

# **Social Security Administration (SSA) Data Exchanges & Child Welfare**

Child Welfare Information Technology Systems Managers and  
Staff Webinar Series

**July 25, 2018  
1:30-3:00pm EST**

Presented by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families,  
Children's Bureau

# Participating in Today's Webinar

- Q & A session at end of the discussion
- Submit questions and comments via operator (\*1) or via chat box
- May be addressed to an individual state or for general discussion
- After the webinar, email questions to your federal analyst or to:

[CCWIS.Questions@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:CCWIS.Questions@acf.hhs.gov)

# Webinar Agenda

- SSA Data Exchange History
- Types of Exchanges
- Use Cases for Child Welfare
- Data Sharing Agreements
- Next Steps & Online Resources

# Brief Survey

What did you know about automated exchanges with SSA prior to this webinar?

- A. I was unaware.
- B. We participate in an exchange with SSA.
- C. We are building an exchange with SSA.
- D. I am aware, but we are not building an exchange.

# SSA Data Exchange History - 1 of 3

- SSA has a long history of electronically exchanging data with various State, Local, and Tribal agencies in order to prevent improper payments, reduce field office traffic, and decrease administrative costs for SSA and the State agencies.

# SSA Data Exchange History - 2 of 3

- SSA provides electronic data to State agencies for their use in determining entitlement to and eligibility for both federally funded, state-administered health and income maintenance benefit programs such as
  - Medicaid
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - Child Welfare
  - Subsidized Housing

# SSA Data Exchange History - 3 of 3

- SSA also provides electronic data to State agencies for other federally-funded, state-administered programs and state-funded, state-administered benefit program such as
  - Child Care
  - Adoption Assistance
  - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

# Type of SSA Data Exchanges

- **SDX:** State Data Exchange to aid states in the administration of federally funded health and human service programs. The primary purpose of SDX is to provide Title 16, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) information to the States, which is required by the Social Security Act.
- **SVES:** State Verification and Exchange System. SVES is a batch system that provides SSN verification, as well as both Title 2 and Title 16 benefit information.
- **BENDEX:** Beneficiary & Earning Data Exchange is a batch data exchange that provide Title II (old-age, survivors, & disability) and earnings data.
- **\*\*Note\*\*** There are several other exchanges available. When you talk to your SSA Regional Data Exchange Coordinator, they can discuss all available options and what is best for your agency and particular need. Some of the data exchanges are sent in a batch while others are available online on an as-needed basis.



# Reasons to Establish Data Exchange with Child Welfare Information Systems

- Identify and Verify SSA and SSI
- Verification of Client Identity
- Prevent duplicate claims and overpayments
- Representative Payee Management
- **\*\*Note\*\*** Please be aware that recent legislation passed called the “Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2018.” Section 103(a) requires a monthly data exchange between SSA and State foster care agencies to identify beneficiaries with payees whose foster care arrangements have changed so SSA can re-determine the payee. It is our understanding that the SSA is reaching out to each state child welfare Director about this new law and how it will be implemented.

# Case Study – Arkansas - 1 of 2

REPORT	FREQUENCY	PURPOSE
1. Foster children in receipt of SSI and placed in a medical or detention facility (with asset detail and placement history)	Monthly	SSA uses the report to determine if an overpayment occurred and to reduce/discontinue the SSI.
2. Foster children in receipt of SSI who left a medical or detention facility (with asset detail and placement history)	Monthly	SSA uses the report to determine if the SSI can be increased or reinstated.
3. Foster children for whom DCFS is SSA representative payee	Bi-Monthly	SSA uses the report to assist the state in reconciling differences between the state and the SSA foster care payee census as well as to determine if child support or other income is known to the state agency.
4. Foster children receiving SSI or SSA and exiting foster care	Weekly Monthly	SSA uses the report to update payee status
5. Daily Referrals	Daily	DHS sends a listing to SSA on a daily basis for SSA or SSI children entering foster care so that SSA can place the benefit in suspense status until a payee is selected
6. SSA and SSI foster children turning 17 ½ years of age	Monthly	The report is sent to the DCFS caseworker as well as SSA so that the foster child visits the local SSA office enabling SSA to determine if the child will continue to be eligible for Title II and/or SSI benefits

# Case Study – Arkansas – 2 of 2

REPORT	FREQUENCY	PURPOSE
<b>7. SSA or SSI received by DHS is not the representative payee</b>	Monthly	DHS uses the report to determine if DHS should have received the funds. If yes, the payee status is updated in the state system. If no, the funds are returned to SSA.
<b>8. SSA or SSI deposits in the foster care trust account after the child has left care</b>	Monthly	DHS uses the report to determine if funds need to be returned to SSA when those funds were received after a child left care. This is useful when a left care report is sent to SSA after the SSA cutoff and it is too late for SSA to stop the benefit from coming to the state agency.
<b>9. Foster children receiving both Title IV-E claims and SSI</b>	Monthly	DHS uses the report to ensure that IV-E claims are not made for SSI recipients so that overpayments can be prevented.
<b>10. Foster children for whom DHS is representative payee but no SSA or SSI funds received</b>	Monthly	DHS uses the report to identify foster children for whom DHS is representative payee but no funds were received. For example, the child may be in N04 status (over the SSI resource limit) on the SOLQ. The state may learn that the child's resources are under the limit and send documentation to SSA so that the child can be returned to current pay status.
<b>11. Comparison report for SSA SSI foster children</b>	Monthly	DHS compares a report of actual SSA/SSI benefits received to the report of children for whom DHS is representative payee and researches mismatched items to help identify discrepancies (similar to 7 & 10 above).
<b>12. Spreadsheet tracking SSI/SSA funds for foster children for whom SSA has selected a payee other than DHS</b>	Daily	Since SSA has begun changing payee to agencies and individual other than DHS for foster children, DHS maintains a spreadsheet that is reviewed at least monthly to determine if the payee is still the child's current placement.

# Process Overview

- Initial Data Exchange Request from State
- SSA Review of legality, security and system infrastructure
- Data Exchange Agreement Development
- State – SSA Kickoff Meeting
- SSA Onsite Security Review
- Ongoing Monitoring

# Office of Data Exchange

- SSA's Office of Data Exchange (ODX) is the centralized office governing data exchange and providing vital coordination, oversight, strategic decision making, and data exchange policy and procedures to agency components
- Staff in a SSA regional office will be your primary coordinator. A list of those staff along with their contact information can be found at <https://www.ssa.gov/dataexchange/stateagreements.html>

# SSA Regional Data Exchange Coordinators

Region	State	Coordinator	Telephone Number	Fax Number	Email Address
Boston	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI & VT	Susan Fay	617-565-2882	617-565-9359	<a href="mailto:Susan.Fay@ssa.gov">Susan.Fay@ssa.gov</a>
Boston	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI & VT	Shannon Keady	617-565-2855	617-565-9359	<a href="mailto:Shannon.Keady@ssa.gov">Shannon.Keady@ssa.gov</a>
New York	NY, NJ, PR & US VI	Andrew Young	212-264-1117	212-264-2071	<a href="mailto:Andrew.Young@ssa.gov">Andrew.Young@ssa.gov</a>
New York	NY, NJ, PR & US VI	Anania Rufino	212-264-2905	212-264-2071	<a href="mailto:Anania.Rufino@ssa.gov">Anania.Rufino@ssa.gov</a>
Philadelphia	DE, MD, PA, VA, WVA & DC	Prasanna Kartha	215-597-1962	215-597-5206	<a href="mailto:Prasanna.Kartha@ssa.gov">Prasanna.Kartha@ssa.gov</a>

# Data Exchange Agreements

- A Data Exchange Agreement is required by SSA and in this case refers to a legal agreement documenting the terms and conditions under which the source and recipient agency will exchange data and the provisions under which the exchange will occur.
- SSA provides data to the States primarily under the disclosure authorities of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. § 552a(b)(3)), the Social Security Act (section 1106), the Internal Revenue Code, and SSA's disclosure regulations (401.150).
- \*\*Note\*\* There are several types of Data Exchange Agreements. Contact your designated SSA Data Exchange Coordinator to discuss the agreement that is best for your situation.

# Data Exchange Agreements – CMPPA

- SSA is responsible for developing approved and signed Model State and State Agency Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act (CMPPA) Agreements.
- The CMPPA Agreement outlines the terms, conditions, and safeguards under which disclosure of information, maintained in systems of records, is allowed.
- A CMPPA Agreement is effective for 18 months, but can be extended for an additional 12 months by completing a Recertification Certificate



# Data Exchange Agreements – IEA

- Model State and State Agency Information Exchange Agreements (IEA) document the terms and conditions under which disclosure of SSA data to a State or State Agency is allowed.
- The IEA addresses systems security, Personal Identifiable Information (PII) loss and reporting requirements, and disclosure and redisclosure restrictions.
- The IEA is an open-ended agreement, effective as long as the CMPPA Agreement governing the IEA is effective and the State or State Agency submits a certification of compliance (every 30 months) indicating the State Agencies are abiding by the terms of the IEA without any change.

# Data Exchange Agreements – STC

- If data is not transmitted directly from SSA to the State Agency, then a State Transmission/Transfer Component (STC) Agreement is required.
- An STC Agreement, which is effective for 5 years, outlines the terms, conditions, and safeguards under which the STC will serve as a conduit between SSA and the specified State Agencies that receive SSA data for the administration of their approved programs.
- The State Agencies who receive SSA data through the STC must be defined within the STC Agreement. The State Agency acting as the STC is responsible for providing only the authorized SSA data to these specified agencies.
- **\*\*Note\*\*** Most child welfare agencies will have this type of exchange. If for example, in the State of Nevada, the Medicaid agency is the one receiving the data directly from SSA. The Child Welfare is wanting to join that data exchange and this may be the vehicle SSA uses to add child welfare to the existing data exchange.
- **\*\*Note\*\*** The State Agency acting as the STC is responsible for and will serve as a conduit between SSA and the specified state agencies. This agency is responsible for providing only the authorized SSA data to these specified agencies.

# Online Resources – 1 of 2

- SSA Data Exchange

[www.ssa.gov/dataexchange](http://www.ssa.gov/dataexchange)

- By clicking the link entitled “Data Exchange Applications”, you will find links to support manuals and record layouts for the data exchange applications discussed on this webinar.

- Note: A link to this SSA site has been added to our webpage under the General Child Welfare and IT Resources section:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/state-tribal-info-systems/resources>

# Online Resources – 2 of 2

- List of Agreement Types:

[www.ssa.gov/dataexchange/agreement\\_types.html](http://www.ssa.gov/dataexchange/agreement_types.html)

- Steps to Request an Agreement :

[www.ssa.gov/dataexchange/request\\_dx.html](http://www.ssa.gov/dataexchange/request_dx.html)

- State and Tribal Contacts:

[www.ssa.gov/dataexchange/stateagreements.html](http://www.ssa.gov/dataexchange/stateagreements.html)

# CCWIS Funding

- While the SSA exchanges are not CCWIS mandatory, the SSA data exchange can be identified as an optional automated data in your CCWIS system and as such the CCWIS cost allocation is available to design, develop, and maintain the CCWIS's end of the functionality.
- **\*\*Note\*\*** Requirements to meet the new representative payee law can be included.

# Attendee Q & A

Remember that you can use the chat box to type your comments or questions, or press \*1 on your phone to access the operator's assistance to speak to the group



# Wrap Up: Upcoming Events

- August:

*CCWIS in the Cloud*

Date TBD

*(1:30-3pm EST)*