day agreement year, they will not be rolled over to the next year.

The Permitted Entity must provide advance payment using Pay.gov either by credit card (up to the limit set by the Department of the Treasury, found at the Department of Treasury's internet website at: <https://tfm.fiscal.treasury.gov/v1/p5/c700.html>, Section 7045.10-Transaction Maximums) or ACH credit or debit. SSA will not accept checks or credit card information received in the mail by any method.

Prior to the start of each new 365-day agreement year, the Permitted Entity must submit full payment of fees (including, as applicable, initial and renewal administrative fees) for estimated requests for that annual agreement period with a completed user agreement on file. Transactions will be provided only up to the maximum volume within the selected tier level. The Permitted Entity will remain in active status as long as its account balance is positive. When balances are low, SSA will notify the Permitted Entity and the Permitted Entity must decide whether to enter into a new 365-day agreement period for a higher tier or stop transactions for the year once the threshold has been met. The Permitted Entity can only select a higher tier when a new tier level is selected during the agreement year, which will begin a new 365-day agreement period. Upon completion of an original 365-day agreement, the Permitted Entity can select any tier, including a lower tier, for the next 365-day agreement. No interest shall accrue to the advance payment.

At least annually, SSA will review its costs related to providing the eCBSV services, recalculate the fees necessary for SSA to recover full costs, and adjust the fees accordingly. SSA will notify the Permitted Entity before any change to the fees goes into effect.