

# Report Summary

Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General

February 2012



## Objective

To determine the extent of unnecessary medical determinations for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability claims, which incur additional costs to the Social Security Administration (SSA).

## Background

In Fiscal Year 2009, the cost for SSA to process a non-medical denial was \$16.70 per claim. The cost for disability determination services (DDS) to make a medical determination was \$519 per claim, and the cost for a hearing was \$1,690 (this includes the \$519 DDS medical determination cost plus the cost of an administrative law judge decision, which is \$1,171 per claim).

To view the full report, visit <http://oig.ssa.gov/audits-and-investigations/audit-reports/A-01-10-20120>

## *Unnecessary Medical Determinations for Supplemental Security Income Disability Claims* (A-01-10-20120)

### Our Findings

SSI disability claims received medical determinations even though the claimants did not meet the non-medical criteria for SSI. Based on our review, we estimate that 7,391 SSI claims received a medical determination unnecessarily in 2009. As a result, SSA spent approximately \$3.8 million on unnecessary medical determinations.

### Our Recommendations

SSA remind staff to process non-medical denials for SSI claims that do not meet requirements before referring to the DDS. SSA disagreed with the recommendation.