

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION



THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 BUDGET

PRESS RELEASE

The attached document is based on the President's budget scheduled for delivery to the Congress on February 5, 2007, and should not be released until 10:00 AM that day.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

FY 2008 BUDGET

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

(Dollars in millions)

	FY 2006 <u>Actual</u>	FY 2007 Current <u>Estimate</u>	FY 2008 <u>Estimate</u>	+/-
OUTLAYS	\$594,848	\$626,068	\$657,344	+\$31,276

Summary

The President's \$657 billion budget for the Social Security Administration (SSA) reflects the Administration's commitment to the programs that SSA administers. These include Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance (OASDI), financed by Social Security trust funds, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), funded from general revenues. The budget supports the Agency's mission of promoting the economic security of the nation's people.

At \$657 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2008, total outlays for all SSA-administered programs are projected to increase by \$31 billion from the FY 2007 level. This increase is attributable primarily to annual cost-of-living adjustments of 3.3 percent in January 2007 and an estimated 1.4 percent in January 2008, for both the OASDI and SSI programs. Additionally, the number of individuals receiving benefits from the OASDI and SSI programs continues to increase.

The President's budget proposes administrative resources of \$9.719 billion which will allow SSA in FY 2008 to:

- Pay benefits to nearly 55 million people every month;
- Evaluate evidence and make determinations of eligibility for benefits on more than 6.8 million new claims;
- Make decisions on more than 545,000 hearings;
- Issue 18 million new and replacement Social Security cards;
- Process 268 million earnings items for crediting to workers' earnings records;
- Handle approximately 63 million transactions on SSA's 800-number;
- Issue 148 million *Social Security Statements*;
- Process 1.1 million periodic continuing disability reviews;
- Process over 1.5 million non-disability SSI redeterminations; and
- Process almost 269,000 Medicare Part D "extra help" subsidy applications.

SSA also provides support for other Federal programs. For decades, SSA has taken applications for Medicare benefits and replacement Medicare cards and has withheld Medicare premiums from beneficiaries' Social Security checks. However, the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003 significantly increased SSA's Medicare responsibilities related to making low-income subsidy determinations for the Part D Prescription Drug benefit and Part B income-related premium determinations. SSA's FY 2008 budget includes the resources required for ongoing work related to the MMA.

SSA SUMMARY

(Outlays in millions, including proposed legislation)

	FY 2006 <u>Actual</u>	FY 2007 Current <u>Estimate</u>	FY 2008 <u>Estimate</u>	<u>+/-</u>
<u>Trust Fund Programs</u>				
Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI)	\$461,063	\$485,204	\$506,153	+\$20,949
Disability Insurance (DI)	\$93,572	\$101,396	\$106,429	+\$5,033
Proposed OASDI Legislation	---	---	<u>-\$15</u>	<u>-\$15</u>
Trust Fund Programs	\$554,635	\$586,600	\$612,567	+\$25,967
<u>General Fund Programs</u>				
SSI	\$40,203	\$39,457	\$44,743	+\$5,286
Special Benefits for Certain World War II Veterans	\$10	\$11	\$11	---
Proposed SSI Legislation	---	---	<u>+\$23</u>	<u>+\$23</u>
Subtotal, General Fund Programs	<u>\$40,213</u>	<u>\$39,468</u>	<u>\$44,777</u>	<u>+\$5,309</u>
TOTAL, SSA	\$594,848	\$626,068	\$657,344	+\$31,276
Percentage increase from FY 2007				+5.0%

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET (Dollars in millions)¹

	FY 2006 <u>Actual</u>	FY 2007 Current Rate ²	FY 2008 <u>Estimate</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Limitation on Administrative Expenses ³	\$9,147	\$9,176	\$9,597	+\$421
Office of the Inspector General	\$91	\$91	\$95	+\$4
Research	<u>\$27</u>	<u>\$27</u>	<u>\$27</u>	<u>---</u>
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	\$9,265	\$9,295	\$9,719	+\$424
Percentage Increase from FY 2007				+4.6%
TOTAL WORKYEARS	81,531	74,823	74,596	-227

¹ Totals may not add due to rounding.

² The FY 2007 current rate was used to formulate the FY 2008 President's budget. The FY 2007 President's budget was \$9,496 million.

³ FY 2006 includes \$38 million provided in P.L. 109-234, the FY 2006 supplemental appropriations bill for the hurricanes of 2005.

Trust Fund Programs

Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance

In FY 2008, OASDI outlays will increase by \$26 billion, or 4.4 percent, over FY 2007. This increase is attributable primarily to the annualized effect of the January 2007 3.3 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and the effect of the estimated 1.4 percent COLA payable beginning in January 2008. Additionally, the number of individuals receiving benefits under the OASDI programs is expected to increase by 900,000. Combined OASDI Trust Fund income will grow by about \$50 billion in FY 2008 and will be \$822 billion or 134 percent of yearly outlays.

The Budget supports the President's previously submitted framework for Social Security reform that strengthens the safety net for future generations, protects those who depend on Social Security the most, and offers workers the chance to experience the opportunity of ownership through voluntary personal retirement accounts.

The Budget includes a proposal to highlight with a Funding Warning the escalating and persistent fiscal problems facing the Disability Insurance (DI) program. If SSA's actuaries project a negative DI cash flow that is more than 10 percent of program cost for four consecutive years in the upcoming ten years, the Board of Trustees will issue the warning in the annual Trustees Report. The analysis of DI's budgetary impact will safeguard an important source of disability insurance while promoting sound fiscal policy.

OASDI OVERVIEW

(Dollars in millions)

	<u>FY 2006 Actual</u>	<u>FY 2007 Current Estimate</u>	<u>FY 2008 Estimate</u>	<u>+/-</u>
<u>Outlays</u>				
OASI Benefits	\$454,265	\$478,682	\$499,493	+\$20,811
DI Benefits	\$90,698	\$98,472	\$103,346	+\$4,874
Other ¹	\$9,672	\$9,446	\$9,743	+\$297
TOTAL OUTLAYS (Current Law)	<u>\$554,635</u>	<u>\$586,600</u>	<u>\$612,582</u>	<u>+\$25,982</u>
Proposed Legislation	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>-\$15</u>	<u>-\$15</u>
TOTAL OUTLAYS (Proposed Legislation)	<u>\$554,635</u>	<u>\$586,600</u>	<u>\$612,567</u>	<u>+\$25,967</u>
<u>Income</u>				
OASI	\$637,623	\$666,084	\$709,709	+\$43,625
DI	<u>\$102,212</u>	<u>\$106,006</u>	<u>\$112,128</u>	<u>+\$6,122</u>
TOTAL, INCOME (Current Law)	<u>\$739,835</u>	<u>\$772,090</u>	<u>\$821,837</u>	<u>+\$49,747</u>

¹ "Other" includes administration, beneficiary services, payments to the Railroad Retirement Board, and demonstration projects.

OASDI Program Data

Social Security pays monthly cash benefits to retired and disabled workers and their dependents, and to survivors of deceased workers. Benefits are financed by payroll taxes paid by employees, employers, and the self-employed, interest on the trust funds, and taxation of benefits for higher income retirees.

The table below provides information on Social Security beneficiaries, benefit payments and the payroll tax.

OASDI BENEFICIARY and BENEFITS OVERVIEW

	<u>Fiscal Year</u>			
	<u>FY 2006 Actual</u>	<u>FY 2007 Current Estimate</u>	<u>FY 2008 Estimate</u>	<u>+/-</u>
<u>Average Number of Beneficiaries</u>				
OASI	40,264	40,688	41,263	+575
DI	<u>8,373</u>	<u>8,729</u>	<u>9,056</u>	<u>+327</u>
TOTAL, Beneficiaries (in thousands)	48,637	49,417	50,319	+902
<u>Average Monthly Benefit</u>				
Retired Worker	\$995	\$1,038	\$1,066	+\$28
Disabled Worker	\$930	\$969	\$991	+\$22

	<u>Calendar Year</u>			
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Projected COLA Payable in January	4.1%	3.3%	1.4%	
Taxable wage base (Maximum earnings recorded)	\$94,200	\$97,500	\$102,600	+\$5,100
FICA tax rate (Employers and employees each, excluding 1.45% Hospital Insurance (HI) portion)	6.20%	6.20%	6.20%	---
SECA tax rate (Self-employed, excluding 2.9% HI portion)	12.4%	12.4%	12.4%	---

Legislative Proposals Related to OASDI

The Administration has several proposals that will strengthen, improve the integrity, and expand efficiency of the OASDI program.

- Require full-time attendance at an educational institution as a condition of entitlement for children's benefits beginning at age 16. This proposal recognizes the importance of continuing education, and changing the policy to age 16, from age 18 under current law, will further encourage eligible children to remain in school.
- Establish a mandatory system for collecting data on pension income from State and local employment not covered by Social Security. This proposal would eliminate the current self-reporting burden on individuals and will improve payment accuracy. The law requires that Social Security benefits be reduced in such cases, recognizing, in effect, that these pensions are designed as a substitute for Social Security.
- Simplify the current, complicated Worker's Compensation reduction to disability benefits by having a uniform offset that would affect all future beneficiaries for a period not exceeding five years. This simplified offset will reduce erroneous DI payments and the burden on claimants in making large repayments, as well as reduce SSA's administrative costs.

GENERAL FUND PROGRAMS

Supplemental Security Income

In FY 2008, SSI outlays will increase by \$5.3 billion or 13.4 percent from FY 2007. Estimates of current benefits are driven by the number of recipients eligible for monthly payments and the amount of the monthly payments. There is a slight increase of 176,000 in the number of Federal SSI recipients, but outlays have a significant increase of \$5.3 billion. The outlay increase is largely the result of the number of monthly payments in each fiscal year.

SSI monthly payments are normally paid on the first of the month. However, when the first of the month is on a weekend or holiday, the payment is made on the preceding business day. In FY 2007, there will be 11 SSI payments compared to 12 payments for FY 2008. The October 1, 2006 (Sunday) payment was made on Friday, September 29, 2006 and resulted in 12 SSI payments in FY 2006, 11 payments in FY 2007 and 12 payments in FY 2008.

SSI OVERVIEW

(Dollars in millions)

<u>Outlays</u>	<u>FY 2006 Actual</u>	<u>FY 2007 Current Estimate</u>	<u>FY 2008 Estimate</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Federal Benefits ¹	\$37,340	\$36,842	\$41,676	+\$4,834
Other ²	<u>\$2,863</u>	<u>\$2,615</u>	<u>\$3,067</u>	<u>+\$452</u>
TOTAL OUTLAYS (Current Law)	\$40,203	\$39,457	\$44,743	+\$5,286
Proposed Legislation	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>+\$23</u>	<u>+\$23</u>
TOTAL OUTLAYS (Proposed Legislation)	\$40,203	\$39,457	\$44,766	+\$5,309

¹ The number of monthly check payments is 12 in FY 2006, 11 in FY 2007, and 12 in FY 2008.

² Other includes vocational rehabilitation, research, reimbursement to the trust funds for administrative costs, and the difference between outlays and reimbursements for State supplementation across fiscal years.

SSI Program Data

The SSI program provides benefits for low-income aged, blind, and disabled individuals and couples, including blind and disabled children, up to a maximum award called the standard benefit rate. Amounts paid to recipients may be less than the standard benefit rate depending on income (e.g., earnings and Social Security benefits) and living arrangements (e.g., residence in one's own home, in the household of another person, or in a nursing home that meets Medicaid standards).

The maximum monthly Federal benefit amount, adjusted for the 3.3 percent January 2007 COLA is \$623 for an individual and \$934 for a couple. This amount is projected to increase to \$632 for an individual and \$947 for a couple when adjusted for the estimated 1.4 percent COLA payable beginning in January 2008. States may choose to supplement the Federal payment and have SSA administer these supplements.

The SSI account also funds costs related to successful vocational rehabilitation services provided to disabled SSI recipients, either through reimbursement to State Vocational Rehabilitation agencies or through payments to employment networks under the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program.

In addition, this account funds broad-based cross-program research projects in the Social Security and SSI programs as well as projects specific to SSI program issues. Research and demonstration projects cover a wide range of topics, including: basic data about SSA's programs and their beneficiaries, analysis of proposals for Social Security reform, testing various approaches for retaining disabled individuals in the workforce and improving employment outcomes for disability beneficiaries, promoting research in critical disability policy research areas, and policy evaluation of important Agency initiatives.

SSI BENEFICIARY AND BENEFITS OVERVIEW(Recipients in thousands)¹

	<u>FY 2006 Actual</u>	<u>FY 2007 Current Estimate</u>	<u>FY 2008 Budget</u>	<u>+/-</u>
<u>Average Number of SSI Recipients</u>				
Federal Payments:				
Aged	1,116	1,113	1,112	-1
Blind and Disabled	<u>5,762</u>	<u>5,932</u>	<u>6,110</u>	<u>+178</u>
Subtotal (Federal)	6,878	7,045	7,221	+176
State Supplemental Payments (with no Federal SSI payable)				
	<u>291</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>309</u>	<u>+9</u>
TOTAL, SSI Recipients (Current Law)	7,169	7,345	7,530	+185
<u>Average Monthly Benefit</u>				
Aged	\$312	\$324	\$332	+\$8
Blind and Disabled	\$469	\$486	\$498	+\$12
All SSI Recipient	\$443	\$460	\$473	+\$13
Projected COLA Payable in January	4.1%	3.3%	1.4%	

¹ Totals may not add due to rounding.

SSI Legislative Proposal

- The President's budget would allow refugees and asylees to receive SSI for 8 years after entry into the country. Currently, refugees and asylees who have not become citizens can only receive SSI for 7 years after entry. The proposal recognizes that some individuals have been unable to obtain citizenship within the 7-year time limit. The policy would continue through FY 2010.

Special Benefits for Certain World War II Veterans

This program funds monthly benefits for certain veterans of World War II who reside outside of the United States, and the administrative costs of paying the benefits. The program applies to veterans who served in the active military, naval or air services of the United States, including Filipino veterans who served in the organized military forces of the Philippines while those forces were in the service of the U.S. Armed Forces, and who were eligible for SSI as of December 1999. Veterans who meet these and other requirements may be entitled to receive a special benefit depending on their incomes for each month they subsequently reside outside the United States. (These veterans are not eligible for SSI since they reside outside the United States.) Special Benefits are paid only to the veteran.

Payments began in May 2000 to veterans who took advantage of the new program and returned to their homeland. California has chosen to supplement the Federal payment, which is administered by SSA for the State.

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN WWII VETERANS OVERVIEW

	(Outlays in millions)			
	<u>FY 2006 Actual</u>	<u>FY 2007 Current Estimate</u>	<u>FY 2008 Estimate</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Federal Benefits ¹	\$10	\$10	\$10	---
Administration	*	\$1	\$1	---
TOTAL, Special Benefits for Certain World War II Veterans	\$10	\$11	\$11	---
Average Number of Beneficiaries (in thousands)	3	2	2	---
Average Monthly Benefit	\$315	\$357	\$363	+\$6

¹ The number of monthly check payments is 12 in FY 2006, 11 in FY 2007 and 12 in FY 2008.

* Less than \$500,000

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

(Dollars in millions)

LAE OVERVIEW

	FY 2006 <u>Actual</u>	FY 2007 Current <u>Rate</u> ¹	FY 2008 <u>Budget</u>	<u>+/-</u>
<u>Program Financing</u>				
Base ²	\$9,028	\$9,057	\$9,249	+\$192
Dedicated Program Integrity Funding (included in base)	N/A	N/A	(\$264)	
Program Integrity Cap Adjustment	N/A	N/A	\$213	+\$213
User Fee: SSI State Supplementation	<u>\$119</u>	<u>\$119</u>	<u>\$135</u>	<u>+\$16</u>
TOTAL, LAE Appropriation (Current Law)	\$9,147	\$9,176	\$9,597	+\$421
Percentage Increase from FY 2007				4.6%

¹ The FY 2007 current rate was used to formulate the FY 2008 President's budget. The FY 2007 President's budget was \$9,496 million.

² FY 2006 includes \$38 million provided in P.L. 109-234, the FY 2006 supplemental appropriations bill for the hurricanes of 2005.

FULL TIME EQUIVALENTS AND WORKYEARS

	FY 2006 <u>Actual</u>	FY 2007 Current <u>Rate</u> ¹	FY 2008 <u>Estimate</u>	<u>+/-</u>
SSA FTEs (including OIG)	63,739	59,890	59,808	-82
SSA Overtime	3,139	1,307	1,321	+14
DDS Workyears	<u>14,653</u>	<u>13,626</u>	<u>13,467</u>	<u>-159</u>
TOTAL SSA/DDS WORKYEARS	81,531	74,823	74,596	-227

¹ The FY 2007 current rate was used to formulate the FY 2008 President's budget. The FY 2007 President's budget was \$9,496 million.

The Limitation on Administrative Expenses (LAE) account provides resources for SSA to administer the OASDI programs, the SSI program, certain health insurance and Medicare prescription drug functions, and the Special Benefits for Certain World War II Veterans program. Funding for this account is initially financed from the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. The trust funds are subsequently reimbursed for the administrative expenses of the SSI program, which are covered by general funds, as well as for other costs not related to the trust funds. Funds are included for personnel costs and operating expenses such as equipment, space, and building services.

These resources are used for SSA's major public service workloads, including: processing retirement, survivors, disability and SSI claims; managing the ticket to work program; updating beneficiary eligibility information; processing applications for Social Security numbers (SSN) and posting annual earnings to workers' records; operating a nationwide 800-number; operating and improving SSA's automated data processing and telecommunications systems; and determining eligibility of low-income seniors for extra help with Medicare drug benefits.

The President's FY 2008 request of \$9.597 billion is crucial for processing an increasing amount of work driven by a rise in the number of claimants and beneficiaries. SSA is proud of its public service reputation for achieving outstanding results with limited resources, making the Agency a valuable investment. SSA's administrative budget represents less than 2 percent of its total outlays, which demonstrates the Agency's cost-conscious approach to managing its resources. SSA's budget is driven by the size of the programs it administers, both in terms of the amount of work performed and the number of people needed to process it, and by its continuing efforts to improve service and efficiency. This budget allows SSA to generally maintain service (with some growth in pendings), increase program integrity efforts, and continue to meet its Medicare prescription drug program responsibilities.

SSA has an impressive track record in increasing agency-wide productivity. From 2001 to 2006, productivity climbed an average of 2.5 percent per year, for a total gain of 13.1 percent since 2001. SSA continually evaluates its business processes and invests significant resources in its information technology systems to ensure that these improvements continue. Consistent with this proven record, the rate of improvement in productivity assumed for 2008 in the budget is 2 percent. Increased productivity enables SSA to provide a wider variety of services each year with fewer resources than would otherwise be required.

SSA will continue to improve the way it does business with investments in technology. The electronic disability claims folder is now the official Agency record for all offices nationwide and has transformed a previously cumbersome paper process to an electronic one. This transformation lays the foundation for further technological and service improvements. The FY 2008 President's budget includes the resources required to continue this effort.

For the first time in 50 years, the Agency made significant changes to the disability determination process—changes that enhance the Agency's ability to make accurate, consistent, and timely decisions. The final regulation amending the Agency's disability determination process was published on March 31, 2006 and became effective on August 1, 2006. SSA is phasing in the Disability Service Improvement (DSI) process on a region-by-region basis beginning with the Boston Region. This new process, with the electronic disability claims process as its foundation, will pay benefits quickly to people who are clearly disabled and make the right decision as early in the process as possible for all claimants.

SSA's Medicare workloads have a significant impact on the Agency's budget and performance. For decades, SSA has taken applications for Medicare benefits and replacement Medicare cards and has withheld Medicare premiums from beneficiaries' Social Security checks. However, the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) significantly increased SSA's Medicare-related responsibilities. SSA's FY 2008 budget includes the resources for Part B income-related premium determinations, as well as for ongoing work related to the Medicare prescription drug program, including new determinations of eligibility for extra help, processing subsidy changing events for existing beneficiaries, conducting redeterminations of eligibility, and performing premium withholding.

One of SSA's important responsibilities is fiscal stewardship. Two of the Agency's most important initiatives in this regard are continuing disability reviews (CDRs) and SSI non-disability redeterminations. CDRs are periodic reevaluations of eligibility factors for DI and SSI recipients; SSI redeterminations are periodic reviews of non-medical factors of SSI eligibility. The purpose of these program integrity efforts is to prevent and detect more improper payments; to support Government-wide efforts to improve financial performance; to address the recommendations that resulted from the PART findings; and to address concerns of the Congress, the Government Accountability Office, and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) about payment accuracy. The FY 2008 President's budget proposes a discretionary cap adjustment to fund additional CDRs and SSI redeterminations. CDRs save \$10 in program benefits for every \$1 spent administering them; redeterminations save \$7 for every \$1 spent. An increase in spending on CDRs and redeterminations in FY 2008 would result in greater program savings, reducing the overall deficit.

From FY 2001 to FY 2006, several of the Agency's key performance indicators have improved significantly. For example, SSA has reduced processing time for both initial disability claims (from 106 days to 88 days) and Appeals Council review of hearing decisions (from 447 days to 203 days). SSA has also processed more work. In FY 2006, SSA processed over 360,000 more initial disability claims and nearly 700,000 more retirement and survivors claims than in FY 2001.

SSA's budget supports the President's Management Agenda (PMA) by emphasizing the President's Government-wide management reforms, as well as program management reforms. SSA has achieved four green status scores on the five PMA initiatives and will strive to attain five out of five, as outlined in the Agency's Annual Performance Plan (APP). SSA's budget and the PMA both focus on relating resources to results.

Social Security faces great service and stewardship challenges, but with adequate resources, SSA can, and will, meet these challenges. The Agency increases its productivity by focusing its resources on process and technology improvements within the areas of the budget where additional resources will generate the greatest results. This budget represents a sound investment, balancing service and fiscal responsibility. With the resources this budget provides, SSA will continue to effectively serve the American people.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

(Dollars in millions)				
	FY 2006 <u>Actual</u>	FY 2007 <u>Current Rate</u> ¹	FY 2008 <u>Budget</u>	<u>+/-</u>
TOTAL, OIG Budget Authority (Current Law)	\$91	\$91	\$95	+\$4
Percentage Increase from FY 2007				+3.9%
Workyears	611	615	618	+3

¹ The FY 2007 current rate was used to formulate the FY 2008 President's budget. The FY 2007 President's budget was \$9,496 million.

Summary

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is charged with protecting the integrity of SSA's programs as well as promoting their economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. OIG uses a combination of audits, investigations, and inspections to prosecute fraud, waste, and abuse in SSA's programs and operations.

SSA is engaged in an aggressive program to deter, detect, and investigate fraud, and to prosecute individuals or groups committing fraud. A strong OIG, working together with SSA employees in local offices, is the most effective means SSA has to control program fraud and abuse. To strengthen OIG's capacity to accomplish its mission of protecting the integrity of SSA's programs, SSA has requested an increase in its resources available to OIG.

The FY 2008 budget increase from \$91.476 million to \$95.047 million will enable OIG to continue to aggressively pursue anti-fraud activities on a variety of fronts, including combating SSN misuse, disability fraud through Cooperative Disability Investigation Teams, and OASDI and SSI fraud.

The SSN has become a vital aspect of American life and a link to homeland security. Its reliability is a key element in protecting against fraud and in protecting lives at home and abroad. In FY 2008, in support of the government-wide fight against terrorism, the OIG will continue to focus its audit and investigative efforts toward strengthening SSN integrity.