Introduction

- The President’s budget requests resources for SSA to support early intervention demonstrations
- Partnership among Federal agencies
- Demonstrations will focus on populations that may be at risk of ending up on disability benefits
- Services will be designed to help individuals with disabilities remain in the workforce
- Rigorous experimental design and evaluation will produce an evidence base for potential program innovations
Rationale for Early Intervention

- Early intervention, before an individual fully detaches from the labor force, may be more effective
  - Health and earnings often begin to decline well before complete disability onset or receipt of DI benefits
- CMS’s Demonstration to Maintain Independence and Employment (DMIE) showed some success
- Further testing of early intervention strategies is needed
Approach

- Examined proposals in the literature and consultation among federal partners
- Examined prior demonstrations and research to understand logistics, participation, costs, and potential outcomes
- Used available data so design is evidence-based using the latest information
Design: Initial Demonstration

- Provision of services: medical-vocational services
- Focused on identifiable and scalable populations
- Focus on population age 18-49 with mental illness
What Services Could be Provided?

- Several models to draw from:
  - Mental Health Treatment Study
  - Recovery After Initial Schizophrenia Episode (RAISE) Study
  - Individual Placement and Support with Recent-Onset Schizophrenia
What Populations Could be Served?

- Population age 18-49 with mental illness
  - 13M SSI disabled or SSDI are currently on the rolls
  - 2.6M are age 18-49 with a mental illness

- *Denied applicants* and *VR participants* not on SSI/SSDI

- Denied SSI/SSDI applicants

- Non-beneficiaries receiving VR services
Bigger Picture

- President’s budget calls for funding of more than one type of demonstration

- One example: financial incentives to businesses for successfully retaining workers with health problems

- Another example: expand vocational services to participants in Health Homes
Discussion