



**Social Security Administration (SSA)
Expansion of Cooperative Disability Investigations (CDI) Units - FY 2022 Progress Report
As Required by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015**

Bipartisan Budget Act Reporting Requirements

Section 811 of the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) of 2015 requires the expansion of Cooperative Disability Investigations (CDI) units. Specifically, the BBA:

- Requires the Commissioner to expand the CDI program to cover all states and territories no later than October 1, 2022. This requirement is subject to the availability of funding and participation of local law enforcement agencies; and
- Requires the Commissioner to issue a progress report 90 days after enactment with subsequent annual reports until 2022, or until the agency achieves national coverage -- whichever comes first.

This report completes our reporting requirement under section 811 of the BBA.

Background

The CDI program is a key anti-fraud initiative that plays a vital role in combating fraud and abuse within our disability programs. CDI units, consisting of personnel from the Social Security Administration (SSA), the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Disability Determination Services, and state/local law enforcement, review initial disability claims and post-entitlement activities involving suspected fraud.

The mission of the CDI program is to investigate questionable statements and activities of claimants, medical providers, and other third parties, as well as to obtain evidence of material fact sufficient to resolve questions of potential fraud in the agency's disability programs. The CDI units' contributions help disability examiners make informed decisions, ensure payment accuracy, and generate significant savings for Federal and State programs.

Statistics

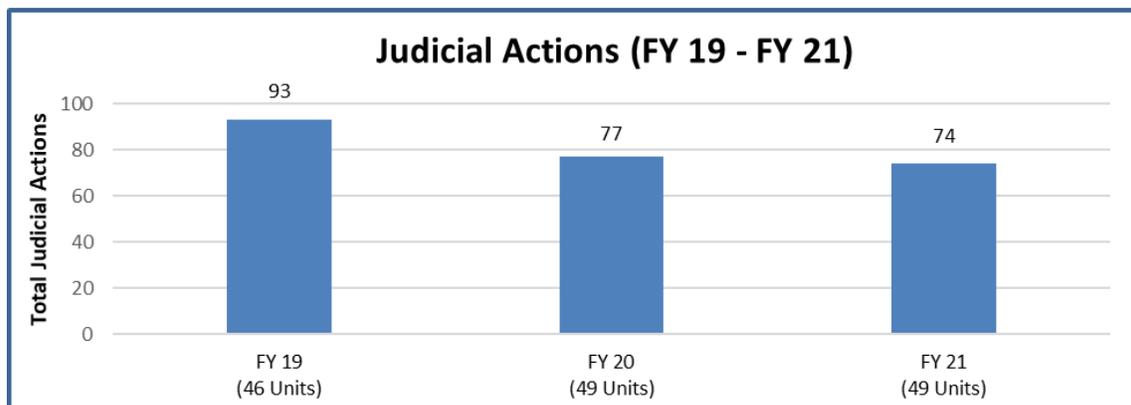
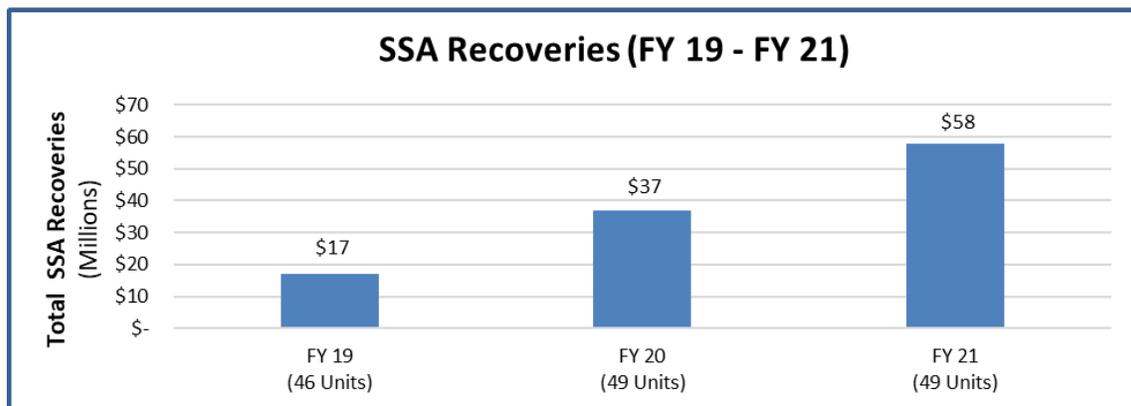
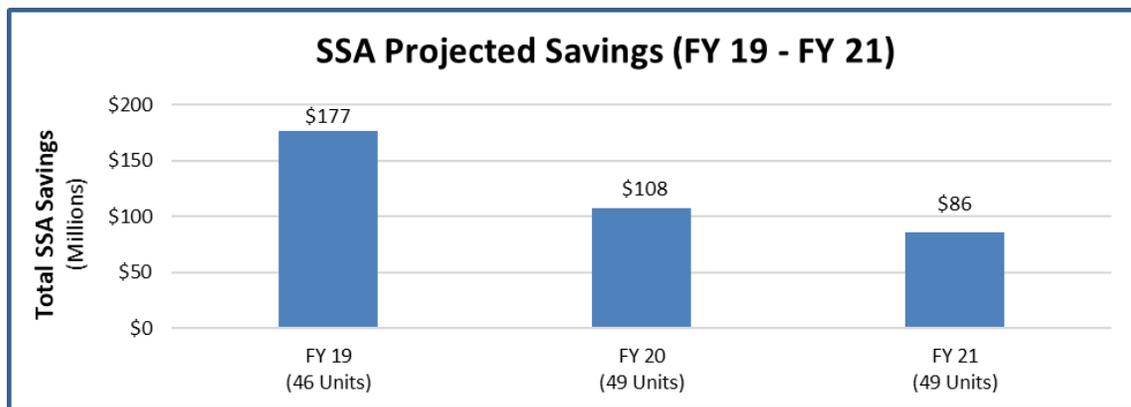
During fiscal year (FY) 2021, the CDI program reported more than \$86 million in projected savings to our disability programs and more than \$76 million to non-SSA programs, such as Medicare, Medicaid, housing assistance, and nutrition assistance programs. In addition, the CDI program reported 74 judicial actions in FY 2021, which includes sentencings, pre-trial diversions, civil settlements, and civil monetary penalties. We recovered a total of \$58 million from the program, which includes restitution, fines, penalties, judgments, and settlements.¹

¹ Cited projected savings, judicial actions, and recoveries in this report are provided by OIG.



Since the program launched in 1997 through September 2021, CDI efforts contributed to \$4.3 billion in projected savings for our programs, and \$3.3 billion in projected savings for non-SSA programs.

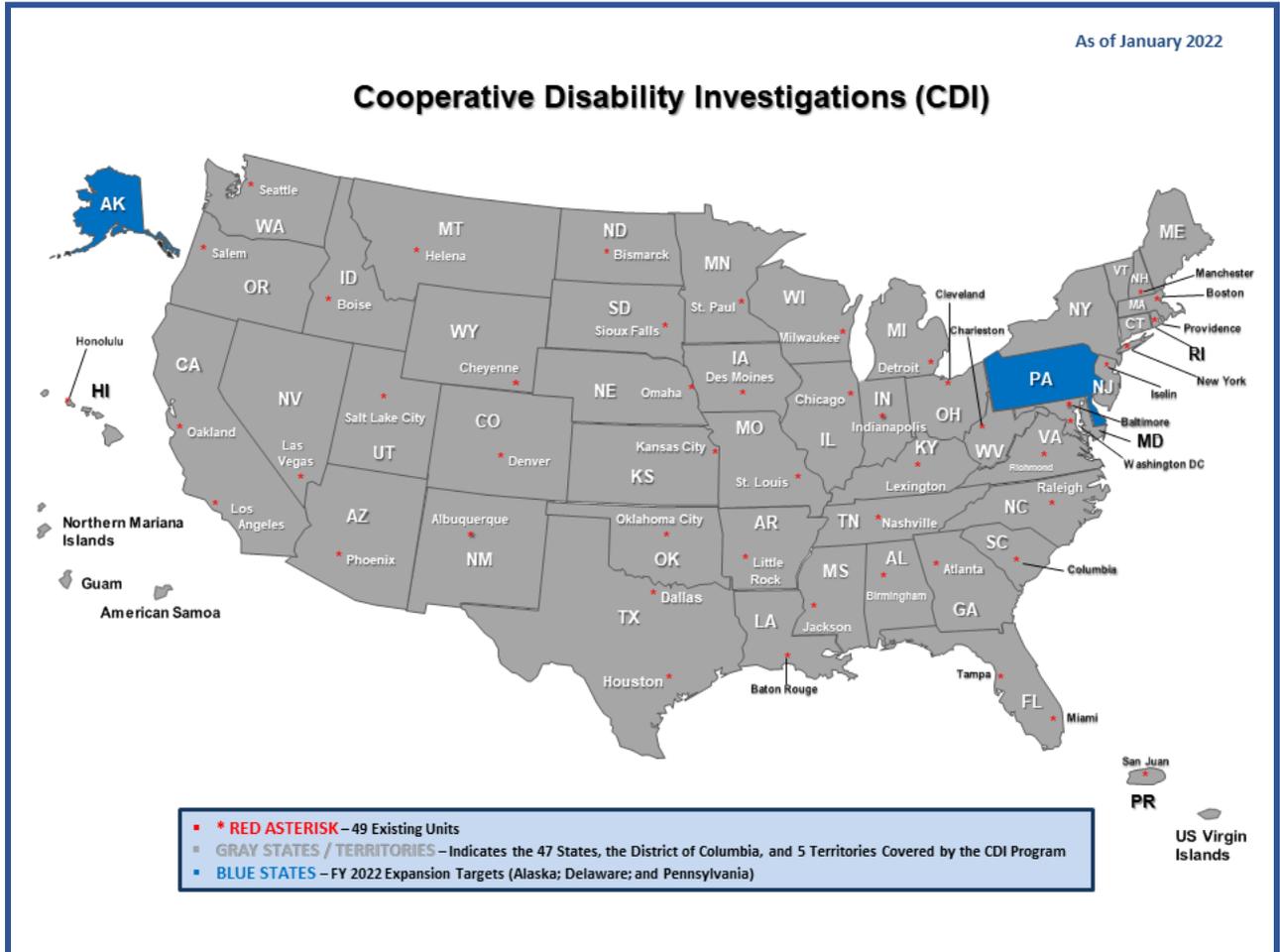
Below is a three-year snapshot of agency savings from FY 2019 through FY 2021, illustrating our total projected savings of more than \$371 million over the three-year period. In addition, below is a chart illustrating our recoveries during the same timeframe along with an illustration of judicial actions.





Current CDI State Coverage

As illustrated below, we currently operate 49 units, covering 47 states, District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.²



CDI Expansion Plan

During FY 2021’s expansion efforts, we successfully provided CDI coverage to three states: Connecticut, Maine, and Vermont. We plan to expand CDI coverage to the three remaining states no later than October 1, 2022, thereby achieving full coverage. In FY 2022, we will provide CDI coverage to Alaska, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. The recruitment of local law enforcement partners for these states is underway but we have not secured any commitments. OIG will conduct investigations for any location that has yet to secure a law enforcement agency partner.

² Includes states that received CDI coverage in FY 2021.



Recruitment of law enforcement partnerships will remain a continuous effort. Receiving commitments from interested law enforcement agencies depends on factors, such as resource availability from respective state and local agencies, as well as state and local fiscal determinations. In addition, some states require legislative action prior to law enforcement participation. In many instances, the willingness to offer investigative personnel for partnership is contingent on each agency’s own budget approvals. Therefore, securing law enforcement commitment from an agency typically is limited to the current fiscal period, usually a single year, and must be renewed periodically. Currently, there are 12 CDI units operating without a law enforcement partner.

In areas where we have been unable to secure a local law enforcement partner, such as Alaska and Delaware, we are exploring using neighboring CDI units to organize the investigations while we continue to recruit local law enforcement partners. For example, the existing Seattle CDI unit would be available to provide CDI coverage for Alaska. Additionally, our planned Pennsylvania CDI unit would be available to provide CDI coverage for Delaware.

Outlined below is the tentative expansion/rollout schedule and estimated start-up cost to complete nationwide CDI coverage.

CDI Expansion (FY 2022)			
	Target # of States to Provide CDI Coverage	Target Locations	Estimated Total Agency Start-Up and Operating Costs
FY 2022	3	Alaska Delaware Pennsylvania	\$1.1 – \$3.3 Million

The total estimated agency startup and operating expenses may cost up to \$1.1 million per added CDI unit. These costs include needed travel, personnel, equipment/supplies, and space acquisition/build out expenditures in the first year of implementation. Ongoing operating costs will be approximately \$640,000 - \$840,000 per CDI location. Given different geographical labor, overhead, and administrative costs, each CDI location will have varying overall costs to the agency. These costs represent a *maximum* cost estimation. We continue to look for opportunities to reduce CDI coverage startup costs of new CDI units by utilizing existing space and equipment.

Next Steps

SSA, along with OIG and other pertinent stakeholders, will continue to collaborate to expand the CDI program nationwide. As we reinforce our commitment to combat fraud, we will share our progress in this area.