



SSA's Plans to Develop Occupational Information

Inaugural Meeting

Occupational Information Development Advisory Panel

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So What is SSA's Plan?

Short-term Project: Evaluate updated DOT-based data from a private vendor that may fit seamlessly into current disability process with no changes to policy or forms while long-term work is underway

Long-term Project: Develop an occupational information system tailored for SSA's disability programs



Short-Term Project Goals and Status

▶ Are there existing DOT-Based Data SSA Can Use in the Interim?

- Existing private-sector data and process for updates of some DOT titles
- Independent evaluation of DOT-based data
- No changes to current policy/process
- May inform long-term work.

▶ Contracts awarded August 2008 to CPSSI (DOT-based data) and ICF (evaluator).

- Evaluation report due May 2009
- Pending results, plan to use data by December 2009

Long-Term Project Goals

- Develop integrated occupational information system tailored for SSA disability programs
- Update SSA's disability policies, forms, and process in light of new occupational information
- Establish an ongoing process to keep the occupational information and policy current
- Note: Project assumes no change to Social Security Act

What Do We Mean by Integrated?

- “Integrated” in terms of methods to develop the OIS and in terms using OIS
- Use >1 most viable methods
- Where possible, build on relevant elements of DOT & O*NET
- Integrate new OIS into SSA’s disability policy and process
- Integrated methods keep OIS and SSA disability process current



Long-Term Project Stages

- ★ Outreach--throughout entire project; includes SSA workgroup
- ★ **Research and Development**--includes Advisory Panel; Data collection
- ★ Policy Development
- ★ Disability Process and Systems integration
- ★ Ongoing Support and Maintenance

OUTREACH

Outreach to be conducted at all stages of the long-term project to include stakeholders in the development of the new OIS



Occupational Information System Development Workgroup

- Outreach with SSA stakeholders
- Mechanism by which SSA offices will work together and with Advisory Panel
- Active throughout entire project
- Keep it real: help project team ensure that new OIS meets SSA program and data criteria and is operationally feasible

Research & Development: Occupational Information Development Advisory Panel

- ❖ Formed according to the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972
- ❖ Composed primarily of experts external to SSA
- ❖ Will advise SSA on proposed plans and methods throughout the R&D stage of project
- ❖ Help SSA refine its project roadmap--SSA project team, OISD Workgroup, and OIDAP will work together to map SSA's direction

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Part I: What information do we need?

- ❖ Develop Content Model
- ❖ Identify “constructs” for physical and mental worker traits, work demands, other data critical for disability evaluation
- ❖ Develop initial classification
- ❖ Develop & test instruments



R&D: What Information Do We Need?

- RFC study: examine effects of using the new physical and mental/cognitive worker traits in RFC process
- RFC study results: refine content model & instruments, inform policy development.
- Test job analysis instrument(s)
- Other SSA research/studies to inform OIS development

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Part II: Once we know what we want, how do we get it?

- ❖ **Develop & test data collection and sampling plans**
- ❖ **Collect and validate occupational information**
- ❖ **Revise classification based on data collection**
- ❖ **Conduct studies to inform policy development**



POLICY DEVELOPMENT

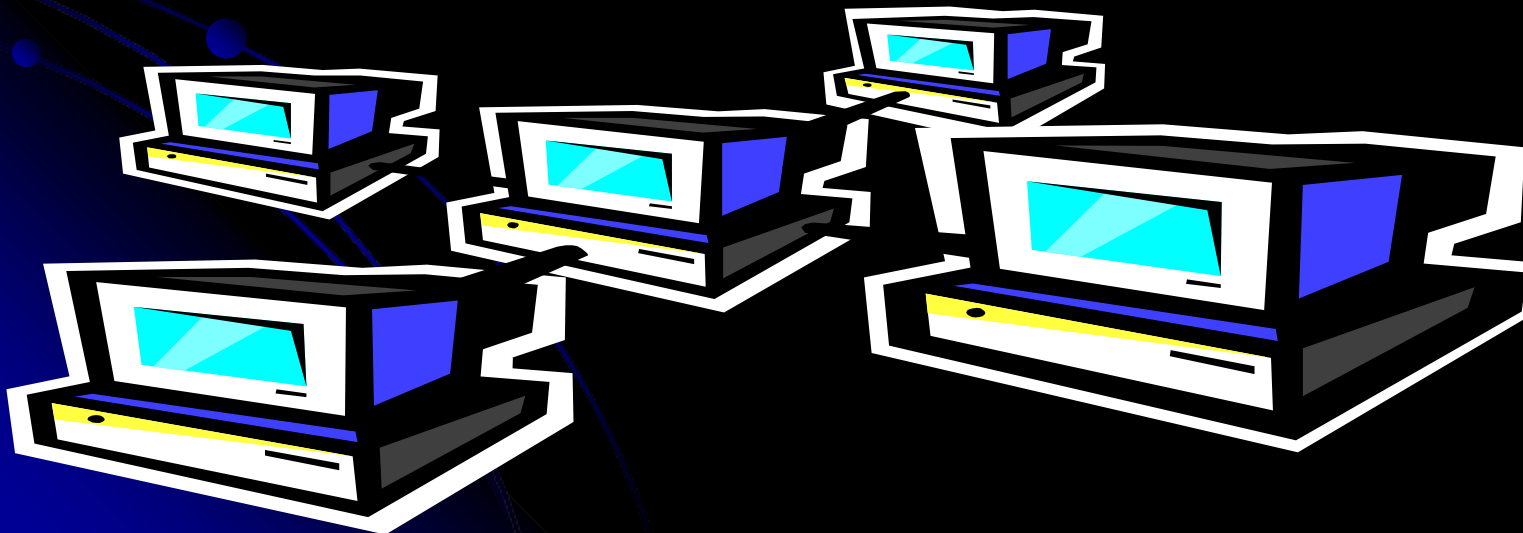


- ❖ Study effects of introducing new work information (e.g. mental, cognitive, postural, manipulative) into med-voc rules
- ❖ Study effects of vocational factors (age, education, work skills) on disability claimants
- ❖ Develop & test policy options
- ❖ Draft & publish revised regulations, rulings, policy guidance, etc.
- ❖ Develop & conduct training

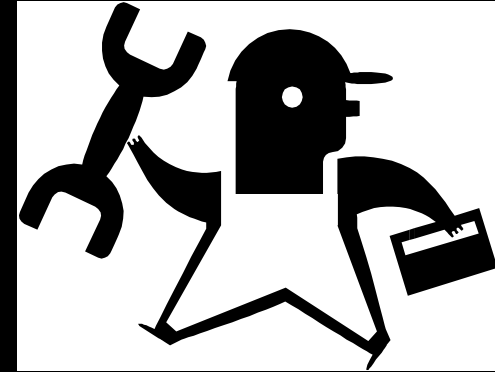


DISABILITY PROCESS & SYSTEMS INTEGRATION

- ❑ Incorporate national occupational information and updated policy into SSA's disability process
- ❑ Integrate new occupational information system into SSA's modernized electronic systems to support disability adjudication



ONGOING MAINTENANCE & SUPPORT



**SSA will develop
methods and business
processes to keep the
occupational information
system current**

