



Ending Improper Payments to Deceased People Act

Background:

- The federal government faces a widespread challenge with improper payments. In FY 2024, **federal agencies reported over \$162 billion in improper payments**, the vast majority of which were overpayments (approximately 84%).¹
- To curb improper payments, the *Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019* authorized the Department of the Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service (Fiscal Service) to develop the Do Not Pay (DNP) service, which provides a central portal for agencies to verify an individual's eligibility for benefits and supports payment integrity across the federal government.
- However, **until 2023, the DNP service did not include updated and complete death data**, resulting in erroneous payments issued to deceased individuals.
 - The Social Security Administration (SSA) manages a federal database of death reports but only shares a slimmed down version with other agencies.
- In December 2023, the SSA received temporary, three-year, authority to share its full death data with Treasury's DNP service through the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021*. The three-year data exchange authority will end in December 2026.
- The Fiscal Service announced that the first year of the access period resulted in a **net benefit of \$109 million**, providing a **2,377% return on investment for the American taxpayer** in 2024.²
 - Additionally, the Fiscal Service projects that by December 2026, this **data exchange will save \$330 million in improper payments across the federal government**.

Ending Improper Payments to Deceased People Act:

- Permanently authorizes the SSA to share its full Death Master File with Treasury's DNP service.
 - Includes key provisions to ensure the SSA is adequately reimbursed for the collection, maintenance, and sharing of death records.
 - Provides guardrails to guarantee the quality of the death data provided to DNP.

¹ *Improper Payments: Information on Agencies' Fiscal Year 2024 Estimates*, [GAO-25-107753](#). U.S. Government Accountability Office. March 11, 2025.

² *Update Full Death Master File within Do Not Pay*, [one-pager](#). U.S. Bureau of the Fiscal Service.