

# BOND Implementation and Evaluation

## 2017 Stage 1 Interim Process, Participation, and Impact Report

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### **Background**

- ▶ The Benefit Offset National Demonstration (BOND) is a random assignment test of changes to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program rules governing work and other supports. BOND incorporates a \$1-for-\$2 benefit offset allowing beneficiaries to retain more of their monthly cash benefit while working. BOND is also testing an enhanced benefits counseling intervention.
- ▶ BOND includes two stages. Stage 1 provides evidence of how a national benefit offset would affect earnings and program outcomes for the entire SSDI population. Stage 2 provides evidence of the effects on beneficiaries most likely to use the offset (recruited and informed volunteers). Stage 1 includes 981,145 beneficiaries; Stage 2 includes 12,744 beneficiaries.
- ▶ This report documents results of the Stage 1 effects through the sixth calendar year of implementation (2016).

### **Main Findings**

- ▶ The offset **did not** produce detectable changes in earnings.
- ▶ The offset increased benefits paid to beneficiaries.

### **Additional Findings**

- ▶ The offset increased the proportion of beneficiaries with earnings above the level at which they become eligible for the offset.
- ▶ Beneficiaries with earnings two or three times the level at which they become eligible for the offset reduced their earnings.
- ▶ The offset increased the number of months of SSDI receipt.
- ▶ The offset increased employment for beneficiaries receiving enhanced benefits counseling.
- ▶ The offset increased the number of beneficiaries with overpayment.
- ▶ The offset reduced the average size of overpayments.

### **Summary**

- ▶ As of the sixth calendar year of implementation (2016), we have not seen overall increases in earnings; however, we have seen increases in SSDI benefits paid.
- ▶ Beneficiaries have approximately 1 year to take advantage of the offset, and we will continue to track whether outcomes are different in future years. However, given the consistency in the main findings in this and previous reports, it is unlikely that the impact estimates will substantially change in the future reports.



Learn more at  
[www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch/offsetnational.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch/offsetnational.htm)

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