

# Better Data, Incentives, and Coordination: Policy Options for Transition-Age Child SSI Recipients

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“Improving outcomes for children in the  
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# Overview

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- Address themes identified in earlier sessions

- Align outcomes with current policy initiatives/demonstrations
- Rapid implementation and assessment



# Option 1: Data.

## Using Administrative Data to Transition Age Youth

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### • Problems

- Key outcomes (e.g., employment) are not tracked/emphasized
- Very limited information on transition age youth (age 16+)
- Difficult to assess progress toward policy goals



### • Option

- Use SSA and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) administrative data to track outcomes
  - Under 18: Employment, average earnings, and VR participation
  - Age 18 and over: SSI, SSDI, and employment



### • Implementation

- Add tables to annual SSA reports
  - Caveat: add other data (for example, CMS and New Hires)



# Option 2: Incentives.

## Align Incentives to Promote Work

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### • Problems

- **Youth: Rules create potential fears of working**
  - 2,229 recipients had countable earnings in 2013 ([SSI Annual Report, Table 23](#))
  - Often requires support from benefits counselor
- **SSA: Rules are administratively burdensome**



### • Option

- **Younger than age 18: Waive rules for reporting youth earnings to SSA/eliminate implicit benefit tax**
  - Could be expanded to older ages



### • Implementation

- **Change rules for reporting, *or***
- **Pilot as a waiver in a few areas/states**



# Option 3: Coordination. Transition Planning for Recipients

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- **Problems**

- **Changing needs: Youth's needs change as they age**
- **No planning: No transition plans for age 18 redetermination**
- **Lack of integration with school and other programs**



- **Option**

- **Supports to connect child SSI recipients to other services (for example, VR)**

# Option 3 (cont'd.): Transition Planning for Teen SSI Recipients



- **Implementation options**

- **Voluntary**

- Use SSA Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) to proactively reach out to youth (for example, age 14) to develop/plan/connect to other state services

- **Mandatory**

- For those able, require child SSI recipients to meet with counselor to set up plan/meet requirements (for example, school, work or training) for ongoing participation

- **Hybrid option with new redetermination/review process**

- Conduct earlier redetermination (for example, age 14 or 16) assessment as a Continuing Disability Review (CDR) to establish adult (post-age 18) eligibility. Could integrate voluntary or mandatory option.

# Summary

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- **Summary of options**
  - Making better use of administrative data to track outcomes
  - Aligning SSI work incentives to promote employment
  - Transition planning for teenage (age 14+) child SSI recipients
- **Unifying themes**
  - Better data, incentives, and coordination



# Acknowledgements



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