

Social Security Administration

Conference Information Report

Fiscal Year 2021

Overview

Our conference events are mission critical and support our goal of better serving the public by improving our business practices, adopting new technology, or training our employees. We have a strong review and approval process in place for all our sponsored conferences and for employee attendance at other Federally sponsored and Federally hosted conferences. Our internal conference planning policies ensure that we reduce costs for our agency activities. We oversee, monitor, and review our conference spending to ensure that we use Federal funds efficiently and comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we confined our fiscal year (FY) 2021 conference activity to the virtual environment to protect the health and welfare of our employees. As a result of our ongoing COVID-related travel restrictions and our focus on virtual events, most of our conference expenses for FY 2021 were for training and associated speaker costs. We also incurred modest conference expenses for supplies.

Conferences where expenses associated with the conference exceeded \$500,000

For FY 2021, we did not sponsor any conferences or have employees attend Federally sponsored or Federally hosted conferences where the expenses exceeded \$500,000. Therefore, we did not require approval from the Acting Commissioner for conference spending in excess of the \$500,000 limit for a single event.

Conferences where expenses associated with the conference exceeded \$100,000

For FY 2021, we did not sponsor any conferences where the expenses exceeded \$100,000. We also did not incur expenses exceeding \$100,000 for employee attendance at other Federally sponsored or Federally hosted conferences.

Our Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has its own conference review and approval process. OIG confirmed it did not hold any events over \$100,000 in FY 2021.