

Report Summary

Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General

July 2012



Objective

To determine whether (1) the Social Security Administration (SSA) properly accounted for *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (Recovery Act) funds, (2) SSA achieved its objective of requesting and receiving medical information through health information technology, (3) the contractors complied with the contract terms and applicable regulations, and (4) SSA personnel properly monitored the contracts.

Background

On February 17, 2009, the President signed the *Recovery Act* into law. SSA has used *Recovery Act* funds in developing the Health Information Technology (HIT) process. For this review, we selected four contracts. The purpose of these contracts was to expand the number of healthcare providers participating in the Nationwide Health Information Network. This will allow providers to receive a standardized electronic request for medical records along with a patient's authorization.

To view the full report, visit <http://oig.ssa.gov/audits-and-investigations/audit-reports/A-15-11-11199>

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Funds Used for Health Information Technology Contracts **(A-15-11-11199)**

Our Findings

We found that SSA properly accounted for *Recovery Act* funds. We reviewed the contract award amounts and SSA payments to the contractors. With the exception of the CareSpark contract, which SSA terminated, we found the payments equaled the award amounts.

Additionally, we reviewed SSA documentation, which indicated the contractors achieved the objective of requesting and receiving medical information through HIT. We found that the contractors completed the contract requirements, as described in the contract Statement of Work, with the exception of CareSpark. Our review found the contractors complied with the contract terms for SSA to approve their payments. We reviewed the information provided by the contracting officer technical representative, in the Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Systems, and assigned Division of Disability Health Information Services implementation staff to ensure there was proper oversight of the HIT contractors' work activity. We found the SSA staff required that stakeholders involved in the HIT process review and approve achieved contract milestones, which ensured the process was adequate for all staff who works with HIT. Therefore, it appeared that SSA personnel properly monitored the contracts.