

Summary of the Social Security Administration's Reporting of High-dollar Overpayments Under Executive Order 13520 in Fiscal Year 2012

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Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General

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 and Eliminating Waste in Federal Programs*, for the quarters ended December 2011 and March, June, and September 2012 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.

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 the Agency deemed reportable based on the Social Security Administration's interpretation of the criteria of the Executive Order. While the data obtained through the stewardship reviews provide adequate results for payment accuracy, the data obtained during the reviews provides limitations for properly analyzing cases as part of the reporting of high-dollar overpayments.

Our review also determined that, although the Agency reported no high-dollar overpayments during the four quarters under review, one case sampled in the March quarter and one case sampled in the September quarter appeared to have met the Executive Order criteria.

Our 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 Agency did not take additional steps to identify and report on the high-dollar overpayments using other information or report on cases identified that potentially met the Executive Order criteria.

Going forward, the Agency should increase transparency and report any cases that could potentially meet the requirements of the Executive Order identified through the stewardship reviews.