

Glossary of Terms

Disbursement

Federal benefits are automatically deposited to the beneficiary's prepaid debit card account on the payment day each month.

Bureau of the Fiscal Service

Part of the US Treasury, the Bureau of the Fiscal Service (also known simply as the Fiscal Service) was formed in 2012 from the merger of the Bureau of Public Debt (BPD) with the Financial Management Service (FMS). The Fiscal Service has multiple responsibilities, including overseeing the federal government's daily cash flow (\$89 billion) and providing a range of professional services (accounting, payments, collections, investments, HR, etc.) to a wide range of federal government agencies.

Representative payee

If a SSA or SSI beneficiary cannot manage his or her own benefits, the Social Security office may designate a person or organization as the beneficiary's "representative payee." Representative

payees are supposed to use benefits to cover the current and future needs of the beneficiary and put surplus benefits aside for safekeeping. Representative payees must keep careful financial records so that they can prove they have only used the benefit funds in the best interests of the beneficiary.

Social Security Administration (SSA)

With a staff of almost 60,000 employees and over 1,200 field offices, the Social Security Administration is an independent agency of the United States federal government that administers the Social Security insurance program, which encompasses retirement (49 percent of benefits), disability (51 percent of benefits) and survivors' benefits.

Supplemental Security Income Program (SSI)

The Supplemental Security Income program helps aged, blind and disabled people with little or no income by providing cash to meet basic living expenses, including food, clothing and shelter.

Unbanked

An adjective used to describe people who have neither checking nor savings accounts and do not use banks or credit unions for their financial transactions. Unbanked people often rely on non-bank money orders, non-bank check-cashing services and payday-loan providers to meet their financial needs. The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis estimates that an unbanked household with a net income of \$20,000 may pay as much as \$1,200 per year in fees for these non-bank financial services.

US Treasury's All Electronic Initiative

In 2010, the US Treasury announced an initiative to shift many transactions from paper into the electronic realm. At the time, the Treasury estimated that the shift to electronic transactions would save more than \$400 million and eliminate 12 million pounds of paper within five years, while also making payments to beneficiaries more reliable and more secure.
