

The Social Security Administration's Plan to Reduce Improper Payments Under Executive Order 13520, as Reported in April 2014

A-15-14-14127



September 2014

Office of Audit Report Summary

Objectives

To review the Social Security Administration Accountable Official's Annual Report to the Office of the Inspector General, as required by Executive Order 13520, *Reducing Improper Payments*, and determine whether the (1) figures presented were accurate and (2) Agency complied with all requirements of the Executive Order.

Background

On November 20, 2009, the President signed Executive Order 13520 to reduce improper payments by intensifying efforts to eliminate payment error, waste, fraud, and abuse in major Government-administered programs, while continuing to ensure that Federal programs serve and provide access to their intended beneficiaries. The Executive Order provides, in part, that when the Government makes payments to individuals and businesses, such as program beneficiaries, grantees, or contractors, or on behalf of program beneficiaries, it must make every effort to confirm that the right recipient is receiving the right payment.

Our Findings

During our review, we noted the Agency generally presented all information required for Executive Order 13520 in its Annual Report, except for the corrective actions for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program and explanations for Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance and SSI programs' performance in meeting its reduction targets. We also noted four immaterial instances of figures that were inaccurate based on the supporting documentation.

The Agency has reported the same corrective actions for the SSI program in the past four reporting cycles and has not reported any new initiatives that prevent and identify improper payments. Additionally, the Agency has no full implementation date established for its Access to Financial Institutions program. We reported these same observations in prior evaluations and made recommendations to address our findings. Although we did not repeat our recommendations in this report, we encourage the Agency to continue pursuing corrective actions.