



**\*Breaking News\***

# **Medicare and Social Security Will Run Out Sooner Than Thought**

ABC News reports: The country's benefit programs for the elderly – Medicare and Social Security – will be exhausted sooner than thought due to the late 2000s economic downturn, the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees said today.

Medicare's Hospital Insurance Fund is projected to exhaust its funds in 2020, four years sooner than last year's estimate, and Social Security will be exhausted in 2035, a year earlier than previously thought, the trustees announced.

"Social Security and Medicare benefits are secure today, but reform will be needed so they will be there for current and future retirees," Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner told reporters at a Treasury Department news conference.

Geithner said the report underscores "the need to act sooner rather than later" to make reforms to entitlement programs.