

3. Reviews and makes disability decisions on applications for disability under Title II and Title XVI of the Social Security Act on initial applications, on reconsideration requests, and continuing disability.

4. Screens disability applicants for, and makes referrals to, vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies; develops and evaluates medical/vocational evidence; and arranges for procurement and payment of such evidence, as required.

5. Reviews State hearing officer and Federal hearing officer decisions; prepares decisions on foreign claims and changes hearing officers' determinations in accordance with the regulations at 404.918 and 416.1418; participates in hearing process studies; and prepares statistical and narrative reports and recommendations for training and policy and procedural changes based on case review and analysis or study findings.

F. The Division of Medical and Vocational Policy (TAEC):

1. Develops, evaluates, implements and maintains medical policy for deciding disability claims for all body systems to be used at all adjudicative levels.

2. Develops, evaluates, implements and maintains policy for deciding disability claims, including such areas as residual functional capacity, medical improvement review standard and other continuing disability issues, onset, duration, weighing of evidence and other issues affecting disability claims at all adjudicative levels.

3. Develops, evaluates, implements and maintains policy for all vocational issues, such as age, education, work experience, the vocational rules, and work evaluations which are used to decide disability claims at all adjudicative levels.

4. Develops, evaluates, implements and maintains all policy used to decide disability in childhood disability claims, including the childhood Listings of Impairments, individualized functional assessment and functional equivalency for all adjudicative levels.

5. Coordinates recommendations concerning which court decisions should be appealed; coordinates development of responses to interrogatories and court orders; and ensures that policies and procedures are changed to reflect specific court orders and legal precedents.

G. The Division of Field Disability Operations (TAEE):

1. Provides national guidance for the administrative aspects of the disability determination function whether administered through State DDS,

contracted out to the private sector, or accomplished by designated SSA organizational components.

2. Develops pertinent policies, regulations and procedures by establishing standards and guides for performance; monitoring performance; initiating corrective action where needed; coordinating workloads and administering the funds for the DDSs, etc. Conducts such studies and reviews as are necessary to the disability determination function.

3. Works through SSA regional offices, interested national organizations and other SSA central office components to accomplish objectives or, in special situations, works directly with the component performing the disability determination function.

4. Plans, coordinates and manages the Office of Disability systems related activities, including DDS and Federal Disability Determination Services automation, information resource management, expert systems, development of user specifications, and installation and testing of hardware, networks and communications links for DDSs.

5. Analyzes, plans, distributes and monitors all DDS funding on a State-by-State basis. This includes establishing and monitoring workload and productivity targets for each DDS.

H. The Division of Disability Process Policy (TAEG):

1. Develops procedures and instructions for the disability provisions of other programs including certain Title XVI and XVIII provisions unique to the disability programs, e.g., worker's compensation.

2. Develops and issues the policies, procedures and instructions relating to the development of nonmedical evidence, the processing of claims, the development of policy guidelines and technical procedures for the Continuing Disability Review process.

3. Develops the procedures and instructions which define the administrative appeals process. Develops notice policy and issues language and forms for use in disability claims and notices including foreign language and Braille notices.

4. Maintains liaison and assists professional relations efforts to gain the support of private advocacy groups, Federal, State and local agencies and the public and provides guidance and assistance on disability professional relations issues to the SSA regional and Disability Determination Services' field networks.

I. Division of Disability Program Information and Studies (TAEH):

1. Conducts research and evaluates studies on the disabled population and recipients and specific operational/administrative program issues. Designs demonstration projects.

2. Designs evaluation systems for and evaluates demonstration projects.

3. Develops and maintains data bases for research, statistical activities and program information. Provides recurring and specialized reports, and coordinates information requirements.

J. The Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Programs (TAEJ):

1. Implements the provisions of the Social Security Act which call for the referral of beneficiaries and recipients to the State or alternate vocational rehabilitation (VR) providers, evaluates VR provider services, reimburses VR providers for successful rehabilitations, ensures that client participation in a program is appropriate and meets the requirements of the Act and develops proposals and plans for new VR initiatives.

2. Implements and evaluates test models for delivering rehabilitation, job placement and post-employment services and for making appropriate referrals to public and private agencies. Administers contracts to support projects.

3. Develops initiative to promote public understanding and use of work incentives through enhanced outreach activities and by building networks with community-based agencies and service providers.

4. Prepares and revises regulations, operating policies and training materials. Develops proposals and plans for new work incentives.

5. Develops procedures and instructions for implementation of the drug addiction and alcoholism referral and monitoring provisions. Administers agreements implementing the provisions.

Subchapter TAG—Office of Disclosure Policy

TAG.00 Mission
TAG.10 Organization
TAG.20 Functions

Section TAG.00 *The Office of Disclosure Policy*—(Mission): The Office of Disclosure Policy (ODP) develops and interprets SSA policy governing requests for disclosure of information from SSA records made under the provisions of the Privacy Act and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Section TAG.10 *The Office of Disclosure Policy*—(Organization): ODP, under the leadership of the Director of the Office of Disclosure Policy, includes: