

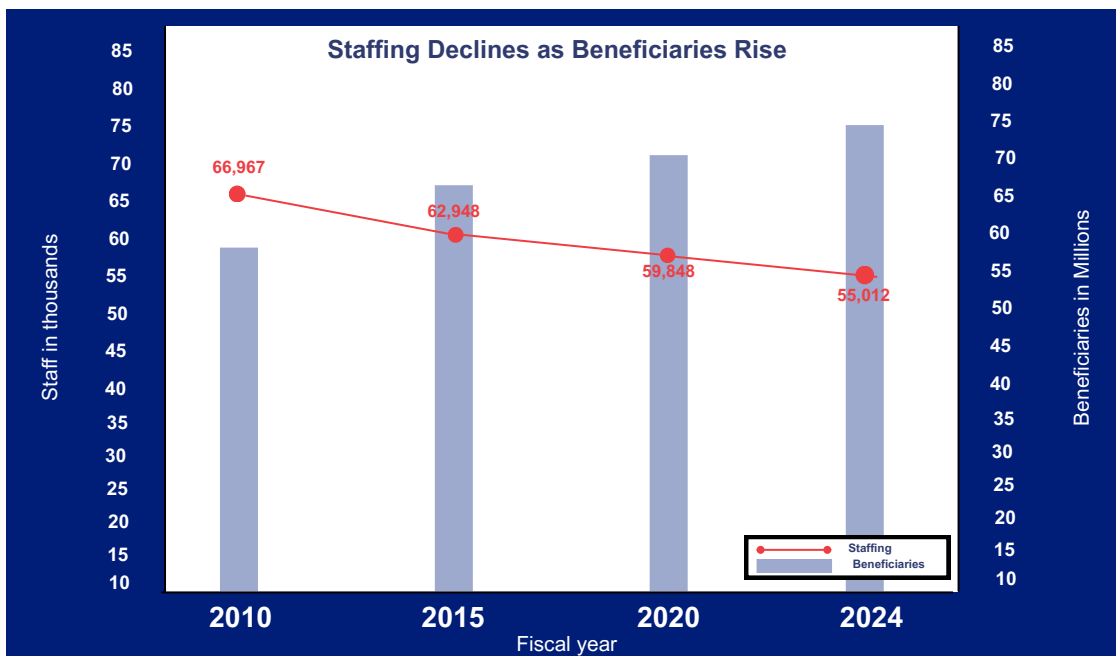
SOCIAL SECURITY STATE OF EMERGENCY



Congress must restore the Social Security Administration's (SSA) 1.2% operating budget. Years of congressional budget erosion and shortfalls that fail to meet the needs of a record high number of applicants and beneficiaries, now mean the agency is severely understaffed, long public service delays, and mounting beneficiary overpayments.

STAFFING CRISIS

SSA staffing levels have now reached a 27-year low while beneficiaries reach an all-time high. 30,000 Americans are now dying each year while waiting for a decision from SSA and thousands more are going bankrupt.



Your Social Security benefits and Social Security Administration operating costs are funded through your payroll FICA contributions. You have already paid for the right to adequate staff and timely access.

Send Congress a letter! Tell them they must fund it to fix it. You've earned it!



[HTTPS://ACTIONNETWORK.ORG/LETTERS/FULLY-FUND-SOCIAL-SECURITY-NOW-2/](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/fully-fund-social-security-now-2/)

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Send your Congressman a letter and tell them:

- Congress needs to fund the Social Security Administration to meet public demand.
- Social Security is paid for from your FICA contributions and has a \$3 trillion trust fund.
- We've earned it, we've paid for it, we deserve it.
- Congress should restore SSA funding to 1.2% of funding (\$19.2 billion), including:
 - \$2.8 billion dedicated to staffing up the agency.
 - \$225 Million to improve pay and benefits.



Americans earned their Social Security benefits; they deserve to access them when needed.

- Social Security protects retirees and disabled from extreme poverty and lifts millions of children out of poverty a year.
- This year Social Security will pay out \$1.3 trillion in benefits.

SSA has been underfunded while beneficiaries are reaching an all-time high.

- Over the last decade SSA's budgets have been slashed by 18% (accounting for inflation).
- Staffing has been reduced by 15% and is at its lowest level in 27 years.
- Meanwhile, the number of beneficiaries has increased by 25%.

Starving SSA of funding has led to a public service crisis.

- Field offices are closing, forcing the public to travel long distances for assistance.
- It takes 8 months for an initial disability decision and 2.5 years for a hearing decision.
- 30,000 Americans die and tens of thousands more go bankrupt while waiting for their decision.
- It can take almost an hour to get through on the National 1-800 number, with only about 65% of calls answered.

Better serving the public will require a strong workforce.

- SSA is the worst federal agency to work for, ranked 17 out of 17 government agencies for the past two years.
- AFGE surveys show 76% say their pay does not reflect the complexity of work, and 56% are considering leaving in the next year.
- Social Security program rules, regulations, and policies are complex. It takes 2-5 years to recruit and fully train new SSA employees.

Biden nominated and Congress confirmed Commissioner O'Malley.

- We are at a critical juncture. SSA is in crisis and needs a return to the historical level of funding the agency at 1.2% of outlays.
- 1.2% is highly efficient compared to the private sector that can operate around 20%.

Find out more about your representatives:

Congressional voting record on Social Security by state:



Congressional voting record on federal employee issues by state:

