

A MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING COMMISSIONER



The Social Security Administration touches the life of nearly every member of the public. For more than 80 years, we have delivered critical services at significant times like birth, marriage, retirement, disability, and death. Almost 69 million individuals depend on the benefits we provide. It is my honor to serve as Acting Commissioner of the agency responsible for this important work. From my first day in this role, I have made it clear that we must be mission-focused and mission-driven.

I am pleased to issue our fiscal year 2017 *Agency Financial Report*. This report describes how we managed our resources and administered our programs, and demonstrates our commitment to responsible stewardship. We made great strides this past year 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.

For the 24th consecutive year, we received an unmodified opinion on our financial statements. Based on the results of 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.

We are the face of government in our communities. The people we serve are our top priority and expect well-managed programs that provide timely and accurate payments. We have updated the ways in which we provide our services by taking advantage of technology. We are committed to providing service that is efficient and compassionate, and we are firm in our commitment to protect the integrity of our programs.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy A. Berryhill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "N" and "B".

Nancy A. Berryhill

Baltimore, Maryland
November 9, 2017

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To access this report online, please visit our [Fiscal Year 2017 Agency Financial Report webpage \(www.socialsecurity.gov/finance\)](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/finance).

INTRODUCTION

Our *Agency Financial Report* (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 fiscal year (FY) 2017 performance measures. We highlight the FY 2017 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 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 auditors’ report.

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 Office of the Inspector General anti-fraud activities, agency fraud reduction efforts, civil monetary penalties, biennial review of user fee charges, actions to comply with the Reduce the Footprint initiative, grants oversight, and debt collection and management activities. The *Payment Integrity* 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.

For the 19th year in a row, we received the Association of Government Accountants’ Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) award for our annual Agency Financial Report. Receiving the CEAR for our FY 2016 Agency Financial Report is a significant accomplishment for a Federal agency.

