

Report Summary

Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General

December 2011



Objective

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 December 2010 and March, June, and September 2011 and determine whether the (1) method used for identifying high-dollar overpayments detected overpayments meeting the Executive Order criteria and (2) 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://oig.ssa.gov/audits-and-investigations/audit-reports/A-15-11-01140>

The Social Security Administration's Reporting of High-dollar Overpayments Under Executive Order 13520 in Fiscal Year 2011 (A-15-11-01140)

Our Findings

Overall, our review determined that although the Agency addressed all requirements of Executive Order 13520 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 reviews did not detect high-dollar overpayments required to be reported under the Executive Order.

Our review determined that, although the Agency reported no high-dollar overpayments during the four quarters under review, high-dollar overpayments may have been identified had the Social Security Administration employed a methodology focused on analyzing data extracts from the Master Beneficiary Record; Recovery of Overpayments, Accounting and Reporting System; and Supplemental Security Record.

Conclusion

The Executive Order requires that agency heads submit the quarterly reports on high-dollar overpayments to boost transparency among agencies and the public. The Office of Management and Budget stated, "... that SSA should review improper overpayments identified during stewardship reviews (and any other relevant processes), and, as needed, report quarterly that either no payments were identified, or any payments that are identified." The Agency did not take additional steps to identify and report on the high-dollar overpayments using other information.