



Consolidated Annual Report Required by Senate Bill 30, 75th Legislature

Section 22.0251, Texas Human Resources Code: Timely Determination of Overpayments

Statutory Provision

The statute requires the Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) to determine and record the time it takes the agency to establish an overpayment claim in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or the program of financial assistance, and to set goals for increase timeliness and adopt a schedule to meet those goals. The statute also requires the agency to submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislative Budget Board detailing the progress in reaching these goals.

Background

One of the keys to recovering benefits granted in error is to determine overpayments in a timely manner. When the agency receives a referral regarding a potential overpayment of benefits, investigators with the OIG's General Investigations (GI) Division analyze the case to verify whether an overpayment occurred and decide whether the case involves the intent to commit fraud. If probable cause exists that a felony-grade violation has occurred, or when special circumstances exist for lower-grade offenses, the investigator may refer the case to the appropriate local district attorney's office for criminal prosecution. If the investigator does not refer the matter for criminal prosecution, the investigator determines the amount of over-issuance and notifies the recipient of their obligation to repay and their right to due process under the law.

Accomplishments

As a measure of timeliness, GI adopted the federal requirement that investigators complete cases within 180 days from the date of referral. This standard is one metric used to measure the investigator's performance. As required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), GI calculates timeliness from the date the agency receives the referral.

GI adopted a goal that investigators complete 93 percent of referrals within 180 days. The average goal is slightly higher than the federal requirement of 90 percent. From September 1, 2017, through August 31, 2018, investigators completed 7,900 investigations, including both fraud and non-fraud overpayment claims. Of these cases, investigators completed 6,830 within 180 days for an overall average of 92.18 percent.

As the number of referrals increases and the number of staff dedicated to recipient investigations decreases, GI strives to use available resources in the most efficient manner possible to maintain timeliness at or above the federally required 90 percent.

General Investigations Timeliness			
Time frame	Investigations Completed	Investigations Completed within 180 Days	Percent Timely
09/2009 - 02/2010	16,118	14,675	91.05%
03/2010 - 08/2010	20,130	18,461	91.71%
09/2010 - 02/2011	22,281	20,612	92.51%
03/2011 - 08/2011	23,425	21,555	92.02%
09/2011 - 02/2012	24,726	23,275	94.13%
03/2012 - 08/2012	15,222	15,126	99.37%
09/2012 - 02/2013	11,936	11,223	94.03%
03/2013 - 08/2013	13,033	12,203	93.63%
09/2013 - 08/2014	21,458	19,652	91.58%
09/2014 - 08/2015	16,854	15,583	92.46%
09/2015 - 08/2016	14,509	12,123	83.56%
09/2016 - 08/2017	10,639	9,846	92.55%
09/2017 - 08/2018	7,900	6,830	86.46%
TOTAL	218,231	201,164	92.18%

Section 531.108, Texas Government Code: Data Matching Efforts from HHSC with Information from Neighboring States and Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Statutory Provision

This statute requires the OIG to submit a semiannual report to the Governor and the Legislative Budget Board regarding the computerized matching of agency information from neighboring states and information from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ).

Background

Under this provision, the OIG identifies individuals receiving benefits in another state and also identifies incarcerated individuals illegally receiving public assistance benefits.

Accomplishments

Since August 2010, the OIG has participated in the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) interstate. The PARIS interstate match cross checks social security numbers of active SNAP, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, and Medicaid clients as sent by State Public Assistance Agencies (SPAA) for a predetermined month within the match quarter. If matched, PARIS sends the matched records back to the respective SPAAs for review and investigation. Although once a year participation is mandatory for Medicaid, the data provided to the program is at the discretion of each SPAA. Not all states participate for each match quarter or for all programs. In Texas, the PARIS match meets the legislative requirement for the OIG to match with border-states to identify duplicate benefits.

From September 1, 2017, through August 31, 2018, the agency identified \$410,256 in benefits simultaneously received by individuals in both Texas and another state. During this time, the agency also identified \$561,185 in benefits received by individuals who were ineligible because of incarceration.

PARIS Interstate Match					
Timeframe	Match Count	Referrals Created	Investigations Created	Claims Created	Claim Amounts
09/2009 - 02/2010	*	*	*	*	*
03/2010 - 08/2010	3,542	90	35	37	\$45,161
09/2010 - 02/2011	28,756	452	182	137	\$164,888
03/2011 - 08/2011	27,074	341	151	152	\$163,158
09/2011 - 02/2012	30,368	217	112	93	\$82,813
03/2012 - 08/2012	25,634	243	125	131	\$135,203
09/2012 - 02/2013	28,322	372	86	117	\$128,421
03/2013 - 08/2013	30,154	443	197	236	\$295,174
09/2013 - 08/2014	63,775	455	325	384	\$697,290
09/2014 - 08/2015	118,316	643	188	218	\$338,132
09/2015 - 08/2016	148,432	507	267	242	\$439,124
09/2016 - 08/2017	183,781	287	117	63	\$139,217
09/2017 - 08/2018	217,525	537	461	201	\$410,256
TOTAL	905,679	4,587	2,246	2,011	\$3,038,837

*PARIS Interstate Matches were implemented effective August 2010

TDCJ Incarceration Match				
Timeframe	Referrals Created	Investigations Created	Claims Created	Claim Amounts
09/2009 - 02/2010	445	374	375	\$234,142
03/2010 - 08/2010	679	579	560	\$364,729
09/2010 - 02/2011	422	360	357	\$251,007
03/2011 - 08/2011	1,010	848	832	\$547,003
09/2011 - 02/2012	621	493	476	\$302,980
03/2012 - 08/2012	717	546	534	\$533,272
09/2012 - 02/2013	552	457	463	\$458,241
03/2013 - 08/2013	428	374	405	\$372,440
09/2013 - 08/2014	850	683	720	\$761,225
09/2014 - 08/2015	655	354	388	\$367,928
09/2015 - 08/2016	815	582	527	\$752,669
09/2016 - 08/2017	1024	1037	769	\$995,128
09/2017 - 08/2018	664	524	459	\$561,185
TOTAL	8,882	7,211	6,865	\$6,501,949