



# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SECURITY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

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President-elect Barack Obama  
Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Office  
451 6<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-2734

Dear President-elect Obama:

The National Council of Social Security Management Associations (NCSSMA) represents more than 3,400 Social Security Administration managers and supervisors in Social Security District Offices and Teleservice Centers throughout the United States. Our members are on the front lines of providing service to the millions of Americans who depend on Social Security for their Retirement, Survivors, Disability, and Supplemental Security Income Payments.

Our offices also determine eligibility for Medicare benefits and Extra Help to Medicare Prescription Drug Program participants with limited income and resources. We play a vital role in providing Social Security Cards to eligible workers, and tracking their earnings throughout their working lifetime. Because of our direct role in providing these services, we are in a unique position to provide insights into the service challenges that face the Social Security Administration (SSA) both today and in the years ahead.

The attached position paper outlines some of the challenges that SSA must meet, and offers some suggested solutions to help address those issues. In the paper we recommend that the following concepts be explored:

- Provide \$750 million in funding in the anticipated economic stimulus legislation for replacement of the National Computer Center facility and IT equipment. This would provide Congress with the ability to provide resources for these essential infrastructure needs without shortchanging SSA's other administrative expenses.
- The Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Request must provide adequate funding levels to address SSA's administrative needs. Careful attention must be paid to providing the resources necessary to address the following: disability hearings backlog, increased workloads due to the Baby Boomers and the economic downturn, increased staffing costs, increased fixed expenses such as office space, guards, and employee benefits. Resources must also be provided to ensure that SSA can complete program integrity workloads such as Continuing Disability Reviews and SSI redeterminations.



**NCSSMA estimates that funding of at least \$11.5 billion for FY 2010 would be required to adequately address SSA's administrative needs.** It is important to note that nearly \$500 million will be necessary just to keep pace with inflationary costs at SSA.

- Explore mechanisms for creating a more robust and more predictable funding stream for SSA's administrative expenses. This would ensure a long-term solution to the out year crisis of providing sufficient funding for SSA's administrative expenses, given the current and future challenges faced by the agency. Most notably the demographic shift in the Baby Boomer population.

We believe that the concepts highlighted above and in more detail in the attached position paper are consistent with President-elect Obama's desire to provide more administrative support for SSA, and will ensure that the resources provided will be effectively utilized to reduce current backlogs and meet future systems and public service challenges.

We hope you find this information helpful as you make your plans for the Social Security Administration for the next four years. Thank you in advance for your consideration of the issues outlined in the attached paper. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like additional information. We would certainly welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person.

Sincerely,

/s/

Greg Heineman  
NCSSMA President