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**RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD  
JUSTIFICATION OF  
BUDGET ESTIMATES**



**FISCAL YEAR 2027**

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD  
844 NORTH RUSH STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611-1275

BOARD MEMBERS:

ERHARD R. CHORLÉ, CHAIRMAN  
JOHN BRAGG, LABOR MEMBER  
THOMAS JAYNE, MANAGEMENT MEMBER

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson:

In compliance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular No. A-11, enclosed please find our Congressional Justification of Budget Estimates for Fiscal Year 2027, including our Performance Plan. This budget complies with OMB guidance and accords with the President's proposal. The President's proposed budget provides \$127.000 million for the Railroad Retirement Board's (RRB) administrative expenses in Fiscal Year 2027. We estimate the proposed funding will provide for a staffing level of 668 full-time equivalents (FTEs).

The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) requests \$185.155 million for our Limitation on Administration appropriation to support an estimated 844 FTEs, consistent with our Fiscal Year 2026 Congressional Justification. The RRB requires staff to address unprecedented delays in processing disabilities, post awards, and rate adjustments, as well as improve direct citizen services. Our request also includes \$10.000 million for IT modernization efforts. The General Services Administration (GSA) identified the William O. Lipinski Federal Building, RRB headquarters since 1943, for accelerated disposition and plans to relocate the RRB headquarters to privately leased space in the Chicago, Illinois area. We continue to work with GSA on relocation efforts to ensure the continuity of critical benefit administration operations.

In addition to the Limitation on Administration appropriation, this submission includes \$4.000 million for the Dual Benefits Payments Account, with a 2 percent reserve of \$80,000, and \$75,000 for Federal Payments to the Railroad Retirement Accounts. We do not address resources for the Office of Inspector General in this submission. That office will submit a separate request concerning its needs.

Finally, with our bypass authority, the RRB requests two legislative proposals for the annual Limitation on Administration appropriation. The first proposal increases employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities by allowing the RRB to utilize Schedule A hiring authorities. The second request allows for a limited amount of unobligated balances to remain available until expended in support of the Board's IT improvements and investments.

As required by Section 1108(c) of Title 31, United States Code, we certify that all statements of obligations furnished to OMB in connection with our requests for proposed appropriations for Fiscal Year 2027 consist of valid obligations as defined in Section 1501(a) of that title.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Original signed FOR  
THE BOARD  
Stephanie Hillyard  
Secretary to the Board  
April 3, 2026

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Russell T. Vought  
Director, Office of Management and Budget



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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD  
844 NORTH RUSH STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611-1275

BOARD MEMBERS:

ERHARD R. CHORLÉ, CHAIRMAN  
JOHN BRAGG, LABOR MEMBER  
THOMAS JAYNE, MANAGEMENT MEMBER

The Honorable J.D. Vance  
President of the Senate  
S-212 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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**JUSTIFICATION OF BUDGET ESTIMATES**

**FISCAL YEAR 2027**

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**Summary of Appropriations Estimates**

**For Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted</b>		<b>Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget</b>	
	<b>FTEs</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>FTEs</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Limitation on Administration	668	\$127,000,000 <u>a/</u>	668	\$127,000,000 <u>b/</u>
Dual Benefits Payments Account	---	\$5,000,000 <u>a/</u>	---	\$4,000,000 <u>c/</u>
Federal Payments to the Railroad Retirement Accounts	---	\$150,000 <u>a/</u>	---	\$75,000 <u>d/</u>
Limitation on the Office of Inspector General	49	\$14,000,000 <u>a/</u>	55	\$14,000,000 <u>e/</u>

a/ Account is operating under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-75) and the Limitation on Administration account is estimated to support 668 FTEs.

b/ Reflects the Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget Request, which supports an estimated 668 FTEs. Does not include amounts associated with reimbursements and transfers estimated at \$29,081,471.

c/ The proposed appropriation language provides \$4,000,000 to fund vested dual benefits from general revenues of which \$0 million is expected from income taxes on vested dual benefits. An additional 2 percent reserve will become available only if the product of recipients and the average benefit received exceeds the amount available to pay vested dual benefits.

d/ This amount reflects our latest estimate for interest related to uncashed railroad retirement checks and will remain available for two Fiscal Years through September 30, 2028.

e/ This limitation is for the RRB's Office of Inspector General, which submits a separate budget justification document and annual performance plan.

## Agency Overview

The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) is an independent agency in the executive branch of the Federal Government. The RRB's primary function is to administer comprehensive retirement/survivor and unemployment/sickness insurance benefit programs for the nation's railroad workers and their families under the Railroad Retirement and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Acts. In connection with the retirement program, the RRB has administrative responsibilities under the Social Security Act for certain benefit payments and railroad workers' Medicare coverage. It also assists in the administration of the Internal Revenue Code.

The RRB is headed by three Board Members appointed by the President of the United States with the advice and consent of the Senate. By law, one member is appointed upon recommendations made by railroad labor organizations and one upon recommendations of railroad employers. The third member, the Chairman, represents the public interest. The Board Members' terms of office are 5 years, and each one expires in a different year. The President also appoints an independent statutory Inspector General for the RRB (who functions outside the control of the Board Members, but who reports directly to the Chairman for administrative purposes) whose job is to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse in RRB programs and operations.

During Fiscal Year 2025, the benefit payments totaled \$14.7 billion, net of recoveries and offsetting collections. Of this amount, payments for the retirement and survivor benefits program totaled \$14.6 billion to about 475,000 beneficiaries. The RRB also paid benefits on behalf of the Social Security Administration (for which the RRB is reimbursed) amounting to \$2.7 billion to about 129,500 beneficiaries. Additionally, the RRB paid unemployment-sickness benefits totaling \$82.0 million, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act benefits totaling (\$2.9) million, and vested dual benefits totaling \$5.0 million, net of recoveries and offsetting collections. About 8,600 railroad workers received unemployment insurance benefits, approximately 18,900 received sickness insurance benefits, and fewer than 2,400 beneficiaries received vested dual benefits.

## **Programs Administered by the Railroad Retirement Board**

### **Railroad Retirement Act**

Under the Railroad Retirement Act, the RRB makes monthly benefit payments to qualified railroad employees who retire because of age or disability, to eligible spouses of such employees, and to survivors of deceased employees. Total and permanent disability annuities are payable to employees unable to work at any job, and occupational disability annuities are payable to career railroad employees unable to work at their regular railroad jobs. Supplemental annuities are payable to career railroad employees with service prior to October 1981. There are also provisions for lump-sum payments.

The Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001 (*P.L. 107-90*), enacted on December 21, 2001, made a number of major changes to the Railroad Retirement Act. The legislation provided for full early retirement eligibility at age 60 for railroad employees with 30 or more years of service; eliminated the provision that had previously capped some employee and spouse railroad retirement benefits; reduced the basic eligibility requirement for an employee annuity from 10 to 5 years if performed after 1995; and provided increased benefits for some widow(er)s. The Act also authorized the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust to manage and invest the assets of the railroad retirement system in the same array of investment alternatives available to private sector pension plans.

The RRB also administers certain vested dual benefits, which are funded by annual appropriations from general funds. As of September 30, 2025, fewer than 2,400 beneficiaries received vested dual benefits.

### **Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act**

Under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, the RRB pays unemployment insurance benefits to railroad workers who are unemployed but ready, willing, and able to work, and sickness insurance benefits to railroad workers who are unable to work because of illness, injury, or pregnancy. The RRB also assists unemployed railroad workers in securing employment.

### **Financing of Railroad Retirement Benefits**

The primary source of income for the railroad retirement/survivor benefit program is payroll taxes paid by covered employers and their employees. By law, railroad retirement taxes are coordinated with social security taxes. Employees and employers pay Tier I taxes at the same rate as social security taxes. In addition, both employees and employers pay Tier II taxes, which are used to finance railroad retirement benefit payments over and above social security benefit levels.

Other sources of income currently include Federal income taxes on railroad retirement annuities, appropriations from general funds of the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) provided to phase-out vested dual benefits, interest on investments, and the financial interchange with the social security trust funds. The financial interchange places the social security trust funds in the same position they would be in if railroad service were covered by the Social Security program instead of

the Railroad Retirement program. In effect, through the financial interchange, the portion of railroad retirement annuities that is equivalent to social security benefits is reinsured through the social security system, thereby extending social security protection to railroad workers. The Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account is charged with railroad retirement benefit payments equivalent to social security benefits and credited with taxes and transfers associated with those benefits.

Vested dual benefits are funded by annual appropriations from general funds of the Treasury and paid from a separate account, the Dual Benefits Payments Account. Since October 1, 1988, revenue from income taxes on these benefits has also been credited to the Dual Benefits Payments Account. If the appropriation in a Fiscal Year does not cover total benefits, individual payments must be reduced proportionally.

Amounts needed to administer these programs are authorized by Congress in annual appropriation acts. In addition, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and others transfer and reimburse the RRB for certain activities. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2013, a contractor provides Specialty Medicare Administrative Contractor (SMAC) Services to the RRB and Railroad Medicare beneficiaries and their medical services providers, nationwide, for Part B Medical Services. In Fiscal Year 2027, it is estimated the RRB will be transferred and reimbursed about \$29.081 million for such costs. The estimate includes \$15.500 million for the SMAC.

### **Financing Provisions of the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001**

**Investment changes.** The Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001 (RRSIA) provides for the transfer of railroad retirement funds from the Railroad Retirement Accounts to the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust, whose Board of Trustees is empowered to invest Trust assets in nongovernmental assets, such as equities and debt, as well as in governmental securities. The RRB also receives transfers from the Trust, as needed, to pay railroad retirement and survivor benefits.

The Trust is not an agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government. Its Board of Trustees is comprised of seven members: three members selected by rail labor to represent the interests of labor; three members selected by rail management to represent management interests; and one independent member selected by the majority of the other six members. The Trustees are appointed only from individuals who have experience and expertise in the management of financial investments and pension plans. The Trustees are subject to reporting and fiduciary standards similar to those under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act.

The RRB transferred \$1.502 billion, \$19.188 billion, and \$586 million to the Trust in Fiscal Years 2002, 2003, and 2004, respectively. The Trust has invested the transferred funds, and the results of these investments are reported to the RRB and posted periodically on the RRB's website. The net asset value of Trust-managed assets on September 30, 2025, was approximately \$28.9 billion. From its inception through September 30, 2025, the Trust transferred approximately \$35.7 billion to the RRB to pay railroad benefits, including approximately \$1.4 billion in Fiscal Year 2025.

**Payroll taxes.** Under the RRSIA, Tier II taxes on both employers and employees are based on the ratio of certain asset balances to the sum of benefits and administrative expenses (the average

account benefits ratio). Depending on the average account benefits ratio, Tier II taxes for employees can range between 0 percent and 4.9 percent, while the Tier II tax rate for employers can be between 8.2 percent and 22.1 percent. The calendar year 2026 Tier II tax rates are 4.9 percent and 13.1 percent for rail employers and employees, respectively. The maximum amount of earnings subject to Tier II taxes is \$137,100 in 2026.

The RRSIA does not affect Tier I social security equivalent tax rates, which are the same as for social security covered employers and employees. The Tier I payroll tax rate for the year 2026 on covered rail employees and employers is 7.65 percent.

For withholding and reporting purposes, the employer tax rate is divided into 6.20 percent for retirement and 1.45 percent for Medicare hospital insurance. The maximum amount of an employee's earnings subject to the 6.20 percent rate is \$184,500 in 2026, but there is no maximum on earnings subject to the Medicare tax rate.

**Supplemental annuities.** The RRSIA also repealed the railroad retirement supplemental annuity tax paid by covered employers and eliminated the separate Railroad Retirement Supplemental Account. While supplemental railroad retirement annuities provided by the Railroad Retirement Act continue to be due and payable, they are now funded from the Railroad Retirement Account.

### **Financing of Unemployment and Sickness Insurance Benefits**

The railroad unemployment and sickness insurance program is financed by payroll taxes paid by covered employers. The Railroad Unemployment Insurance and Retirement Improvement Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-647) amended the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act to provide for an experience-rated employer contribution system responsive to fluctuations in railroad employment and benefit usage.

For calendar year 2026, the minimum employer contribution rate is 0.65 percent. New employers in 2026 will pay a tax of 5.58 percent, which represents the average rate paid by all employers in the period 2022 - 2024. For 91 percent of covered employers, the unemployment insurance rate assessed will be 0.65 percent in 2026, while 3 percent of employers will pay the maximum of 12.0 percent.

The 2026 rate is applied to the first \$2,150 earned monthly by each employee. In accordance with Public Law 100-647, the wage base is indexed each year to approximately two-thirds of the cumulative growth in average national wages since 1984. An employer's overall rate under the system cannot exceed 12 percent, or 12.5 percent if the maximum surcharge described below is in effect. These rates include a component to cover costs shared by all employers and 0.65 percent of the employers' taxable payroll is permanently appropriated to the RRB for administrative expenses. In addition, a surcharge is added to employers' unemployment contributions for any calendar year when the balance in the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account on the previous June 30 is less than a certain amount. Depending on the account balance, the surcharge rate may be 1.5, 2.5, or 3.5 percent of the wage base. Alternately, if the account balance on the preceding June 30 is above a certain amount, the excess will be refunded to the employers in the form of a rate reduction for the year through a pooled credit. Each employer's tax rate (prior to application of individual maximum

and minimum limitations) will be reduced by the ratio of the excess amount to the taxable payroll of all employers, though the pooled credit cannot reduce a rate below the 0.65 percent minimum.

### **Description of Appropriation Requests**

#### **Limitation on Administration**

This is the single administrative account for the RRB, which provides funding for the administration of both the railroad retirement/survivor and the unemployment/sickness insurance benefit programs. Amounts needed for this limitation are derived from the Railroad Retirement Account, the Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account, and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Administration Fund.

#### **Dual Benefits Payments Account**

Section 15(d) of the Railroad Retirement Act provides for a Dual Benefits Payments Account which is separate from other railroad retirement accounts. The vested dual benefit portion of railroad retirement annuities is paid from this account and is funded by appropriations from general revenues.

#### **Federal Payments to the Railroad Retirement Accounts**

This account was established in conjunction with the implementation of the Railroad Retirement Solvency Act of 1983. Section 417 of the act amended the Railroad Retirement Act to provide for the reimbursement of unnegotiated benefit checks to the extent that such reimbursements are provided for, in advance, in appropriations acts. This account is the vehicle through which such appropriations are made.

Under provisions of the Competitive Equality Banking Act of 1987, funds for the principal amount of uncashed checks are appropriated to the Treasury and then transferred directly to the appropriate RRB accounts. As a result, in Fiscal Year 1991, the RRB began receiving credits to this account for only the interest portion of the uncashed check transfers. This account also acts as a conduit for transferring income taxes on benefits to the other railroad retirement accounts.

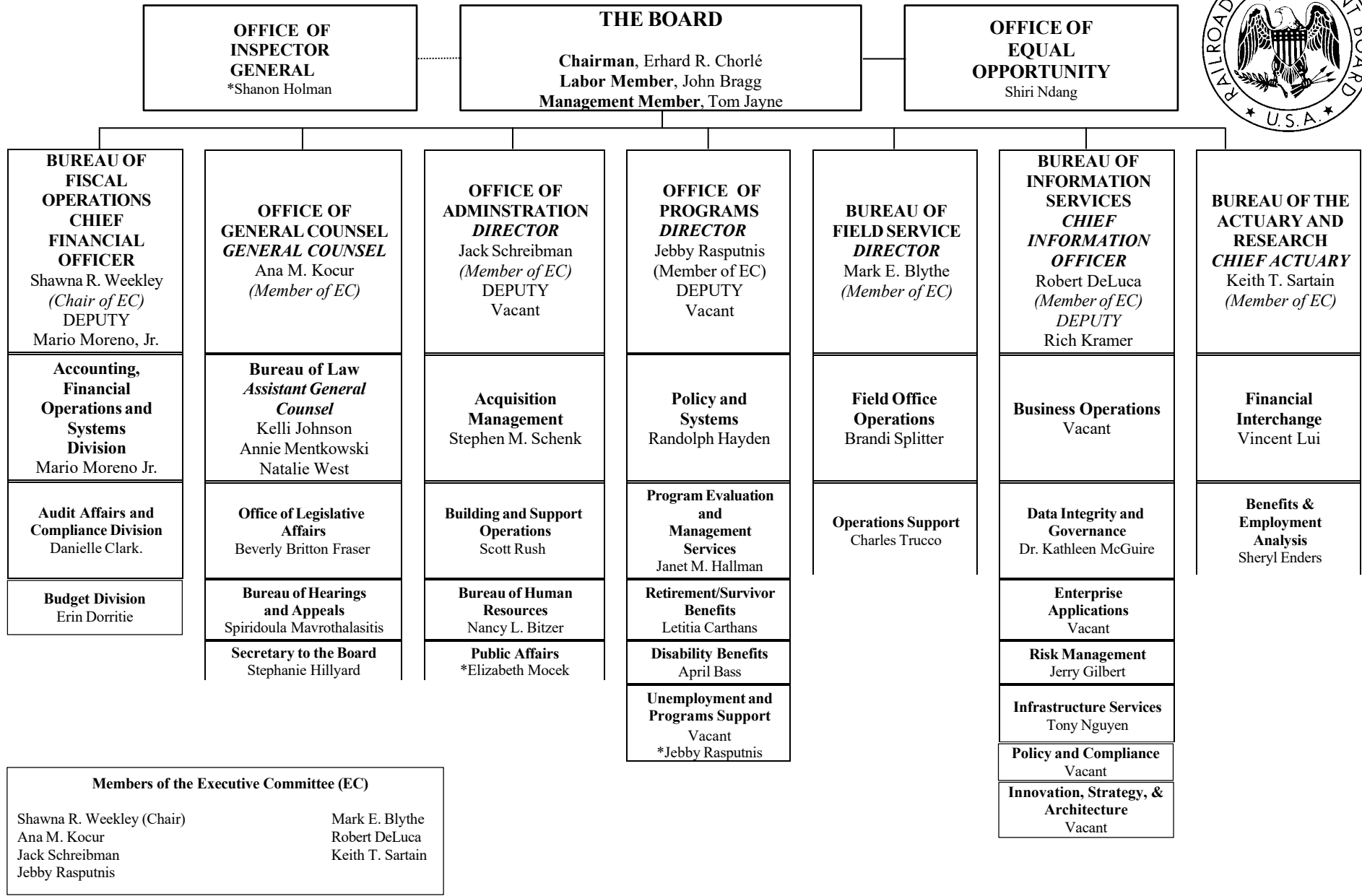
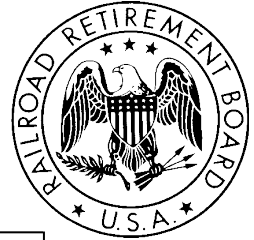
#### **Limitation on the Office of the Inspector General**

This appropriation request, which is described in a separate justification document, is for the Office of the Inspector General. The 1988 amendments to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 100-504) included the RRB as an "establishment" covered by the Inspector General Act and specified the Chairman of the RRB as the head of the establishment for purposes of the act. Previously, the Railroad Retirement Solvency Act of 1983 amended the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 to provide for an Office of Inspector General at the RRB.

### **The Board Members**

<u>Incumbent's name (Title)</u>	<u>Term expiration Date</u>	<u>Compensation</u>
Erhard R. Chorlé (Chairman)	08-28-22	\$168,400
John Bragg (Labor Member)	08-28-24	\$158,500
Thomas Jayne (Management Member)	08-28-23	\$158,500

# Railroad Retirement Board Organization Chart



..... The Inspector General reports administratively to the Chairman

\*Indicates temporary or acting capacity

**LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATION**  
**Explanation of Proposed Appropriation Language**

**Appropriation language**

**Explanation**

*For necessary expenses for the Railroad Retirement Board ("Board") for administration of the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, \$127,000,000, to be derived in such amounts as determined by the Board from the railroad retirement accounts and from moneys credited to the railroad unemployment insurance administration fund: Provided, That notwithstanding section 7(b)(9) of the Railroad Retirement Act this limitation may be used to hire attorneys only through the excepted service: Provided further, That the previous proviso shall not change the status under Federal employment laws of any attorney hired by the Railroad Retirement Board prior to January 1, 2013: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 7(b)(9) of the Railroad Retirement Act, this limitation may be used to hire students attending qualifying educational institutions or individuals who have recently completed qualifying educational programs using current excepted hiring authorities established by the Office of Personnel Management.*

This budget request is for funds to administer the railroad retirement/survivor and unemployment/sickness insurance benefit programs under a single administrative account. The Limitation on Administration Account draws on the following trust fund accounts for funding: Railroad Retirement Account, Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account, and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Administration Fund.

**Authorizing Legislation**

<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 <sup>a/</sup></b>		<b>Fiscal Year 2027 <sup>b/</sup></b>	
	<b>Authorized</b>	<b>Enacted</b>	<b>Authorized</b>	<b>President's Budget</b>
<b>AUTHORIZING</b> <i>Railroad Retirement Act:</i> Sections 15(a) and 15A(c)  <i>Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act:</i> Section 11(a)	Indefinite	\$127,000,000	Indefinite	\$127,000,000
<b><u>BYPASS AUTHORITY</u></b> <i>Railroad Retirement Act:</i> Section 7(f)				

a/ This account is operating under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-75).

b/ Includes direct funding requested only. Excludes amounts associated with reimbursements and transfers, estimated at \$29,081,471 for Fiscal Year 2027.

Section 15(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act:

"The Railroad Retirement Account established by section 15(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1937 shall continue to be maintained in the Treasury of the United States. There is hereby appropriated to such Account for each Fiscal Year, beginning with the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1975, to provide for the payment of benefits to be made from such Account in accordance with the provisions of section 7(c)(1) of this Act, and to provide for expenses necessary for the Board in the administration of all provisions of this Act, an amount equal to amounts covered into the Treasury (minus refunds) during each Fiscal Year under the Railroad Retirement Tax Act."

Section 15A(c) (1) of the Railroad Retirement Act:

"Except as otherwise provided in this section, amounts in the Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account shall be available only for purposes of paying social security equivalent benefits under this Act and to provide for the administrative expenses of the Board allocable to social security equivalent benefits. "Section 11(a) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act:

"The Secretary of the Treasury shall maintain in the unemployment trust fund established

pursuant to section 904 of the Social Security Act an account to be known as the railroad unemployment insurance administration fund. This unemployment insurance administration fund shall consist of such part of all contributions collected pursuant to section 8 of this Act as equals 0.65 per centum of the total compensation on which such contributions are based; (ii) all amounts advanced to the fund by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to this section; (iii) all amounts appropriated by subsection (b) of this section; and (iv) such additional amounts as Congress may appropriate for expenses necessary or incidental to administering this Act. Such additional amounts are hereby authorized to be appropriated."

Section 7(f) of the Railroad Retirement Act:

"Whenever the Board submits or transmits any budget estimate, budget request, supplemental budget estimate, or other budget information, legislative recommendation, prepared testimony for congressional hearings, or comment on legislation to the President or to the Office of Management and Budget, it shall concurrently transmit a copy thereof to the Congress. No officer or agency of the United States shall have any authority to require the Board to submit its budget requests or estimates, legislative recommendations, prepared testimony for congressional hearings, or comments on legislation to any officer or agency of the United States for approval, comments, or review, prior to the submission of such recommendations, testimony, or comments to the Congress."

**Railroad Retirement Board  
Limitation on Administration  
Budget by Appropriation and Object  
Class (in thousands of dollars)**

	FY 2025 Actual	Change	FY 2026 Enacted	Change	FY 2027 President's Budget
<b>Agency Top Line (Direct)</b>	<b>\$126,000</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$127,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$127,000</b>
<b>Total FTE Count (Including Reimbursable)</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>-46</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>668</b>
<b>Total Compensation and Benefits</b>	<b>\$95,381</b>	<b>-\$3,148</b>	<b>\$92,233</b>	<b>\$276</b>	<b>\$92,509</b>
Total Full Time Permanent (11.1)	\$67,934	-\$2,636	\$65,299	\$407	\$65,706
Total Other than Full Time Permanent (11.3)	\$719	-\$328	\$390	\$3	\$393
Total Benefits (12.1)	\$26,494	-\$1,076	\$25,418	-\$134	\$25,284
Total Other Personnel Compensation (11.5, 11.8, 12.19, 12.6, 13.0)	\$235	\$891	\$1,126	-	\$1,126
<b>Total Non-Pay Operations</b>	<b>\$29,924</b>	<b>\$4,842</b>	<b>\$34,767</b>	<b>-\$276</b>	<b>\$34,491</b>
Total Travel (21.0)	\$137	\$125	\$262	-\$125	\$137
Total Transportation of Things (22.0)	\$7	-\$7	-	-	-
Total Rental Payment to GSA (23.1)	\$3,000	-	\$3,000	-	\$3,000
Total Communication, Utilities, Misc. (23.3)	\$6,265	-\$394	\$5,871	-	\$5,871
Total Printing (24.0)	\$336	\$75	\$411	-	\$411
Total Other Services (25.0)	\$19,609	\$4,163	\$23,772	-\$61	\$23,711
Total Supplies (26.0)	\$174	\$119	\$293	-\$90	\$203
Total Equipment (31.0)	\$397	\$761	\$1,158	-	\$1,158
<b>Total Direct Operations</b>	<b>\$125,306</b>	<b>\$1,694</b>	<b>\$127,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$127,000</b>
<b>Unobligated Balance</b>	<b>\$694</b>				
<b>Reimbursable and Transfers (Medicare Parts B, C, D; Miscellaneous)</b>	<b>\$13,401</b>	<b>\$52</b>	<b>\$13,453</b>	<b>\$128</b>	<b>\$13,581</b>
<b>Specialty Medicare Administrative Contractor (SMAC)</b>	<b>\$18,500</b>	<b>-\$1,500</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>	<b>-\$1,500</b>	<b>\$15,500</b>
<b>No-Year Funding for IT Initiatives</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total RRB Obligation (Direct and Reimbursable)</b>	<b>\$157,901</b>	<b>-\$448</b>	<b>\$157,453</b>	<b>-\$1,372</b>	<b>\$156,081</b>
<b>Total RRB Obligation (Direct and No-Year)</b>	<b>\$126,000</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$127,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$127,000</b>

1. Salary and benefit estimates for Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget reflect a 0.0% pay increase for January 2027.
2. FTE cost for Fiscal Year 2025 Enacted is \$152,144, Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted is \$155,927 and Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget is \$156,533.
3. Fiscal Year 2025 amounts reflect actual expenditures for Railroad Retirement Board funding of the Limitation on Administration provided P.L. 119-4.
4. Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-75).
5. Fiscal Year 2025 reimbursables and transfer consists of \$12,900,000 for Medicare Parts B, C and D, \$18,500,000 for SMAC Transfer, and \$500,771 for miscellaneous; SMAC transfer is not included in object class 25.0.
6. Fiscal Year 2026 reimbursables and transfer consists of \$12,941,000 for Medicare Parts B, C and D, \$17,000,000 for SMAC Transfer, and \$512,000 for miscellaneous; SMAC transfer is not included in object class 25.0.
7. Fiscal Year 2027 reimbursables and transfer consists of \$13,069,471 for Medicare Parts B, C and D, \$15,500,000 for SMAC Transfer, and \$512,000 for miscellaneous; SMAC transfer is not included in object class 25.0.
8. Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Explanation of Changes  
 FY 2026 Enacted to FY 2027 President's Budget  
 (Dollar in Thousands)**

	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Amount (\$K)</b>
<b>2026 Enacted</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>127,000</b>
<b>2027 President's Budget</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>127,000</b>
<b>Adjustments to Base</b>		
Annualization of January 2026 1% Pay Raise.....		200
Annualization of Health Insurance.....		187
FERS provisional FY 2027 contribution rate reduction.....		(321)
Within Grade Increases.....		210
<b>Subtotal Current Services.....</b>		<b>127,276</b>
Human Resources Information Technology (HRIT).....		187
Travel.....		(125)
Training.....		(248)
Supplies.....		(90)
<b>Subtotal Program Changes.....</b>		<b>(276)</b>
<b>Total Direct.....</b>		<b>127,000</b>

**Explanation of Changes between the Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted and  
Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget  
Limitation of Administration, Direct Obligations (Dollar in Thousands)**

<i>Category</i>	<i>FY 2026 Enacted</i>	<i>FY 2027 President's Budget</i>	<i>Change</i>
<b>Fiscal Year Program Changes</b>	<b>127,000</b>	<b>127,000</b>	-
<b>Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>668</b>	-
Fiscal Year 2027 is held flat from Fiscal Year 2026. Due to necessary salary, price, and program changes, specific adjustments were required.			
<b>Personnel Compensation</b>	<b>92,233</b>	<b>92,509</b>	<b>276</b>
Personnel compensation increases in Fiscal Year 2027 reflect annualization of the January 2026 1 percent civilian pay raise and health insurance cost increase, which are necessary to retain the staff who adjudicate retirement, survivor, unemployment, and sickness claims and safeguard the trust funds. In addition, the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) provisional contribution rates decreased by 0.5 percent, from 18.4 percent to 17.9 percent, Revised Annuity Employees (FERS-RAE) decreased by 0.6 percent from 16.5 percent to 15.9 percent, and FERS Further Revised Annuity Employees (FERS-FRAE) decreased by 0.6 percent from 16.5 percent to 15.9 percent. Maintaining Fiscal Year 2026 staffing levels in Fiscal Year 2027 also requires resources to support grade and step increases to ensure existing staff can meet core benefit-delivery operations. Collectively, these adjustments align personnel funding with mandated pay and benefit policies to preserve the agency's workforce.			
<b>Non-Pay Program Changes</b>	<b>34,767</b>	<b>34,491</b>	<b>-276</b>
Non-pay program changes in Fiscal Year 2027 rebalance resources toward Human Resources Information Technology (HRIT) 2.0 while cutting back on travel, training, and supplies. The mandated HRIT increase strengthens core HR systems and data needed to hire and manage the workforce that administers retirement, survivor, unemployment, and sickness benefits. Reduced travel, training, and supplies rely more on virtual tools and reduced purchasing and constrains in-person engagement, limits staff development.			
<i>Human Resources Information Technology (HRIT)</i>	-	<i>187</i>	<i>187</i>
The increase in HRIT funding supports the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) new, consolidated Core Human Capital Management (Core HCM) system. Consolidating all agencies' core human capital management functions onto a single streamlined system is a key priority for the Administration. Fiscal Year 2027 transition activities are expected to include data migration, legacy data warehousing, and licensing fees for the new system, which will be paid centrally by OPM through its revolving fund.			

<i>Category</i>	<i>FY 2026 Enacted</i>	<i>FY 2027 President's Budget</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Travel</i>	<i>262</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>-125</i>
The reduction in travel reflects efforts to limit non-essential trips by relying on virtual collaboration.			
<i>Training</i>	<i>311</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>-248</i>
The decrease in training reflects greater use of virtual and in-house training; the RRB has, since Fiscal Year 2024, been able to support only the minimum training required by law, despite ongoing operational needs and the complexity of administering multiple benefit programs.			
<i>Supplies</i>	<i>293</i>	<i>203</i>	<i>-90</i>
The reduction in supplies will be achieved by decreasing or eliminating usage, including paper, and also continue to defer routine replacement of supplies that support claims processing, correspondence, and customer service activities.			

## Funding For Major Contracts

This table displays contracts of \$100,000 or more planned for the Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget.

<b>Object Class</b>	<b>Title and Description</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget</b>
<b><u>Information Technology</u></b>		
<b><u>IT Communications</u></b>		
23.6	Unified Communications Services	1,600,044
23.6	Web Hosting Services	906,117
23.6	Wide Area Network Services	510,000
23.6	Mobile Phones Contract	218,410
23.6	Managed Trust Internet Protocol Services (MTIPS)	340,643
23.6	Azure Connection/Internet Branch Service	256,643
23.6	Azure Connect 1	163,000
23.6	Virtual Private Network Services	115,529
<b><u>Enterprise Applications</u></b>		
25.2	Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (Azure Actual Usage)	1,800,000
25.2	Microsoft Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft 365	986,166
25.2	Microsoft Unified Services	300,000
25.2	Microsoft Enterprise Agreement--True Up	100,000
<b><u>Mainframe Services</u></b>		
25.2	Mainframe Oper. & Transition Service-Phase zCloud	4,078,311
25.7	Configuration Manager	315,000
25.7	Global 360 Exec360 Image Manager & Process Manager	316,517
<b><u>Web Services</u></b>		
25.3	LogIn.gov through GSA	257,250 <u>a/</u>
25.3	Justice Cybersecurity Assessment and Management Line of Business Program - Government, Risk, and Compliance Tool	130,000 <u>a/</u>
<b><u>End User Support</u></b>		
25.2	Desktop Support Contract Services	1,794,178
25.2	IT Customer Support / Help Desk Services	1,900,000
<b><u>IT Network</u></b>		
25.7	IT Hardware Maintenance Services	206,422
25.7	CISCO hardware/software contract FirePower Support	425,000
<b><u>IT End of Life Replacement Equipment</u></b>		
31.0	Replace End-of-Life Equipment	250,000
31.0	Replace End-of-Life/End-of-Support - Laptops	350,000
<b><i>Subtotal</i></b>		<b><u>17,319,230</u></b>

<b>Object Class</b>	<b>Title and Description</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget</b>
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**Support of Benefit Program Activities**

25.6	<u>Medical Fees.</u> Medical exams and other tests as needed.	1,027,679
25.1	<u>Consultative Medical Services.</u> Funding will be used for medical evidence reviews concerning benefit and claim matters and preparation of advisory medical opinions.	525,746
25.3	<u>Health Unit Agreements.</u> Provides for Health Unit Agreements with Federal Occupational Health (FOH)/Department of Health and Human Services.	100,000 <u>a/</u>
	<b><i>Subtotal</i></b>	<b><u>1,653,425</u></b>

**Financial Management**

25.3	<u>Payroll Costs.</u> Reimbursement to GSA for Payroll services.	400,000 <u>a/</u>
25.2	<u>Financial Systems.</u> Hosting and O&M.	2,237,634
	<b><i>Subtotal</i></b>	<b><u>2,637,634</u></b>

**Administrative Support**

25.3	<u>File Management Services.</u> Fees paid to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for storage and maintenance of files and records of the agency's active main file bank.	200,000 <u>a/</u>
31.0	<u>Photocopiers.</u> Hi-Speed Copiers/Printers.	475,000
25.3	<u>Federal Occupation Health (FOH).</u> Services for the provision of licensed, Bureau of Labor Statistics certified, registered nurses for emergency and preventive health services.	118,449 <u>a/</u>
25.3	<u>USA Staffing licenses.</u> Are for HR personnel for the purpose of automating its staff acquisition life cycle by recruiting, assessing, evaluating, certifying, selecting, and onboarding quality candidates for Federal positions.	100,000 <u>a/</u>
25.3	<u>Human Resources Information Technology (HRIT) 2.0./</u> Core Human Capital Management (Core HCM).	187,000 <u>a/</u>
25.3	<u>HRLinks.</u> Funding required for HRLinks, which is the agency's official identity management system that also processes time and attendance.	320,000 <u>a/</u>
25.2	<u>Learning Management System.</u> Funding is for the RRB's in-house online educational/training courses and programs. Learning Management System subscription.	320,000
	<b><i>Subtotal</i></b>	<b><u>1,720,449</u></b>

**Facility Management Services**

25.3	<u>Federal Protective Service Costs.</u> Funding is required for protective services, billed by the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Protective Service.	2,100,000 <u>a/</u>
	<b><i>Subtotal</i></b>	<b><u>2,100,000</u></b>

***Agency Total*** **25,430,738**

a/ Contractual services provided by Federal Government agencies comprise \$3,912,699 of the agency program total.

**Employee Relocation Expenses**

	<b>Fiscal Year 2025 Actual</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget</b>
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Acquisition Training for Fiscal Year 2027**

The RRB Acquisition Workforce (AWF) consists of contracting staff in the 1102 series, as well as Program/Project Managers (P/PMs) and Contracting Officer Representatives (CORs) across various disciplines and job series, as set forth in Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) policy letters. The RRB identified budgetary resources for Fiscal Year 2027 to ensure the agency's AWF have training and development that (1) facilitates their ability to adapt to fundamental changes in the nature of Federal Government acquisition of property and services associated with the changing roles of the Federal Government; and (2) enables them to acquire new skills and a new perspective to enable the agency AWF to contribute effectively in the changing environment of the 21st century. The AWF training budget for Fiscal Year 2027 will support the RRB AWF staff to both complete their required training for attaining certification levels, appropriate to their position and AWF duties, as well as to sustain their acquisition acumen by completing appropriate targeted continuous education courses that further their competencies and enable them to execute their roles in the agency's acquisition mission. Notably the AWF training plan, supported by this budget request, will maximize the use of instructor-led virtual classroom training, where available and best suited to enable the learning objectives and competency development in the RRB AWF.

**Budget Authority by Strategic Goal**

<b>Limitation on Administration</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2025</b>				<b>Fiscal Year 2026</b>				<b>Fiscal Year 2027</b>			
	<b>Actual</b>				<b>Enacted</b>				<b>President's Budget</b>			
<u>Program by strategic goal</u>	<u>FTEs</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Amounts (\$)</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>FTEs</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Amounts (\$)</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>FTEs</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Amounts (\$)</u>	<u>%</u>
Strategic goal:												
1. Provide Excellent Direct Citizen Services	486	68	\$74,551,298	59	468	70	\$80,075,216	63	412	62	\$73,280,144	58
2. Exercise Prudent Stewardship and Fiscal Responsibility to Protect the Railroad Retirement Trust Fund System Against Fraud, Waste, and Abuse	143	20	\$30,764,434	25	143	21	\$31,556,808	25	176	26	\$37,173,845	29
3. Effectively Manage Existing Information Systems and Implement Technological Solutions to Enable Efficient Operations and High-Quality Sustainable Service Delivery	85	12	\$19,989,945	16	57	9	\$15,367,976	12	80	12	\$16,546,011	13
Total, direct program obligations	<u>714</u>		<u>\$125,305,677</u>		<u>668</u>		<u>\$127,000,000</u>		<u>668</u>		<u>\$127,000,000</u>	
No-Year Funding for IT Initiatives			\$0				\$0				\$0	
Unobligated balance			\$694,323				\$0				\$0	
Total budget authority	<u>714</u>		<u>\$126,000,000</u>		<u>668</u>		<u>\$127,000,000</u>		<u>668</u>		<u>\$127,000,000</u>	

## Staffing History

### Actual Full-Time Equivalent Employment

Fiscal <u>year</u>	<u>Total FTEs</u>	<u>a/</u>	<u>Change from previous year</u>	<u>Percent change from previous year</u>	<u>Cumulative FTE reduction</u>	<u>Cumulative percent change since fiscal year 1993</u>
1993	1,698	<u>b/</u>	---	---	---	---
1994	1,615	<u>b/</u>	-83	-4.9%	83	-4.9%
1995	1,483	<u>b/</u>	-132	-8.2%	215	-12.7%
1996	1,401	<u>b/</u>	-82	-5.5%	297	-17.5%
1997	1,297		-104	-7.4%	401	-23.6%
1998	1,227		-70	-5.4%	471	-27.7%
1999	1,196		-31	-2.5%	502	-29.6%
2000	1,136		-60	-5.0%	562	-33.1%
2001	1,101		-35	-3.1%	597	-35.2%
2002	1,099		-2	-0.2%	599	-35.3%
2003	1,079		-20	-1.8%	619	-36.5%
2004	1,048		-31	-2.9%	650	-38.3%
2005	957		-91	-8.7%	741	-43.6%
2006	940		-17	-1.8%	758	-44.6%
2007	927		-13	-1.4%	771	-45.4%
2008	918		-9	-1.0%	780	-45.9%
2009	897		-21	-2.3%	801	-47.2%
2010	908		11	1.2%	790	-46.5%
2011	903		-5	-0.6%	795	-46.8%
2012	884		-19	-2.1%	814	-47.9%
2013	865		-19	-2.1%	833	-49.1%
2014	825		-40	-4.6%	873	-51.4%
2015	835		10	1.2%	863	-50.8%
2016	824		-11	-1.3%	874	-51.5%
2017	853		29	3.5%	845	-49.8%
2018	816		-37	-4.3%	882	-51.9%
2019	799		-17	-2.1%	899	-52.9%
2020	794		-5	-0.6%	904	-53.2%
2021	777		-17	-2.1%	921	-54.2%
2022	763		-14	-1.8%	935	-55.0%
2023	724		-39	-5.1%	974	-57.4%
2024	767		43	5.9%	931	-54.8%
2025	714		-53	-6.9%	984	-58.0%
2026	668	<u>c/</u>	-46	-6.4%	1,030	-60.7%
2027	668	<u>c/</u>				

a/ Excludes staffing for the Office of Inspector General.

b/ Includes Special Management Improvement Fund FTEs for Fiscal Years 1993-1996 of 80, 58, 30 and 10, respectively.

c/ The amounts included for 2026 and 2027 are estimated.

**Full-Time Equivalent Employees by Organization**

**Estimate**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2025 Actual <sup>1/</sup></b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted <sup>2/</sup></b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget <sup>3/</sup></b>
Chairman	4	4	4
Management	4	4	4
Labor	7	7	7
<b>Subtotal, Board</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
Secretary to the Board	2	2	2
General Counsel/Law	17	14	14
Hearings and Appeals	8	7	7
Legislative Affairs	2	2	2
<b>Subtotal, General Counsel</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>
Office of Equal Opportunity	2	2	2
Office of Programs	247	233	233
CFO/Fiscal Operations	57	53	53
Actuary Research	20	18	18
Office of Administration	57	55	55
Field Service	212	199	199
Information Services	75	68	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>668</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Amounts are rounded to the nearest FTE and reflect usage through the end of Fiscal Year 2025. The RRB's Fiscal Year 2025 budget funded 714 FTEs.

<sup>2/</sup> Reflects projected estimated FTEs as of pay period 04 ending February 7, 2026, at the Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted level of \$127 million.

<sup>3/</sup> Reflects projected FTE staffing at the Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget of \$127 million.

**Average ES/SES and GS/GM Salaries, and Benefits and GS/GM Grades**

	<b>Fiscal Year 2025 Actual</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget</b>
Average ES/SES salary	\$204,166	\$204,166	\$204,166
Average ES/SES benefits	\$75,753	\$77,086	\$76,701
<b>Total, ES/SES</b>	<b>\$279,919</b>	<b>\$281,252</b>	<b>\$280,867</b>
Average GS/GM salary	\$109,264	\$111,122	\$111,979
Average GS/GM benefits	\$41,906	\$42,900	\$42,665
<b>Total, GS/GM</b>	<b>\$151,170</b>	<b>\$154,022</b>	<b>\$154,644</b>
Average GS/GM grade	12.4	12.4	12.4

## Cybersecurity Priorities

The RRB's overall cybersecurity program requires both Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding and Development, Modernization and Enhancement (DME) funding for a total of \$2,979,984. The RRB will focus its Fiscal Year 2027 Cybersecurity investment priorities in the areas detailed below.

### ***Defend Critical Infrastructure (NCS Pillar 1)***

The RRB would like to modernize its legacy IT systems and 200+ legacy applications which directly enable its mission. As such, the RRB is developing and integrating a strategic approach to implementing cybersecurity controls that secure our organization by eliminating implicit trust and continuously validating every stage of network interaction. Rooted in the principle of "never trust, always verify," the RRB's Zero Trust strategy will be designed to protect our current environment, and as we modernize, our future environments enabling a digital transformation by using strong authentication methods, leveraging network segmentation, preventing lateral movement, providing layer 7 threat prevention, and simplifying granular, "least access" policies. As the RRB modernization strategy evolves, our Zero Trust strategy will also evolve to align with those requirements.

The goal is to advance RRB's Zero Trust maturity across Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) pillars of identity, devices, and data by integrating Microsoft (MS) security technologies to reach advanced and optimal levels. The RRB has secured cloud and on-premise systems using MS Defender for Cloud, MS Sentinel, Azure ARC, and Azure Monitor and plans to enhance these capabilities. In Fiscal Year 2026, the RRB is piloting Zscaler (Advanced Network Protection) in the CISA Continuous Diagnostic and Mitigation (CDM) program in partnership with CISA to expand the RRB's Zero Trust (ZTA) capabilities. Failure to fund ZTA will increase cybersecurity risk by sustaining ineffective perimeter-based controls against credential compromise and lateral movement, constrain improvement of Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) core metrics (access control, continuous monitoring, incident response), and raise audit, detection, and mission disruption risk.

The RRB will continue participating in shared security technologies, including active engagement with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) CDM program to ensure up-to-date technologies are implemented and agency requirements are funded. In accordance with E.O. 14028, "*Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity* (May 12, 2021)," if funding is available, RRB will obtain cyber security services through the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Security Operations Center as a Service (SOCaaS) service. Currently, the RRB has an internal SOC with a staff of four.

**Budget Authority by Fund**

<b><u>Railroad Retirement Program</u></b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2025 Actual</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget</b>
<b><u>Direct Program:</u></b>			
Railroad Retirement Account	\$85,962,915	\$88,071,643	\$87,830,774
Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account	\$21,269,925	\$20,559,077	\$20,799,946
Total, direct railroad retirement program obligations	\$107,232,840	\$108,630,720	\$108,630,720
<b>Railroad Unemployment and Sickness Insurance Program</b>			
<b><u>Direct Program:</u></b>			
Railroad Unemployment Insurance Administration Fund	\$18,072,837	\$18,369,280	\$18,369,280
Total, direct railroad retirement, unemployment, and sickness insurance obligations	\$125,305,677	\$127,000,000	\$127,000,000
Unobligated balance	\$694,323	---	---
<b>Total, direct railroad retirement, unemployment and sickness insurance budget authority</b>	<b>\$126,000,000</b>	<b>\$127,000,000</b>	<b>\$127,000,000</b>

Note.— This account is operating under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-75).

The source of funds for the unobligated balance from Fiscal Year 2025 is as follows: (1) Railroad Retirement Account \$476,323, (2) Social Security Benefit Account \$117,857, (3) Railroad Unemployment Insurance Administration Fund \$100,142; totals may not add due to rounding.

**Financing**

	<b>Fiscal Year 2025 Actual</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget</b>
<b>Financing</b>			
Total, direct program obligations	\$125,305,677	\$127,000,000	\$127,000,000
No-Year Funding for IT Initiatives	0	0	0
Unobligated balance	694,323	---	---
Limitation	\$126,000,000	\$127,000,000	\$127,000,000

**Relation of direct program obligations to outlays**

Obligations incurred, net	\$125,305,677	\$127,000,000	\$127,000,000
Obligated balance, start of year	0	29,948,296	29,948,296
Obligated balance, end of year	(29,948,296)	(29,948,296)	(29,948,296)
Outlays from limitation	\$96,357,381	\$127,000,000	\$127,000,000

Notes: Funds to administer the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act are combined into a single administrative account. Funds to administer the Railroad Retirement Act are transferred from the Railroad Retirement Account and the Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account to the Limitation on Administration. Funds required to administer the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act are transferred from the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Administration Fund to the Limitation on Administration.

Note.— This account is operating under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (*P.L. 119-75*).

The financial operations of the Limitation on Administration can also be expressed in sources and uses of funds table as shown below.

**Sources and Uses of Funds**

<b><u>Direct program sources</u></b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2025 Actual</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget</b>
Appropriation	\$126,000,000	\$127,000,000	\$127,000,000
Available from benefit trust funds by Congressional appropriation	\$126,000,000	\$127,000,000	\$127,000,000
<b><u>Direct program uses</u></b>			
Administrative expenses	\$125,305,677	\$127,000,000	\$127,000,000
Unobligated balance	694,323	---	---
<b>Total uses:</b>	<b>\$126,000,000</b>	<b>\$127,000,000</b>	<b>\$127,000,000</b>

Note.—This account is operating under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (*P.L. 119-75*).

**Amounts Available for Obligation**

	<b>Fiscal Year 2025 Actual</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget</b>
Appropriation	\$126,000,000	\$127,000,000	\$127,000,000
Unobligated balance	694,323	---	---
<b>Total direct obligations a/</b>	<b>\$125,305,677</b>	<b>\$127,000,000</b>	<b>\$127,000,000</b>

a/ The RRB also received reimbursements and transfers totaling \$31.901 million in Fiscal Year 2025 and expects to receive \$30.453 million in Fiscal Year 2026, and \$29.081 million in Fiscal Year 2027 from CMS and others.

Note.—This account is operating under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (*P.L. 119-75*).

**Appropriations History Table**

**Limitation On Administration**

<b>Year</b>	<b>President's Budget</b>	<b>House Allowance</b>	<b>Senate Allowance</b>	<b>Appropriation/ Continuing Resolution</b>	
2018	111,225,000	113,500,000	114,500,000	123,500,000	a/
2019	115,225,000	126,000,000	123,500,000	123,500,000	b/
2020	116,225,000	135,500,000	123,500,000	123,500,000	c/
2021	120,225,000	126,500,000	120,225,000	123,500,000	d/
2022	125,049,000	130,049,000	125,049,000	124,000,000	e/
2023	131,666,000	131,666,000	135,400,000	128,000,000	f/
2024	138,575,000	103,000,000	128,000,000	126,000,000	g/
2025	134,000,000	100,000,000	129,000,000	126,000,000	h/
2026	126,000,000	126,000,000	126,000,000	127,000,000	i/
2027	127,000,000				

- a/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (*P.L. 115-141*).
- b/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (*P.L. 115-245*).
- c/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (*P.L. 116-94*).
- d/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (*P.L. 116-260*).
- e/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (*P.L. 117-103*).
- f/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (*P.L. 117-328*).
- g/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (*P.L. 118-47*).
- h/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (*P.L. 119-4*).
- i/ This account is operating under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (*P.L. 119-75*).

**Retirement/Survivor Benefit Program**  
**Summary Processing Workload Table**

<b>Fiscal Years</b>	<b>Average number of annuitants</b>	<b>New applications</b>	<b>Supplemental annuity applications</b>	<b>Social Security initial awards <sup>1/</sup></b>	<b>Post-payment adjustments</b>	<b>Number of payments</b>	<b>Medicare enrollments <sup>2/</sup></b>
2009	554,124	37,248	9,725	8,128	110,534	7,104,066	5,235
2010	549,154	37,384	9,581	12,563	120,102	7,055,426	5,204
2011	544,256	37,231	9,743	9,275	93,425	7,011,155	5,803
2012	540,080	35,856	9,341	9,342	85,206	6,967,676	6,522
2013	534,982	36,041	9,075	3,116	80,786	6,921,034	6,306
2014	530,367	35,368	8,802	3,124	76,440	6,864,029	6,270
2015	526,487	34,234	8,145	3,417	66,316	6,825,427	6,851
2016	522,839	33,019	7,497	3,739	74,056	6,779,413	6,573
2017	518,416	31,479	6,520	4,526	79,221	6,752,770	7,379
2018	513,732	33,879	4,464	3,393	80,201	6,686,481	7,840
2019	508,774	27,957	1,425	3,617	75,984	6,620,447	7,446
2020	502,553	26,540	890	3,681	63,173	6,547,246	7,339
2021	491,611	25,520	2,176	3,162	57,658	6,417,264	7,044
2022	481,911	23,272	1,118	3,425	59,154	6,287,702	7,408
2023	471,082	20,075	821	2,822	44,989	6,152,500	7,335
2024	461,416	16,424	585	2,892	78,465	6,041,602	6,593
2025	452,580	22,233	671	5,016	74,713	5,947,738	6,720
2026 (est)	446,800	21,000	<500	3,000	61,000	5,860,000	6,000
2027 (est)	439,800	20,000	<500	3,000	60,000	5,770,000	6,000

<sup>1/</sup> Beginning in Fiscal Year 2013, Social Security initial awards no longer include mechanical adjustments.

<sup>2/</sup> Excludes attainments.

**Unemployment/Sickness Insurance Program**  
**Summary Processing Workload Table**

Fiscal Years	Railroad Employment <sup>1/</sup>	<u>Unemployment Insurance</u>			<u>Sickness Insurance</u>		
		Applications	Claims	Payments	Applications	Claims	Payments
2009	223,000	39,509	230,476 <sup>2/</sup>	198,230 <sup>2/</sup>	21,466	138,993	118,770
2010	221,000	18,721	210,965 <sup>3/</sup>	190,152 <sup>3/</sup>	21,476	139,653	119,426
2011	229,000	12,756	93,598 <sup>4/</sup>	83,144 <sup>4/</sup>	20,797	136,014	115,705
2012	234,000	12,914	83,120 <sup>5/</sup>	72,776 <sup>5/</sup>	20,240	129,318	110,154
2013	237,000	14,944	96,871 <sup>6/</sup>	84,365 <sup>6/</sup>	19,110	119,364	100,951
2014	242,000	11,982	77,580 <sup>6/</sup>	64,864 <sup>6/</sup>	19,335	120,838	102,020
2015	247,000	14,177	67,643	55,368	19,467	121,271	102,540
2016	231,000	24,371	145,605	120,134	20,219	131,575	111,933
2017	225,000	14,372	96,777	80,748	20,087	132,557	113,163
2018	224,000	11,294	71,119	59,696	18,660	131,320	112,940
2019	217,000	14,900	70,065	57,475	17,915	118,894	101,699
2020	195,000	51,089	234,441 <sup>7/</sup>	345,914 <sup>7/</sup>	22,907	133,212 <sup>7/</sup>	135,639 <sup>7/</sup>
2021	186,000	18,484	184,799 <sup>8/</sup>	296,239 <sup>8/</sup>	33,770	150,451 <sup>8/</sup>	162,580 <sup>8/</sup>
2022	190,000	8,102	49,977 <sup>8/</sup>	46,369 <sup>8/</sup>	21,720	131,010 <sup>8/</sup>	125,326 <sup>8/</sup>
2023	200,000	6,039	26,891	22,481	14,805	103,962	88,664
2024	201,000	8,778	34,645	28,174	14,469	97,238	82,186
2025	198,000 (est)	9,394	42,512	35,949	14,387	99,714	85,564
2026 (est)	195,000	14,000	66,000	55,000	16,000	113,000	96,000
2027 (est)	192,000	17,000	77,000	64,000	17,000	117,000	100,000

<sup>1/</sup> Average annual railroad employment is based on mid-month counts and presented on a calendar year basis.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes unemployment insurance claims and payments under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5). Benefits had to begin by December 31, 2009.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes unemployment insurance claims and payments under P.L. 111-5 and the Worker, Homeownership and Business Assistance Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-92).

<sup>4/</sup> Includes unemployment insurance claims and payments under P.L. 111-5, P.L. 111-92, and the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-312).

<sup>5/</sup> Includes unemployment insurance claims and payments under P.L. 111-92, P.L. 111-312, the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-78), and the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-96).

<sup>6/</sup> Includes unemployment insurance claims and payments under P.L. 111-92, P.L. 111-312, P.L. 112-78, P.L. 112-96, and the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-240). Benefits had to begin by December 31, 2013.

<sup>7/</sup> Includes unemployment and sickness insurance claims and payments under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-136).

<sup>8/</sup> Includes unemployment and sickness insurance claims and payments under P.L. 116-136 and the Continued Assistance to Rail Workers Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-260), and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2).

# PERFORMANCE

# PLAN



*Fiscal Year 2027*

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**Railroad Retirement Board**

## **Railroad Retirement Board – Fiscal Year 2027 Performance Plan**

### **Introduction**

The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) developed this performance plan to support our mission (see mission statement on the following page) and to communicate our intentions for meeting challenges and seeking opportunities. This plan will be used to hold managers accountable for achieving program results, as well as improving program effectiveness and public accountability by promoting a continued focus on results, service quality, and customer satisfaction. This plan will help managers improve service delivery by requiring they plan to meet program objectives.

This plan is closely linked to our Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2026 - 2030 and can be easily cross-referenced. The performance plan provides detailed performance goals, performance indicators and target levels to guide agency managers. It also communicates our performance expectations to stakeholders, including the railroad community, the Administration, the Congress, and other government agencies.

The RRB's strategic and performance goals are presented in the sections following our mission statement. Information on anticipated performance is provided at the President's Budget level. To provide for ongoing improvement in performance and accountability, we will continue to set programmatic goals that are aggressive, realistic, and accurately measured. We will also ensure planned improvements are transparent, result in meaningful outcomes, and agency managers are accountable for achieving performance goals.

We will also prepare and submit to the President and the Congress a report on program performance for Fiscal Year 2027, as part of our Performance and Accountability Report. The RRB's Office of Inspector General (OIG) will review the report to help ensure the reliability and utility of our performance information. The reported information will be derived from agency systems, and the performance goals and indicators will be compared to actual program performance. This performance budget meets the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Modernization Act and was prepared by RRB employees.

**Railroad Retirement Board – Fiscal Year 2027 Performance Plan**

***RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD  
MISSION STATEMENT***

*The RRB's mission is to administer retirement/survivor and unemployment/sickness insurance benefit programs for railroad workers and their families under the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act. These programs provide income protection during old age and in the event of disability, death or temporary unemployment and sickness. The RRB also administers aspects of the Medicare program and has administrative responsibilities under the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code.*

*In carrying out its mission, the RRB will pay benefits to the right people, in the right amounts, in a timely manner, and will take appropriate action to safeguard our customers' trust funds. The RRB will treat every person who comes into contact with the agency with courtesy and concern, and respond to all inquiries promptly, accurately and clearly.*

## **Railroad Retirement Board - Fiscal Year 2027 Performance Plan**

### ***Strategic Goal I: Provide Excellent Direct Citizen Services.***

Our mission statement reflects our intention to pay benefits in a correct and timely manner. However, in addition to this focus on performance, we also aim to satisfy our constituents' expectations for high-quality service by providing a variety of delivery options and personalized attention. This includes expanded use of online, web-based services and a nationwide toll-free telephone number for inquiries and services. The RRB has developed the following objectives to meet this crucial goal. We aim to satisfy our customers' expectations for quality service in terms of service delivery options and levels and manner of performance. At the President's Budget funding level, we plan to allocate \$73,280,144 including 412 FTEs to functions that directly support benefit delivery, such as case development, benefit adjudication, post-award reviews, payment system operations, and customer service. This strategic goal includes two objectives: 1) pay benefits timely and 2) provide effective and efficient service delivery options.

### ***Strategic Goal II: Exercise Prudent Stewardship and Fiscal Responsibility to Protect the Railroad Retirement Trust Fund System Against Fraud, Waste, and Abuse.***

The RRB is committed to fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities to the rail community. At the President's Budget funding level, we plan to allocate \$37,173,845 including 176 FTEs to stewardship. This strategic goal includes five objectives: 1) effectively manage the railroad retirement system trust funds, 2) ensure the accuracy and integrity of benefit programs, 3) implement the federal merit hiring plan, 4) effectively carry out responsibilities with respect to the NRRIT, and 5) rightsizing the agency's real estate footprint.

### ***Strategic Goal III: Effectively Manage Existing Information Systems and Implement Technological Solutions to Enable Efficient Operations and High-Quality Sustainable Service Delivery.***

At the President's Budget funding level, we plan to allocate \$16,546,011 including 80 FTEs to this strategic goal.

This strategic goal is led by the RRB's Bureau of Information Services (BIS), whose staff levels have declined by approximately 50% since 2019. This has hindered our ability to manage daily operations and stalled modernization efforts. Accordingly, the following objectives seek to help the agency effectively prioritize the efforts of its limited staff to continue paying Railroad Retirement Act and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act benefits to the American rail employees and their families, as well as making progress toward Presidential priorities working within our appropriation. This strategic goal includes four objectives: 1) effectively manage the RRB's hybrid IT environment, 2) identify and pursue technological solutions to minimize long-term operational risks and enable efficient service delivery, 3) explore use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to increase the efficiency and cost effectiveness of RRB operations, and 4) effectively secure the RRB's information systems.

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2027 Performance Plan	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 President's Budget
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL I: Provide Excellent Direct Citizen Services.</b>						
<b>Strategic Objective: Pay benefits timely.</b>						
Goal leader for objectives I-A-1 through I-A-5; I-A-7 and I-A-8: Jebby Rasputnis, Director of Programs						
Goal leader for objective I-A-6: Mark Blythe, Director of Field Service						
Goal leader for objective I-A-9: Spiridoula Mavrothalasitis, Director of Hearings and Appeals						
I-A-1. RRB makes a decision to pay or deny a railroad retirement employee or spouse initial annuity application within 35 days of the annuity beginning date, if advanced filed. (Measure: % ≤ 35 days).	96.7%	96.4%	98.0%	98.60%	94.0%	94.0%
I-A-2. RRB makes a decision to pay or deny a railroad retirement employee or spouse initial annuity application within 60 days of the date the application was filed. (Measure: % ≤ 60 days).	96.7%	96.4%	98.3%	99.10%	94.0%	94.0%
I-A-3. RRB makes a decision to pay, deny or transfer to SSA an initial annuity application for a railroad retirement survivor not already receiving a benefit within 60 days of the annuity beginning date, or date filed (whichever is later). (Measure: % ≤ 60 days).	91.9%	96.6%	97.8%	97.40%	94.0%	94.0%
I-A-4. RRB makes a decision to pay, deny or transfer to SSA an initial annuity application for a railroad retirement survivor already receiving the benefits as a spouse within 30 days of the RRB's receipt of first notice of the employee's death. (Measure prior to Fiscal Year 2024: % < 30 days. Measure Fiscal Year 2024 and later: % ≤ 35 days).	95.8%	96.8%	99.4%	98.80%	94.0%	94.0%
I-A-5. RRB makes a decision to pay or deny a lump sum death benefit within 60 days of the date the application was filed. (Measure: % ≤ 60 days).	94.4%	99.2%	99.4%	97.60%	95.0%	95.0%
I-A-6. RRB certifies a payment or releases a letter of denial of UI or SI benefits within 10 days of the date RRB receives the claim. (Measure: % ≤ 10 days).	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.90%	98.5%	98.5%
I-A-7. RRB makes a decision to pay or deny a benefit for a disabled applicant or family member within 100 days of the date the application is filed. (Measure: % ≤ 100 days).	12.6%	8.0%	10.3%	11.60%	10.0%	10.0%
I-A-8. RRB makes a payment to a disabled applicant within 25 days of the date of decision or earliest payment date, whichever is later. (Measure: % < 25 days).	89.4%	92.6%	92.8%	96.00%	91.0%	91.0%
I-A-9. Reduce the number of days elapsed between the date the appeal is filed and a decision is rendered. (Measure: Average elapsed days).	174	204	303	329	275	495

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2027 Performance Plan		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 President's Budget
<b>Strategic Objective: Provide Effective and Efficient Service Delivery Options.</b>							
Goal leader for objectives: I-B-1 and I-B-2: Jebby Rasputnis, Director of Programs							
Goal leader for objectives: I-B-3 and I-B-4: Robert De Luca, Chief Information Officer							
I-B-1. Offer electronic options to our customers, allowing them alternative ways to perform primary services via the Internet or interactive voice response systems. (Measure: Number of services available through electronic media).		19 services available	19 services available	20 services available	20 services available	20 services available	24 services available
I-B-2. Enable employers to use the Internet to conduct business with the RRB, in support of the Government Paperwork Elimination Act. (Measures: Percentage of employers who use electronic media to file reports; number of services available through electronic media).	a) Employers using ERS	99.3%	96.0%	99.6%	99.10%	99.10%	99.90%
	b) Internet Services	31 Internet services available	31 Internet services available	31 Internet services available	31 Internet services available	31 Internet services available <u>12/</u>	31 Internet services available
I-B-3. Complete the Technology Modernization Fund Citizen Centric On-Line Self-Services (CCOSS) project to add new self-service options (i.e., change of address, change of deposit, fully automated sickness application process).		New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	100% - Change of address for RRA  100% - Direct deposit change for RRA  Strategic direction change to no longer include the fully automated sickness application process in this project	Performance Indicator Complete and Closed Starting 2027
I-B-4. Deliver – Meet Customer Expectations. WWW.RRB.GOV Internet Services (Mainline and Employer Reporting System) Continuous availability experienced by End users.	a) Continuous availability target	99.17%	99.00%	99.72%	99.66%	99.00%	99.00%
	b) Average hours of outage allowed per month	5.79 hours	7.00 hours	4.08 hours	1.75 hours	< 7 hours	< 7 hours
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL II: Exercise Prudent Stewardship and Fiscal Responsibility to Protect the Railroad Retirement Trust Fund System Against Fraud, Waste, and Abuse.</b>							
<b>Strategic Objective: Effectively Manage the Railroad Retirement System Trust Funds.</b>							
Goal leader: Shawna R. Weekley, Chief Financial Officer							
II-A-1. Debts will be collected through billing, offset, reclamation, referral to outside collection programs, and a variety of other collection efforts. (Measure: Total overpayments recovered in the fiscal year / total overpayments established in the fiscal year.)		89.35%	88.53%	88.27%	90.10%	85.00%	85.00%

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2027 Performance Plan		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 President's Budget
<b>Strategic Objective: Ensure the Accuracy and Integrity of Benefit Programs.</b>							
Goal leader II-B-1(a)(b) and II-B-3 through II-B-9: Jebby Rasputnis, Director of Programs							
Goal leader II-B-2(a): Mark Blythe, Director of Field Service							
Goal leader II-B-2(b): Jebby Rasputnis, Director of Programs							
II-B-1. Achieve a railroad retirement benefit payment accuracy rate of at least 99%. <u>5</u> (Measure: Percent accuracy rate).	a) Initial payments	99.90%	99.95%	99.92%	99.87% <u>6</u>	99.00%	99.00%
	b) Sample post recurring payments	99.68%	2023 Post Study Suspended	98.08%	99.78% <u>6</u>	97.00%	97.00%
II-B-2. Achieve a railroad unemployment / sickness insurance benefit payment accuracy rate of at least 99%. <u>5</u> (Measure: Percent accuracy rate).	a) Unemployment	96.90%	96.82%	99.10% <u>7</u>	Not Available	93.00% <u>8</u>	93.00%
	b) Sickness	98.5%	100.0%	97.21% <u>7</u>	Not Available	95.00%	95.00%
II-B-3. Overall Initial Disability Determination Accuracy. (Measure: % of Case Accuracy).		80.6%	93.1%	91.7%	Not Available	90.00%	90.00%
II-B-4. Maintain the level of Railroad Retirement Act (RRA) improper payments below the OMB threshold. (Measure: Below 1.5%).		N/A <u>9</u>	N/A <u>9</u>	N/A <u>9</u>	N/A <u>9</u>	N/A <u>9</u>	N/A <u>9</u>
II-B-5. Continue effective program integrity efforts. Achieve a return of at least \$3.60 for each dollar spent on program integrity activities and continue effective program integrity efforts. (Measure: Recoverables and savings per dollar spent).		\$6.99: \$1.00	\$8.62: \$1.00	\$6.68: \$1.00	Not Available	\$5.00: \$1.00	\$5.00: \$1.00
II-B-6. Reduce the pending level of total retirement case general referrals by at least 10%. (Measure: Pending level on last day of prior fiscal year as compared to last day of measured fiscal year).		New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	5.0% <u>10</u>	5.0%
II-B-7. Reduce the pending level of Social Security retirement referrals by at least 10%. (Measure: Pending level on last day of prior fiscal year as compared to last day of measured fiscal year).		New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	5% <u>10</u>	5.0%
II-B-8. Reduce the pending level of cases referred out of retirement mass adjustments (COLA and RESCUE cases) by at least 10%. (Measure: Pending level on last day of prior fiscal year as compared to last day of measured fiscal year).		New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	5% <u>10</u>	5.0%
II-B-9. Reduce the pending level of total survivor case referrals by at least 25%. (Measure: Pending level on last day of prior fiscal year as compared to last day of measured fiscal year).		New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	15% <u>10</u>	20.0%
<b>Strategic Objective: Implement the Federal Merit Hiring Plan</b>							
Goal leader: Jack Schreiber, Director Office of Administration							
II-C-1. Track progress towards reporting and recruitment based on merit, skill, and constitutional dedication to better serve railroad workers and their families. (Measure: Percent complete).		New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	66%	100%

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2027 Performance Plan	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 President's Budget
<b>Strategic objective: Effectively Carry Out Responsibilities with Respect to the NRRIT.</b>						
Goal leader: Ana M. Kocur, General Counsel						
II-D-1. Timely review information reported by the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust to carry out RRB's oversight responsibility under section 15(j) (5) (F) of the Railroad Retirement Act. Reports are to be reviewed within 30 days of receipt. (Measure: Yes/No).	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Strategic objective: Rightsizing the Agency's Real Estate Footprint</b>						
Goal leaders: Jack Schreiber, Director Office of Administration and Mark Blythe, Director of Field Service						
II-E-1. Provide timely responses to GSA regarding spacing needs for the RRB's HQ, OLA, and field offices, to facilitate continuity of citizen services and cost-effective space utilization across all locations. (Measure: Yes/No).	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	Yes	Yes
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL III: Effectively Manage Existing Information Systems and Implement Technological Solutions to Enable Efficient Operations and High-Quality Sustainable Service Delivery.</b>						
<b>Strategic Objective: Effectively Manage the RRB's Hybrid IT Environment.</b>						
Goal Leader: Robert De Luca, Chief Information Officer						
III-A-1. Deliver – Deliver on Budget. Percent of IT Projects costs within 10% of budgeted cost.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	85.0%	85.0%
III-A-2. Plan finalized to manage the RRB's legacy IT environment that considers both operational risks and funding limitations to enable prioritized resource allocation to sustain core operations. After plan approval, the RRB will track its progress toward the milestones, key projects and risk mitigation measures set forth in the plan. (Measure: Yes/No).	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	Draft Plan Complete: Yes	Final Plan Approval: Yes Complete 1st Milestone: Yes
<b>Strategic Objective: Identify and Pursue Technological Solutions to Minimize Long-Term Operational Risks and Enable Efficient Service Delivery.</b>						
Goal Leader: Robert De Luca, Chief Information Officer						
III-B-1. Comprehensive Modernization Plan finalized and approved by agency leadership and Board; inclusive of milestone-level and project-level performance measures to improve service delivery for 675,000+ constituents. (Measure: Yes/No).	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	Benchmark Peer Group Options: Yes	Draft Plan Complete: Yes
<b>Strategic Objective: Explore Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Increase the Efficiency and Cost Effectiveness of RRB Operations.</b>						
Goal Leader: Robert De Luca, Chief Information Officer						
III-C-1. Explore Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	Identify and document at least 5 high-impact business use cases.	Enable chat and RAG based AI point solutions for individual and group activities.
<b>Strategic Objective: Effectively Secure the RRB's Information Systems.</b>						
Goal Leader: Robert De Luca, Chief Information Officer						
III-D-1. Innovate – Design for Modularity. Strategy for Continuity of Operations Improvements.	Microsoft Azure Cloud: Yes	Microsoft Azure Cloud: Yes	Decommission Legacy Disaster Recovery Site: Yes	Table Top Exercise: Yes	Table Top Exercise: Yes	Table Top Exercise: Yes

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2027 Performance Plan		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 President's Budget
III-D-2. Enforce multi-factor authentication (MFA) for 100% of privileged and general users. (Zero Trust – Identity).		New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	100.0%	100.0%
III-D-3 - Zero Trust.	a) Secure remote access via Virtual Private Network (VPN) and encrypted endpoints. (Zero Trust – Access)	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	Complete Pilot: Yes	Complete Implementation: Yes
	b) Enhance network protection through Intrusion Prevention System (IPS), Network Access Control (NAC), Security Information and Event Management (SIEM).	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	Complete Pilot: Yes	Complete Implementation: Yes
	c) (Zero Trust – Applications and Workloads): Strive to secure applications from unauthorized users and ensure continuous visibility of the workload at any given time.	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	Complete Pilot: Yes	Complete Implementation: Yes
	d) (Zero Trust – Data): Strive to enforce strict authentication, least-privileged access, and real-time monitoring and data classification to protect data to reduce data breach risks and adhere to compliance.	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	Complete Pilot: Yes	Complete Implementation: Yes

## Footnotes

- <sup>1/</sup> Fiscal Year 2025 actual results represent status as of September 30, 2025, unless otherwise reported.
- <sup>2/</sup> Planned amounts reflect the Fiscal Year 2026 performance targets shown in the RRB's Congressional Justification of Budget Estimates, released June 24, 2025.
- <sup>3/</sup> Fiscal Year 2025 amount includes \$126 million for the Limitation on Administration Account.
- <sup>4/</sup> Fiscal Year 2026 amount includes \$127 million for the Limitation on Administration Account.
- <sup>5/</sup> The payment accuracy rate is the percentage of dollars paid correctly as a result of adjudication actions performed.
- <sup>6/</sup> Fiscal Year 2025 actual results represent status as of March 31, 2025.
- <sup>7/</sup> Fiscal Year 2024 actual results represent status as of December 31, 2023.
- <sup>8/</sup> Fiscal Year 2026 estimate reduced due to all time low field office staffing.
- <sup>9/</sup> The RRA program is in a three-year risk assessment cycle and operates under Phase 1 guidelines of OMB Circular A-123, Appendix C. The latest risk assessment was conducted in Fiscal Year 2023 and concluded the RRA program consistently remained below the threshold for significant improper payments under the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (PIIA). In their audit of the PIIA, the OIG concluded the program was compliant. The next risk assessment is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2026.
- <sup>10/</sup> New goals II-B-6 through II-B-9 measure year over year progress across all post adjudication workloads and reflect absolute percentages.
- <sup>11/</sup> Goal created for Fiscal Year 2026 not included in the RRB's Congressional Justification of Budget Estimates, released June 24, 2025.
- <sup>12/</sup> Fiscal Year 2026 estimate reduced from 35 services to 31 services. Reduction in goal due to RRB's need in Fiscal Year 2025 to focus on significant developer resource and key modernization efforts; these projects restricted growth in this area due to lack of resources.

**DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

**Explanation of Proposed Appropriation Language**

**Appropriation language**

**Explanation**

*For payment to the Dual Benefits Payments Account, authorized under section 15(d) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, \$4,000,000, which shall include amounts becoming available in fiscal year 2027 pursuant to section 224(c)(1)(B) of Public Law 98-76; and in addition, an amount, not to exceed 2 percent of the amount provided herein, shall be available proportional to the amount by which the product of recipients and the average benefit received exceeds the amount available for payment of vested dual benefits: Provided, That the total amount provided herein shall be credited in 12 approximately equal amounts on the first day of each month in the fiscal year.*

The proposed appropriation language provides \$4,000,000 to the Dual Benefits Payments Account for payment of vested dual benefits. Of the \$4,000,000, it is estimated that \$0 million will be derived from income tax revenues as provided by Section 224(c) (1) (B) of *Public Law 98-76*. Also, an additional reserve amount, not to exceed 2 percent, will be made available only if the product of recipients and the average benefit received exceeds the amount available. The monies provided to the Dual Benefits Payments Account are to be made available to the account on a monthly basis in 12 approximately equal amounts.

**Dual Benefits Payments Account Authorizing Legislation**

Legislation	Fiscal Year 2026		Fiscal Year 2027	
	Authorized	Enacted	Authorized	President's Budget
Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 as amended: Sections 15(d)(1), 7(c)(1), and 15(i)(2)				
Dual Benefits Payments	Indefinite	\$5,000,000 <u>a/</u>	Indefinite	\$4,000,000

a/ This account is operating under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (*P.L. 119-75*).

Section 15(d) (1):

"There is hereby created an account in the Treasury of the United States to be known as the Dual Benefits Payments Account. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated to such account for each Fiscal Year beginning with the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 1982, such sums as are necessary to pay during such Fiscal Year the amounts of annuities estimated by the Board to be paid under sections 3(h), 4(e), and 4(h) of this Act and under sections 204(a)(3), 204(a)(4), 206(3), and 207(3) of Public Law 93-445."

Section 7(c) (1):

"In any Fiscal Year, the total amounts paid under such sections shall not exceed the total sums appropriated to the Dual Benefits Payments Account for that Fiscal Year."

Section 15(i) (2):

"The Secretary of the Treasury shall, on a monthly basis, credit each account established in the Treasury for the payment of benefits under this Act for the proportionate amount of benefit checks (including interest thereon) drawn on each such Account more than six months previously but not presented for payment and not previously credited to such Account, to the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts."

**Appropriations History Table**

**Dual Benefits Payments Account a/**

<b>Year</b>	<b>President's Budget</b>	<b>House Allowance</b>	<b>Senate Allowance</b>	<b>Appropriation/ Continuing Resolution</b>
2018	22,000,000	22,000,000	22,000,000	22,000,000 b/
2019	19,000,000	19,000,000	19,000,000	19,000,000 c/
2020	16,000,000	16,000,000	16,000,000	16,000,000 d/
2021	13,000,000	13,000,000	13,000,000	13,000,000 e/
2022	11,000,000	11,000,000	11,000,000	11,000,000 f/
2023	9,000,000	9,000,000	9,000,000	9,000,000 g/
2024	8,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000 h/
2025	7,000,000	7,000,000	7,000,000	8,000,000 i/
2026	5,000,000	5,000,000	8,000,000	5,000,000 j/
2027	4,000,000			

- a/ For all amounts on the following table, the appropriation language provides that an additional amount, not to exceed 2 percent of the appropriation amount, shall become available under certain conditions to provide for full payment of vested dual benefits. The appropriation language also specifies that the amount made available will be credited to the account on a monthly basis in 12 approximately equal amounts.
- b/ The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (*P.L. 115-141*) provided \$22,000,000 for the Dual Benefits Payments Account.
- c/ Amount reflects an appropriation of \$19,000,000 provided by the Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (*P.L. 115- 245*).
- d/ Amount reflects an appropriation of \$16,000,000, a full year 2020 appropriation was enacted on December 20, 2019, pursuant to the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (*P.L. 116-94*).
- e/ Amount reflects an appropriation of \$13,000,000, a full year 2021 appropriation was enacted on December 27, 2020, pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (*P.L. 116-260*).
- f/ Amount reflects an appropriation of \$11,000,000, a full year 2022 appropriation was enacted on March 15, 2022, pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (*P.L. 117-103*).
- g/ Amount reflects an appropriation of \$9,000,000, a full year 2023 appropriation was enacted on December 29, 2022, pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (*P.L. 117-328*).
- h/ Amount reflects an appropriation of \$8,000,000, a full year 2024 appropriation was enacted on March 23, 2024, pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (*P.L. 118-47*).
- i/ Amount reflects an appropriation of \$8,000,000, a full year 2025 appropriation was enacted on March 15, 2025, pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2025 (*P.L. 119-4*).
- j/ Amount reflects an appropriation of \$5,000,000, a full year 2026 appropriation was enacted on February 3, 2026, pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (*P.L. 119-75*).

**Funding Sources**

The proposed Fiscal Year 2027 appropriation language calls for funding from the following source.

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>Budget Authority a/</b>
General revenue	\$4,000,000
[Of the \$4,000,000 to be funded from general revenue, \$0 million is expected from income taxes on vested dual benefits.]	

a/ The proposed appropriation language provides that "... an amount, not to exceed 2 percent of the amount provided herein, shall be available proportional to the amount by which the product of recipients and the average benefit received exceeds the amount available for payment of vested dual benefits ...."

**Amounts Available for Obligation**

	<b><u>Fiscal Year 2025 Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted</u></b>	<b><u>Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget</u></b>
Appropriation, excluding 2% contingency reserve  (general funds of the Treasury)	\$8,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$4,000,000
 Transfer from other accounts (Federal Payments to the Railroad Retirement Accounts)	 0 a/	 2,000 b/	 2,000 b/
 Subtotal:	 <u>\$8,000,000</u>	 <u>\$5,002,000</u>	 <u>\$4,002,000</u>
 Less: Unobligated balance	 \$3,194,772	 ---	 ---
 Total obligations (payments to beneficiaries)	 <u>\$4,805,228</u>	 <u>\$5,002,000</u>	 <u>\$4,002,000</u>

a/ Treasury has not provided Fiscal Year 2025 amounts for interest on uncashed checks.

b/ These amounts represent the estimate of this account's share of interest on uncashed checks.

Note.—This account is operating under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-75).

## **Explanation of Fiscal Year 2027 Request**

This is the 49th request for appropriations authorized by the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 to fund vested dual benefits received by railroad retirees who, under prior law, would have become covered by both the railroad retirement system and the social security system because railroad retirement was not fully coordinated with social security from 1937 to 1974.

Under laws in effect prior to 1975, a worker engaging in covered employment under both the Railroad Retirement Act and Social Security Act could receive benefits separately under both Acts. Because the social security benefit formula is weighted in favor of the low wage earner, the total of a worker's benefits from both systems averaged more than annuities of railroad employees who worked in the rail industry exclusively, and who had paid proportionally higher retirement taxes for the purpose of receiving higher benefits. The cost of the dual benefits was borne by the railroad retirement system since they reduced the system's income from its financial interchange with the social security system.

This situation was the major cause of the poor financial condition of the railroad retirement system in the early 1970s. To improve the system's financial condition, the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 provided that the Tier I component of the railroad retirement annuity be reduced by any social security benefit. This essentially integrated the two systems and eliminated the advantage of qualifying for benefits under both systems.

However, it was generally considered unfair to eliminate this advantage entirely for those already retired or close to retirement when the 1974 Act became effective. The 1974 Act, therefore, provided for a restoration of benefits which were considered vested at the end of 1974. The restored amount was known as the "vested dual benefit."

After considering various alternatives, Congress authorized general fund appropriations to finance the cost of phasing out dual benefits. Congress considered it unfair to impose this cost on current and future railroad employees because such employees would not be permitted to receive dual benefits upon retirement (except where vested rights were involved). Similarly, Congress believed that it would be unfair to impose this cost on railroads because railroads had not benefitted and had consistently opposed the creation and expansion of dual benefits. Financing the vested dual benefit component of railroad retirement annuities from general revenues was supported by a precedent regarding military service and by the fact that the dual benefit problem had been brought about by prior Congressional action repealing past dual benefit restrictions over the objections of the railroads.

Under the 1974 Act, appropriations had been authorized from general revenues for the phase-out costs of vested dual benefits. The amounts were to be sufficient to fund vested dual benefits on a level payment basis over the years 1976-2000. Because there was no provision in the law to reduce vested dual benefits to a level that would be fully covered by the amount appropriated, railroad retirement taxes were being used to cover the shortfall in the appropriation from general revenues. This led to a drain on the Railroad Retirement Account and contributed to a cash flow crisis.

To stop the resulting drain on the Railroad Retirement Account, the 1981 amendments changed vested dual benefits to a pay-as-you-go basis rather than a level-payment system. Starting in Fiscal Year 1982, vested dual benefits were to be reduced so as not to exceed the amount of the annual appropriation.

The Railroad Retirement Solvency Act of 1983 provided that revenues generated from income taxes on vested dual benefits be credited to the Railroad Retirement Account for Fiscal Years 1984 through 1988, and thereafter to the Dual Benefits Payments Account. Thus, since Fiscal Year 1989, these taxes have been credited to the Dual Benefits Payments Account and applied as an offset to the amount of funding needed from general revenues.

The Fiscal Year 2027 appropriation language provides for 12 monthly payments to this account from general revenues and specifies that \$4,000,000 be appropriated for benefits. In addition, the proposed language provides an additional amount not to exceed 2 percent of the \$4,000,000 appropriated shall be available proportional to the amount by which the product of recipients and the average benefit received exceeds the amount available for payment of vested dual benefits.

**FEDERAL PAYMENTS TO THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS**

**Explanation of Proposed Appropriation Language**

**Appropriation language**

*For payment to the accounts established in the Treasury for the payment of benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act for interest earned on unnegotiated checks, \$75,000, to remain available through September 30, 2028, which shall be the maximum amount available for payment pursuant to section 417 of Public Law 98–76.*

**Explanation**

Section 417 of *Public Law 98-76* (Railroad Retirement Solvency Act of 1983) amended the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 to provide for monthly transfers from the Treasury of amounts for benefit checks drawn 6 months earlier and not presented for payment.

Since Fiscal Year 1991, the RRB does not receive credits to this account for the principal amount of uncashed railroad retirement checks under provisions of the Competitive Equality Banking Act of 1987. Instead, such funds, which are appropriated to the Treasury, are transferred directly to the railroad retirement accounts and the Dual Benefits Payments Account. Interest on uncashed railroad retirement checks, however, must still be appropriated in advance to this account.

This appropriation was reassessed in accordance with E.O. 14247, Modernizing Payments To and From America’s Bank Account, which mandates the transition to electronic payments for all Federal disbursements and receipts. Reduced account activity over the past ten years supports the reduction from \$150,000 to \$75,000.

**Authorizing Legislation**

<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2026</b>		<b>Fiscal Year 2027</b>	
	<b>Authorized</b>	<b>Enacted</b>	<b>Authorized</b>	<b>President's Budget</b>
Railroad Retirement Solvency Act of 1983, Section 417	Indefinite	\$150,000	a/ Indefinite	\$75,000
Competitive Equality Banking Act of 1987, Section 1003				
Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, as amended, Section 15(i)(2)				

"The Secretary of the Treasury shall, on a monthly basis, credit each account established in the Treasury for the payment of benefits under this Act for the proportionate amount of benefit checks (including interest thereon) drawn on each such Account more than six months previously but not presented for payment and not previously credited to such Account, to the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts."

a/ Note.—This account is operating under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (*P.L. 119-75*).

**Appropriations History Table**

**Federal Payments To The Railroad Retirement Accounts**

<b>Year</b>	<b>President's Budget</b>	<b>House Allowance</b>	<b>Senate Allowance</b>	<b>Appropriation/ Continuing Resolution</b>
2014	150,000	---	---	150,000
2015	150,000	---	---	150,000
2016	150,000	---	---	150,000
2017	150,000	---	---	150,000
2018	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
2019	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
2020	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
2021	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
2022	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
2023	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
2024	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
2025	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
2026	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000 a/
2027	75,000			

a/ Note.—This account is operating under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-75).

Note: Amounts appropriated are available for two Fiscal Years.

**Amounts Available for Obligation**

	<b>Fiscal Year 2025 Actual</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget</b>
Appropriation	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$75,000
Plus:			
Unobligated balance, start of year	<u>\$150,000</u> a/	<u>\$150,000</u> a/	<u>\$150,000</u> a/
Subtotal:	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$225,000
Less:			
Unobligated balance, end of year	<u>150,000</u>	<u>250,000</u>	<u>175,000</u>
Total obligations	<u>\$150,000</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>

a/ Of the total end of year unobligated balance, only the \$150,000 appropriated in the previous Fiscal Year is brought forward into the subsequent Fiscal Year.

**Explanation of Fiscal Year 2027 Request**

Prior to enactment of Section 417 of the Railroad Retirement Solvency Act of 1983, amounts for uncashed benefit checks were not credited to the Railroad Retirement Accounts. Section 417 provided a two-part process for recovering unnegotiated benefit check amounts. The first part, represented by the 1985 appropriation request, was a catch-up mechanism to credit the accounts with the amount of all uncashed checks issued prior to May 1985 that the Treasury and the RRB could jointly identify from accounting records. The amount agreed upon and appropriated in 1985 was \$15 million and was to remain available through September 30, 1986.

The second part of the process went into effect for checks issued on and after May 1, 1985. From that date, on a monthly basis, the Treasury transferred to the account amounts represented by checks drawn 6 months earlier and not presented for payment. These amounts were provided for, in advance, in appropriation acts. For Fiscal Year 1991 and thereafter, the RRB is to seek appropriation authority only for the interest earned on unnegotiated checks. Under provisions of the Competitive Equality Banking Act of 1987, the principal amount of uncashed railroad retirement checks is to be appropriated to the Treasury, which in turn shall transfer such amounts directly to the appropriate RRB accounts.

The appropriation proposed for Fiscal Year 2027 provides that funds would be available for two years, through September 30, 2028.

**Relationship of Programs to Account Structure**  
**(In Thousands of Dollars)**

	2027 Estimates	
	Budget Authority	Outlays
060-0111-0-1-601		
Dual Benefits Payments Account.....	4,000	4,000
060-0113-0-1-601		
Federal Payments to the Railroad Retirement Accounts..	867,075	867,075
060-8010-0-7-601		
Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account.....	9,187,500	9,174,500
060-8011-0-7-601		
Railroad Retirement Account.....	5,979,700	5,972,400
060-8118-0-7-601		
National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust.....	1,711,000	1,711,000
060-8237-0-7-601		
Limitation on Administration		
Agency Baseline w/President's Budget <sup>1/</sup> .....	127,000	127,000

Summary	2027 Estimates	
	Budget Authority	Outlays
Federal funds <sup>2/</sup> .....	871,075	871,075
Trust funds <sup>3/</sup> .....	16,878,200	16,786,900
Deductions for offsetting receipts:		
Intrafund transactions (Advances) <sup>4/</sup> .....	-5,180,900	-5,180,900
Intrafund transactions (NRRIT transfers) <sup>4/</sup> .....	-1,640,000	-1,640,000
Proprietary receipts from the public <sup>5/</sup> .....	-477,620	-477,620
Interfund transactions <sup>6/</sup> .....	<u>-867,075</u>	<u>-867,075</u>
TOTAL	9,583,680	9,492,380

<sup>1/</sup> Represents the President's Budget of \$127.0 million. Actuarial estimates indicate a \$1 million decrease in Vested Dual Benefits from \$5 to \$4 million, based on the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-75).

<sup>2/</sup> Represents budget authority and outlays for the Dual Benefits Payments Account and the Federal Payments to the Railroad Retirement Accounts.

<sup>3/</sup> Represents budget authority and outlays for the Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account, the Railroad Retirement Account, and the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (NRRIT). Excludes the Limitation on Administration.

<sup>4/</sup> Represents the estimated advances RRB plans to borrow from Treasury in anticipation of the annual financial interchange transfer from the Social Security Administration's Old Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance (OASDI) Funds of \$5,180,900 and a transfer of \$1,640,000 from the NRRIT to the Railroad Retirement Account.

<sup>5/</sup> Estimate of interest and dividends on non-Federal securities earned by the NRRIT.

<sup>6/</sup> Represents budget authority and outlays for the Federal Payments to the Railroad Retirement Accounts.

### **Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act Reporting**

In accordance with Public Law 115-414, *Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act*, Appendices 1, 2, and 3 of this report support the Railroad Retirement Board's (RRB) Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Justification. Appendices 1 and 2 provide information on "open" public Government Accountability Office (GAO) and Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit recommendations over one year old as of January 29, 2026. Appendix 3 includes information on public audit recommendations designated as "closed, unimplemented" during the reporting period. As required, the appendices include implementation status, anticipated implementation timelines, and justifications for any recommendations the RRB does not plan to implement.

The RRB appreciates the GAO and OIG's work and will continue to implement recommendations that agency management concludes are necessary. The RRB will also continue to implement its prioritized critical needs hiring plan in collaboration with the Office of Personnel Management.

**Appendix 1:**

**Open GAO Recommendations Over 1 Year Old**

As of January 29, 2026, the RRB had two public GAO recommendations designated as “open” for over one year. The table below lists these recommendations along with the implementation status and the anticipated timeline for full implementation.

Report Number	Report Title	Report Date	Recommendation Number	Recommendation	Bureau/Office	Implementation Status	Timeline for Full Implementation	Implementation Details	Justification for Not Taking Recommended Action
18-323	Railroad Retirement Board: Additional Controls and Oversight of Financial Interchange Transfers Needed	4/19/2018	5	The Board should produce formal policies on how the work of staff performing the financial interchange is reviewed.	Bureau of Actuary and Research	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A
24-105545	Railroad Retirement Board: Agency Could Strengthen Plans to Address Key Management Challenges	12/7/2023	2	The Board should ensure written plans clearly state the intended results of IT modernization, including the future IT self-service capabilities it will create, how it will address any related gaps or interdependencies, and how it will measure the success of its IT modernization effort, including performance metrics and goals.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	TBD	The RRB agrees with the intent of the recommendation but is unable to commit to a timeline for full implementation.	N/A

**Appendix 2:**

**Open OIG Recommendations Over 1 Year Old**

As of January 29, 2026, the RRB had 131 public OIG recommendations designated as “open” for over one year. The table below lists these recommendations along with the implementation status for each recommendation and either a timeline for implementation or an explanation of why the RRB does not plan to take the recommended action.

Report Number	Report Title	Report Date	Recommendation Number	Recommendation	Bureau/Office	Implementation Status	Timeline for Full Implementation	Implementation Details	Justification for Not Taking Recommended Action
07-08	Fiscal Year 2007 Evaluation of Information Security at the Railroad Retirement Board	9/27/2007	07	The Bureau of Information Services should perform a physical inventory of information technology hardware and update the agency's official fixed asset inventory system.	Bureau of Information Services	Management requested closure and is waiting for OIG's response.	Complete		N/A
10-06	Review of Statistical Methods Employed in the Financial Interchange Determination	5/4/2010	01	KPMG recommends that the RRB Bureau of Bureau of Actuary and Research improve its documentation of the sampling employed in the Financial Interchange process by: Creating a single document that explains the process used to create the sampling frame and sample, including source database(s) used, the variables of interest, and the programs/media used to execute the process steps. The documentation should be written such that a person with the requisite skills, but without knowledge of the Financial Interchange calculations, could understand and replicate the sampling process.	Bureau of Actuary and Research	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
10-06	Review of Statistical Methods Employed in the Financial Interchange Determination	5/4/2010	05	KPMG recommends that the RRB Bureau of Bureau of Actuary and Research: Test more than one post-stratification method, and employ the method that minimizes the sampling error.	Bureau of Actuary and Research	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
10-11	Audit of Unilateral Disability Freeze Determinations	8/12/2010	05	The Office of Programs should develop a mechanism and procedures to update the unilateral freeze codes in the Payment Rate and Entitlement History system when the RRB obtains new information that changes the status of the freeze.	Office of Programs	No further action is planned, and management will submit a final action determination.	N/A		There are already procedures in place that address this recommendation.
11-07	Audit of Railroad Retirement Act Benefit Overpayments and Internal Controls	6/29/2011	09	The Office of Programs should work with the management control review committee to revise management control documentation to be consistent with Government Accountability Office guidance for internal controls.	Office of Programs	Implementation is in progress.	October 2026		N/A
13-02	Audit of Job Duty Verification Procedures for Long Island Rail Road Occupational Disability Applicants	1/15/2013	01	The Office of Programs should modify occupational disability procedures to comply with the CFR and ensure that every reasonable effort is made by the District Office staff and/or the Disability staff to obtain the Job Information Form from the railroad employer during the established response period.	Office of Programs	Management requested closure and is waiting for OIG's response.	Complete		N/A
13-02	Audit of Job Duty Verification Procedures for Long Island Rail Road Occupational Disability Applicants	1/15/2013	05	The Office of Programs should perform a study to determine the reasons for the railroad employers' failure to return the Job Information Forms, and take corrective action to elicit better responses based on their findings.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending further guidance.	TBD	This recommendation is related to recommendation 1 on this report. Once the OIG responds to the closure request for recommendation 1, we will determine next steps for this recommendation.	N/A
13-11	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Privacy Program	9/20/2013	01	The Bureau of Information Services should work with the Office of Administration, Division of Acquisition Management, and the agency's contracting officer's representatives to maintain the Contractor Security Control Log, ensure that it is continually updated to reflect all contractors and their staff that work at the RRB, and indicate whether the contractor staff will have access to personally identifiable information or a system of records.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is on hold pending procurement of a contract.	TBD	To implement this recommendation, the bureau needs to procure a contract for Microsoft Power Apps Developer services.	N/A
13-11	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Privacy Program	9/20/2013	08	The Bureau of Information Services should develop a strategic organizational privacy plan that is multi-organizational and represents the RRB as a whole.	Bureau of Information Services	Management requested closure and is waiting for OIG's response.	Complete		N/A
13-11	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Privacy Program	9/20/2013	10	The Bureau of Information Services should develop a policy on communication between bureaus regarding changes in personally identifiable information.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
13-11	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Privacy Program	9/20/2013	11	The Bureau of Information Services should develop a policy on the use and protection of personally identifiable information in testing, training, and research.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is on hold pending further guidance.	TBD	Management is reviewing feedback from the OIG to determine next steps to resolve this recommendation.	N/A

Report Number	Report Title	Report Date	Recommendation Number	Recommendation	Bureau/Office	Implementation Status	Timeline for Full Implementation	Implementation Details	Justification for Not Taking Recommended Action
16-02	Select Financial Management Integrated System Business Process Controls Need Improvement	11/30/2015	09	The Office of Administration should implement a control to ensure program integrity of the Financial Management Integrated System key vendor data files on an ongoing basis.	Office of Administration	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A
16-02	Select Financial Management Integrated System Business Process Controls Need Improvement	11/30/2015	10	The Office of Administration should correct the discrepant vendor information identified during the ongoing program integrity reviews.	Office of Administration	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A
16-02	Select Financial Management Integrated System Business Process Controls Need Improvement	11/30/2015	11	The Bureau of Fiscal Operations should implement updated Accounts Payable procedures to coincide with the deployment of the Financial Management Integrated System enhancements for the Invoice Processing Platform.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A
16-05	Control Weaknesses Diminish the Value of Medical Opinions in the Railroad Retirement Board Disability Determination Process	3/9/2016	18	The Office of Administration should develop effective contract ramifications for instances where timeliness standards are not met.	Office of Administration	Management requested closure and is waiting for OIG's response.	Complete		N/A
16-08 PAM	Priority Audit Memorandum - Capturing Dates of Death from SSA and CMS Death Matches for Railroad Employees not Receiving Retirement Benefits	8/4/2016	01	Programs revise its SSA and CMS death matching processes to identify and store dates of death for all railroad employees regardless of whether they have applied for benefits or not.	Office of Programs	Management completed its planned corrective action and will request closure.	Complete		N/A
16-08 PAM	Priority Audit Memorandum - Capturing Dates of Death from SSA and CMS Death Matches for Railroad Employees not Receiving Retirement Benefits	8/4/2016	02	Programs perform periodic matches of these deceased individuals to RRB payment systems to identify potential fraudulent claims.	Office of Programs	No further action is planned and management will submit a final action determination.	N/A		CMS and SSA death match processes have changed since this recommendation was issued and the recommended action is no longer viable.
16-10	Railroad Retirement Board Did Not Calculate Reimbursed Medicare Costs In Accordance With Federal Requirements	8/22/2016	05	The Bureau of Fiscal Operations should work with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to update the Medicare interagency agreement and establish procedures for maintaining and updating the agreement.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Implementation is on hold pending the results of a current OIG audit.	TBD	The OIG is conducting a follow-up audit on this audit report. While this recommendation was not referenced in the scope and objectives for the audit, management will pause implementation efforts until the results of the OIG's new audit are available to ensure any planned corrective actions are consistent with the OIG's current findings.	N/A
17-04	Railroad Retirement Board Did Not Always Comply with the Federal Travel Regulation	4/11/2017	05	We recommend the Bureau of Fiscal Operations improve training provided for travelers and designated travel approvers to ensure understanding of the FTR and E2.	Office of Administration	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A

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17-04	Railroad Retirement Board Did Not Always Comply with the Federal Travel Regulation	4/11/2017	11	We recommend that Office of Administration conduct refresher training on required travel card usage requirements for travel cardholders and approvers to ensure compliance with the FTR.	Office of Administration	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A
17-04	Railroad Retirement Board Did Not Always Comply with the Federal Travel Regulation	4/11/2017	19	We recommend the Bureau of Fiscal Operations conduct refresher training for travelers and travel approvers on the FTR and RRB travel policies and procedures to ensure that travel documentation is properly uploaded and maintained in E2.	Office of Administration	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A
17-08	Railroad Retirement Board Must Take Further Action to be Compliant with Federal Records Management Directives	9/28/2017	02	The Bureau of Information Services should develop and implement policies and procedures requiring records management training for new and existing employees and contractors, as well as employees with specialized records management roles and responsibilities. Ensure training for existing employees and contractors is administered annually.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
17-08	Railroad Retirement Board Must Take Further Action to be Compliant with Federal Records Management Directives	9/28/2017	03	The Bureau of Information Services should develop and implement records management policies and procedures required for separating employees, including the detailed roles and responsibilities of the separating employee and other RRB officials. Work with the Office of Administration in implementing the policies and procedures agencywide.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
17-08	Railroad Retirement Board Must Take Further Action to be Compliant with Federal Records Management Directives	9/28/2017	04	The Bureau of Information Services should update existing policies and procedures to include explicit notification of criminal penalties that may be charged to employees for unlawful removal or destruction of agency records.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
17-08	Railroad Retirement Board Must Take Further Action to be Compliant with Federal Records Management Directives	9/28/2017	05	The Bureau of Information Services should develop and implement policies and procedures for managing and preserving records created or received using electronic messaging systems.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
17-08	Railroad Retirement Board Must Take Further Action to be Compliant with Federal Records Management Directives	9/28/2017	06	The Bureau of Information Services should develop and implement policies and procedures for metadata, enterprise rights management, and encryption considerations when transferring electronic records to NARA.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
17-08	Railroad Retirement Board Must Take Further Action to be Compliant with Federal Records Management Directives	9/28/2017	07	The Bureau of Information Services should develop supplemental records management training materials that are specific to RRB's vision, including RRB specific requirements and initiatives, and ensure the RRB records management training curriculum includes this additional content.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
17-08	Railroad Retirement Board Must Take Further Action to be Compliant with Federal Records Management Directives	9/28/2017	09	The Bureau of Information Services should develop and implement roles-based training for senior officials (as defined by NARA) to ensure full understanding of their responsibilities under the RRB's records management program. This training should also include content on actions to be taken when the senior official separates from RRB employment.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
17-08	Railroad Retirement Board Must Take Further Action to be Compliant with Federal Records Management Directives	9/28/2017	10	The Bureau of Information Services should prepare and disseminate additional training content to records liaisons on their responsibilities under the Capstone program. The training content should include practical examples of what actions the records liaisons should take to fulfill their responsibilities.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A

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17-08	Railroad Retirement Board Must Take Further Action to be Compliant with Federal Records Management Directives	9/28/2017	12	The Bureau of Information Services should ensure a comprehensive inventory of nonelectronic records, including paper and other forms of media, is performed and used to prepare or update RRB records disposition schedules. Resulting records schedules should be approved by NARA in accordance with OMB Circular A-130.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
17-08	Railroad Retirement Board Must Take Further Action to be Compliant with Federal Records Management Directives	9/28/2017	13	The Bureau of Information Services should perform a comprehensive review and update of Administrative Circular IRM-4 to ensure the roles and responsibilities of agency employees involved in records management are complete and include accurate timeframes for performing their respective duties.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
18-07	Enterprise Risk Management Process at the Railroad Retirement Board Was Not Fully Effective	7/9/2018	02	The Management Control Review Committee should implement formal internal control activities in the Current Risk Response portion of their risk profile.	Management Control Review Committee	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A
18-07	Enterprise Risk Management Process at the Railroad Retirement Board Was Not Fully Effective	7/9/2018	06	Management Control Review Committee should document and maintain current support for Risk Profile determinations.	Management Control Review Committee	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A
18-07	Enterprise Risk Management Process at the Railroad Retirement Board Was Not Fully Effective	7/9/2018	07	Management Control Review Committee should include assessable units in risk profile that are critical to the RRB's strategic goals.	Management Control Review Committee	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A
19-05	Railroad Retirement Board Write-off and Waiver Processes were not Fully Efficient, Effective, or Adequate	2/20/2019	01	We recommend the Bureau of Fiscal Operations develop or update, and implement comprehensive written policies and step by step procedures for all write-off and waiver processes, to include day to day operations, documentation and approvals, roles and responsibilities, and threshold requirements, to ensure consistency and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and guidance.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
19-05	Railroad Retirement Board Write-off and Waiver Processes were not Fully Efficient, Effective, or Adequate	2/20/2019	03	We recommend the Bureau of Fiscal Operations conduct training on new policies and procedures to ensure that decision making is consistent.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
19-05	Railroad Retirement Board Write-off and Waiver Processes were not Fully Efficient, Effective, or Adequate	2/20/2019	04	We recommend the Bureau of Fiscal Operations update Management Control Review documentation to reflect the new policies and procedures and changes in write-off and waiver processing which resulted from the migration to Financial Management Integrated System.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A

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19-08	Improvements Needed for the Unapplied Cash Process at the Railroad Retirement Board	5/16/2019	02	The Bureau of Fiscal Operations should update all control documentation (including policies and procedures, charts of controls, and other related documentation) to reflect the changes that occurred to unapplied cash as a result of the migration to the Financial Management Integrated System.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
19-08	Improvements Needed for the Unapplied Cash Process at the Railroad Retirement Board	5/16/2019	03	The Bureau of Fiscal Operations should test the updated unapplied cash controls to ensure that they are present and operating as intended.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
19-08	Improvements Needed for the Unapplied Cash Process at the Railroad Retirement Board	5/16/2019	04	The Office of Programs should update all control documentation (including policies and procedures, charts of controls, and other related documentation) to reflect the changes that occurred to unapplied cash as a result of the migration to the Financial Management Integrated System.	Office of Programs	Implementation is in progress.	July 2026		N/A
19-08	Improvements Needed for the Unapplied Cash Process at the Railroad Retirement Board	5/16/2019	05	The Office of Programs should test the updated unapplied cash controls to ensure that they are present and operating as intended.	Office of Programs	Implementation is in progress.	July 2026		N/A
19-08	Improvements Needed for the Unapplied Cash Process at the Railroad Retirement Board	5/16/2019	07	The Bureau of Fiscal Operations should develop and implement a formal reconciliation process to ensure accountability, completeness, and accuracy of unapplied cash transactions.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
19-08	Improvements Needed for the Unapplied Cash Process at the Railroad Retirement Board	5/16/2019	11	The Office of Programs should work with the Railroad Retirement Board's Bureau of Information Services to implement Overpayment Recovery Correspondence System modifications to ensure that unapplied cash historical files [carried over from prior years, and receipts disposed of (applied to debt)] are maintained for completeness and accountability.	Office of Programs	Management does not agree with the recommendation and will submit a final action determination.	N/A		Management did not concur with this recommendation when it was issued because the Financial Management Integrated System already tracks and records prior year debts and receipts to include unapplied cash historical files.
19-08	Improvements Needed for the Unapplied Cash Process at the Railroad Retirement Board	5/16/2019	13	The Office of Programs should work with the Bureau of Fiscal Operations to establish and implement control activities to ensure that the Overpayment Recovery Correspondence System Unapplied Cash Application is fully interfaced with the Financial Management Integrated System so that all unapplied cash transactions are properly processed and recorded in the Overpayment Recovery Correspondence System Unapplied Cash Application.	Office of Programs	Management does not agree with the recommendation and will submit a final action determination.	N/A		Management did not concur with this recommendation when it was issued because the Overpayment Recovery Correspondence System Unapplied Cash Application is already fully interfaced with the Financial Management Integrated System.
19-14	The Acquisition Management Function at the Railroad Retirement Board Was Not Fully Adequate or Effective	9/27/2019	02	We recommend that the Office of Administration/Division of Acquisition Management update Administrative Circular OA-14 and implement the necessary updates to align procurement procedures with current federal acquisition regulation and agency practices.	Office of Administration	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A

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19-14	The Acquisition Management Function at the Railroad Retirement Board Was Not Fully Adequate or Effective	9/27/2019	03	We recommend that the Office of Administration/Division of Acquisition Management update standard policies and procedures to clearly convey the documentation required to be maintained in the contract file in order to support the solicitation phase.	Office of Administration	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A
19-14	The Acquisition Management Function at the Railroad Retirement Board Was Not Fully Adequate or Effective	9/27/2019	04	We recommend that the Office of Administration/Division of Acquisition Management develop and implement standard checklist guidance to be included in the contract file that lists the required solicitation documentation, identifies if the documentation was applicable to the solicitation, and indicates the section in which the supporting documents are located.	Office of Administration	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A
19-14	The Acquisition Management Function at the Railroad Retirement Board Was Not Fully Adequate or Effective	9/27/2019	05	We recommend that the Office of Administration/Division of Acquisition Management update standard policies and procedures to clearly convey the documentation required to be maintained in the contract file in order to support the award and administration phase.	Office of Administration	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A
19-14	The Acquisition Management Function at the Railroad Retirement Board Was Not Fully Adequate or Effective	9/27/2019	06	We recommend that the Office of Administration/Division of Acquisition Management develop and implement standard checklist guidance to be included in the contract file that lists the required award and administration documentation, identifies if the documentation was applicable to the award, and indicates the section in which the supporting documents are located.	Office of Administration	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A
19-14	The Acquisition Management Function at the Railroad Retirement Board Was Not Fully Adequate or Effective	9/27/2019	09	We recommend that the Office of Administration/Division of Acquisition Management establish a checklist or other control process to ensure that the required conflict of interest statement is presented to vendors.	Office of Administration	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A
19-14	The Acquisition Management Function at the Railroad Retirement Board Was Not Fully Adequate or Effective	9/27/2019	11	DPG recommends that the Office of Administration/Division of Acquisition Management establish standard procedures for identifying and tracking contracts that have been physically completed.	Office of Administration	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A
19-14	The Acquisition Management Function at the Railroad Retirement Board Was Not Fully Adequate or Effective	9/27/2019	13	DPG recommends that the Office of Administration/Division of Acquisition Management review the established control process used to transmit information to the Federal Procurement Data System and update the process in order to report information more accurately.	Office of Administration	Implementation is in progress.	March 2026		N/A
19-15	The Implementation of the Disability Program Improvement Plan at the Railroad Retirement Board Did Not Result in a Fully Established Fraud Risk Assessment Process	9/27/2019	01	DP George recommended that the Office of Programs in coordination with the RRB Executive Committee establish a permanent entity within RRB responsible for continuously assessing fraud risk, implementing corrective actions, and monitoring the effectiveness of those actions as they relate to the RRB disability programs. There are two existing entities, the Fraud Prevention Task Force and the Internal Controls Assessment Team that could be considered for this designation.	Office of Programs	Management completed its planned corrective action and will request closure.	Complete		N/A
19-15	The Implementation of the Disability Program Improvement Plan at the Railroad Retirement Board Did Not Result in a Fully Established Fraud Risk Assessment Process	9/27/2019	02	DP George recommended that the Office of Programs in coordination with the RRB Executive Committee establish an on-going fraud risk assessment process that regularly gathers information about disability programs fraud risk, assesses the potential likelihood and impact, determines fraud risk tolerance, examines the suitability of existing fraud and documents the fraud risk profile specifically for the disability programs.	Office of Programs	Management completed its planned corrective action and will request closure.	Complete		N/A

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19-15	The Implementation of the Disability Program Improvement Plan at the Railroad Retirement Board Did Not Result in a Fully Established Fraud Risk Assessment Process	9/27/2019	03	DP George recommended that the Office of Programs in coordination with the RRB Executive Committee conduct risk-based monitoring tied to the fraud risk profile of the disability programs to evaluate the effectiveness of preventive activities and use the results to improve the design and implementation of fraud risk management activities within the disability programs.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
20-01	Audit of Railroad Retirement Board's Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 Submission for First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2019	11/6/2019	09	The Bureau of Bureau of Actuary and Research and Research ensure financial assistance awards containing personally identifiable information are reported in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-17-04.	Bureau of Actuary and Research	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
20-01	Audit of Railroad Retirement Board's Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 Submission for First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2019	11/6/2019	10	The Bureau of Bureau of Actuary and Research and Research ensure DATA Act file assistance award preparers obtain training over the reporting of financial assistance awards containing personally identifiable information. For example, financial assistance award should be reported at the most granular level practicable while protecting personally identifiable information. The RRB and Bureau of Bureau of Actuary and Research and Research should consider the different available Record Types as described in Appendix V.	Bureau of Actuary and Research	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
20-01	Audit of Railroad Retirement Board's Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 Submission for First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2019	11/6/2019	11	The Bureau of Fiscal Operations develop a plan to obtain an automated interface between the RRB's benefit paying systems and the RRB's financial system that would ensure the RRB is in compliance with Office of Management and Budget Management Performance.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Implementation is in progress.	September 2027		N/A
20-07	Controls over Medicare Premium Penalties and Refunds Can Be Improved	6/4/2020	01	We recommend that the Office of Programs strengthen its controls over the penalty calculation process and the accuracy of supporting data by designing, implementing, and maintaining a comprehensive Medicare premium penalty rate calculation worksheet addressing each enrollment and health plan coverage option, including disability enrollment, for use by headquarters and field office staff to document the preparation and review of penalty rates of 10 percent or greater.	Office of Programs	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
20-07	Controls over Medicare Premium Penalties and Refunds Can Be Improved	6/4/2020	02	We recommend that the Office of Programs strengthen its controls over the penalty calculation process and the accuracy of supporting data by establishing a procedure to capture and maintain claims examiner decisions and explanations including relevant supporting documentation and screen prints with each penalty rate calculation worksheet to enable timely recollection and understanding of the penalty rate decision and calculation.	Office of Programs	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
20-07	Controls over Medicare Premium Penalties and Refunds Can Be Improved	6/4/2020	05	We recommend that the Office of Programs strengthen its controls over the penalty calculation process and the accuracy of supporting data by evaluating the impact of planned system modernization efforts to determine if greater automation or other improvements can be made to the penalty rate calculation process.	Office of Programs	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A

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20-07	Controls over Medicare Premium Penalties and Refunds Can Be Improved	6/4/2020	06	We recommend that the Office of Programs strengthen its controls over the penalty calculation process and the accuracy of supporting data by updating the RL-331, Notice of Change in Health Insurance Election to include a penalty calculation summary that explains how and why the penalty rate was calculated and includes the applicable calculation decision elements, such as the dates of employment, GHP coverage period, SBI Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, birthdate, retirement date, penalty period start and end dates, and the total monthly premium to enable the beneficiary to understand the reason for the penalty decision and how it was calculated, along with instruction on how to inquire when the beneficiary identifies a possible error.	Office of Programs	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
20-07	Controls over Medicare Premium Penalties and Refunds Can Be Improved	6/4/2020	07	We recommend that the Office of Programs strengthen its controls over the penalty calculation process and the accuracy of supporting data by establishing a penalty and refund review process to include both the standard form worksheet and USTAR tracking. The worksheet and supporting calculation and documentation should be reviewed, authorized, and dated by a second claims examiner and/or supervisor (if over 100 percent) on the worksheet, and tracked within USTAR. The review authorization should attest to the accuracy and completeness of the penalty or refund calculation, electronic filing of supporting documents, and beneficiary notification and confirmation.	Office of Programs	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
20-07	Controls over Medicare Premium Penalties and Refunds Can Be Improved	6/4/2020	08	We recommend that the Office of Programs strengthen its controls over the penalty calculation process and the accuracy of supporting data by strengthening the management control review process over Medicare premium penalty and refund authorizations by determining the reasons for the undetected errors identified during the audit and modifying the review process as needed to improve the detection and reporting of similar future errors.	Office of Programs	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
21-07	The Railroad Retirement Board's Disability Briefing Document Process Was Not Fully Effective	8/16/2021	03	OIG recommended that the Office of Programs ensure that the Disability Benefits Division works with Policy and Systems to implement system modifications to D-BRIEF to ensure that the Disability Briefing Documents for decisions changed from occupational to total and permanent disabilities do not contain the incorrect statement that the (railroad) employee (applicant) was rated using Independent Case Evaluation.	Office of Programs	Management requested closure and is waiting for OIG's response.	Complete		N/A
21-08	Railroad Retirement Board Bureau of Fiscal Operations Sections' Functions Need Improvement	9/1/2021	01	WAI recommended that the Bureau of Fiscal Operations: develop and maintain comprehensive set of policies and procedures for DRS, FSS, and TS, using in-house personnel with adequate relevant expertise and experience, or outsource the task to an entity with the relevant expertise and experience.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
21-08	Railroad Retirement Board Bureau of Fiscal Operations Sections' Functions Need Improvement	9/1/2021	05	WAI recommended that the Bureau of Fiscal Operations: maintain documentary evidence of adequate periodic review of control activities performed.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A

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21-08	Railroad Retirement Board Bureau of Fiscal Operations Sections' Functions Need Improvement	9/1/2021	06	WAI recommended that the Bureau of Fiscal Operations: ensure that DRS' policies and procedures include guidance and process for developing and modifying thresholds, including those related to waivers and write-offs.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
21-08	Railroad Retirement Board Bureau of Fiscal Operations Sections' Functions Need Improvement	9/1/2021	07	WAI recommended that the Bureau of Fiscal Operations: maintain documentary evidence of adequate supervisory review of control activities around recording of transactions and reconciliations for DRS section.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
21-08	Railroad Retirement Board Bureau of Fiscal Operations Sections' Functions Need Improvement	9/1/2021	08	WAI recommended that the Bureau of Fiscal Operations: develop and maintain a comprehensive set of policies and procedures for outsourcing FSS functions.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
22-01	Audit of the RRB's DATA Act Submission for the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2021	11/5/2021	01	RMA recommended that the Office of Administration: Incorporate into their weekly practice the review of contract awards to ensure procurement awards are approved in FPDS-NG within 3 business days of the contract award signed date.	Office of Administration	Management requested closure and is waiting for OIG's response.	Complete		N/A
22-07	RRB Did Not Implement Sufficient Internal Controls in the Mobile Phones Deployed as a Result of the Pandemic	3/17/2022	01	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Information Services update their mobile phone policies to include and implement a NARA-approved records schedule and transfer procedures for electronic records associated with mobile phones.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
22-07	RRB Did Not Implement Sufficient Internal Controls in the Mobile Phones Deployed as a Result of the Pandemic	3/17/2022	02	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Information Services submit a yearly affidavit to confirm electronic records associated with mobile phones have been identified and retained until the full transition into Microsoft Azure Cloud.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
22-07	RRB Did Not Implement Sufficient Internal Controls in the Mobile Phones Deployed as a Result of the Pandemic	3/17/2022	05	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Information Services incorporate the mobile phones in an existing assessable unit and update their mobile phone policies to include documentation regarding the specific roles and responsibilities of each office overseeing the mobile phone program.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
22-07	RRB Did Not Implement Sufficient Internal Controls in the Mobile Phones Deployed as a Result of the Pandemic	3/17/2022	06	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Information Services enforce and execute a review and approval process for application and software download and restrict access to specified applications found in their RRB G-6 Rules of Behavior.	Bureau of Information Services	Management completed its planned corrective action and will request closure.	Complete		N/A
22-07	RRB Did Not Implement Sufficient Internal Controls in the Mobile Phones Deployed as a Result of the Pandemic	3/17/2022	07	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Information Services implement procedures to periodically track, log, and monitor iPhone usage and the completion of the G-6 Acknowledgement Statement.	Bureau of Information Services	Management completed its planned corrective action and will request closure.	Complete		N/A

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22-07	RRB Did Not Implement Sufficient Internal Controls in the Mobile Phones Deployed as a Result of the Pandemic	3/17/2022	08	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Information Services periodically review the mobile phone inventory for completeness and accuracy to include a comparison to RRB's personnel position index.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
22-07	RRB Did Not Implement Sufficient Internal Controls in the Mobile Phones Deployed as a Result of the Pandemic	3/17/2022	09	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Information Services Implement the use of unique identifiers between disparate data sets (e.g., mobile phone inventory, personnel position index) to facilitate comparisons and reconcile inconsistent information.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
22-07	RRB Did Not Implement Sufficient Internal Controls in the Mobile Phones Deployed as a Result of the Pandemic	3/17/2022	10	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Information Services develop and implement a records management and retention system for electronic records.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
22-07	RRB Did Not Implement Sufficient Internal Controls in the Mobile Phones Deployed as a Result of the Pandemic	3/17/2022	11	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Information Services research the capabilities of RRB's Microsoft Azure Cloud's functionality to determine feasibility of incorporating the automated records management and retention capabilities to govern the mobile phones electronic records.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
22-09	Controls Over Recoverable Unemployment and Sickness Overpayments Need Improvement	6/24/2022	01	The RRB OIG recommended that the Bureau of Fiscal Operations and the Office of Programs work together to: develop and document written policies and procedures for the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act process for debts identified for recovery from Railroad Retirement Act benefit payments, across all applicable organizational units involved in the process (both the automated and manual processes).	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
22-09	Controls Over Recoverable Unemployment and Sickness Overpayments Need Improvement	6/24/2022	02	The RRB OIG recommended that the Bureau of Fiscal Operations and the Office of Programs work together to: create and document flowcharts for the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act process for debts identified for recovery from Railroad Retirement Act benefit payments, across all applicable organizational units involved in both the automated and manual processes.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
22-09	Controls Over Recoverable Unemployment and Sickness Overpayments Need Improvement	6/24/2022	03	The RRB OIG recommended that the Bureau of Fiscal Operations and the Office of Programs work together to: determine if there are additional missing or ineffective controls in the automated and manual processes (for the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act debts identified for recovery from Railroad Retirement Act benefit payments) which would decrease the likelihood of recoveries, and develop and implement the necessary internal controls.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
22-09	Controls Over Recoverable Unemployment and Sickness Overpayments Need Improvement	6/24/2022	04	The RRB OIG recommended that the Bureau of Fiscal Operations and the Office of Programs work together to: research the unrecovered debts identified in this audit and take action to: recover them; properly record the recoveries in the Financial Management Integrated System and other applicable agency systems; and/or record the reasons why they were not recovered, and if there are legitimate reasons why they should no longer be recovered.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
22-09	Controls Over Recoverable Unemployment and Sickness Overpayments Need Improvement	6/24/2022	05	The RRB OIG recommended that the Bureau of Fiscal Operations and the Office of Programs work together to: identify the organizational unit with debtor notification responsibility and take the necessary actions to ensure that the debt notification process addressed in this audit is properly documented and maintained in agency records.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A

Report Number	Report Title	Report Date	Recommendation Number	Recommendation	Bureau/Office	Implementation Status	Timeline for Full Implementation	Implementation Details	Justification for Not Taking Recommended Action
22-09	Controls Over Recoverable Unemployment and Sickness Overpayments Need Improvement	6/24/2022	06	The RRB OIG recommended that the Bureau of Fiscal Operations and the Office of Programs work together to: ensure that Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act debtors for the debt process addressed in this audit are properly notified of the debt, as required.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
22-09	Controls Over Recoverable Unemployment and Sickness Overpayments Need Improvement	6/24/2022	07	The RRB OIG recommended that the Bureau of Fiscal Operations: implement a process to periodically monitor the status of each Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act debt transaction (adjustment type code 41) and prepare a report that contains the status of each Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act debt recoverable from Railroad Retirement Act benefits that is also to be provided to the Office of Programs to aid in their monitoring efforts of these Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act debts.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
22-09	Controls Over Recoverable Unemployment and Sickness Overpayments Need Improvement	6/24/2022	08	The RRB OIG recommended that the Office of Programs: develop and implement a process to periodically monitor the new report that the Bureau of Fiscal Operations will provide, (that will identify adjustment type code 41 Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act debts) to determine if any of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act debts need further action to recover them from the annuitants' Railroad Retirement Act benefits.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
23-01	Report on the Railroad Retirement Board's Financial Statements Fiscal Year 2022	11/15/2022	06	RMA recommends RRB Bureau of Information Services design and implement the necessary IT controls in the following five areas: 1. Security Management, 2. Access Controls, 3. Configuration Management, 4. Segregation of Duties, and 5. Contingency Planning.	Bureau of Information Services	Management completed its planned corrective action and will request closure.	Complete		N/A
23-01	Report on the Railroad Retirement Board's Financial Statements Fiscal Year 2022	11/15/2022	10	RMA recommends RRB BFO establish a process to maintain detailed corrective action plans for all internal control deficiencies. More specifically, in order to comply with the requirements of OMB A-123, RMA recommends RRB BFO: a. Communicate corrective actions to the appropriate level of the Agency and delegate authority for completing corrective actions to appropriate personnel. b. Determine the resources required to correct a control deficiency. The corrective action plan must indicate the types of resources needed (e.g., additional personnel, contract support, training, etc.), including non-financial resources, such as Senior Leadership support for correcting the control deficiency. c. Include critical path milestones that affect the overall schedule and performance of the corrective actions needed to resolve the control deficiency. Critical path milestones must lead to a date certain of the correction of the control deficiency. d. Require prompt resolution and internal control testing to validate the correction of the control deficiency. e. Ensure that accurate records of the status of the identified control deficiency are maintained and updated throughout the entire process. f. Ensure that the corrective action plans are consistent with laws, regulations, and Agency policy. g. Ensure that performance appraisals of appropriate officials reflect effectiveness in resolving or implementing corrective action for identified material	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Management completed its planned corrective action and will request closure.	Complete		N/A

Report Number	Report Title	Report Date	Recommendation Number	Recommendation	Bureau/Office	Implementation Status	Timeline for Full Implementation	Implementation Details	Justification for Not Taking Recommended Action
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	01	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Develop and document a comprehensive set of controls over the entirety of the 12(o) lien process and consolidate those controls into a singular location so that they are both easily referenced and tested.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	02	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Implement a comprehensive tracking system for 12(o) liens to ensure that all 12(o) liens are identified, monitored, and collected.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	04	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Develop policies and procedures to validate that employees are accurately differentiating between infirmaries and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act benefits subject to 12(o) liens and those not subject to 12(o) liens for beneficiaries.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	05	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Develop controls to ensure that Railroad Unemployment Claims System codes are properly updated after the report of settlement.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	06	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Update its policies and procedures to address the two 12(o) lien requirements defined in Code of Federal Regulations Title 20 Section 341.8, Termination of sickness benefits due to a settlement, dated September 8, 2006.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	07	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Formally request that railroads stop using outdated forms in the 12(o) lien process to ensure consistency and accuracy of all transactions with outside entities, and to promote a uniform 12(o) lien process.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	08	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Work with the Bureau of Field Service, to update the Field Operating Manual to correctly reference the financial management system at the time of this audit, Financial Management Integrated System, and remove references to obsolete systems, such as the Program Accounts Receivable System.	Office of Programs	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	09	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Update the Division of Program Operations Manual to correctly reference the financial management system at the time of this audit, Financial Management Integrated System, and remove references to obsolete systems, such as the Program Accounts Receivable System.	Office of Programs	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A

Report Number	Report Title	Report Date	Recommendation Number	Recommendation	Bureau/Office	Implementation Status	Timeline for Full Implementation	Implementation Details	Justification for Not Taking Recommended Action
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	12	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Develop a control to require a review of the total lien value established in the agency's financial system.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	13	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Develop controls to monitor the output generated from the automatic referral system.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	14	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Update their policies to ensure the annual status reports are sent for each case open against a railroad employer for more than three years, in accordance with policies.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	15	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Formalize a training curriculum so employees can correctly handle 12(o) lien casework and maintain the integrity of data and records on file in all 12(o) lien cases, thereby recovering all funds to which the agency is entitled to reimbursement.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	16	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Develop a method for recording the date the Railroad Retirement Board is notified of a 12(o) lien settlement.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	17	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Develop an internal control to ensure that 12(o) lien receivables are established and collected timely, in accordance with applicable criteria.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	18	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Develop an internal control to verify that all debts referenced on the daily lists generated by the RUIA Daily Claims Processing System are transferred to the Financial Management Integrated System by the Railroad Retirement Board's contracted service provider.	Office of Programs	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	19	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Update the language in its Division of Program Operations Manual to reflect terminology consistent with the lien reduction process in lieu of the term "waivers."	Office of Programs	Management requested closure and is waiting for OIG's response.	Complete		N/A

Report Number	Report Title	Report Date	Recommendation Number	Recommendation	Bureau/Office	Implementation Status	Timeline for Full Implementation	Implementation Details	Justification for Not Taking Recommended Action
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	20	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Update their policies for sending the letter requesting copies of billing documents as proof that the claimant paid the medical expenses related to the infirmity for which the employer was held liable; the letter to notify the employer that the claimant has provided evidence to result in a lien reduction; and the letter to notify the claimant of an investigation into medical expenses for a potential lien reduction to reflect the practice at the time of this audit.	Office of Programs	Management requested closure and is waiting for OIG's response.	Complete		N/A
23-05	The Railroad Retirement Board's 12(o) Lien Process Does Not Have Sufficient Controls to Identify, Monitor, and Collect Liens	8/9/2023	21	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs: Develop internal controls to require supervisory approval for the submission of the letters sent to inform inquirers of the amount of Railroad Retirement Board's claim to reimbursement once the supervisor has approved the reconciliation form calculating the amount owed by the claimant.	Office of Programs	Management requested closure and is waiting for OIG's response.	Complete		N/A
23-06	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Records and Information Management Program	9/27/2023	01	RMA recommends that the Railroad Retirement Board's Bureau of Information Services: Fully implement the corrective actions developed in response to Railroad Retirement Board's Office of Inspector General Report Number 17-08 recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 10 by the completion timeline.	Bureau of Information Services	Management requested closure and is waiting for OIG's response.	Complete		N/A
23-06	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Records and Information Management Program	9/27/2023	02	RMA recommends that the Railroad Retirement Board's Bureau of Information Services: Develop corrective action plans, to include timelines for completion, for Railroad Retirement Board's Office of Inspector General Report Number 17-08 recommendations 6, 12, and 13.	Bureau of Information Services	Management requested closure and is waiting for OIG's response.	Complete		N/A
23-06	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Records and Information Management Program	9/27/2023	03	RMA recommends that the Railroad Retirement Board's Bureau of Information Services: Establish a process to maintain detailed corrective action plans for all records and information management internal control deficiencies.	Bureau of Information Services	Management requested closure and is waiting for OIG's response.	Complete		N/A
23-06	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Records and Information Management Program	9/27/2023	04	RMA recommends that the Railroad Retirement Board's Bureau of Information Services develop action plans, with timelines for estimated completion, for the following fiscal year 2021 Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act Report program process improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Process Improvement 7: Complete a comprehensive update of the Railroad Retirement Board's Records Schedule Disposition Handbook; and</li> <li>• Program Process Improvement 8: Incorporate all new National Archives and Records Administration Digital Preservation Guidance into Railroad Retirement Board's Records Management policies and procedures by June 30, 2024.</li> </ul>	Bureau of Information Services	Management requested closure and is waiting for OIG's response.	Complete		N/A
23-06	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Records and Information Management Program	9/27/2023	05	RMA recommends that the Railroad Retirement Board's Bureau of Information Services: Create a corrective action plan to ensure requirements identified in Administrative Circular Information Resources Management 4 have been implemented.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
23-06	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Records and Information Management Program	9/27/2023	06	RMA recommends that the Railroad Retirement Board's Bureau of Information Services: Update Administrative Circular Information Resources Management 4 to include procedures that the Bureau of Information Services staff must implement in the absence of a records liaison.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
23-06	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Records and Information Management Program	9/27/2023	07	RMA recommends that the Railroad Retirement Board's Bureau of Information Services: Develop a checklist to enable Bureau Heads to be made fully aware of their responsibilities and verify that their bureau or office complies with each requirement in Administrative Circular Information Resources Management 4.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A

Report Number	Report Title	Report Date	Recommendation Number	Recommendation	Bureau/Office	Implementation Status	Timeline for Full Implementation	Implementation Details	Justification for Not Taking Recommended Action
24-01	Report on the Railroad Retirement Board's Financial Statements Fiscal Year 2023	11/15/2023	02	We recommend the RRB's Bureau of Information Services review and update: The entirety of the RRB Records Disposition Schedule including the removal of items that are no longer relevant.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is in progress.	TBD	Our efforts were delayed due to the government shutdown. We are reengaging with the bureaus/offices to review their records schedules and provide input on changes.	N/A
24-03	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Organizational Structure and Field Service Operations	2/8/2024	01	RMA recommends that the RRB's Office of Administration: Work with the Bureau of Field Service to create an agency wide capital planning report for fiscal years 2024 – 2028 that includes all field offices (in addition to headquarters) and addresses all considerations required by the Office of Management and Budget's latest Memorandum M-22-14.	Office of Administration	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
24-03	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Organizational Structure and Field Service Operations	2/8/2024	02	RMA recommends that the RRB's Office of Administration: Adequately document exemptions of the Office of Management and Budget's memorandums related to the agencywide capital planning requirement.	Office of Administration	Implementation is on hold pending hiring of critical management and/or staffing resources.	TBD		N/A
24-03	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Organizational Structure and Field Service Operations	2/8/2024	11	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Field Service: Create policies and procedures for Railroad Retirement Board employees to assist customers with limited English proficiency.	Field Service	Implementation is on hold pending procurement of a contract.	TBD	To implement this recommendation, the office needs to procure a contract for language assistance services.	N/A
24-03	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Organizational Structure and Field Service Operations	2/8/2024	13	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Field Service: Provide resources to employees to ensure access to language assistance resources.	Field Service	Implementation is on hold pending procurement of a contract.	TBD	To implement this recommendation, the bureau needs to procure a contract for language assistance services.	N/A
24-03	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Organizational Structure and Field Service Operations	2/8/2024	14	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Field Service: Provide training for employees on how to assist customers with Limited English Proficiency.	Field Service	Implementation is on hold pending procurement of a contract.	TBD	To implement this recommendation, the bureau needs to procure a contract for language assistance services.	N/A
24-03	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Organizational Structure and Field Service Operations	2/8/2024	15	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Information Services: Work with the Bureau of Field Service to develop and implement a detailed project plan to document and formally communicate project implementation steps to modernize RRB's technology to better serve its customers and carry out the agency's primary mission. At a minimum, the Bureau of Information Services should ensure the plan contains: A. Insights from the Veterans Affairs' design and implementation strategies of their online Veteran Benefits Administration benefits; B. A course of action to develop and increase availability of an advanced, comprehensive system to include online Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act and Railroad Retirement Act applications; C. Insights from the Veterans Affairs' transition to a paperless environment; and D. A course of action to ensure the use of secure login credentialing services for the railroad community such as Login.gov and ID.me.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is on hold pending further guidance.	TBD	Management is scheduling a meeting with the OIG to discuss the discuss plan of action and next steps to resolve this recommendation.	N/A
24-03	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Organizational Structure and Field Service Operations	2/8/2024	16	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Fiscal Operations: Track costs both by field office and by object class code to ensure that the costs of each of the 53 field offices and staff are readily available and determine how often the cost data will be updated.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A
24-03	Audit of the Railroad Retirement Board's Organizational Structure and Field Service Operations	2/8/2024	17	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Fiscal Operations: Establish a process to ensure the breakdown and total cost of the Bureau of Field Service is consistently monitored and reported.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Implementation is in progress.	September 2026		N/A

Report Number	Report Title	Report Date	Recommendation Number	Recommendation	Bureau/Office	Implementation Status	Timeline for Full Implementation	Implementation Details	Justification for Not Taking Recommended Action
24-04	Audit of the Utilization of Information Technology Modernization Funds at the Railroad Retirement Board as of Fiscal Year 2023	3/6/2024	01	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Information Services: Identify and document detailed project plans for their Information Technology Modernization Initiatives, to include the agency's goals, project milestones, a description of the work necessary, and designated timelines for completion, as required by the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-130's specifications for IT investment processes, including planning, budgeting, procurement, management, and assessment.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is on hold pending further guidance.	TBD	Management is determining next steps to resolve this recommendation.	N/A
24-04	Audit of the Utilization of Information Technology Modernization Funds at the Railroad Retirement Board as of Fiscal Year 2023	3/6/2024	02	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Information Services: Develop and implement a monitoring plan to track agency spending for their Information Technology Modernization Initiatives, which should include how the information technology funds were allocated, reallocated, and spent.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is on hold pending further guidance.	TBD	Management is determining next steps to resolve this recommendation.	N/A
24-04	Audit of the Utilization of Information Technology Modernization Funds at the Railroad Retirement Board as of Fiscal Year 2023	3/6/2024	03	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Information Services: Coordinate and work with the Bureau of Fiscal Operations to use existing resources to track, analyze, monitor, and report on the use of Information Technology Modernization Initiatives funding provided through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 and American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This should include setting up a centralized system/location/spreadsheet for tracking and monitoring funds and providing training for staff on how to use it.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is on hold pending further guidance.	TBD	Management is determining next steps to resolve this recommendation.	N/A
24-04	Audit of the Utilization of Information Technology Modernization Funds at the Railroad Retirement Board as of Fiscal Year 2023	3/6/2024	04	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Information Services: Establish a clear reporting structure, including the roles and responsibilities of different departments and staff members within the Bureau of Information Services to increase accountability for the tracking and monitoring of the Information Technology Modernization Initiatives funds.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is on hold pending further guidance.	TBD	Management is determining next steps to resolve this recommendation.	N/A
24-04	Audit of the Utilization of Information Technology Modernization Funds at the Railroad Retirement Board as of Fiscal Year 2023	3/6/2024	05	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Information Services: Regularly analyze the use of Information Technology Modernization Initiatives funds, to ensure they are being used effectively and to identify any potential issues. This should continue until all Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 and American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds have been obligated, returned, or expired.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is on hold pending further guidance.	TBD	Management is determining next steps to resolve this recommendation.	N/A
24-04	Audit of the Utilization of Information Technology Modernization Funds at the Railroad Retirement Board as of Fiscal Year 2023	3/6/2024	06	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Information Services: Use the new Information Technology Modernization Initiatives funds monitoring plan to conduct reviews of the funds' management process to ensure compliance with established guidelines and procedures. These reviews should identify any areas for improvement and make necessary adjustments.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is on hold pending further guidance.	TBD	Management is determining next steps to resolve this recommendation.	N/A
24-04	Audit of the Utilization of Information Technology Modernization Funds at the Railroad Retirement Board as of Fiscal Year 2023	3/6/2024	07	RMA recommends that the Bureau of Information Services: Assign a dedicated team or person responsible for monitoring the Information Technology Modernization Initiatives funds. The dedicated team/person should have the necessary resources and authority to carry out their responsibilities.	Bureau of Information Services	Implementation is on hold pending further guidance.	TBD	Management is determining next steps to resolve this recommendation.	N/A

Appendix 3:

**Closed, Unimplemented Recommendations**

Between January 29, 2025, and January 29, 2026, the RRB had 12 public recommendations designated as “closed, unimplemented.” The table below lists each “closed, unimplemented” recommendation and management’s justification for not taking the recommended action.

Audit Agency	Report Number	Report Title	Recommendation Number	Recommendation	Bureau/Office	Justification for Not Taking the Recommended Action
OIG	17-07	Improvements Needed for the Program Evaluation Process at the Railroad Retirement Board	7	We recommend that the Office of Programs revise PES' documented policies and procedures to ensure that they are complete.	Office of Programs	Closed without Implementation - No Further Action is Necessary
OIG	17-07	Improvements Needed for the Program Evaluation Process at the Railroad Retirement Board	8	We recommend that the Office of Programs formally develop and document PES' internal Office of controls needed to ensure the integrity and Programs accuracy of its operation and related results.	Office of Programs	Closed without Implementation - No Further Action is Necessary
OIG	17-07	Improvements Needed for the Program Evaluation Process at the Railroad Retirement Board	9	We recommend that the Office of Program periodically test PES' internal controls.	Office of Programs	Closed without Implementation - No Further Action is Necessary
OIG	19-05	Railroad Retirement Board Write-off and Waiver Processes were not Fully Efficient, Effective, or Adequate	2	We recommend the Bureau of Fiscal Operations develop and implement controls to ensure debt balances that can be collected are not forfeited due to automatic \$25 write-off or \$100 waiver thresholds.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Closed without Implementation - No Further Action is Necessary
OIG	20-06	Audit of Railroad Retirement Board's Compliance with Improper Payments Reporting in the Fiscal Year 2019 PAR	4	We recommend that the Bureau of Fiscal Operations perform a reconciliation of Railroad Retirement Act overpayments recapture source data to the Financial Management Integrated System when preparing the payment recapture data worksheet to ensure accurate information is published in the Railroad Retirement Board's Performance and Accountability Report's payment integrity section.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Closed without Implementation - Criteria is No Longer in Effect

Audit Agency	Report Number	Report Title	Recommendation Number	Recommendation	Bureau/Office	Justification for Not Taking the Recommended Action
OIG	21-04	Interim Review of RRB CARES Act Benefit Payments during the Pandemic	1	We recommend that the Office of Programs allocate resources for the RRB's Unemployment and Programs Support Division – Sickness and Unemployment Benefit Section to work on fraud referrals as provided in the Adjudication Instruction Manual, Part 16, and as instructed by the Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations.	Office of Programs	Closed without Implementation - No Action is Necessary
OIG	21-08	Railroad Retirement Board Bureau of Fiscal Operations Sections' Functions Need Improvement	15	WAI recommended that the Bureau of Fiscal Operations: develop a written communication framework or process that ensures that effective "two-way" communication occurs between OP and DRS on providing and receiving feedback on the status of unapplied cash.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Closed without Implementation - Bureau of Fiscal Operations Does Not have the Authority to Take the Recommended Action
OIG	23-01	Interim Review of RRB CARES Act Benefit Payments during the Pandemic	5	RMA recommends BFO report a statement of no assurance given the materiality of the NRRIT balances reported in the Balance Sheet	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Closed without Implementation - No Action is Necessary
OIG	24-01	Report on the Railroad Retirement Board's Financial Statements Fiscal Year 2023	4	We recommend the RRB's Bureau of Fiscal Operations, Audit and Compliance Section: Perform an assessment of the RRB's internal control program, identify the gaps, and implement remediation actions to address the documentation, implementation, and assessment gaps identified.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Closed without Implementation - No Action is Necessary
OIG	24-01	Report on the Railroad Retirement Board's Financial Statements Fiscal Year 2023	13	We recommend the RRB's Bureau of Fiscal Operations: Develop and implement effective controls necessary to ensure transactions recorded are United States Standard General Ledger compliant.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Closed without Implementation - No Action is Necessary

Audit Agency	Report Number	Report Title	Recommendation Number	Recommendation	Bureau/Office	Justification for Not Taking the Recommended Action
OIG	24-01	Report on the Railroad Retirement Board's Financial Statements Fiscal Year 2023	14	We recommend the RRB's Bureau of Fiscal Operations: Assess the training necessary to ensure learning objectives are met and the required skills obtained by Bureau of Fiscal Operations management and staff to ensure compliance with Treasury's United States Standard General Ledger.	Bureau of Fiscal Operations	Closed without Implementation - No Action is Necessary
OIG	24-06	Controls and Contractor Oversight of the Medical Opinion and Disability Determination Process	2	RMA recommends that the Office of Programs require a secondary authorizer to review each medical opinion.	Office of Programs	Closed without Implementation - No Action is Necessary

## AGENCY REQUEST

### Limitation on Administration

#### Explanation of Proposed Appropriation Language

##### **Appropriation language**

*For necessary expenses for the Railroad Retirement Board ("Board") for administration of the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, \$185,155,000, to be derived in such amounts as determined by the Board from the railroad retirement accounts and from moneys credited to the railroad unemployment insurance administration fund: Provided, That notwithstanding section 7(b)(9) of the Railroad Retirement Act this limitation may be used to hire attorneys only through the excepted service: Provided further, That the previous proviso shall not change the status under Federal employment laws of any attorney hired by the Railroad Retirement Board prior to January 1, 2013: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 7(b)(9) of the Railroad Retirement Act, this limitation may be used to hire students attending qualifying educational institutions or individuals who have recently completed qualifying educational programs using current excepted hiring authorities established by the Office of Personnel Management: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 7(b)(9) of the Railroad Retirement Act, this limitation may be used to hire individuals with intellectual disabilities, severe physical disabilities, or psychiatric disabilities using current excepted hiring authorities established by the Office of Personnel Management: Provided further, That of the unobligated balances of funds provided under this heading at the end of fiscal year 2027 not needed for fiscal year 2027, not to exceed \$3,503,100 shall remain available until expended for information technology improvements and investments: Provided further, That \$10,000,000 to remain available until expended, shall be used to supplement, not supplant, existing resources devoted to operations and improvements for the Board's Information Technology Investment Initiatives.*

##### **Explanation**

This budget request is for funds to administer the railroad retirement/survivor and unemployment/sickness insurance benefit programs under a single administrative account. The Limitation on Administration Account draws on the following trust fund accounts for funding: Railroad Retirement Account Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account, and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Administration Fund.

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### Agency Request Legislative Proposals

**1. Amend the annual Limitation on Administration appropriation to allow the RRB to utilize Schedule A hiring authorities.**

This language, also requested in Fiscal Year 2026, allows the RRB to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Currently, the RRB is unable to utilize hiring authority provided by Schedule A, 5 C.F.R 213.3102(u), for hiring people with severe physical, psychiatric, and intellectual disabilities because of statutory restrictions in the Railroad Retirement Act. The language below would provide the RRB with the opportunity to offer employment for people with disabilities.

*Provided further, That notwithstanding section 7(b)(9) of the Railroad Retirement Act, this limitation may be used to hire individuals with intellectual disabilities, severe physical disabilities, or psychiatric disabilities using current excepted hiring authorities established by the Office of Personnel Management.*

**2. Amend the annual Limitation on Administration appropriation to allow a limited amount of unobligated balances for Fiscal Year 2027 to remain available until expended in support of the Board's Information Technology Investment Initiatives.**

The RRB is committed to entering a multi-year effort to modernize its information technology systems with proper funding. The RRB requested similar language in Fiscal Year 2026 and again requests this language in Fiscal Year 2027 to efficiently utilize funds available for ongoing information technology improvements and investments.

*Provided further, That of the unobligated balances of funds provided under this heading at the end of Fiscal Year 2027 not needed for Fiscal Year 2027, not to exceed \$3,503,100 shall remain available until expended for information technology improvements and investments.*

**AGENCY REQUEST**

**Authorizing Legislation**

<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 <sup>a/</sup></b>		<b>Fiscal Year 2027 <sup>b/</sup></b>	
	<b>Authorized</b>	<b>Enacted</b>	<b>Authorized</b>	<b>Agency Request</b>
<b>AUTHORIZING <i>Railroad Retirement Act:</i> Sections 15(a) and 15A(c)  <i>Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act:</i> Section 11(a)</b>	Indefinite	\$127,000,000	Indefinite	\$185,155,000
<b><u>BYPASS AUTHORITY</u> <i>Railroad Retirement Act:</i> Section 7(f)</b>				

a/ This account is operating under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-75).

b/ Includes direct and no-year funding requested only. Excludes, amounts associated with reimbursements and transfers, estimated at \$29,081,471 for Fiscal Year 2027.

Section 15(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act:

"The Railroad Retirement Account established by section 15(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1937 shall continue to be maintained in the Treasury of the United States. There is hereby appropriated to such Account for each Fiscal Year, beginning with the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1975, to provide for the payment of benefits to be made from such Account in accordance with the provisions of section 7(c)(1) of this Act, and to provide for expenses necessary for the Board in the administration of all provisions of this Act, an amount equal to amounts covered into the Treasury (minus refunds) during each Fiscal Year under the Railroad Retirement Tax Act."

Section 15A(c) (1) of the Railroad Retirement Act:

"Except as otherwise provided in this section, amounts in the Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account shall be available only for purposes of paying social security equivalent benefits under this Act and to provide for the administrative expenses of the Board allocable to social security equivalent benefits. "Section 11(a) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act:

"The Secretary of the Treasury shall maintain in the unemployment trust fund established

## AGENCY REQUEST

pursuant to section 904 of the Social Security Act an account to be known as the railroad unemployment insurance administration fund. This unemployment insurance administration fund shall consist of such part of all contributions collected pursuant to section 8 of this Act as equals 0.65 per centum of the total compensation on which such contributions are based; (ii) all amounts advanced to the fund by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to this section; (iii) all amounts appropriated by subsection (b) of this section; and (iv) such additional amounts as Congress may appropriate for expenses necessary or incidental to administering this Act. Such additional amounts are hereby authorized to be appropriated."

Section 7(f) of the Railroad Retirement Act:

"Whenever the Board submits or transmits any budget estimate, budget request, supplemental budget estimate, or other budget information, legislative recommendation, prepared testimony for congressional hearings, or comment on legislation to the President or to the Office of Management and Budget, it shall concurrently transmit a copy thereof to the Congress. No officer or agency of the United States shall have any authority to require the Board to submit its budget requests or estimates, legislative recommendations, prepared testimony for congressional hearings, or comments on legislation to any officer or agency of the United States for approval, comments, or review, prior to the submission of such recommendations, testimony, or comments to the Congress."

**AGENCY REQUEST**

**Railroad Retirement Board  
Limitation on Administration  
Budget by Appropriation and Object Class  
(in thousands of dollars)**

	FY 2027 President's Budget	<i>Change</i>	FY 2027 Agency Request
<b>Agency Request, Annual</b>	<b>\$127,000</b>	<b>\$48,155</b>	<b>\$175,155</b>
<b>Total FTE Count (Including Reimbursable)</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>844</b>
<b>Total Compensation and Benefits</b>	<b>\$92,509</b>	<b>\$28,052</b>	<b>\$120,561</b>
Total Full Time Permanent (11.1)	\$65,706	\$19,889	\$85,595
Total Other than Full Time Permanent (11.3)	\$393	\$123	\$516
Total Benefits (12.1)	\$25,284	\$7,538	\$32,822
Total Other Personnel Compensation (11.5, 11.8, 12.19, 12.6, 13.0)	\$1,126	\$502	\$1,628
<b>Total Non-Pay Operations</b>	<b>\$34,491</b>	<b>\$20,103</b>	<b>\$54,594</b>
Total Travel (21.0)	\$137	\$692	\$829
Total Transportation of Things (22.0)	-	\$22	\$22
Total Rental Payment to GSA (23.1)	\$3,000	\$100	\$3,100
Total Communication, Utilities, Misc. (23.3)	\$5,871	\$1,484	\$7,355
Total Printing (24.0)	\$411	\$74	\$485
Total Other Services (25.0)	\$23,711	\$13,902	\$37,613
Total Supplies (26.0)	\$203	\$534	\$737
Total Equipment (31.0)	\$1,158	\$3,295	\$4,453
<b>Total Direct Operations</b>	<b>\$127,000</b>	<b>\$48,155</b>	<b>\$175,155</b>
<b>Unobligated Balance</b>			
<b>Reimbursable and Transfers (Medicare Parts B, C, D; Miscellaneous)</b>	<b>\$13,581</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$13,581</b>
<b>Specialty Medicare Administrative Contractor (SMAC)</b>	<b>\$15,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$15,500</b>
<b>IT Initiatives (No Year)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Total RRB Obligation (Direct and Reimbursable)</b>	<b>\$156,081</b>	<b>\$58,155</b>	<b>\$214,236</b>
<b>Total RRB Obligation (Annual and No Year)</b>	<b>\$127,000</b>	<b>\$58,155</b>	<b>\$185,155</b>

1. Salary and benefit estimates for Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request reflect a 0.0% pay increase for January 2027.
2. The Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request includes \$10,000,000 for IT initiatives (no-year funding).
3. FTE cost for Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request is \$156,533.
4. Fiscal Year 2027 reimbursables and transfer consists of \$13,069,471 for Medicare Parts B, C and D, \$15,500,000 for SMAC Transfer, and \$512,000 for miscellaneous; the SMAC transfer is not included in object class 25.0.
5. Totals may not add due to rounding.

**AGENCY REQUEST**

**Explanation of Changes  
 FY 2027 President's Budget to FY 2027 Agency Request  
 (Dollar in Thousands)**

	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Amount (\$K)</b>
<b>2027 Presidents Budget.....</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>\$127,000</b>
FTE Increase.....	176	\$28,052
Travel.....		\$692
Transportation of Things.....		\$22
Rental Payments to GSA.....		\$100
Communications, Utilities, Misc.....		\$1,484
Printing.....		\$74
Other Services.....		\$13,902
Supplies.....		\$534
Equipment.....		\$3,295
IT Modernization (No-Year Funding).....		\$10,000
<b>Subtotal Program Changes.....</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>\$58,155</b>
<b>Total Agency Request.....</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>\$185,155</b>

**AGENCY REQUEST**

**Explanation of Changes between the Fiscal Year 2027 President’s Budget and  
the Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request  
Limitation of Administration, Direct Obligations (Dollar in Thousands)**

<i>Category</i>	<i>FY 2027 President’s Budget</i>	<i>FY 2027 Agency Request</i>	<i>Change</i>
<b>Fiscal Year Program Changes</b>	<b>127,000</b>	<b>185,155</b>	<b>58,155</b>
<b>Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>176</b>
<p>The agency must increase staffing from 668 to 844 FTEs to rebuild the core capacity needed to adjudicate retirement, survivor, unemployment, and sickness claims and to safeguard the trust funds. Over the last three years, FTEs levels have fallen from 775 in Fiscal Year 2024 to 714 in Fiscal Year 2025 to an estimated 668 in Fiscal Year 2026, leaving the agency unable to keep pace with workload or advance critical IT modernization. With roughly 73 percent of the appropriated budget committed to salaries and benefits, current funding cannot both sustain existing staff and hire additional personnel required to meet mission demands. Absent this FTE increase, the RRB will be forced to defer key modernization and service-delivery improvements, increasing operational risk and limiting the agency’s ability to serve railroad workers and their families effectively.</p>			
<b>Personnel Compensation Total</b>	<b>92,509</b>	<b>120,561</b>	<b>28,052</b>
<p>Personnel compensation and benefits increase at the Agency Request. Within pay, salaries, benefits, and transit subsidies rise to meet projected personnel needs, while overtime is slightly reduced to reflect anticipated efficiencies in workload management. The Agency Request also restores funding for employee awards, which have been unaffordable for two years, and adds limited resources for permanent change of station moves, which were not funded within the President’s Budget. Workers’ compensation costs decrease modestly, reflecting updated projections.</p>			
<b>Non-Pay Program Changes</b>	<b>34,491</b>	<b>64,594</b>	<b>30,103</b>
<p>Non-pay resources in the Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request provide the IT and resources needed to enable a larger workforce and deliver the Railroad Retirement Board’s statutory responsibilities for retirement, survivor, unemployment, and sickness benefits. The request strengthens funding for critical IT and cybersecurity contracts, telecommunications and network services, facilities operations and maintenance, and key program services that directly support accurate and timely benefit payments.</p>			
<i>Travel (21.0)</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>829</i>	<i>692</i>
<p>Travel funding increases from the President’s Budget level to support essential travel associated with program oversight, field operations, and stakeholder engagement needed to administer retirement, survivor, unemployment, and sickness benefits. The request also supports in-person training and coordination activities that cannot be delivered effectively in a virtual environment, particularly as the RRB modernizes its benefit processing systems and trains staff on new tools and procedures. The agency continues to rely heavily on virtual collaboration for routine activities, reserving travel for those activities where physical presence is necessary to maintain service quality and program integrity.</p>			

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<i>Category</i>	<i>FY 2027 President's Budget</i>	<i>FY 2027 Agency Request</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Transportation of Things (22.0)</i>	-	22	22
<p>Transportation of Things funding at the Agency Request level primarily supports shipment of household goods and related PCS costs for staff moves authorized to fill critical positions. This modest increase restores capacity and ensures the agency can relocate key personnel needed to administer retirement, survivor, unemployment, and sickness benefits without interruption.</p>			
<i>Communications, Utilities, and Miscellaneous (23.0)</i>	8,871	10,455	1,584
<p>Funding for communications and utilities ensures the RRB has secure connectivity, data center capacity, and facility services needed to calculate and pay benefits accurately and on time. Telecommunications and network infrastructure contracts – including virtual private network services, Azure connectivity, managed internet protocol services, mobile phone services, wide area network services, web hosting, and unified communications – are funded as major contracts because they underpin field office and headquarters access to core benefit systems. Higher utility and facility-related costs reflect the demands of operating data centers and office space that support benefit adjudication, customer service, and safeguarding of sensitive beneficiary and earnings information.</p>			
<i>Printing (24.0)</i>	411	485	74
<p>Printing resources increase modestly to support program and beneficiary printing needs that could not be sustained at the more constrained request. The Agency Request still emphasizes electronic communication where feasible but provides modest increases to support required notices and correspondence to beneficiaries when electronic communication is not sufficient or appropriate.</p>			
<i>Other Services (25.0)</i>	23,711	37,613	13,902
<p>Other services funding rises significantly from the President's Budget to the Agency Request, driven largely by service essential to delivering and protecting RRB benefits. The request also makes substantial investments in zero trust architecture (ZTA) and Security Operations Center as a Service (SOCaaS), which are critical to protecting sensitive beneficiary and earnings data and ensuring continuity of operations in the face of rising cyber threats. In addition, core IT and cybersecurity contracts (such as Microsoft enterprise and unified support agreements, Azure usage, help desk and desktop support services, and mainframe and data-center services), enterprise business systems (including our financial system, Human Resources Information Technology (HRIT) 2.0, HRLinks, payroll services, and the Learning Management System), program and mission support services (including consultative medical services, and shared-service agreements with other federal agencies), and facilities and building services (janitorial, protective service, and maintenance contracts) provide the operational backbone needed for staff to administer retirement, survivor, unemployment, and sickness benefits effectively. Notably, LogIn.gov costs drove a significant increase to support higher volumes of myRRB benefit users and to meet stronger identity-proofing and anti-fraud requirements to help the Board manage a surge in unemployment claims, with improved identity verification and reduced processing times. Training funding increases represent the funding required to begin in restoring staff development after several years in which the RRB could fund only training that was required by law. This level supports a structured program of technical, IT, and mission-specific training needed to administer retirement, survivor, unemployment, and sickness benefits accurately and efficiently, as well as targeted leadership and compliance courses that strengthen program integrity and prepare staff to operate in a modernized environment.</p>			

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<i>Category</i>	<i>FY 2027 President's Budget</i>	<i>FY 2027 Agency Request</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Supplies (26.0)</i>	203	737	534
<p>Supplies funding increases to address rising costs of goods and materials and the need to replace items after multiple years of deferred replacement. The request also strengthens the library budget, which supports agencywide subscriptions and research services essential to program and policy work, while shifting a portion of these costs to the appropriate Other Services object class to reflect payment of several subscriptions through FedLink.</p>			
<i>Equipment (31.0)</i>	1,158	4,453	3,295
<p>Equipment funding is needed to address critical IT and facilities capital needs that directly affect the RRB's ability to deliver benefits. A major driver is the replacement of end-of-life infrastructure—including servers, routers, switches, and laptops—that staff rely on to access and operate core benefit systems. In addition, the agency's current headquarters was marked for disposition by GSA, and any relocation will require new equipment to be fully installed and tested before the move, along with the orderly removal and disposal of legacy equipment in the vacated space. These investments are necessary to maintain secure, reliable operations for retirement, survivor, unemployment, and sickness programs throughout the transition.</p>			
<i>IT Modernization</i>	-	10,000	10,000
<p>A central component is a low-code/no-code modernization platform funded with \$10 million of no-year resources, which provides the foundation for re-engineering legacy benefit-processing systems, improving automation, and reducing long-term maintenance risk. The Fiscal Year 2027 IT modernization funding request supports the development of a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) as the first step in the legacy platform's modernization. Rather than pursuing a large-scale, high-risk migration of the entire legacy system, modernization experts recommend a phased strategy beginning with the definition and delivery of an MVP. This MVP represents the smallest functional version of the solution that still provides measurable business value. By concentrating on core capabilities, the approach enables the organization to validate the technical direction, incorporate user feedback early, reduce implementation risk, and accelerate the delivery of meaningful outcomes.</p>			
<b>Total Agency Request (Annual and No Year)</b>	<b>127,000</b>	<b>185,155</b>	<b>58,155</b>

## AGENCY REQUEST

### **Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request Justification**

The Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Justification includes funding for the Limitation on Administration appropriation at the Agency Request of \$185,155,000. While the President's Budget Request is determined by the Administration, the Agency Request is developed by the Board and reflects RRB requirements to efficiently and effectively deliver statutorily required services to the nation's railroad workers and their families. The Agency Request is a budgetary estimate presented by the Board to Congress as required in Section 7(f) of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA). This language, often referred to as bypass authority, requires the RRB to provide a budgetary recommendation to the Congress; this is why an Agency Request is included in our budget documents.

#### **Funding Structure**

The RRB requests funds through the annual appropriations process and Congress sets the RRB's administrative budget, but RRB operations are funded by payroll taxes paid by rail employees and rail employers and contributions (similar to state unemployment tax) from rail employers. Rail employers and employees pay significantly higher payroll taxes, which support enhanced benefits to attract and retain a stable workforce. Most importantly, the railroad retirement system is solvent. The RRB's actuarial valuation published in June 2025 concluded that the railroad retirement system will continue to have adequate funds to pay benefits for railroad employees for the next 75 years, even under its pessimistic employment scenario. The annual appropriation allows the RRB to access the funds paid by railroad employees and railroad employers to provide direct services administering comprehensive retirement-survivor-disability annuities and unemployment-sickness benefits. These services include paying more than \$14.6 billion in benefits to about 475,000 retired employees, spouses, survivors, and disabled railroad workers during Fiscal Year 2025.

#### **Funding Request Overview**

To address the unprecedented delays in processing disability awards and post award rate adjustments caused by flat funding levels, reduced FTEs, increasingly complex IT challenges (where the RRB is dependent on over 200 COBOL applications) and to improve direct services, the Board requests \$185,155,000 for its Fiscal Year 2027 Limitation on Administration appropriation. The Agency Request of \$185,155,000 enables the RRB to improve services to the rail industry employers and employees, coordinate benefits across states and other benefit-paying agencies, and ensure constituents receive continuity of benefits across all railroad businesses. The Agency Request of \$185,155,000 funds approximately 844 FTEs and provides \$10 million for IT Modernization efforts. The 844 FTEs request is 176 FTEs above the Fiscal Year 2027 President's Budget Request of 668 FTEs with 81% or 143 FTEs of the increase attributable to the Office of Programs (75 FTEs), Bureau of Field Service (37 FTEs), and the Bureau of Information Services (31 FTEs). The RRB will prioritize hiring within the Office of Programs (claims/benefits processing for, and payments to citizens), Bureau of Information Services (operation and maintenance of information technology systems necessary to administer RRA and RUIA benefits), and Field Service (the public-facing organization responsible for guiding the nation's rail workers and their families through applying for and claiming RRA and RUIA benefits).

The additional staffing request also aligns with the recent Office of Personnel Management approved staffing plan and was coordinated with the Strategic Hiring Committee (composed of all three Board members, the Director of Administration, and the Chief Financial Officer). Increased staffing in these three areas improves direct services to the railroad community and supports our

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three strategic goals: 1) Provide Excellent Direct Citizen Services, 2) Exercise Prudent Stewardship and Fiscal Responsibility to Protect the Railroad Retirement Trust Fund System Against Fraud, Waste, and Abuse, and 3) Effectively Manage Existing Information Systems and Implement Technological Solutions to Enable Efficient Operations and High-Quality Sustainable Service Delivery. This staffing investment would begin to reverse the delays in processing disabilities, post awards, and rate adjustments.

### **Need to Reduce Backlogs and Improve Direct Citizen Services**

#### **Impacted Organizations**

Field service employees handle customer inquiries covering retirement benefits (age & service and disability), survivor benefits, Medicare coverage, Social Security benefits for railroad workers and their families, tax withholding and statements, as well as sickness and unemployment benefits. Additionally, field service employees are primarily responsible for handling unemployment applications and claims. The RRB has 53 field office locations, but due to staff shortages and budget limitations, 15 offices have two or fewer and eight offices do not have permanent managers. Offices with one or two employees are susceptible to closure due to staff availability (e.g., unplanned absence, etc.) and reduced public access. In fact, the RRB Louisville, Kentucky office was down to one employee and when the employee left the agency, budget constraints did not allow for backfilling of the position. As a result, the Louisville, Kentucky office has been closed since March 2025 to the detriment of railroaders in the region.

In addition to providing services in-office (walk-in or appointment) from 9:00am to 3:00pm local time, Field service employees use their time outside of public hours answering phone calls and responding to inquiries on a variety of topics assisting citizens (railroad workers and their dependents) in navigating critical life decisions related to RRA and RUIA benefits, as well as Social Security and Medicare benefits. We have successfully used our limited resources to address a pain point for our constituency by reducing average phone wait time to less than seven minutes. Through January 2026, the average wait time in Fiscal Year 2026 is six minutes and 22 seconds. In Fiscal Year 2025, the average wait time was six minutes and 54 seconds, representing a 76.9 percent decrease from the Fiscal Year 2024 average of 29 minutes and 54 seconds. These short wait times are in large part because when the agency had funding to invest in IT initiatives, it implemented a routing system to improve efficiency. However, longer wait times do occur during peak season from January through mid-April, the first three business days of the month, days after federal holidays, and at the beginning of the week. These delays approach two hours. In Fiscal Year 2024, the peak season average wait time was 44 minutes and 31 seconds with the longest wait recorded at one hour and 46 minutes. This improved significantly in Fiscal Year 2025, with a peak season average wait time of 15 minutes and 6 seconds with the longest wait recorded at 1 hour and 19 minutes. Further improvements to both average and maximum wait times could be achieved with additional resources to support increased staffing and allowing overtime during periods of high demand. While field offices handle and adjudicate unemployment applications and claims, all other applications and claim processing, including eligibility determinations, adjudication decisions, and benefit payments are managed by specialized headquarter units within the Office of Programs.

The Office of Programs is responsible for carrying out provisions of the RRA and RUIA to pay retirement, survivor, disability, vested dual benefits, and unemployment and sickness benefits. With reduced staff and insufficient IT funding, the Office of Programs has experienced processing delays and backlogs, including beneficiaries who are often over or underpaid for years. For example, the Office of Programs only has 14 initial disability examiners and six are retirement eligible. The

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target staffing level for this section is 35-40 initial examiners. To reach proficiency, a new examiner requires between six months and two years of training, mentoring, and close oversight. Examiners are also using outdated technology that slows the adjudication process. They must enter/exit multiple siloed programs and cannot keyword search or copy/paste from medical evidence. In addition, due to lack of funding, our agency is unable to enter into electronic health exchanges, which would allow staff to more quickly, and seamlessly retrieve medical records for our disability claimants. Backlogs and processing delays result in reduced customer satisfaction and increases in telephone inquiries and in-person service requests, which exceed the limited capacity of the Bureau of Field Service employees.

The Bureau of Information Services leads the agency's IT Modernization Program and manages all aspects of IT and information management including risk management, infrastructure services, enterprise applications, data integrity and governance, and policy and compliance. This bureau has experienced a 50% decrease in staffing since 2019 (from 130 to currently 65 employees), pausing current modernization efforts and contributing to system lapses and delays in necessary programming changes. In addition, there are only eight COBOL developers as compared to 33 in 2019. A minimum of 20 are required to adequately sustain core operations. These day-to-day, routine tasks include maintaining 215 systems supported by more than 3,200 COBOL programs, as well as overseeing approximately 800 nightly batch jobs essential to agency operations. These activities represent routine maintenance only. At current staffing and funding levels, the RRB is unable to pursue system enhancements and can only address the most critical repairs.

Additional staff in these three bureaus ensure continuity of critical benefit administration operations. Inadequate staffing levels have created backlogs and impact the accuracy of retirement/survivor, disability, and unemployment/sickness benefit payments. Further, insufficient staffing and lack of job duty redundancy led to allocating resources to satisfy federal mandates or short-term agency priorities rather than to activities promoting long-term benefits or satisfying strategic goals. Overburdened staff, outdated technology for mission-critical functions, and limited resources hinder the RRB's ability to successfully accomplish its mission and meet customer service goals.

### **Impacted Direct Services**

As an agency, we define our backlog population as matters which were not completed within our targeted processing timeframes. The processing timeframes are as follows:

- Retirement Applications – Decision within 60 days
- Survivor Applications – Decision within 60 days
- Disability Applications – Decision within 100 days
- Unemployment Applications – Decision within 10 days
- Sickness Insurance Applications – Decision within 10 days
- Income Tax Assistance Inquiries – Answered within 30 days
- Medicare Assistance Inquires – Answered within 45 days

**Retirement and Survivor Benefits:** While the RRB issues initial benefits in an accurate and timely manner, we currently have a backlog of post award adjustments of 124,525. These post award adjustments occur through a change in life event, such as employment status, which could lead to over or under payments. Of the 124,525 post award adjustments, 93,837 apply to retirement post-award actions and 30,688 apply to survivor post-award actions. We are unable to determine the average days pending in the post award workloads due to system limitations. To provide

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average days pending, staff would need to search each referral, manually calculate days pending, and then compute an overall average. The oldest retirement post award adjustment case is 11/20/2006 and the oldest survivor post award adjustment case is 9/30/2009.

**Disability Benefits:** We have a backlog of 1,706 initial disability claims and a backlog of 3,294 early Medicare (“freeze”) cases; these are follow-up actions associated with adjudicated initial disability cases and determine a disability applicant’s entitlement to early Medicare. The average number of days pending for initial disability claims is 444 days with the oldest case dating to 1/21/2022. The average number of days pending for a freeze decision is 863 days with the oldest case dating to 1/11/2019.

**Unemployment Benefits:** We do not have a backlog in our initial unemployment workload. We certify payment or release a letter of denial for these benefits within approximately 10 days after an application is filed.

**Sickness Benefits:** We do not have a backlog in our initial sickness workload. We certify payment or release a letter of denial for these benefits within approximately 10 days.

**Income-Tax Assistance Inquiries:** We do not have a backlog in our tax inquiry workload. All tax inquiries are answered within 30 days.

**Medicare Assistance Inquires:** We have a small, two case backlog in our Medicare inquiry workload. All written inquiries receive an initial response within 10 days, and we strive to issue a final response within 45 days. At this time, two cases are past the 45-day goal. These two cases have been pending an average of 109 days, and the oldest case/inquiry is dated 10/20/2025.

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### Modernization Funding Request

The RRB requests \$10,000,000 in no-year funding to procure a low-code/no-code platform essential for delivering a modern, Internet-based public portal that will enable online submission of benefits applications. Currently all RRB applications for benefits, except for unemployment, are paper based. Absent a modern, modular platform, the agency cannot reliably manage the increasing volume of claims, nor can it sustain operations dependent on a decreasing group of experts to support the legacy environment. Modernizing these mission-critical legacy systems will also require additional investment to address significant staffing shortages across the agency’s information technology and business program functions. The continued loss of institutional knowledge, and the presence of multiple single points of failure place the agency’s core mission delivery at increasing risk.

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
RRB Mission Systems Modernization – Low Code / No Code (LCNC) Minimal Viable Product (MVP)	Requirements development services -Identification of the specific low-code/no-code (LCNC) platform that best fits the RRB business model - contractor	\$1,500,000
	Identify the appropriate Module of Sickness Benefit stream - contractor	\$500,000
	Translation and development of Business processes to the LCNC platform - contractor services	\$6,250,000
	Modifications to existing infrastructure - contractor support	\$1,250,000
	Licenses	\$500,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>

The Fiscal Year 2027 IT modernization funding request supports the development of a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) as the first step in the legacy platform’s modernization. Rather than pursuing a large-scale, high-risk migration of the entire legacy system, modernization experts recommend a phased strategy beginning with the definition and delivery of an MVP. This MVP represents the smallest functional version of the solution that still provides measurable business value. By concentrating on core capabilities, the approach enables the organization to validate the technical direction, incorporate user feedback early, reduce implementation risk, and accelerate the delivery of meaningful outcomes.

The RRB will strategically select a self-contained module of the existing COBOL Sickness Benefit Stream as the scope of the initial MVP. The implementation will build, test, and deploy the MVP, then use the learnings from the experience to inform future phases of the modernization project.

A module of the Sickness Benefit Stream was selected based on the following criteria:

- **High Business Impact:** Addresses a significant operational pain point or opportunity for improvement.
- **Limited Dependencies:** Minimizes integration with other systems during the initial phase.
- **Clear Success Metrics:** Enables objective measurement of modernization outcomes.
- **Moderate Complexity:** Offers enough complexity to validate platform capabilities without introducing excessive risk.

To understand the impact of the Sickness Benefit Stream MVP, it should be noted that currently, an injured or sick railroader must file an application for sickness benefits on paper and either mail or fax

## AGENCY REQUEST

the application to the RRB. There is no capability to track the status of the application other than calling a field office, and there is no ability to electronically submit the medical forms that are completed by the applicant's provider. The long-term plan will utilize lessons learned from the MVP and move forward with a comprehensive approach to modernizing all aspects of the RRB's legacy systems.

## AGENCY REQUEST

### Funding for Major Contracts

This table displays contracts of \$100,000 or more planned for the Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request.

Object Class	Title and Description	Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request
<b><u>Information Technology</u></b>		
<b><u>IT Communications</u></b>		
23.6	Unified Communications Services	1,777,159
23.6	Web Hosting Services	900,000
23.6	Wide Area Network Services	730,090
23.6	Mobile Phones Contract	363,000
23.6	Managed Trust Internet Protocol Services (MTIPS)	350,000
23.6	Azure Connection/Internet Branch Service	260,000
23.6	Azure Connect 1	174,463
23.6	Virtual Private Network Services	127,082
<b><u>Cybersecurity</u></b>		
25.2	Cybersecurity Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA)	1,500,000
25.2	Security Operation Center as a Service (SOCaaS)	1,200,000
25.2	Risk Management	112,763
<b><u>Enterprise Applications</u></b>		
25.2	Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (Azure Actual Usage)	3,000,000
25.2	Microsoft Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft 365	986,166
25.2	Microsoft Unified Support	500,000
25.2	Microsoft Enterprise Agreement--True Up	200,000
<b><u>Mainframe Services</u></b>		
25.2	Mainframe Oper. & Transition Service-Phase zCloud	6,000,000
25.7	Configuration Manager	340,450
25.7	Global 360 Exec360 Image Manager & Process Manager	336,042
<b><u>Web Services</u></b>		
25.3	LogIn.gov through GSA	1,000,000 <u>a/</u>
25.3	Justice Cybersecurity Assessment and Management Line of Business Program - Government, Risk, and Compliance Tool	143,000 <u>a/</u>
<b><u>End User Support</u></b>		
25.2	Desktop Support Contract Services	2,500,000
25.2	IT Customer Support / Help Desk Services	2,000,000
<b><u>IT Network</u></b>		
25.2	IT Infrastructure Support Services (low-code/no-code (LCNC) modernization)	10,000,000
25.7	IT Hardware Maintenance Services	211,858
25.7	CISCO hardware/software contract FirePower Support	462,166
25.2	IT Experience Membership and Core Research Services	350,000

**AGENCY REQUEST**

<b>Object Class</b>	<b>Title and Description</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request</b>
<b><u>IT End of Life Replacement Equipment</u></b>		
31.0	Replace End-of-Life/End-of-Support - Network Equipment	1,027,000
31.0	Replace End-of-Life/End-of-Support - Laptops	600,000
31.0	Agency HQ relocation costs	2,000,000
31.0	Break/Fix Purchases for Agency Requests of IT Equipment	250,000
	<b><i>Subtotal</i></b>	<b><u>39,401,239</u></b>
<b><u>Support of Benefit Program Activities</u></b>		
25.6	<u>Medical Fees.</u> Medical exams and other tests as needed.	1,274,748
25.1	<u>Consultative Medical Services.</u> Funding will be used for medical evidence reviews concerning benefit and claim matters and preparation of advisory medical opinions.	575,210
25.3	<u>Health Unit Agreements.</u> Provides for Health Unit Agreements with Federal Occupational Health/Department of Health and Human Services.	100,000 a/
25.2	<u>Other Services.</u> Provides off-site centralized scanning services for documents. Field Service office moves.	506,732
	<b><i>Subtotal</i></b>	<b><u>2,456,690</u></b>
<b><u>Financial Management</u></b>		
25.3	<u>Payroll Costs.</u> Reimbursement to GSA for Payroll services.	450,000 a/
25.2	<u>Financial Systems.</u> Hosting and O&M.	2,300,000
25.2	<u>Peer Review.</u> Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS).	200,000
	<b><i>Subtotal</i></b>	<b><u>2,950,000</u></b>

## AGENCY REQUEST

Object Class	Title and Description	Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request
	<b><u>Administrative Support</u></b>	
25.3	<u>File Management Services.</u> Fees paid to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for storage and maintenance of files and records of the agency's active main file bank.	200,000 <u>a/</u>
25.7	<u>IT Software.</u> AVUE software for HR classification, position management and staffing process needs.	375,000
31.0	<u>Photocopiers.</u> Hi-Speed Copiers/Printers.	475,000
25.3	<u>Field Office Support Services.</u> Funding is required for field office alterations, miscellaneous and administrative support services. Reimbursable Work Authorization Services.	380,000 <u>a/</u>
25.3	<u>DCSA Background Investigations.</u> Funding is required to obtain background investigations for agency employees and contractors.	100,000 <u>a/</u>
25.3	<u>Federal Occupation Health (FOH) Interagency Agreement (IAA).</u> IAA with FOH for nurse services for the provision of licensed, Bureau of Labor certified, registered nurse for emergency services and preventive health services.	170,000 <u>a/</u>
25.3	<u>USA Staffing licenses.</u> Are for HR personnel for the purpose of automating its staff acquisition life cycle by recruiting, assessing, evaluating, certifying, selecting, and onboarding quality candidates for Federal positions.	100,000 <u>a/</u>
25.3	<u>HRIT 2.0./Core Human Capital Management (Core HCM)</u>	187,000 <u>a/</u>
25.3	<u>HRLinks.</u> Funding is required for HRLinks, which is the agency's official identity management system that also processes time and attendance.	350,000 <u>a/</u>
25.2	<u>Learning Management System.</u> For the RRB's in-house online educational/training courses and programs. Learning Management System subscription.	300,000
	<b><i>Subtotal</i></b>	<b><u>2,637,000</u></b>
	<b><u>Facility Management Services</u></b>	
25.3	<u>Federal Protective Service Costs.</u> Funding is required for protective services, billed by the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Protective Service.	2,300,000 <u>a/</u>
25.4	<u>Janitorial Services.</u> Funding is needed for janitorial services for the RRB headquarters building.	800,000
25.4	<u>After-Hours Labor.</u> Labor in excess of those allowed under Delegation of Authority.	118,200

**AGENCY REQUEST**

<b>Object Class</b>	<b>Title and Description</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request</b>
25.4	<u>Elevator Maintenance Contract.</u> Funding is needed for elevator services for the RRB headquarters building.	110,000
25.4	<u>Facilities Maintenance Contract.</u> Funding is needed for Facility services for the RRB headquarters building.	784,000
25.4	<u>Miscellaneous Building Contracts.</u> Various Miscellaneous Maintenance Agreements, Non-Recurring Repairs (Interior only), Surveys and Inspections and Recurring Repairs (Interior only).	1,164,000
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>5,276,200</u>
	<i>Agency Total</i>	<u>52,721,129</u>

a/ Contractual services provided by Federal Government agencies comprise \$5,480,000 of the agency program total.

**Employee Relocation Expenses**

	<b>Fiscal Year 2025 Actual</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request</b>
Total	\$0	\$0	\$175,000

**AGENCY REQUEST**

**Budget Authority by Strategic Goal**

<b>Limitation on Administration</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2025</b>				<b>Fiscal Year 2026</b>				<b>Fiscal Year 2027</b>			
	<b>Actual</b>				<b>Enacted</b>				<b>Agency Request</b>			
<u>Program by strategic goal</u>	<u>FTEs</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Amounts (\$)</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>FTEs</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Amounts (\$)</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>FTEs</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Amounts (\$)</u>	<u>%</u>
Strategic goal:												
1. Provide Excellent Direct Citizen Services	486	68	\$74,551,298	59	468	70	\$80,075,216	63	521	62	\$100,841,159	58
2. Exercise Prudent Stewardship and Fiscal Responsibility to Protect the Railroad Retirement Trust Fund System Against Fraud, Waste, and Abuse	143	20	\$30,764,434	25	143	21	\$31,556,808	25	222	26	\$51,433,709	29
3. Effectively Manage Existing Information Systems and Implement Technological Solutions to Enable Efficient Operations and High-Quality Sustainable Service Delivery	85	12	\$19,989,945	16	57	9	\$15,367,976	12	101	12	\$22,880,132	13
Total, direct program obligations	<u>714</u>		<u>\$125,305,677</u>		<u>668</u>		<u>\$127,000,000</u>		<u>844</u>		<u>\$175,155,000</u>	
No-Year Funding for IT Initiatives			\$0				-				\$10,000,000	
Unobligated balance			\$694,323				-				-	
Total budget authority	<u>714</u>		<u>\$126,000,000</u>		<u>668</u>		<u>\$127,000,000</u>		<u>844</u>		<u>\$185,155,000</u>	

AGENCY REQUEST

**Full-Time Equivalent Employees by Organization**

Estimate

Organization	Fiscal Year 2025 Actual <sup>1/</sup>	Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted <sup>2/</sup>	Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request <sup>3/</sup>
Chairman	4	4	5
Management	4	4	4
Labor	7	7	7
<b>Subtotal, Board</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
Secretary to the Board	2	2	2
General Counsel/Law	17	14	17
Hearings and Appeals	8	7	8
Legislative Affairs	2	2	2
<b>Subtotal, General Counsel</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>
Office of Equal Opportunity	2	2	3
Office of Programs	247	233	308
CFO/Fiscal Operations	57	53	63
Actuary Research	20	18	20
Office of Administration	57	55	70
Field Service	212	199	236
Information Services	75	68	99
<b>Total</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>844</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Amounts are rounded to the nearest FTE and reflect usage through the end of Fiscal Year 2025. The RRB's Fiscal Year 2025 budget funded 714 FTEs.

<sup>2/</sup> Reflects projected estimated FTEs as of pay period 04 ending February 7, 2026, at the Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted level of \$127 million.

<sup>3/</sup> Reflects projected FTE staffing at the Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request of \$185.155 million.

## AGENCY REQUEST

### Cybersecurity Priorities

The RRB's overall cybersecurity program requires both Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding (\$2,979,984) and Development, Modernization and Enhancement (DME) funding (\$2,700,000) for a total of \$5,679,984. At the Agency Request Level, the RRB will focus its Fiscal Year 2027 Cybersecurity investment priorities in the areas detailed below.

#### ***Defend Critical Infrastructure (NCS Pillar 1) (\$2,700,000)***

The RRB would like to modernize its legacy IT systems and 200+ legacy applications which directly enable its mission. As such, the RRB is developing and integrating a strategic approach to implementing cybersecurity controls that secure our organization by eliminating implicit trust and continuously validating every stage of network interaction. Rooted in the principle of "never trust, always verify," the RRB's Zero Trust strategy will be designed to protect our current environment, and as we modernize, our future environments enabling a digital transformation by using strong authentication methods, leveraging network segmentation, preventing lateral movement, providing layer 7 threat prevention, and simplifying granular, "least access" policies. As the RRB modernization strategy evolves, our Zero Trust strategy will also evolve to align with those requirements.

At the Agency Request level, the RRB will have \$1,500,000 available to fund this critical initiative. The goal is to advance RRB's Zero Trust maturity across Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) pillars of Identity, Devices, and Data by integrating Microsoft (MS) security technologies to reach Advanced and Optimal levels. The RRB has secured cloud and on premise systems using MS Defender for Cloud, MS Sentinel, Azure ARC, and Azure Monitor and plans to enhance these capabilities. No funding was available in Fiscal Year 2025. In Fiscal Year 2026, the RRB is piloting Zscaler (Advanced Network Protection) in the CISA Continuous Diagnostic and Mitigation (CDM) program in partnership with CISA to expand the RRB's Zero Trust (ZTA) capabilities. Failure to fund ZTA will increase cybersecurity risk by sustaining ineffective perimeter-based controls against credential compromise and lateral movement, constrain improvement of Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) core metrics (access control, continuous monitoring, incident response), and raise audit, detection, and mission disruption risk.

The RRB will continue participating in shared security technologies, including active engagement with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation program to ensure up-to-date technologies are implemented and agency requirements are funded. In accordance with E.O. 14028, "*Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity* (May 12, 2021)," the RRB will obtain in Fiscal Year 2026 cyber security services through the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Security Operations Center as a Service (SOCaaS) service. Currently, the RRB has an internal SOC with a staff of four. Failure to fund SOCaaS at \$1,200,000 will limit continuous monitoring and incident response capabilities, increasing the likelihood of delayed threat detection and prolonged containment. This directly impedes advancement of FISMA Core Metrics for Incident Response and Continuous Monitoring from Consistently Implemented to Managed and Measurable, elevating audit and operational risk. Without SOCaaS, the Agency remains more vulnerable to credential compromise, data loss, and evolving cyber threats. No funding was available in Fiscal Year 2025 or Fiscal Year 2026.

AGENCY REQUEST

**Budget Authority by Fund**

<b>Railroad Retirement Program</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2025 Actual</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request</b>
<hr/>			
<u>Direct Program:</u>			
Railroad Retirement Account	\$85,962,915	\$88,071,643	\$128,049,661
Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account	\$21,269,925	\$20,559,077	\$30,324,520
Total, direct railroad retirement program obligations	\$107,232,840	\$108,630,720	\$158,374,181
<b>Railroad Unemployment and Sickness Insurance Program</b>			
<u>Direct Program:</u>			
Railroad Unemployment Insurance Administration Fund	\$18,072,837	\$18,369,280	\$26,780,819
Total, direct railroad retirement, unemployment, and sickness insurance obligations	\$125,305,677	\$127,000,000	\$185,155,000
Unobligated balance	\$694,323	---	---
<b>Total, direct railroad retirement, unemployment and sickness insurance budget authority</b>	<b>\$126,000,000</b>	<b>\$127,000,000</b>	<b>\$185,155,000</b>

Note.—This account is operating under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (*P.L. 119-75*).

The source of funds for the unobligated balance from Fiscal Year 2025 is as follows: (1) Railroad Retirement Account \$476,323, (2) Social Security Benefit Account \$117,857, (3) Railroad Unemployment Insurance Administration Fund \$100,142. Total may not add due to rounding.

**AGENCY REQUEST LEVEL**

**Financing**

	<b>Fiscal Year 2025 Actual</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request</b>
<b>Financing</b>			
Total, direct program obligations	\$125,305,677	\$127,000,000	\$175,155,000
No Year Funding for IT Initiatives	0	0	10,000,000
Unobligated balance	694,323	---	---
Limitation	\$126,000,000	\$127,000,000	\$185,155,000

**Relation of direct program obligations to outlays**

Obligations incurred, net	\$125,305,677	\$127,000,000	\$185,155,000
Obligated balance, start of year	0	29,948,296	29,948,296
Obligated balance, end of year	(29,948,296)	(29,948,296)	(29,948,296)
Outlays from limitation	\$96,357,381	\$127,000,000	\$185,155,000

Notes: Funds to administer the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act are combined into a single administrative account. Funds to administer the Railroad Retirement Act are transferred from the Railroad Retirement Account and the Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account to the Limitation on Administration. Funds required to administer the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act are transferred from the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Administration Fund to the Limitation on Administration.

Note.—This account is operating under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (*P.L. 119-75*).

The financial operations of the Limitation on Administration can also be expressed in sources and uses of funds table as shown below.

**Sources and Uses of Funds**

	<b>Fiscal Year 2025 Actual</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request</b>
<b>Direct program sources</b>			
Appropriation	\$126,000,000	\$127,000,000	\$175,155,000
No-Year Funding for IT Initiatives	---	---	10,000,000
Available from benefit trust funds by Congressional appropriation	\$126,000,000	\$127,000,000	\$185,155,000
<b>Direct program uses</b>			
Administrative expenses	\$125,305,677	\$127,000,000	\$175,155,000
No-Year Funding for IT Initiatives	---	---	10,000,000
Unobligated balance	694,323	---	---
<b>Total uses:</b>	<b>\$126,000,000</b>	<b>\$127,000,000</b>	<b>\$185,155,000</b>

Note.—This account is operating under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (*P.L. 119-75*).

The source of funds for the unobligated balance from Fiscal Year 2025 is as follows: (1) Railroad Retirement Account \$476,323, (2) Social Security Benefit Account \$117,857, (3) Railroad Unemployment Insurance Administration Fund \$100,142; totals may not add due to rounding.

**Amounts Available for Obligation**

	<b>Fiscal Year 2025 Actual</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2026 Enacted</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 Agency Request</b>
Appropriation	\$126,000,000	\$127,000,000	\$175,155,000
No-Year Funding for IT Initiatives	---	---	10,000,000
Unobligated balance	694,323	---	---
<b>Total direct obligations a/</b>	<b>\$125,305,677</b>	<b>\$127,000,000</b>	<b>\$185,155,000</b>

a/ The RRB also received reimbursements and transfers totaling \$31.901 million in Fiscal Year 2025 and expects to receive \$30.453 million in Fiscal Year 2026, and \$29.081 million in Fiscal Year 2027 from CMS and others.

Note.—This account is operating under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (*P.L. 119-75*).

**Appropriations History Table**

**Limitation On Administration**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Agency Request</b>	<b>House Allowance</b>	<b>Senate Allowance</b>	<b>Appropriation/ Continuing Resolution</b>	
2018	147,841,000	113,500,000	114,500,000	123,500,000	a/
2019	142,506,000	126,000,000	123,500,000	123,500,000	b/
2020	137,216,000	135,500,000	123,500,000	123,500,000	c/
2021	155,824,000	126,500,000	120,225,000	123,500,000	d/
2022	148,371,000	130,049,000	125,049,000	124,000,000	e/
2023	151,409,000	131,666,000	135,400,000	128,000,000	f/
2024	173,744,000	103,000,000	128,000,000	126,000,000	g/
2025	172,331,000	100,000,000	129,000,000	126,000,000	h/
2026	170,615,000	126,000,000	126,000,000	127,000,000	i/
2027	185,155,000 j/				

a/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141).

b/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 115-245).

c/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-94).

d/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260).

e/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-113).

f/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328).

g/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-47).

h/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (P.L. 119-4).

i/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Full-Year Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-75).

j/ The Agency Request was revised from \$185,031,000 in the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Submission to \$185,155,000 and includes \$10,000,000 for IT Modernization.

# PERFORMANCE

# PLAN



*Fiscal Year 2027*

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**Railroad Retirement Board**

**Agency Request**

## **Railroad Retirement Board – Performance Plan**

### **Introduction**

The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) developed this performance plan to support our mission (see mission statement on the following page) and to communicate our intentions for meeting challenges and seeking opportunities. This plan will be used to hold managers accountable for achieving program results, as well as improving program effectiveness and public accountability by promoting a continued focus on results, service quality, and customer satisfaction. This plan will help managers improve service delivery by requiring they plan to meet program objectives.

This plan is closely linked to our Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2026 - 2030 and can be easily cross-referenced. The performance plan provides detailed performance goals, performance indicators and target levels to guide agency managers. It also communicates our performance expectations to stakeholders, including the railroad community, the Administration, the Congress, and other government agencies.

The RRB's strategic and performance goals are presented in the sections following our mission statement. Information on anticipated performance is provided at the Agency Request Level. To provide for ongoing improvement in performance and accountability, we will continue to set programmatic goals that are aggressive, realistic, and accurately measured. We will also ensure planned improvements are transparent, result in meaningful outcomes, and agency managers are accountable for achieving performance goals.

We will also prepare and submit to the President and the Congress a report on program performance for Fiscal Year 2027, as part of our Performance and Accountability Report. The RRB's Office of Inspector General (OIG) will review the report to help ensure the reliability and utility of our performance information. The reported information will be derived from agency systems, and the performance goals and indicators will be compared to actual program performance. This performance budget meets the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Modernization Act and was prepared by RRB employees.

***RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD  
MISSION STATEMENT***

*The RRB's mission is to administer retirement/survivor and unemployment/sickness insurance benefit programs for railroad workers and their families under the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act. These programs provide income protection during old age and in the event of disability, death or temporary unemployment and sickness. The RRB also administers aspects of the Medicare program and has administrative responsibilities under the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code.*

*In carrying out its mission, the RRB will pay benefits to the right people, in the right amounts, in a timely manner, and will take appropriate action to safeguard our customers' trust funds. The RRB will treat every person who comes into contact with the agency with courtesy and concern, and respond to all inquiries promptly, accurately and clearly.*

## **Railroad Retirement Board - Fiscal Year 2027 Performance Plan**

### ***Strategic Goal I: Provide Excellent Direct Citizen Services.***

Our mission statement reflects our intention to pay benefits in a correct and timely manner. However, in addition to this focus on performance, we also aim to satisfy our constituents' expectations for high-quality service by providing a variety of delivery options and personalized attention. This includes expanded use of online, web-based services and a nationwide toll-free telephone number for inquiries and services. The RRB has developed the following objectives to meet this crucial goal. We aim to satisfy our customers' expectations for quality service in terms of service delivery options and levels and manner of performance. At the Agency Request level, we plan to allocate \$100,841,159 including 521 FTEs to functions that directly support benefit delivery, such as case development, benefit adjudication, post-award reviews, payment system operations, and customer service. This strategic goal includes two objectives: 1) pay benefits timely and 2) provide effective and efficient service delivery options.

### ***Strategic Goal II: Exercise Prudent Stewardship and Fiscal Responsibility to Protect the Railroad Retirement Trust Fund System Against Fraud, Waste, and Abuse.***

The RRB is committed to fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities to the rail community. At the Agency's Request level, we would plan to allocate \$51,433,709 including 222 FTEs to stewardship. This strategic goal includes five objectives: 1) effectively manage the railroad retirement system trust funds, 2) ensure the accuracy and integrity of benefit programs, 3) implement the federal merit hiring plan, 4) effectively carry out responsibilities with respect to the NRRIT, and 5) rightsizing the agency's real estate footprint.

### ***Strategic Goal III: Effectively Manage Existing Information Systems and Implement Technological Solutions to Enable Efficient Operations and High-Quality Sustainable Service Delivery.***

At the Agency Request level, we plan to allocate \$22,880,132 including 101 FTEs to this strategic goal. This strategic goal is led by the RRB's Bureau of Information Services (BIS), whose staff levels have declined by approximately 50% since 2019. This loss of institutional knowledge has hindered our ability to manage daily operations and stalled modernization efforts. Accordingly, the following objectives seek to help the agency effectively prioritize the efforts of its limited staff to continue paying Railroad Retirement Act and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act benefits to the American rail employees and their families, as well as making progress toward Presidential priorities working within our appropriation. This strategic goal includes four objectives: 1) effectively manage the RRB's hybrid IT environment, 2) identify and pursue technological solutions to minimize long-term operational risks and enable efficient service delivery, 3) explore use of AI to increase the efficiency and cost effectiveness of RRB operations, and 4) effectively secure the RRB's information systems.

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2027 Performance Plan	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Agency Request
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL I: Provide Excellent Direct Citizen Services.</b>						
<b>Strategic Objective: Pay benefits timely.</b>						
Goal leader for objectives I-A-1 through I-A-5; I-A-7 and I-A-8: Jebby Rasputnis, Director of Programs						
Goal leader for objective I-A-6: Mark Blythe, Director of Field Service						
Goal leader for objective I-A-9: Spiridoula Mavrothalasitis, Director of Hearings and Appeals						
I-A-1. RRB makes a decision to pay or deny a railroad retirement employee or spouse initial annuity application within 35 days of the annuity beginning date, if advanced filed. (Measure: % ≤ 35 days).	96.7%	96.4%	98.0%	98.60%	94.0%	98.0%
I-A-2. RRB makes a decision to pay or deny a railroad retirement employee or spouse initial annuity application within 60 days of the date the application was filed. (Measure: % ≤ 60 days).	96.7%	96.4%	98.3%	99.10%	94.0%	99.0%
I-A-3. RRB makes a decision to pay, deny or transfer to SSA an initial annuity application for a railroad retirement survivor not already receiving a benefit within 60 days of the annuity beginning date, or date filed (whichever is later). (Measure: % ≤ 60 days).	91.9%	96.6%	97.8%	97.40%	94.0%	98.0%
I-A-4. RRB makes a decision to pay, deny or transfer to SSA an initial annuity application for a railroad retirement survivor already receiving the benefits as a spouse within 30 days of the RRB's receipt of first notice of the employee's death. (Measure prior to Fiscal Year 2024: % < 30 days. Measure Fiscal Year 2024 and later: % ≤ 35 days).	95.8%	96.8%	99.4%	98.80%	94.0%	99.0%
I-A-5. RRB makes a decision to pay or deny a lump sum death benefit within 60 days of the date the application was filed. (Measure: % ≤ 60 days).	94.4%	99.2%	99.4%	97.60%	95.0%	98.0%
I-A-6. RRB certifies a payment or releases a letter of denial of UI or SI benefits within 10 days of the date RRB receives the claim. (Measure: % ≤ 10 days).	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.90%	98.5%	99.9%
I-A-7. RRB makes a decision to pay or deny a benefit for a disabled applicant or family member within 100 days of the date the application is filed. (Measure: % ≤ 100 days).	12.6%	8.0%	10.3%	11.60%	10.0%	15.0%
I-A-8. RRB makes a payment to a disabled applicant within 25 days of the date of decision or earliest payment date, whichever is later. (Measure: % < 25 days).	89.4%	92.6%	92.8%	96.00%	91.0%	95.0%
I-A-9. Reduce the number of days elapsed between the date the appeal is filed and a decision is rendered. (Measure: Average elapsed days).	174	204	303	329	275	450

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2027 Performance Plan		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Agency Request
<b>Strategic Objective: Provide Effective and Efficient Service Delivery Options.</b>							
Goal leader for objectives: I-B-1 and I-B-2: Jebby Rasputnis, Director of Programs							
Goal leader for objectives: I-B-3 and I-B-4: Robert De Luca, Chief Information Officer							
I-B-1. Offer electronic options to our customers, allowing them alternative ways to perform primary services via the Internet or interactive voice response systems. (Measure: Number of services available through electronic media).		19 services available	19 services available	20 services available	20 services available	20 services available	24 services available
I-B-2. Enable employers to use the Internet to conduct business with the RRB, in support of the Government Paperwork Elimination Act. (Measures: Percentage of employers who use electronic media to file reports; number of services available through electronic media).	a) Employers using ERS	99.3%	96.0%	99.6%	99.10%	99.10%	99.90%
	b) Internet Services	31 Internet services available	31 Internet services available	31 Internet services available	31 Internet services available	31 Internet services available <u>12/</u>	35 Internet services available
I-B-3. Complete the Technology Modernization Fund Citizen Centric On-Line Self-Services (CCOSS) project to add new self-service options (i.e., change of address, change of deposit, fully automated sickness application process).		New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	100% - Change of address for RRA  100% - Direct deposit change for RRA  Strategic direction change to no longer include the fully automated sickness application process in this project	Performance Indicator Complete and Closed Starting FY 27
I-B-4. Deliver – Meet Customer Expectations. WWW.RRB.GOV Internet Services (Mainline and Employer Reporting System) Continuous availability experienced by End users.	a) Continuous availability target	99.17%	99.00%	99.72%	99.66%	99.00%	99.00%
	b) Average hours of outage allowed per month	5.79 hours	7.00 hours	4.08 hours	1.75 hours	< 7 hours	< 7 hours
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL II: Exercise Prudent Stewardship and Fiscal Responsibility to Protect the Railroad Retirement Trust Fund System Against Fraud, Waste, and</b>							
<b>Strategic Objective: Effectively Manage the Railroad Retirement System Trust Funds.</b>							
Goal leader: Shawna R. Weekley, Chief Financial Officer							
II-A-1. Debts will be collected through billing, offset, reclamation, referral to outside collection programs, and a variety of other collection efforts. (Measure: Total overpayments recovered in the fiscal year / total overpayments established in the fiscal year.)		89.35%	88.53%	88.27%	90.10%	85.00%	88.00%

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2027 Performance Plan	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Agency Request	
<b>Strategic Objective: Ensure the Accuracy and Integrity of Benefit Programs.</b>							
Goal leader II-B-1(a)(b) and II-B-3 through II-B-9: Jebby Rasputnis, Director of Programs							
Goal leader II-B-2(a): Mark Blythe, Director of Field Service							
Goal leader II-B-2(b): Jebby Rasputnis, Director of Programs							
II-B-1. Achieve a railroad retirement benefit payment accuracy rate of at least 99%. <u>5</u> (Measure: Percent accuracy rate).	a) Initial payments	99.90%	99.95%	99.92%	99.87% <u>6</u>	99.00%	99.80%
	b) Sample post recurring payments	99.68%	FY 2023 Post Study Suspended	98.08%	99.78% <u>6</u>	97.00%	97.80%
II-B-2. Achieve a railroad unemployment/ sickness insurance benefit payment accuracy rate of at least 99%. <u>5</u> (Measure: Percent accuracy rate).	a) Unemployment	96.90%	96.82%	99.10% <u>7</u>	Not Available	93.00% <u>8</u>	95.00%
	b) Sickness	98.5%	100.0%	97.21% <u>7</u>	Not Available	95.00%	97.00%
II-B-3. Overall Initial Disability Determination Accuracy. (Measure: % of Case Accuracy).		80.6%	93.1%	91.7%	Not Available	90.00%	95.00%
II-B-4. Maintain the level of Railroad Retirement Act (RRA) improper payments below the OMB threshold. (Measure: Below 1.5%).		N/A <u>9</u>	N/A <u>9</u>	N/A <u>9</u>	N/A <u>9</u>	N/A <u>9</u>	N/A <u>9</u>
II-B-5. Continue effective program integrity efforts. Achieve a return of at least \$3.60 for each dollar spent on program integrity activities and continue effective program integrity efforts. (Measure: Recoverables and savings per dollar spent).		\$6.99: \$1.00	\$8.62: \$1.00	\$6.68: \$1.00	Not Available	\$5.00: \$1.00	\$6.00: \$1.00
II-B-6. Reduce the pending level of total retirement case general referrals by at least 10%. (Measure: Pending level on last day of prior fiscal year as compared to last day of measured fiscal year).		New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	5.0% <u>10</u>	12.0%
II-B-7. Reduce the pending level of Social Security retirement referrals by at least 10%. (Measure: Pending level on last day of prior fiscal year as compared to last day of measured fiscal year).		New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	5% <u>10</u>	12.0%
II-B-8. Reduce the pending level of cases referred out of retirement mass adjustments (COLA and RESCUE cases) by at least 10%. (Measure: Pending level on last day of prior fiscal year as compared to last day of measured fiscal year).		New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	5% <u>10</u>	12.0%
II-B-9. Reduce the pending level of total survivor case referrals by at least 25%. (Measure: Pending level on last day of prior fiscal year as compared to last day of measured fiscal year).		New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	15% <u>10</u>	25.0%
<b>Strategic Objective: Implement the Federal Merit Hiring Plan</b>							
Goal leader: Jack Schreiberman, Director Office of Administration							
II-C-1. Track progress towards reporting and recruitment based on merit, skill, and constitutional dedication to better serve railroad workers and their families. (Measure: Percent complete).		New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	66%	100%

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2027 Performance Plan	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Agency Request
<b>Strategic objective: Effectively Carry Out Responsibilities with Respect to the NRRIT.</b>						
Goal leader: Ana M. Kocur, General Counsel						
II-D-1. Timely review information reported by the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust to carry out RRB's oversight responsibility under section 15(j) (5) (F) of the Railroad Retirement Act. Reports are to be reviewed within 30 days of receipt. (Measure: Yes/No).	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Strategic objective: Rightsizing the Agency's Real Estate Footprint</b>						
Goal leaders: Jack Schreibman, Director Office of Administration and Mark Blythe, Director of Field Service						
II-E-1. Provide timely responses to GSA regarding spacing needs for the RRB's HQ, OLA, and field offices, to facilitate continuity of citizen services and cost-effective space utilization across all locations. (Measure: Yes/No).	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	Yes	Yes
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL III: Effectively Manage Existing Information Systems and Implement Technological Solutions to Enable Efficient Operations and High-Quality Sustainable Service Delivery.</b>						
<b>Strategic Objective: Effectively Manage the RRB's Hybrid IT Environment.</b>						
Goal Leader: Robert De Luca, Chief Information Officer						
III-A-1. Deliver – Deliver on Budget. Percent of IT Projects costs within 10% of budgeted cost.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	85.0%	85.0%
III-A-2. Plan finalized to manage the RRB's legacy IT environment that considers both operational risks and funding limitations to enable prioritized resource allocation to sustain core operations. After plan approval, the RRB will track its progress toward the milestones, key projects and risk mitigation measures set forth in the plan. (Measure: Yes/No).	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	Draft Plan Complete: Yes	Final Plan Approval: Yes Complete 1st Milestone: Yes
<b>Strategic Objective: Identify and Pursue Technological Solutions to Minimize Long-Term Operational Risks and Enable Efficient Service Delivery.</b>						
Goal Leader: Robert De Luca, Chief Information Officer						
III-B-1. Comprehensive Modernization Plan finalized and approved by agency leadership and Board; inclusive of milestone-level and project-level performance measures to improve service delivery for 675,000+ constituents. (Measure: Yes/No).	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	Benchmark Peer Group Options: Yes	Draft Plan Complete: Yes
<b>Strategic Objective: Explore Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Increase the Efficiency and Cost Effectiveness of RRB Operations.</b>						
Goal Leader: Robert De Luca, Chief Information Officer						
III-C-1. Explore Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	Identify and document at least 5 high-impact business use cases.	Assess pilot outcomes to inform broader AI adoption strategy consistent with M-25-21
<b>Strategic Objective: Effectively Secure the RRB's Information Systems.</b>						
Goal Leader: Robert De Luca, Chief Information Officer						
III-D-1. Innovate – Design for Modularity. Strategy for Continuity of Operations Improvements.	Microsoft Azure Cloud: Yes	Microsoft Azure Cloud: Yes	Decommission Legacy Disaster Recovery Site: Yes	Table Top Exercise: Yes	Table Top Exercise: Yes	Table Top Exercise: Yes

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2027 Performance Plan		2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Agency Request
III-D-2. Enforce multi-factor authentication (MFA) for 100% of privileged and general users. (Zero Trust – Identity).		New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	100.0%	100.0%
III-D-3 - Zero Trust.	a) Secure remote access via Virtual Private Network (VPN) and encrypted endpoints. (Zero Trust – Access)	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	Complete Pilot: Yes	Complete Implementation: Yes
	b) Enhance network protection through Intrusion Prevention System (IPS), Network Access Control (NAC), Security Information and Event Management (SIEM).	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	Complete Pilot: Yes	Complete Implementation: Yes
	c) (Zero Trust – Applications and Workloads): Strive to secure applications from unauthorized users and ensure continuous visibility of the workload at any given time.	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	Complete Pilot: Yes	Complete Implementation: Yes
	d) (Zero Trust – Data): Strive to enforce strict authentication, least-privileged access, and real-time monitoring and data classification to protect data to reduce data breach risks and adhere to compliance.	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	New Performance Goal for 2026	Complete Pilot: Yes	Complete Implementation: Yes

## Footnotes

- <sup>1/</sup> Fiscal Year 2025 actual results represent status as of September 30, 2025, unless otherwise reported.
- <sup>2/</sup> Planned amounts reflect the Fiscal Year 2026 performance targets shown in the RRB's Congressional Justification of Budget Estimates, released June 24, 2025.
- <sup>3/</sup> Fiscal Year 2025 amount includes \$126 million for the Limitation on Administration Account.
- <sup>4/</sup> Fiscal Year 2026 amount includes \$127 million for the Limitation on Administration Account.
- <sup>5/</sup> The payment accuracy rate is the percentage of dollars paid correctly as a result of adjudication actions performed.
- <sup>6/</sup> Fiscal Year 2025 actual results represent status as of March 31, 2025.
- <sup>7/</sup> Fiscal Year 2024 actual results represent status as of December 31, 2023.
- <sup>8/</sup> Fiscal Year 2026 estimate reduced due to all time low field office staffing.
- <sup>9/</sup> The RRA program is in a three-year risk assessment cycle and operates under Phase 1 guidelines of OMB Circular A-123, Appendix C. The latest risk assessment was conducted in Fiscal Year 2023 and concluded the RRA program consistently remained below the threshold for significant improper payments under the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (PIIA). In their audit of the PIIA, the OIG concluded the program was compliant. The next risk assessment is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2026.
- <sup>10/</sup> New goals II-B-6 through II-B-9 measure year over year progress across all post adjudication workloads and reflect absolute percentages.
- <sup>11/</sup> Goal created for Fiscal Year 2026 not included in the RRB's Congressional Justification of Budget Estimates, released June 24, 2025.
- <sup>12/</sup> Fiscal Year 2026 estimate reduced from 35 services to 31 services. Reduction in goal due to RRB's need in Fiscal Year 2025 to focus on significant developer resource and key modernization efforts; these projects restricted growth in this area due to lack of resources.