

Report Summary

Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General

December 2010



Objectives

To review the Accountable Official's Quarterly High-Dollar Overpayment Reports to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), as required by Executive Order 13520, *Reducing Improper Payments*, for the quarters ended June and September 2010 and determine whether (1) the method used for identifying high-dollar overpayments detected overpayments meeting the Executive Order criteria and (2) the Agency complied with all requirements of the Executive Order.

Background

On November 20, 2009, the President issued Executive Order 13520. As part of the Executive Order, each agency head is required to submit to the agency's OIG and the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency a quarterly report on high-dollar overpayments identified by the agency, subject to Federal privacy policies.

To view the full report, visit
http://www.ssa.gov/oig/ADO_BEPDF/A-15-10-21142.pdf

The Social Security Administration's Reporting of High-Dollar Overpayments Under Executive Order 13520 (A-15-10-21142)

Our Findings

Overall, our review determined that although the Agency addressed all requirements of the Executive Order based on the results obtained using the stewardship sample cases, the methodology for identifying high-dollar overpayments did not detect existing overpayments that met the criteria of the Executive Order. While the data obtained through the stewardship reviews provide adequate results for payment accuracy, the data did not detect high-dollar overpayments required to be reported under the Executive Order.

Our review also determined that, although the Agency reported no high-dollar overpayments during the 2 quarters under review, by employing a methodology focused on analyzing data extracts from the Master Beneficiary Record, Recovery of Overpayments, Accounting and Reporting System, and Supplemental Security Record, high-dollar overpayments would have been identified for reporting under the Executive Order.

Matters for Consideration

The Executive Order requires that agency heads submit the quarterly reports on high-dollar overpayments to boost transparency among agencies and the public. The Agency did not take additional steps to identify and report on the high-dollar overpayments using other information. The stewardship reviews focused on overpayments that had not yet been identified. The Agency should implement a cost effective way using existing overpayment data to identify and report high-dollar overpayments.