

Report Summary

Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General

September 2011



Objective

To determine whether the Social Security Administration (SSA) (1) conducted childhood continuing disability reviews (CDR) at least every 3 years for children under age 18 whose impairments were likely to improve in accordance with the *Social Security Act* provisions; (2) conducted age 18 redeterminations before recipients attained age 20; and (3) continued seeking special funding for CDR workloads.

Background

Under Title XVI of the *Social Security Act*, SSA is required to:

1. Perform CDRs at least every 3 years on all children under age 18 whose impairments are likely to improve.
2. Redetermine, within 1 year of the individual's 18th birthday, their eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) by applying the adult criteria for disability.

To view the full report, visit
http://www.ssa.gov/oig/ADO_BEPDF/A-01-11-11118.pdf

Follow-up: Childhood Continuing Disability Reviews and Age 18 Redeterminations (A-01-11-11118)

Our Findings

We determined that SSA had not completed all childhood CDRs and age 18 redeterminations in a timely manner. Based on our sample results, SSA did not complete 79 percent of childhood CDRs and 10 percent of age 18 redeterminations timely. As a result, we estimate:

- SSA paid about \$1.4 billion in SSI payments to approximately 513,300 recipients under age 18 that it should not have paid. Additionally, SSA will continue paying approximately \$461.6 million annually until these reviews are completed.
- SSA paid about \$5.7 million in SSI payments to approximately 5,100 recipients who did not have an age 18 redetermination completed by age 20. Additionally, the Agency will continue paying approximately \$6.3 million annually until these reviews are completed.

According to SSA, budget constraints and other priority workloads have forced the Agency to shift focus from conducting childhood CDRs and age 18 redeterminations.

Our Recommendations

We recommend SSA conduct childhood CDRs and age 18 redeterminations within the specific timeframes provided for in the *Social Security Act*.

SSA agreed to conduct childhood CDRs and age 18 redeterminations as its budget and other priority workloads will allow.