



Office of the Inspector General

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

January 31, 2023

Ms. Shalanda Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Young:

The *Government Charge Card Abuse Prevention Act of 2012* (Act)¹—as implemented by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular No. A-123, *A Risk Management Framework for Government Charge Card Programs*, Appendix B—requires that Inspectors General for executive agencies with more than \$10 million in annual purchase and/or travel card spending periodically assess agency purchase card, convenience check, and travel card programs to identify and analyze risks of illegal, improper, or erroneous purchases and payments. Offices of Inspectors General use these assessments to determine the scope, frequency, and number of audits they will conduct of these programs.

The Act also requires that Offices of Inspectors General submit to OMB (1) a status report on the implementation of recommendations made to address findings of any analysis or audit of purchase or travel card transactions or programs, and (2) semiannual reports, in coordination with the executive agency, of employee purchase or integrated card violations and the resulting actions taken.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has purchase and travel charge card programs and uses centrally billed accounts for transportation costs when employees make travel reservations using the Agency's Travel Management Service.² For Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, SSA reported approximately \$49 million in purchase card spending and approximately \$2.4 million in travel card spending.

¹ *Government Charge Card Abuse Prevention Act of 2012*, Pub. L. No. 112-194, §§ 2-4, 126 Stat. 1445, pp. 1445 through 1450 (2012).

² SSA staff are required to use their individual Government Travel Charge Card to purchase transportation tickets through the Agency's Travel Management Service (that is, by using online E2 Solutions or calling a CWTSatoTravel agent).

Actions to Meet the Requirements for Periodic Assessments

In annual risk assessments for FYs 2013 through 2020, we consistently determined the overall risk of illegal, improper, or erroneous charge card transactions was low. SSA had policies and procedures in place to address the requirements identified in the Act regarding management of its purchase and travel card programs. Further, SSA had internal controls to assist in oversight of its charge card programs beyond those required in the Act. For FY 2021, we did not perform audits or analyses for SSA's charge card programs because the results of our annual periodic assessments had continually shown that the risk of illegal, improper, or erroneous purchases in SSA's charge card programs was low.

In FY 2022, we reviewed SSA's most recent purchase and travel charge card management plans, policies and procedures and did not identify any new or significant changes that would affect SSA's management of its charge card programs. Therefore, we did not perform an audit or comprehensive analysis of the FY 2022 purchase and travel card programs.

For the FY 2023 charge card programs, we plan to conduct a comprehensive assessment to identify and analyze the risk of illegal, improper, or erroneous purchases and payments. Our review will cover controls over charge card transactions that were made October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

Actions to Meet the Requirements for Status of Recommendations

We issued a travel card report in 2015 with five recommendations³ and purchase card reports in FYs 2016 and 2018 with a total of six recommendations.⁴ As of FY 2020, SSA had taken corrective actions and closed all recommendations. Therefore, as indicated in the attachment, SSA had no open or closed recommendations related to travel and purchase cards for FY 2022.

Actions to Meet the Requirements for Purchase Card Violations

In coordination with our Office of Investigations, the Agency reported to OMB through OMB's MAX.gov website⁵ that SSA had no known and completed reviews and investigations of use or abuse of purchase cards that resulted in fraud, loss to the government, or misappropriation of funds or assets in April 2022 and October 2022.

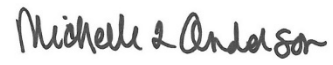
³ SSA, OIG, *The Social Security Administration's Travel Charge Card Program, A-13-14-11414* (May 2015).

⁴ SSA, OIG, *The Social Security Administration's Fiscal Year 2014 Government Purchase Card Program, A-13-15-50038* (May 2016) and SSA, OIG, *Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency Purchase Card Project, A-13-17-50266* (February 2018).

⁵ MAX.gov is the government-wide suite of advanced collaboration, information sharing, data collection, publishing, business intelligence and authentication tools and services used to facilitate cross-government collaboration and knowledge management.

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January 31, 2023

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle L. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle L. Anderson
Assistant Inspector General for Audit

cc:
Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner of Social Security Administration

Attachment