

## **Challenges We Are Addressing**

Our Nation faces enormous challenges to the health and well-being of our citizens. The challenges we face are both programmatic and administrative. The programmatic issues may get more public attention, but the administrative infrastructure issues are vital to the efficient delivery of health and social services. We face myriad challenges, and we list a few below.

### **Programmatic Challenges**

- Responding to the threat of bio-terrorism.
- Responding to the threat of cyber-terrorism.
- Advancing our medical knowledge about treating and preventing infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS.
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and non-smoking to prevent chronic health problems such as cancer and heart disease.
- Providing health care to the uninsured and underinsured.
- Ensuring the privacy of medical records.
- Ensuring safe, quality childcare for parents who work.
- Ensuring Medicare trust fund solvency.
- Working to reduce the incidence of deaths and injuries from drug interactions and medical errors.

### **Administrative Challenges**

- Planning for workforce changes in the short term, when a significant portion of the workforce is eligible for retirement.
- Enhancing our information systems capabilities and electronic commerce interfaces.
- Obtaining “clean” financial statement audit opinions in future years.
- Continuing our advances in electronic commerce.
- Overcoming data issues for measuring performance such as the complexity of data systems, the timeliness of data, lack of resources for data, vast range of sources of data and the inherent variability of the programs.