


agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

Rick Scott
Governor

■ ■
Barbara Palmer
Director

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State Office

■ ■
4030 Esplanade Way
Suite 380
Tallahassee
Florida
32399-0950

■ ■
(850) 488-4257

Fax:
(850) 922-6456

■ ■
Toll Free:
(866) APD-CARES
(866-273-2273)

August 15, 2013

Barbara Palmer, Director
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950

Re: OIG# 130725-02 Status of Corrective Actions, Auditor General
Report No. 2013-133, Public Assistance Eligibility Determination
Processes At Selected State Agencies

Dear Director Palmer:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 20.055(5)(h), Florida
Statutes, we asked the responsible managers for the current status of
each finding identified in the report.

The findings, recommendations, the manager's original response, and
the August 2013 status of corrective actions are attached. We have
reviewed these and believe the actions taken are acceptable.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Marvin Doyal, CPA
Inspector General

MD:cs
Enclosure

cc: JLAC@leg.state.fl.us

Current Status of the Corrective Action Plan for the Auditor General's
Public Assistance Eligibility Determination Processes
(Report No. 2013-133)

Finding Number: 1	Process Improvement Opportunities
Finding:	The efficiency of the State's public assistance eligibility determination processes could be improved. We found that for several programs, identifying information, such as social security numbers, was not always required, no documentation was required in support of significant applicant-reported information, and some processes were duplicated by administering State agencies.
Recommendation:	We recommend that the State consider requiring all applicants to submit common background information, including but not limited to, social security numbers and documentation in support of certain representations made in public assistance applications, such as for example, the applicant's identity. We also recommend that the Legislature require the DCF, with the cooperation of other agencies of State government, to conduct a study of the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of the centralization and consolidation of the public assistance application and eligibility determination processes.
APD Response:	We concur with the finding. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities is willing to cooperate with DCF on the feasibility and cost-effectiveness study as needed.
APD Contact: Name: Phone Number:	Denise Arnold 488-3673
Current Status:	The Agency has entered into data sharing agreements with both the Department of Health and the Department of Children and Families for the purposes of determining eligibility for federal programs and for serving mutually served children in foster care.

Current Status of the Corrective Action Plan for the Auditor General's
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Finding Number: 2	State Records Integrity
Finding:	Our review of enrollment in 42 of the selected public assistance programs during the month of December 2011 disclosed that 43 percent of the recipients were enrolled in at least two programs. For a selection of these recipients, we compared the information shown in the records of each of the administering agencies and found numerous instances in which the information shown in the records of one agency, concerning such matters as employment status, household income family size, and participation in other public assistance programs, differed from that shown in the records of other agencies. Such differences, in some instances, may indicate the existence of fraud or record errors resulting in improper payments.
Recommendation:	We recommend that State agencies examine the feasibility of sharing data and performing additional matches in order to identify and resolve inconsistencies in recipient information.
APD Response:	We concur with the finding. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities agrees that data sharing would reduce redundancy of efforts and is willing to work with other State agencies as needed.
APD Contact: Name: Phone Number:	Denise Arnold 488-3673
Current Status:	The Agency has entered into data sharing agreements with both the Department of Health and the Department of Children and Families for the purposes of determining eligibility for federal programs and for serving mutually served children in foster care.