

Report Summary

Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General

June 2012



Objective

To determine whether Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients were potentially entitled to Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance (OASDI) benefits as disabled child beneficiaries.

Background

According to Social Security Administration (SSA) policy, an application for benefits under the SSI program is also an application for benefits under the OASDI program.

SSI is a program of last resort; therefore, it is important to assess other benefit programs for which an individual may be eligible. SSI recipients may also be eligible as auxiliary child beneficiaries on a wage earner's record under the OASDI program. This occurs when certain criteria are met, such as being dependent on the parent; being age 18 or older and disabled before reaching age 22; and having a parent who is entitled to Disability or Retirement Insurance benefits or was insured at the time of death.

To view the full report, visit <http://oig.ssa.gov/audits-and-investigations/audit-reports/A-13-10-10146>

Disabled Individuals Potentially Eligible as Auxiliary Child Beneficiaries **(A-13-10-10146)**

Our Findings

Although SSA had taken actions to identify and prevent missed entitlements, we identified SSI recipients who were also eligible for OASDI. Our analysis of 100 SSI recipients found 95 were eligible for OASDI as auxiliary child beneficiaries. Of these, we identified 16 SSI recipients who were due OASDI underpayments totaling about \$71,000. We estimate approximately 2,160 SSI recipients were eligible for OASDI and were due underpayments totaling approximately \$9.6 million.

In February 2012, we identified 14,434 SSI recipients—from all 20 segments of SSA's records—who were potentially entitled disabled child beneficiaries. We provided this information to the Agency for corrective action.

Our Recommendations

1. Develop and implement a cost-effective strategy to assess the 14,434 recipients we identified to correctly pay those recipients eligible for OASDI as auxiliary child beneficiaries and pay the OASDI underpayments due the recipients, as appropriate.
2. Consider establishing an automated periodic review of SSI disabled child recipients for potential entitlement to OASDI auxiliary child benefits.

SSA agreed with our recommendations.