

The Social Security Administration's Reporting of High-dollar Overpayments in Fiscal Year 2019 Under Executive Order 13520

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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 Executive Order 13520 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.

To determine the payment accuracy and entitlement/eligibility of benefit payments made during a sample period, SSA conducts stewardship reviews, which examine the non-medical eligibility factors in SSA's programs. Since 2010, SSA has used these reviews to determine whether there are reportable quarterly high-dollar overpayments.

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 Fiscal Year 2019.

Conclusions

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.

As we noted in previous audits, SSA's stewardship reviews will not capture all high-dollar overpayments as defined in the Executive Order. The stewardship review sample period is based on 1 month of payment data, and the payment errors in a sample case may include payments that related to prior quarters. 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 since SSA complied with all requirements and, based on its stewardship review, did not detect any overpayments that met the Executive Order's criteria.

Agency Comments

SSA reviewed the draft report and had no comments.