

The Social Security Administration's Reporting of High-dollar Overpayments in Fiscal Year 2018 Under Executive Order 13520

A-15-18-50454



December 2018

Office of Audit Report Summary

Objectives

To determine whether the (1) method the Social Security Administration (SSA) used to identify high-dollar overpayments detected overpayments that met the Executive Order criteria and (2) Agency complied with all requirements of the Executive Order.

Background

As part of Executive Order 13520, each agency head is required to submit a quarterly report on high-dollar overpayments identified by the agency. The report should describe any actions the agency has taken, or plans to take, to recover high-dollar overpayments as well as any actions the agency intends to take to prevent overpayments from occurring in the future.

We reviewed the Agency Head Quarterly High-dollar Overpayment Reports to the Office of the Inspector General, as required by Executive Order 13520, *Reducing Improper Payments*, for the quarters ended December 2017 and March, June, and September 2018.

Conclusions

The Social Security Administration (SSA) complied with all requirements of Executive Order 13520. Further, SSA's methodology did not detect any overpayments that met the Executive Order's criteria. Although we identified two discrepancies in data from the June quarter, neither case met the criteria to be reported as a high-dollar overpayment.

As we noted in previous audits, the data SSA obtained through its stewardship reviews limited the proper identification of high-dollar overpayments. In response to those audits, SSA informed us that, ". . . it is highly unlikely that the agency would identify improper overpayments to individuals, including via its stewardship reviews in [Supplemental Security Income] that would meet the criteria in the Executive Order's implementing guidance. . . ." SSA continued using the stewardship reviews to identify high-dollar overpayments based on Office of Management and Budget approval.

We are not making any recommendations for this review since SSA complied with all requirements and did not detect any overpayments that met the Executive Order's criteria.