Cooperative Disability Investigations Units

Cooperative Disability Investigations Units, SSA's premier fraud investigation and prevention tool, were first established in 1998, with 5 CDI units. By 2010, SSA had expanded to 20 units. Despite declining resources, SSA has managed to open 5 more units (including one in Puerto Rico) since 2010.

CDI investigations have saved American taxpayers \$3.6 billion by denying or



halting benefits to 30,000 fraudsters. They have sent a powerful message that we have zero tolerance for Social Security fraud.

How CDI units work

Each CDI unit includes a Special Agent from the Office of the Inspector General who serves as team leader, front-line SSA employees (including state disability determination services staff) who contribute programmatic expertise, and state or local law enforcement officers. Using their combined skills and knowledge, the units follow leads about individual and conspiracy fraud, both to ensure that justice is served in individual cases and to identify patterns of fraud and potential facilitators for future investigations.

2013 CDI Results

Total Cost (25 units covering 21 states): \$20.7 million

Allegations Received for Investigation: 7,042

Savings to Social Security programs: \$340 million

Savings to other federal programs (Medicare, Medicaid, etc): \$246 million

Return on Investment: 28 to 1