



**SOCIAL SECURITY**  
The Commissioner

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 Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (P.L. 111-8). The attached plan provides a comparison of the fiscal year (FY) 2009 President's budget to the FY 2009 enacted appropriation for each of SSA's accounts.

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 2008 and an update of FY 2009 commitments to incorporate enacted funding levels and the most recent workload estimates. The commitments shown in the FY 2009 enacted column are based on using the amount appropriated under P.L. 111-8 and additional funding apportioned from the resources appropriated for workload processing, related information technology (IT) costs, and health IT under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, P.L. 111-5.

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

Sincerely,

Michael J. Astrue

Enclosure

**SSA FY 2009 Operating Plan**  
**(Appropriated FY 2009 Funds and Carryover/Transfers**  
**of Unobligated Prior-Year Funds)**  
**(\$ in millions)**

| <b><u>Budget Authority:</u></b>   | <b>President's<br/>Budget</b> | <b>Available<br/>Funding</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                          |
| Military Service Wage Credits.....  | 0.0                           | 0.0                          |
| Total Appropriation (P.L. 111-8).....                                       | <u>\$20.4</u>                 | <u>\$20.4</u>                |
| <b><u>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</u></b>                            |                               |                              |
| FY 2009 Benefit Payments, Total.....  | \$42,027.0                    | \$42,027.0                   |
| - FY 2009 First Quarter Advance (P.L. 110-161).....                         | 14,800.0                      | 14,800.0                     |
| - FY 2009 Appropriation (P.L. 111-8).....                                   | 27,227.0                      | 27,227.0                     |
| Administrative Expenses.....  | 3,149.0                       | 3,206.5                      |
| Beneficiary Services.....   | 3.0                           | 3.0                          |
| Research and Demonstration (R&D) Projects.....                              | 35.0                          | 35.0                         |
| Total Appropriations (P.L. 110-161 and P.L. 111-8).....                     | <u>\$45,214.0</u>             | <u>\$45,271.5</u>            |
| Carryover of Unobligated FY 2008 Balances and Actual Recoveries:            |                               |                              |
| - Benefits.....   | \$1,211.0                     | \$1,357.1                    |
| - Administrative Expenses.....  | 0.0                           | 226.5                        |
| - Beneficiary Services.....   | 54.0                          | 64.0                         |
| - R&D.....  | 9.0                           | 18.5                         |
| Total, Carryover of Unobligated FY 2008 Balances and Actual Recoveries..... | <u>\$1,274.0</u>              | <u>\$1,666.1</u>             |
| Total Funds Available for FY 2009.....                                      | \$46,488.0                    | \$46,937.6                   |
| <b><u>American Recovery and Reinvestment Act</u></b>                        |                               |                              |
| Economic Recovery Payments (P.L. 111-5) .....                               |                               | \$13,250.0                   |

1/ Requested and appropriated amount is \$6,000.

2/ The \$43,384 million available for federal benefits (\$42,027.0M + \$1,357.1M) is less than the current annual estimate of \$44,527 million. The shortfall will be covered later this fiscal year by using the indefinite authority provided in the FY 2009 SSI appropriation language. This information was included in the OMB-approved FY 2009 SSI apportionment.

3/ The carryover/recovery amounts shown in the available funding column represent unobligated FY 2008 funding needed to cover FY 2009 estimated SSI costs. The remaining carryover from FY 2008 unobligated balances will be applied to future SSI costs.

|   | <u>President's<br/>Budget</u> | <u>Available<br/>Funding</u> |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b><u>Limitation on Administrative Expenses (LAE)</u></b> |                               |                              |
| Regular LAE.....  | \$9,675.0 <sup>1/</sup>       | \$9,801.5 <sup>1/</sup>      |
| Base CDRs/Redeterminations.....                           | 264.0                         | 264.0                        |
| Additional CDRs/Redeterminations.....                     | 240.0                         | 240.0                        |
| SSA Advisory Board.....                                   | 2.0                           | 2.0                          |
| SSI User Fees.....  | 145.0                         | 145.0                        |
| Non-Attorney Certification User Fee.....                  | 1.0                           | 1.0                          |
| Total Appropriated (P.L. 111-8).....                      | <u>\$10,327.0</u>             | <u>\$10,453.5</u>            |
| Less transfer to OIG.....                                 |                               | -1.4 <sup>2/</sup>           |
| Adjusted Total.....                                       |                               | <u>\$10,452.1</u>            |
| American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5):      |                               |                              |
| Workload Processing.....                                  |                               | \$500.0                      |
| Economic Recovery Payment - Admin.....                    |                               | 90.0                         |
| NCC Replacement.....                                      |                               | 500.0                        |
| Total, Recovery Act Funding.....                          |                               | <u>\$1,090.0</u>             |
| Other Available Funds:                                    |                               |                              |
| <u>Automation Investment Fund (AIF) (No-Year)</u>         |                               |                              |
| - Carryover from FY 2008 Unobligated AIF Balances.....    | \$0.0                         | \$5.3                        |
| <u>Information Technology Systems (ITS) (No-Year)</u>     |                               |                              |
| - Carryover from FY 2008 Unobligated ITS Balances.....    | \$0.0                         | \$219.4                      |
| Carryover of Other Unobligated Balances.....              | \$0.0                         | \$18.0 <sup>3/</sup>         |
| <b><u>Office of the Inspector General, SSA</u></b>        |                               |                              |
| Federal Funds.....  | \$28.0                        | \$28.0                       |
| Trust Funds.....  | 70.1                          | 70.1                         |
| Total Appropriated (P.L. 111-8).....                      | <u>\$98.1</u>                 | <u>\$98.1</u>                |
| Plus transfer from LAE.....                               |                               | 1.4 <sup>2/</sup>            |
| Adjusted Total.....                                       |                               | <u>\$99.5</u>                |
| American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5):      |                               |                              |
| Oversight and audit.....                                  |                               | \$2.0                        |

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes funding for base CDRs and Redeterminations.

<sup>2/</sup> \$1,378,700 was transferred from LAE to OIG to cover costs associated with the financial statement audit.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes authority from prior years carried over for the following purposes: \$16.5M 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<br/>Budget</u> | <u>Current<br/>Estimate</u> |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>PTF</b> .....                           | \$21                          | \$21                        |
| <b>LAE</b> .....                           | \$10,267                      | \$10,665                    |
| <b>SSI</b> .....                           | \$46,437                      | \$47,783                    |
| <b>OIG</b> .....                           | \$97                          | \$100                       |
| <b>Economic Recovery Act Payment</b> ..... |                               | \$13,000                    |

**Social Security Administration  
Workload and Outcome Measures**

|  | FY 2008                  |         | FY 2009               |                          |
|--|--------------------------|---------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
|  | Enacted<br>Appropriation | Actual  | President's<br>Budget | Enacted<br>Appropriation |
| <b>RESOURCES (\$ in millions)</b>  |                          |         |                       |                          |
| Appropriation (Limitation on Administrative Expenses) (New BA only)                      | \$9,745                  | \$9,776 | \$10,327              | \$11,544 <sup>1/</sup>   |
| <b>SELECTED OUTCOME MEASURES <sup>2/</sup></b>   |                          |         |                       |                          |
| Initial Disability Claims Pending (thousands)  | 519                      | 557     | 493                   | 833                      |
| SSA Hearings Pending (thousands)   | 752                      | 761     | 683                   | 755                      |
| Average Processing Time for Initial Disability Claims (days) <sup>3/</sup>               | 107                      | 106     | 103                   | 129                      |
| Average Processing Time for Hearing Decisions (days)                                     | 535                      | 514     | 506                   | 516                      |
| Disability Decisions, Per Worker Per Year  | 264                      | 266     | 267                   | 265                      |
| SSA Hearing Decisions, Per Worker Per Year   | 101                      | 103     | 115                   | 107                      |
| Disability Determination Services Accuracy Rate  | 97%                      | 97%     | 97%                   | 97%                      |
| <b>SELECTED WORKLOAD MEASURES</b>  |                          |         |                       |                          |
| 800 Number Transactions Handled (millions)   | 63                       | 60      | 67                    | 60                       |
| Retirement and Survivors Claims Processed (thousands)                                    | 4,065                    | 4,236   | 4,281                 | 4,543                    |
| Initial Disability Claims Processed (thousands)  | 2,582                    | 2,607   | 2,600                 | 2,637                    |
| SSA Hearings Processed (thousands)   | 559                      | 575     | 644                   | 647                      |
| Periodic Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs) Processed (thousands)                      | 1,065                    | 1,091   | 1,149                 | 1,079                    |
| Periodic Medical CDRs (included above)   | 235                      | 245     | 329                   | 329                      |
| Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Non-Disability Redeterminations Processed (thousands) | 1,200                    | 1,221   | 1,486                 | 1,711                    |
| Social Security Statements Issued (millions)   | 148                      | 149     | 150                   | 151                      |
| Annual Earnings Items Processed (millions)   | 273                      | 270     | 274                   | 271                      |
| Social Security Numbers Issued (millions)  | 19                       | 18      | 20                    | 18                       |

<sup>1/</sup> Reflects amount appropriated under P.L. 111-8 (\$10,454 Million) and the \$1,090 Million appropriated to the Agency under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, P.L. 111-5, for the acquisition of a new data center (\$500 Million), the administrative costs associated with issuing economic recovery payments (\$90 Million) and for workload processing, related information technology (IT) costs, and health IT (\$500 Million).

<sup>2/</sup> Measures are based on using the amount appropriated under P.L. 111-8 and the Agency's anticipated use of \$175 Million from the \$500 Million appropriated for workload processing under P.L. 111-5.

<sup>3/</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.