

A MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING COMMISSIONER

I am pleased to present the Social Security Administration's fiscal year (FY) 2015 *Agency Financial Report* (AFR). This year, as we observe our 80th anniversary, I invite you to join us in celebrating our past and helping us to build our future.

Our AFR describes how we managed our resources and administered our programs, and demonstrates our commitment to responsible stewardship. Through our AFR, we hope that the public will better understand our programs, challenges, and accomplishments in achieving our mission of delivering Social Security services that meet the changing needs of the public. Despite the challenges we face, we work hard to meet the public's expectations and continue to make great strides by focusing on our Strategic Goals:

- Deliver innovative, quality services;
- Strengthen the integrity of our programs;
- Serve the public through a stronger, more responsive disability program;
- Build a model workforce to deliver quality service; and,
- Ensure reliable, secure, and efficient information technology services.

This year, we launched Vision 2025, defining our highest priorities over the next 10 years: providing a superior customer experience, developing and retaining exceptional employees, and building an innovative organization. As part of our vision, we embrace technological enhancements to achieve efficiency without sacrificing the personalized service for which we are known. We are committed to providing face-to-face service to all those who need or want it, while continuing to develop our online services. As we expand our online services, we are focused on enhancing our approach to exceeding cyber security requirements to prevent misuse and unauthorized access to our systems and data. We maintain a comprehensive, agency-wide information security program to protect information and systems assets. As we discover new threats, we deploy new tools and techniques to mitigate risks to our information security.

We remain committed to strengthening the integrity of our programs. In FY 2015, we invested in and expanded efforts to combat fraud, waste, and abuse. To centralize our efforts to identify fraud that undermines our mission, we created a new Office of Anti-Fraud Programs that works closely with our Office of the Inspector General. We use a variety of approaches, including data analytics, to help us detect and prevent fraud.

We are also exploring new technologies and using modern tools to improve efficiency in our disability program. For example, we are promoting the use of telephone and mobile wage reporting for the Supplemental Security Income program, refining the electronic claims analysis tool, and collaborating with other Federal agencies to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of our service to the public.

For the 22nd consecutive year, we received an unmodified opinion on our financial statements. Based on our internal evaluations, I can provide reasonable assurance that the financial and performance information contained in this report is complete, reliable, and accurate. I am also pleased to announce that we have no material weaknesses in our internal controls.

Our AFR reflects the tireless efforts of our employees, who are our greatest asset. Each day, our staff works diligently to serve the public with care and compassion. Our employees' hard work and commitment are vital to our continued success in providing a superior customer experience to the American public.



Carolyn W. Colvin
Acting Commissioner
November 9, 2015



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To access this report online, please visit our [Fiscal Year 2015 Agency Financial Report webpage \(www.socialsecurity.gov/finance\)](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/finance).

INTRODUCTION

For fiscal year (FY) 2015, we chose to produce an *Agency Financial Report (AFR)* and an *Annual Performance Report (APR)*. Our AFR provides financial management and high-level performance information that enables the President, Congress, and the public to assess how well we accomplished our mission, achieved our goals, and managed the financial resources entrusted to us. We organize our AFR into the following major sections:

Management’s Discussion and Analysis: The *Management’s Discussion and Analysis* section gives an overview of our mission, organization, Strategic Goals and Objectives, Priority Goals, and key FY 2015 performance measures. We highlight the FY 2015 results of our key performance measures and discuss our accomplishments and plans to achieve our mission. We provide a summary of the financial information contained in subsequent sections of the AFR. We also include a synopsis of our systems, controls, and legal compliance.

Financial Section: The *Financial Section* contains the Acting Chief Financial Officer’s Message, our audited financial statements, the accompanying notes to those statements, and required supplementary information, including the Schedule of Budgetary Resources and information on Social Insurance. This section concludes with the auditor’s reports.

Other Information: The *Other Information* section includes the *Inspector General Statement on SSA’s Major Management and Performance Challenges*, as well as our Summary of Financial Statement Audit and Management Assurances tables. We also provide information on our entitlement reviews and the Office of the Inspector General’s anti-fraud activities, civil monetary penalties, biennial review of user fee charges, Freeze the Footprint initiative, and debt management activities. The *Improper Payments Information Detailed Report* concludes this section.

Appendix: The *Appendix* includes a glossary of acronyms, a list of our agency’s top management officials, the members of the Board of Trustees, and the members of the Social Security Advisory Board.

We will present detailed performance results in our FY 2015 APR, which we will publish as part of our Congressional Budget Justification. We plan to publish our FY 2015 APR in February 2016 along with our FY 2015 *Summary of Performance and Financial Information*.

For the 17th year in a row, we received the Association of Government Accountants’ Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting award for our annual Agency Financial Report. Receiving the Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting for our FY 2014 Agency Financial Report is a significant accomplishment for a Federal agency.

