



The American Federation of Government Employees SSA General Committee and the 42,500 Social Security employees we represent call on Congress to **permanently fund the Social Security Administration's operating budget at 1.2% of benefit outlays.**

- The Agency operated at its highest and most efficient level when Congress funded its operation budget at 1.2% of benefit outlays. This ratio of benefits to operations ensures an adequate workforce is in place and is armed with the tools and training to be effective. This increased and adequate workforce would prevent overpayments that currently sit at about \$25 billion.
- With 30,000 Americans now dying while waiting for their benefit determinations due to long service delays, funding at this level will significantly increase the public's ability to access their earned benefits. Reducing the time it takes to receive an initial disability determination by more than 3 months will not only reduce frustration - it will save lives.
- Social Security Administrative costs are funded through FICA, the same as the benefits, and do not add a penny to the deficit. Private insurance companies operate at about 20% of outlays, therefore, 1.2% is highly efficient for the American people.

**Operating budget at current funding levels**

1-800 Number Wait Time  
**38 minutes**

Wait Time for an Initial Disability/Reconsideration Decision  
**231 days/231 days**

Wait Time for a Hearing Decision  
**342 days**

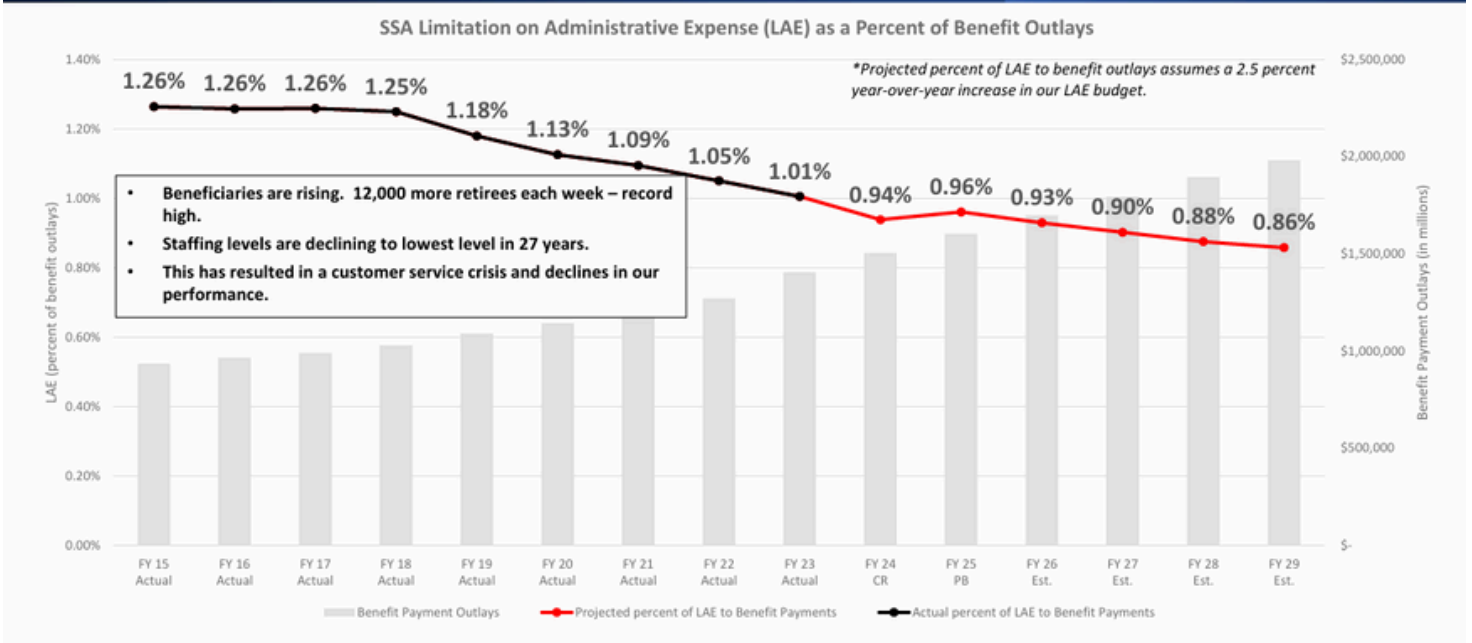
**Operating budget funded at 1.2% of benefit outlays**

1-800 Number Wait Time  
**5 minutes**

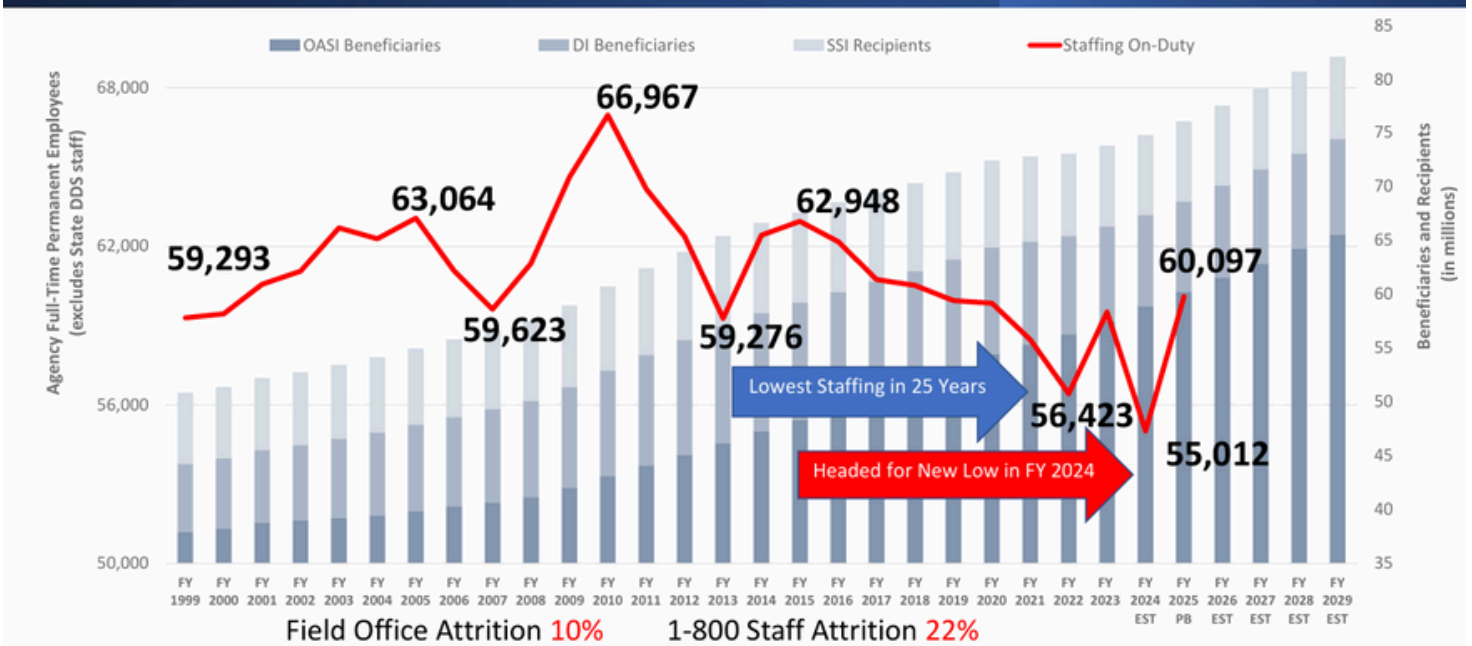
Wait Time for an Initial Disability/Reconsideration Decision  
**120 days/120 days**

Wait Time for a Hearing Decision  
**270 days**

# Administrative Funding Declining as % of Benefit Outlays



# Staffing Declines As Beneficiaries Rise



Graphs from former Commissioner Martin O'Malley's COSS Appropriation's materials.

\*FY 25 PB = President's Budget request