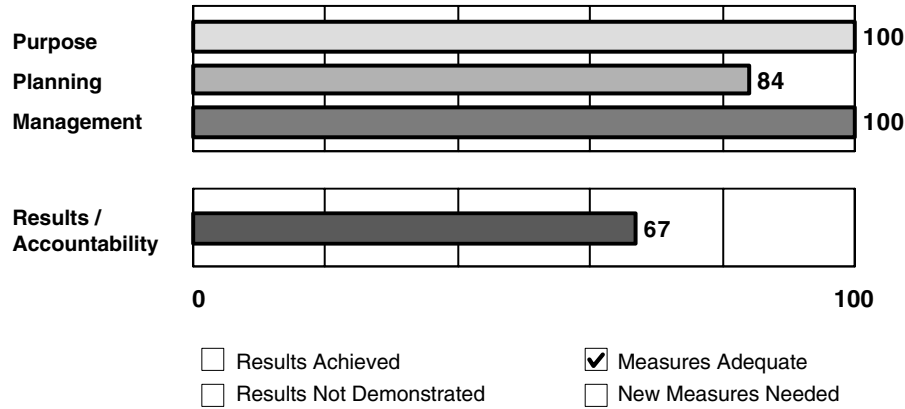


**Program:** Supplemental Security Income for the Aged

**Agency:** Social Security Administration

**Bureau:** Social Security Administration



**Key Performance Measures**

**Year Target Actual**

Measure	Year	Target	Actual
Long-term Measure: Number of SSI Aged claims processed per workyear by the field offices (Internal Measure prior to 2003)	1999		322
	2002		515
	2003	497	
	2004	502	
Annual Measure: Percent of SSI aged claims processed within 2 weeks of the application being filed	1999	66.0%	63.5%
	2000	66.0%	74.4%
	2001	66.0%	79.9%
	2002	70.0%	82.6%
Annual Measure: Percent of SSI payments made to the correct individuals in the correct amounts without overpayments (for the SSI program overall)	1999		94.3%
	2000	95.0%	93.6%
	2001	94.7%	92.8%
	2002	94.0%	

**Rating:** Moderately Effective

**Program Type:** Direct Federal

**Program Summary:**

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for the Aged program provides money to needy individuals aged 65 years or older who have limited or no other income. SSI Aged is one component of the broader SSI program, which also serves blind and disabled individuals. The assessment indicates that the SSI Aged program addresses a specific need since it provides payments to individuals whose needs are not met from other sources, such as Social Security retirement benefits and pensions. Over 435,000 individuals receiving SSI on the basis of age have no other income.

Additional findings include:

1. This federal program provides national uniform eligibility requirements for supplemental income in comparison to the patchwork of state programs that it replaced in 1974.
2. While the funding to run the program directly affects actual performance, the precise relationship between resources and outcomes is not readily known for all outcomes, such as the percent of payments correctly paid and claims processing time.
3. SSA has established strong financial management and accountability practices. For example, SSA's accounting system allows it to track full actual costs of the SSI program, including all administrative costs and overhead.
4. Each year, SSA has become more efficient and productive in processing SSI Aged claims. SSA set 2003 and 2004 targets for this productivity measure and exceeded them in 2002.
5. Beginning in 2000, SSA exceeded its annual average processing time targets for SSI Aged claims.
6. The targets for the percent of SSI payments made correctly without overpayments, which are for the overall SSI program rather than just the Aged component, have not been achieved. SSA uses several methods to prevent these errors. These methods also detect payment errors, which negatively affects the measured performance against these targets.

To address these findings, the SSA will:

1. Better match up SSI administrative resources with performance benchmarks.
2. Address payment accuracy issues by aggressively pursuing strategies outlined in its SSI Corrective Action plan, such as simplifying income reporting requirements.

**Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)**

2002 Actual	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate
4,577	4,739	5,002