

Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Cost Formula Call Transcript September 7, 2023

Katherine Jett (Moderator): Hi, good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to the All VR Fiscal Year 2023 Cost Formula Call. My name is Katherine Jett. I'll be your facilitator for today's call. If we could go to the next slide, please. I'd like to advise everyone that the call is being recorded and transcribed, and it should be approximately one hour and 30 minutes long. So, we're going to go over a few housekeeping reminders now. Just to advise you, there will be a Q&A session later on in the call.

At this time, you don't have access to your audio or video, but, during that time, if you joined via the phone and you wish to ask a question, you'll need to raise your hand, pressing *5. You'll be unmuted by the facilitator and then you press *6 to unmute yourself. If you're joining via the MS Teams application, you'll go up to the very top, find the Raise Hand icon, click that and you'll be unmuted by the facilitator and you'll need to unmute yourself.

Closed captioning is available. It was provided in the calendar invite for the call today. And we do not have Chat available today. You can also activate closed captioning by clicking at the very top of your screen on More and then Activate Live Captions. We'd like to thank everyone today for your participation.

At this time, I would like to welcome Raquel Donaldson, Senior Program Analyst for the Social Security Administration.

Raquel Donaldson: Thank you, Katherine. Good afternoon

Katherine Jett: Thank you.

Raquel Donaldson: Thank you to everyone who is on the call. This is a huge call for us. Sorry I couldn't get the champagne out to everyone in time for the call. I just wanted to give you a little bit of background of how we actually got here today. As you guys know, every fiscal year, we send out the cost formula. It's usually simple enough for us to change some numbers and some remarks and some years. Unfortunately, this fiscal year was not the same. RSA has changed their forms that you all, I'm sure, are aware of. And, so, now they're using the RSA-17 form. That form has been so different from forms we've used in the past based on the cumulative information that's required, and things get carried over from past years. That's never happened before. So, unfortunately, SSA was unable to create the new cost formula. This started a frenzy. We started calling around. RSA, but we were kind of limited on what information we could get from them.

Fortunately, you guys stepped in big time. Here comes Eric Schmidt, Maryland VR. He steps in with his team. And, poor Eric, we have him doing everything. Eric has been on so many calls with officials at SSA, our Office of Budget, our Office of Finance. And he created — rather, the Maryland team created the Fiscal Year '23 cost formula. At that time, we wanted to make sure that this is something that you guys could actually use. So, we decided to have a test team come, which was six other VRs that came on board. I hope I remember them all, Oregon,

there's Maryland, there's Virginia General, there was Kentucky, there was Pennsylvania, there was Florida General, there was Utah. I think I got them all. They all stepped in. They worked the cost formula themselves with their finance team. At that time, we did a huge feedback conference call where a lot of information was brought back to us. Eugenia Cox with the Oregon VR and Erica, also who works with the Oregon VR, stepped in. They provided a lot of information that we were able to bring back and actually fix the cost formula a little bit more. And here we are. They also helped with the cost formula letter as well. So, huge thank you to everyone who's been involved in this. It's been an awesome experience and I'm glad we are here where we are now. But I just couldn't come on here without acknowledging everyone who's been involved in this. So, thank you so much. I do want to go ahead and turn it over to Rob so we can get this party started. But thank you. Rob?

Robert Pfaff (SSA): Hello, everyone. Good morning or good afternoon. Thanks for joining us today. I echo Raquel's words of congratulations and thanks and much appreciation for the agencies who were able to come together and work through what was a pretty complicated challenge for everyone. This is not our formula. It is the formula that was put together by some partner agencies after a lot of work and back and forth, and many, many, many months. We took a variety of approaches to get to where we are. And this is, I think, by far and, hopefully, you will find this to be the case also, by far the best solution to what was a really complicated problem. So, again, you know, just to echo what Raquel said, we wouldn't be here if it weren't for the tremendous working relationships we have in place with a variety of VR agencies. We value those relationships, and we appreciate all of your efforts. So, thank you all. And, without any further ado, I'll turn it over — back over to Raquel.

Raquel Donaldson (SSA): Thanks, Rob. And don't want to keep you guys in any more suspense, I'm going to go ahead and turn it over to Eric Schmidt with the Maryland VR. Eric?

Eric Schmidt (Presenter): Hi, Raquel, thank you. Thanks, everybody, especially SSA for allowing us to be on the call today. And I just wanted to say just a quick thank you to SSA because there were a lot of folks involved in getting us to where we are today. As Raquel mentioned, there's been a lot of meetings, a lot of coordination. We have gone through several iterations of the formula to lesser and then greater success in terms of where we feel the costs are being accurately accounted for. You'll see, as we get going today when I show some comparisons, I believe we are at where we should be in terms of finding all of the costs and accounting for them appropriately so that everyone will be receiving an ACP that should be in the neighborhood where it has been previously, and should definitely be accounting for all of the funds that should be accounted for. Again, this has been a pretty lengthy and complicated process. And I see that there are now 141 people on the call. So, that means, I think, we probably have a lot of folks from a lot of different states, not just our cost reimbursement folks, but, hopefully, some people on the call are sitting with those folks who are from other agencies who may be the right person to ask in those agencies. We're going to talk a little bit about who to ask and how to get that information that you're going to need a little bit later. But that's definitely a critical piece to this whole process.

So, I'm going to go ahead and actually share my screen. And I'm going to go through a number of different items here. And, please, don't mind me as I look between screens. I've got a couple of different things up here that I want to share. Okay. So, I'm going to give a little recap, Raquel already touched on it a little bit, but just how we ended up getting to this point, why the revamp and the cost reimbursement formula in the first place. As Raquel said, there were some changes that began a couple of years ago, but then, really, the large change between the former RSA-2 form and the current RSA-17. It's such a different way of accounting that there is just no direct correlation between the lines that were used on the prior cost formula. They just don't exist anymore. And, so, you can't just say, "Okay, well, take what was Line 2 on that old form and now it's line whatever on the RSA-17." It just does not work that way. There's not a line-per-line similarity. And, because of that, it really required a whole back to the drawing board, figure out what form — what lines on the new form, the RSA-17, encompass the data that we need to include. And, in initially reviewing that, we identified more and more lines that needed to be included. But we also identified some lines that needed to be subtracted. And we'll talk about that a little bit later as well. And then the new way that RSA reporting works is a quarterly report. So, you're going to need multiple copies of these forms to work from, not just one.

So, then the formula needs to account for identifying the right form from the right fiscal year, either adding or subtracting to the formula based on that fiscal year and that quarter that is in question. So, again, some extra complication there that had to be clarified. And then, lastly, and Raquel did mention this as well, there's a lot of carry-over of funds, and especially with COVID, there's been a lot of funds that were not expended in one year, but carried over to the next and expended in the next fiscal year. Those need to be accounted for to ensure that we're being paid appropriately for those. So, I'm going to give a really quick overview of the calculation process. And then I'm going to go through the actual information I believe Raquel sent down the worksheet, the narrative. And then I'm going to go ahead and share some screen captures and describe those as we go through Maryland's accounting process and the RSA forms so that you can see where we're finding that information and where it fits into the formula.

So, basically, overall, there's four main steps to the cost formula. The first one is finding the total expenditures. We probably just take the word "federal" out because there's some other things there, too. But just total expenditures is Step 1. And then we need to subtract out of those total expenditures the total client service expenditures. So, those are your direct costs that have been paid dollar for dollar to a provider. For example. We need to take those out, obviously, because when we submit a cost reimbursement claim, those are all itemized in there individually. So, we don't want to include those in the ACP. The ACP rate should not include those client service expenditures, only the larger expenditures budget-wise from the agency. So, Step 1 is basically finding all those funds and then subtracting out the funds that are not appropriate, the direct client service expenditures.

Step 2 of the formula is identifying the total unique number of individuals served under an IPE. Basically, individuals served by your agency during the same time period for which the cost reimbursement formula is being created. That changed a couple of years ago. I'm not going to

go into tremendous detail on that step, because that step's actually been in place now for a couple of years with the formula. But I will highlight that briefly.

Then Step 3 (these are quicker steps), is finding the average annual cost for that individual, which is dividing the number of individuals from the total expenditures from Step 1. And then the last step is dividing that by 12 to get a monthly figure. So, those last two steps are a bit easier. All of the meat and potatoes today will be in Step 1 and a little bit of discussion on Step 2. So, I'm going to go to real specifics here in a moment. But I wanted to just let you know, once you get to the bottom line, what SSA has asked us to submit is the final dollar figure, what is that actual ACP from Step 4. And you'll see, as we do the worksheet, that's provided for you right at the bottom. So, it's very easy to identify what SSA needs, and to give them that information.

You're going to want to then retain copies of the cost formula worksheet that you're using. You're going to want to retain copies of the RSA-17 forms, both the fiscal year in question as well as the carryover year if any funds were carried over. And then, you'll see in other parts of this process, some of it has to come from your own state's accounting system. That's where you're going to get the total client expenditures to deduct out of that amount. And, so, you're going to want to maintain a copy of those in case there's any auditing questions or any questions that Social Security has as to how you arrived at the figure that you provided. You're, also going to want to have on hand the RSA-911 data regarding the number of individuals served. And, so, that's something that, again, you're going to just maintain internally. There's a space to kind of put some of that information on the worksheet just so you have a record of it. But, again, it's not something that's directly going over to Social Security right now at this time. All they're asking for is the actual final ACP rate.

So, my tip of the day, as we get going here, is to find the the appropriate individuals in your agency with which to coordinate. For Maryland VR, that included our actual director, at the top level, specifically because our director had come from the accounting side and had a very strong familiarity with the RSA forms and had a good overall understanding of the cost reimbursement process. But you're also going to need someone from your accounting department who's able to pull the appropriate RSA-17 forms. You may need somebody from your case management side or your policy procedure side who is able to pull the RSA-7 — I mean, RSA-911 documentation. That may or may not be one single person. You may have somebody in your agency that does one set of those forms and another one that does a different set of those forms. You just need to identify who those individuals are. And you may also need to, go out and find any other pertinent individuals who would have a piece of this data. And, so, I would say the first thing I would do is, after we get off the call today, take a look at the narrative description that I'm going to share, as well as the worksheet, and see if you can identify all the appropriate staff, loop them in as quickly as possible as to the need and why we're where we're at. That's why I wanted to include a little bit of background about why we've had to do this change and why it's a little bit more complicated. So, loop them in, kind of get them to buy into why this is such a critical piece of the puzzle for you to have, because, without it, we're not able to produce an ACP rate. Without that ACP rate, Social Security is not able to pay us for that claim. So, we really want to make sure that we get everybody bought in so, that way, you can get the information you need to be able to complete this process.

So, I'm going to review in detail a couple of things. I'm going to go through the narrative very quickly, just so you can see how we arrived at where we're at. And then the more useful form probably for everyone is the actual cost formula Excel worksheet. You could certainly use the narrative and fill in the blanks and do the math the old-fashioned way if you really want to. But I guess that's going to be a little bit more complicated. That's going to be up to you. I certainly would advise letting the worksheet do some of the work for you.

So, we're going to show you how that works. And then I'm going to actually go through a sample data from — and I'll be doing that at the same time as I'm looking at the worksheet, some sample screenshots of the RSA-17s from Maryland, as well as our accounting reports that were used in figuring out the ACP rate for Maryland. And then we're going to end really quickly with just a recap of the ACP rate for Maryland through time and where this one fits in, just so you get an idea that this is functioning as appropriate. We had a number of other states do a lot of testing and Raquel thanked everybody and I certainly appreciate everybody's involvement in getting us to this point. But they were also able to do some of this testing to see if what they came up with was comparable to prior years so we could make sure that this formula is behaving as it would be expected to.

So, with that said, I'm going to quickly show the worksheet on the screen. This is the narrative version of the worksheet. I'm not going to go through and read everything line for line. I believe a copy of this went out to everybody or will be going out to everybody. But this is a little bit more useful in sharing with some other folks in your agency who need to understand how this process works and what you need to actually acquire versus the Excel spreadsheet, which is a bit more nitty gritty, and enter that dollar amount you need to enter here. This narrative explains a little bit more about what the formula is trying to accomplish in each line in each step of the process. And, so, that could be very helpful if you're trying to explain to somebody, "This is what I need and here's why I need that information." So, we did want to provide that for you. You will see there's a lot of similarity, as you get down through these steps, there's the first step. Step 1, is Part 1 and then there's Part A, Part 1 and Part B and then Part C. What that's accomplishing is getting those total expenditures. And then Part 2 of Step 1 is the direct client service cost that's being deducted out of that so you can arrive at Step 3 of — I'm sorry, Part 3 of Step 1, which is calculating the total ACP rate.

So, again, in narrative form, this doesn't look as easy to navigate, but what it does is give you a very detailed description of what it is you're accomplishing in those steps. And then, as I said, the next steps are largely carryover from prior cost formula years. So, we're not going to delve into them too much. But the second step is calculating the number of individuals. The third step is calculating the average yearly rate, which is basically the total cost divided by the number of individuals. Step 4 is dividing that by 12. And then you submit that to Social Security.

So, with all that said, let's actually look at the spreadsheet itself. This one is populated, obviously. The one that you will be working from will be blank. The input figures are largely blank on that version that you're working from. They've been populated by me with Maryland figures so we could have something to show you. So, everything that needs to be completed will be blank upon your receiving the formula. You go through, and it's pretty much find the line, find

the appropriate fiscal year and the appropriate quarter. And those are labeled for you in the cost formula spreadsheet. And then you find the appropriate line from that fiscal year quarters report. And then you populate that line with a dollar amount from that report. You do that for each step of the way, it's just really critical that you pay very close attention to identifying which quarter and which year or which line so, that way, you're adding and subtracting the appropriate amounts in the appropriate boxes on the spreadsheet. Off to the right-hand side of the spreadsheet, you'll notice that we tried to provide a lot of instructions. And I will certainly give a lot of credit to the other states here, especially Oregon, for helping us, come up with the language to make sure this is understandable, as well as Virginia. But, basically, what this does now on the right-hand side is give you some instructions that tells you either what to enter or it lets you know at what point the spreadsheet will auto calculate the dollar amount for you. Basically, it's doing the math to sum up the totals, adding and subtracting, and giving you the right total at the end of each appropriate step. And, so, you'll see along the right-hand side those instructions all the way down through the cost formula.

There's a number of additional tabs on the cost formula. Some of these are blank. They're mostly for you to add notes for reference. There's, also, some information on definitions of some common terms so, that way, it's clear for you. Maybe this is not your field of expertise as a cost reimbursement specialist, but you need to tell somebody in the accounting department, "I need the RSA-17." Well, here's a description of what the RSA-17 is. Here's a description of what the RSA-911 is. Here's some common terminology that may be important when completing this form. Supporting documentation is blank. That's for you to include if you need to, type a note as to where you acquired that information, where you're housing that information in case of an audit, those kinds of things. Client service costs, again, this is something that I didn't use because I was able to pull this information from our accountant in a different manner, but depending upon how this arrives to you, you may want to use this to help give you the appropriate totals. And then last, but not least, individuals served. This is for Step 2 of the process. And, again, it talks you through how you acquire that appropriate number.

So, we're going to actually go through now and take a look at some screenshots. I will say, and I do apologize, that they're going to be coming on the screen, they're just a scan of an image so, they may be a little bit blurry. And I do apologize for that. But the critical piece of information is that they match the number — the fiscal year, the quarter and the line number so you can identify the appropriate amount. So, we're going to start with Step 1, Part 1(A), which is the 2022 fiscal year award appropriation year. And then we'll also then look at Part B, which is the carryover here, which is '21's carryover dollars.

So, let's take a quick peek at an example of what that form looks like. Again, apologies, it may be a little bit blurry. But when you get this RSA-17 form from whatever agency staff is appropriate for you, you're going to need to identify the federal grant award number, because there's a place in the cost formula for that. You're going to be looking at the grant period, as well as the reporting period end dates to find the appropriate quarter. My accountant was nice enough to actually just label each of these for me on the top of the page, that's not copied over here, so I knew which quarter I was looking at. And then you're going to be looking at the left-hand side of the form, the RSA-17 form, because A, B and then you see a lot of numbers

underneath of those. So, these are the line numbers that you're actually looking to populate in the cost formula spreadsheet.

So, for us, the first one we're looking at is B14, Federal Share of Allowable Expenditures. So, you'll see I'm going down to B14, there's Federal Share of Allowable Expenditures. There's my — the dollar amount that I'm looking at, that's for Maryland, \$11 million and change. So, that goes into the cost formula on that first line. Then we're going to be looking to add Quarter 4, C22. Same form, scrolling down, you'll see on the left-hand side, you're now going to see Federal Program Income, Line Number 22, Program Income Expended under the VR Program. So, that number is about \$4 1/2 million. So, we're looking here on the spreadsheet, there's Quarter 4, C22, Program Income Expenditures Additional. And, again, we don't have it spelled out entirely here because it takes up too much space. But you'll see that that's the same dollar amount. And then you're looking to add on that one the last line Quarter 4, D28, Non-Federal Share of Allowable Expenditures. So, again, going back to that screenshot, going down to D, the top Line, 28, Total Non-Federal Share of Allowable Expenditures, \$13. 1 million. And adding those three up will give us a total of \$28 million. So, I kind of did this as if I was doing it on the narrative fashion. These are what I would be adding together. But you'll see the cost formula goes ahead and just does the math for you, adds you under Column K for Calculated, the total amount for Step 1, Part 1(A). Then you do the same thing for the carryover here.

And this is where it gets a little bit more complicated and why I very much appreciate having a spreadsheet do some of these calculations for you, because you could easily add when you should be subtracting. So, the next part you're looking at is the carryover year. You're going to be looking at a very similar form. It pretty much looks identical, except it has a slight difference. And that difference is in the grant award number. There's a line in there that helps you understand that's from federal year '21, but you can also look at the grant period and reporting period end dates to figure out the appropriate quarter that you're in. Again, luckily, my accountant was kind enough to label these for me, so I knew exactly which quarter I was looking at when I'm going ahead and doing these calculations. But, for this step of the process, we're going to be adding some additional federal share of allowable expenditures that were expended in the fiscal year in question, but were from carryover funds. So, we're going to be taking those, adding B14, which is the top line. Then we're going to be actually subtracting out from a different quarter. So, there's a different RSA-17 form for that one. You'll see the federal award number and a different grant period and a different reporting period end date on this quarter. So, we're subtracting these because they were not spent in the appropriate fiscal year, so we don't want to include those. And it actually — what is happening is those were included in the end of the quarter, but were spent in a different year. So, we need to make sure that those get deducted from our final calculation. Then we're going to be going back to that first RSA-17 form to Line E32, Non-Federal Expenditures, and ending the last amount, and, apologize, there was a glitch in the scanning and it overwrote that, but the total is available on the spreadsheet. And, so, what it's doing then is calculating that for you in the spreadsheet and giving us a new total under Step 1, Part 1(B), which is the carryover years allowable expenditures, adding now in Part C, the part from the current year and the carryover year to give you a final total for your

agency's total expenditures that are allowable expenditures for the ACP rate. So, that's not where the process ends.

Unfortunately, we can't just say, "Okay, let's go ahead and take that number," because that number includes direct service costs. Now, unfortunately, there's not a great way to extract those direct service costs out of the RSA-17 data. For those, we're going to need to pull them from a different place. Let me just navigate to that. So, for Maryland, this is coming from my accounting office. So, what they provided me with — and this is going to look differently — this is not going to look the same from every agency. This is not an RSA form that's standardized. This is coming from our accounting system. But our accountant was able to pull the current year, CY for us, at the bottom and the carryover year funds of direct client service expenditures for the two years in question for this year's cost formula, which are the current year, '22, and the carryover year, 2021. So, we have about \$8.8 million and about \$6.2 million. So, those two collectively total \$15,039,380.

This is probably the most critical step where you need to have involvement of somebody else in your agency. You're not going to be able to easily arrive at this figure on your own from the systems that you're typically using for doing cost reimbursement claims. This is either coming from your case management system. In this case, it's coming from our accounting system. But you need to basically account for all of those direct service expenditures for those two years in question to deduct out of that amount. So, for me, that was \$15 million for Maryland. So, that is deducted out of the Part 2 of Step 1 to come up with — and it's deducted from that total amount of federal expenditures to arrive at the total ACP rate for which we can basically bill Social Security to figure out what our monthly rate is going to be. So, I know that's very complicated.

The reason that we try to spend a lot of time on the narrative and then a lot of time in the instructions section is to try to crystallize where you're finding that information, and also to involve the right folks in your agency to get you that necessary component so you can have that appropriate dollar amount. Once that's calculated, the next step is identifying the total number of individuals served. This is Step 2 of the process. Again, this hasn't changed recently. This changed probably about two or three years ago now. So, I'm not going to go in tremendous detail. There has been a slight change in the data element numbers that you will use, but there are three critical data elements from the RSA-7 — I'm sorry, the RSA-911 data that you're going to be looking at when you're making this calculation.

The first is 398, which is the date of initial IP. So, you're looking for an onset of services prior to the end of the fiscal year in question. So, for this case, it's prior to 9 — September 30, 2022. And then you're also looking at Data Element 353, which is the date of exit. So, case closure is not prior to the beginning of that fiscal year because, obviously, if they closed prior to that year, they wouldn't count as somebody that you're serving in that year. And, so, for that, it's after October 1, 2021. And then you're also going to be looking at Data Element Number 5, which is a unique identifier. This is the number of individuals served. You're looking to try to make sure you're not providing Social Security with a number that includes duplicates. You may have had an individual who was served and the case was closed, for a period of time. They came back and were served again. You want to not count them twice, because every time you did that it would

actually reduce your dollars a little bit because that's going to divide that number by a larger and larger number because you're serving the same person more than once, so it's getting added in more than one time. So, in the tab on the worksheet under Individuals Served, there's an example of how to arrive at this. And, again, this is probably not something that you're going to be doing on your own. This would be a good time to just provide someone in your staff whose the appropriate person with these figures, help them and explain, "I need this figure. We need to pull it from the RSA-911 data." And here's some instructions that you can provide to that person on how to arrive at that. And, so, there's an example at the bottom of the page there in the Individual's Served tab where you use the unique identifiers from a particular quarter — several particular quarters added together to give you the appropriate dataset. And then you're going to be looking to remove duplicates from those individuals. And this is something that's going to be occurring from the database side of things. And, again, that's something that the appropriate person in your agency would be able to calculate for you. Bottom line is, once you arrive at that number, which should be given to you, you then pull that number into the cost formula worksheet.

So, for Maryland, that was roughly 14,400 folks. That number then is divided into the total ACP costs from the Part 3 of the first step. And that gives you the annual ACP rate for an individual. Then you need to divide that number by 12 to give you a monthly rate. And that is the number, bottom line in bold, that you submit to Social Security at the end of the formula worksheet. So, for Maryland, that number was \$252.10 for this particular fiscal year. So, once we arrived at that collectively as a group in coming up with this formula, we wanted to see, okay, well is that accurate? I mean, are we in the ballpark of where we were previously? The first time we ran through this we were missing some calculations. We were far under where we should have been. We went back to the RSA forms, realized that there were a couple of additional lines we needed to include there. So, we went back, rehashed it and arrived at this number. And you'll see, I'm going to pull up on the screen here, this is a history of Maryland's ACP rate by fiscal year all the way back till, oh, about 20 - 23 years ago -- 23 years ago.

So, what I just kind of wanted to see, well, are we relatively consistent in this year versus in previous years, or is this an anomaly? And if there's an anomaly, is there a reasonable reason that that's higher or lower, or was it something wrong with the formula? So, for us, it actually turned out the average for Maryland over the course of all those 20+ years it was roughly \$237, almost \$238. And the median amount from our highest to lowest amount was \$233. This rate's slightly above that. But, again, there's a variety of factors, COVID being one, with a number of individuals served, maybe slightly down, which would contribute to a slightly higher monthly rate. But it's within where we would expect it to be. And then when you add it into there, it really barely moved the needle on our averages and our medians. It's pretty much right in line with what we typically have been seeing from Maryland. So, we're fairly confident, you know, and we've had other states test it, that the formula is behaving as it should because it's giving us an ACP rate that's well within the norms from each state previously.

So, that being said, I think what I would like to do is turn it over to the audience now for questions and answers. Again, I threw a lot of information at you. I know it's going to be a bit much to absorb in —one, in this format and, two, on a call of about 30 to 40 minutes. But I want

you to take away at least from the start how to get the right folks in your agency involved, how to get the appropriate information. And then, as you should see on the screen, it's pretty much going to be a find the appropriate line, add the appropriate figure, get the appropriate person in your agency to provide you that appropriate figure, and you should be pretty good to go. I guess I'll turn it back over to Raquel.

Raquel Donaldson: Thank you so much, Eric. Yes, we're going to go ahead and open it up for any questions. Katherine?

Katherine Jett: Hi. Thank you, Raquel. Thank you, Eric. We'd like to remind everyone that if you'd like to ask a question and you're joining via the phones, you need to press *5 to raise your hand and then you'll be unmuted by the facilitator, Keitra Hill. And you'll press *6 to unmute yourself. Now, if you're joining via MS Teams and you have a question, just click the Raise Hand icon and you'll be unmuted by the facilitator, you'll need to unmute your mic at that time. So, at this time, I'll go to Keitra Hill. Can you help us identify anyone with the raised hands?

Keitra Hill (Q&A Facilitator): Yes. We have Kate Martin. Your mic is unmuted. So, unmute yourself on your end and you can go ahead and ask your question.

Kat Martin: Hi. Yeah, this is Kat Martin with Oregon Blind. And I'm sorry if I missed this, I was interrupted by a phone call. But what I'm wondering is, does the model accommodate RSA shift to biannual reporting beginning with the Federal Fiscal Year 2024 awards?

Eric Schmidt: That may be a question for Erica. Erica, can you address that one? Or Vince, if Vince is on the line for Maryland.

Katherine Jett: I don't see Vince on the line.

Erica Loomis: Hi, this is Erica. Can you hear me? Hi, this is Erica. Hello?

Eric Schmidt: Yeah, we can hear you.

Erica Loomis: Okay. So, yeah, this form will have to be revamped when we go to the semi-annual reporting. This is just related to the quarterly reporting form. So, yes, that is a valid question. It was in the back of my mind. I didn't want to raise it until we got there, but when we get to that point, this all will have to be revamped to accommodate the semi-annual reporting form. Good question. Thank you.

Katherine Jett: Thank you, Erica. Thank you, Kat. Keitra, can you identify our next one?

Keitra Hill: Yes, we have a question from Shelly. I'm about to unmute you. Your mic is unmuted, you can unmute on your end to ask your question. Or maybe your question was answered because I see you put your hand down. Okay. We don't have any other raised hands at this time.

Katherine Jett: Thank you, Keitra.

Shelly Paquette: I'm trying to unmute so I lowered my hand. Sorry.

Katherine Jett: There you go. No problem. Go ahead.

Shelly Paquette: This is Shelly. Two questions. When are the forms being sent out to the various states? And when will this recording be posted? Thank you.

Raquel Donaldson: This is Raquel.

Eric Schmidt: Is that a Raquel question?

Raquel Donaldson: Thanks, Shelly, for that question. All the VRs should have already received the forms. It actually went out with the email blast. If you do not have the forms, please email the VR Help Desk and we'll definitely make sure you get the forms ASAP. But I'm pretty sure that the forms went out already. They were probably connected to the email blast. Is that correct, Katherine?

Katherine Jett: That's correct.

Raquel Donaldson: Okay. And, I'm sorry, in regards to when will — I actually had that question myself, Shelly. Katherine, do you know when the recording will be available?

Katherine Jett: We usually have it up within two to three weeks. No more.

Raquel Donaldson: Okay.

Katherine Jett: Okay. Well, thank you, Raquel.

Raquel Donaldson: Thank you.

Katherine Jett: And Keitra? I'll go back to you.

Keitra Hill: Yes, our next question is from Ann Lynn Banton. Your mic is unmuted. Unmute yourself and ask your question. Hi, Ann. Please go ahead and unmute your mic again. You were unmuted for like a half a second. It will be *6 to unmute yourself.

Katherine Jett: Okay, if we want to go to the next one and we'll give Ann a few minutes to unmute.

Keitra Hill: Yep.

Katherine Jett: Kat Martin, you had your hand raised still, so your line is unmuted — or your mic rather is unmuted. So, please unmute yourself.

Kat Martin: Yeah, this is all for Federal Fiscal Year '23, which as we know is coming to an end here in just a couple of weeks. I am wondering, at this point, if we are expected to use this for any claims that we currently have pending through the Ticket to Work Program?. Thanks.

Raquel Donaldson: Hi, Kat. Yes, this is actually for any claims that you have for Fiscal Year '23. And that doesn't necessarily mean that the ACP needed will be the Fiscal Year '23. But, as we've said on every — all the past All VR calls, do not hold on to any of your claims, even if you are awaiting the calculation of your Fiscal Year '23 cost formula, please send them in whenever you feel like you're ready. Whenever the VR closure date has ended, send the claims in. We have been placing them in diary. And we're just making notes that we know that the technician is waiting for the Fiscal Year '23 cost formula in order to process. So, don't hold on to anything.

Kat Martin: Okay, so — just so I'm understanding clearly. Some of the ones that we have sent in that we've seen no updates with may actually be on hold at present pending our submission of this cost formula calculation.

Raquel Donaldson: Correct. And if you look in the diary, if you have access to the diary, which is in the Portal, the notes should say -- there should be a comment made left by the technician or analyst stating, "Need Fiscal Year '23 cost formula to process the claim."

Kat Martin: Super. That's very helpful. Thank you so much.

Raquel Donaldson: You're welcome.

Eric Schmidt: I just wanted to add really quickly just for clarity's sake because I didn't explicitly state it. The reporting period for the data that you're collecting from the RSA forms is 10/1/2021 through 9/30/2022. So, just so you can make sure you get that to the right folks in your agencies for the pieces of information that you need to collect. That's the reporting period that we're looking at for the data so we can proceed with this particular formula for this period of time.

Katherine Jett: Thank you, Kat. Thank you, Eric. I will go ahead and try again to get Ann on the line. Keitra?

Keitra Hill: Yes. Ann, your mic is unmuted, if you can unmute yourself by dialing *6. And then make sure on your computer and Teams that you're unmuted as well.

Ann Lynn Banton: Okay.

Keitra Hill: And, actually, you are. Yeah, and she is in Teams, so you only need to unmute yourself in Teams, Ann. Sorry for the confusion.

Katherine Jett: If you'll go to the very top of your screen and there should be a microphone. If you'll click on it, it'll unmute. Okay. When you get unmuted, we'll go ahead and call on you, Ann, at that time. I would like to remind everyone that if you are on the phone and you do have a question, you just press *5 to raise your hand, you'll be unmuted by Keitra and we will ask you to press *6 to unmute yourself. If you're on Teams, go ahead and click the microphone at the Raise Hand icon at the top. And then we'll unmute you. Just click your microphone to unmute yourself. And I see we have some more, Keitra.

Keitra Hill: Yes, we have a question from Gregory. Your mic is unmuted, if you can unmute yourself and go ahead and ask your question.

Gregory Suko: Hello. Thanks. Yeah, I had a question regarding the cost formula worksheet. On the definitions and the timing, it says "annually in October due by March." So, I just wanted to confirm that that's the window we have to submit this to you or to Raquel.

Eric Schmidt: That was the typical -- yeah, that's a Raquel question.

Gregory Suko: Thank you.

Eric Schmidt: That was the typical range that they used to be under this one. It's, obviously, an exception. But Raquel could probably speak to the normal routine.

Raquel Donaldson: No, you're right, that is what we normally expect. Normally, the expectation is that I usually send out the cost formula announcing and requesting it, probably about September or October, giving the VRs until March to get it submitted. But, clearly, we're way past beyond any of those dates. So, right now, we're going to say ASAP. My hope or my thought is to give you all about a month or so. Again, there's not a penalty. You're penalizing yourself the longer you take to submit the cost formula because that means that your claims are held, and you're not reimbursed. We're not able to process any of your reimbursements until we actually get that information.

Gregory Suko: Got it. Thank you.

Raquel Donaldson: So, again, there's – you're welcome, Greg. There's no penalty for taking longer than other VRs. But I'm sure you're just as desperate as anyone else to get this information into us as soon as possible.

Katherine Jett: Thank you. Thank you, Raquel. Keitra, our next participant with a question?

Keitra Hill: We do not have any other participants with a question. Ann, I believe your mic is unmuted. Did you want to go ahead and ask your question?

Ann Lynn Banton: Yeah, I did –

Keitra Hill: Yeah.

Ann Lynn Banton: But something –

Keitra Hill: There you go.

Ann Lynn Banton: Happened. Can you hear me?

Raquel Donaldson: Yes, Ann, we hear you.

Ann Lynn Banton: Okay, because I tried and last time I got totally cut off of everything.

Katherine Jett: Okay, sorry about that.

Ann Lynn Banton: Okay, I need help understanding the difference between the federal timeframe and the performance year timeframe. VR works off of a PY schedule now, not an FFY schedule. So, when you're saying fourth quarter to start, for 2022, what fourth quarter are you talking about? My fourth quarter is April to June.

Eric Schmidt: I don't know if, Erica, you want to handle that question.

Raquel Donaldson: You're on mute, Erica.

Eric Schmidt: Basically, it should be federal fiscal year. Basically, you've got to follow the quarters of the RSA forms – RSA submission forms. Oh, now we can hear you, Erica.

Erica Loomis: Okay, yeah, the *6 thing. Never know when to press it. Okay, that's a good question. So, it has to do with the form that you're looking at. So, for Federal Fiscal Year '22. So, I don't know if you want to pop up the form there, Eric, the reporting form.

Eric Schmidt: Sure. I'll turn to share my screen again.

Erica Loomis: So Part 1(A).

Eric Schmidt: Yeah, give me one second, I'll share this with –

Ann Lynn Banton: If you're doing federal year '22 –

Erica Loomis: It's all based on – yeah, it's all based on federal year.

Ann Lynn Banton: So, that means if you're starting October 1st of '21 and going through 9/30 of 2022, which means your fourth quarter is the first quarter of the VR performance year, which is 7/1 of '22 to 9/30 of '22. Is that correct?

Erica Loomis: That is correct.

Ann Lynn Banton: Okay.

Erica Loomis: So, it's the reporting – where it says Reporting Period 2, that's the end date, 9/30/22. So, for Federal Fiscal Year '22, that's the A – Part 1(A) '20 – Fiscal Year '22, that would be quarter four, which ends 9/30. But for the carry-over year, that's Part B 21, so that's the eighth quarter, which also ends 9/30.

Ann Lynn Banton: So, then that means –

Erica Loomis: To answer your question, yes, it's July the –

Ann Lynn Banton: Okay.

Erica Loomis: July 1 to 9/30/22 is whether you look into Quarter 4 or 8.

Ann Lynn Banton: Quarter 8, that means we've got to include the previous year into '21 to get to Quarter 8. Okay. It's just very confusing.

Erica Loomis: Yeah, I know. That's why we tried to put on the form you're only looking at the period 10/1/21 to 9/30/22. So, lines five and six, that period. Only the one-year period. And, so, you have two – since the VR awards are two years, so award – the first – the '21 awards you'd be in the second year of that award. And – so the '21 award. And the '22 award you would be in the first year of that award. So, that's where it kind of gets confusing. That's why we tried to put, you know, your federal grant numbers, so which award you're taking it from, which federal fiscal year you're in, which quarter you're in, which line you're on to make it very clear.

Ann Lynn Banton: Okay. All right, I think I understand.

Erica Loomis: Can you know which – yeah. So, one year period and then which form?

Eric Schmidt: And then I would say you're probably going to be pulling somebody in from your accounting department that's going to be able to reconcile this, unless you're the one that's reporting those forms yourself. As long as you provide them – the narrative and the worksheet here, they can get you the right quarters, because they're used to reporting those and they know the timeframes that Erica is speaking about. So, I think they would be able to speak the

same language. For me, that's a learning process, too. And I had the same questions you had about the we do that when there's a difference between program year, federal fiscal year, reporting quarters. You know, that just creates a lot of potential confusion. So, it's just a matter of getting the right person or persons to give you some support there. That is my big takeaway from this whole process. It used to be, you know, hey, somebody give me one form, takes them two minutes. I can go there very quickly, get the pieces of information I need. Now it's a bit more partnership to get to the information that you need, and making sure that everybody's on the same page.

Ann Lynn Banton: Oh, that piece of it is fine. I mean, I have a fiscal person but I'm the one who does all of this. I'm the one that also does all of the data compiling here and manages that whole process. So, basically, what I have to say to my fiscal staff is I need the date ranges for them to pull the proper documentation. So, I think I've got it now. Quarter 8's got to include both year '21 and '22 getting down to the end of 9/30 of '22. So, I think I figured that out.

My other question I had for SSA is, I have a couple of diaries out here that keep saying we're waiting on cost formula of '23 to come through. I'm going to look at that timeframe. I don't know – based on all this extra work I've got to do to get all this documentation pulled and et cetera, I don't know that I can meet the 22nd of September or whatever date it was for the end of that diary. So, I'm hoping that you all will take in account that we're just getting this info and now we've got to work together with our fiscal team to grab this stuff. I'm going to be requesting, if you can, to please give me a further date into October to have my diaries due.

Raquel Donaldson: Hey, Ann Lynn, it's Raquel.

Ann Lynn Banton: Yeah.

Raquel Donaldson: We have given instructions to the VR Help Desk, the ladies that work the Help Desk.

Ann Lynn Banton: Okay.

Raquel Donaldson: I'm sorry, the Help Desk, anyone who is putting – placing the claims into diary, they know that after 30 days, yes, the diary will expire. They are to go in and provide a new – an additional 30 days each time. There is no expiration for the cost formula. So, no worries with that at all.

Ann Lynn Banton: Okay. All right, perfect. Then I don't need to bother them. Okay. That was my two questions I had. Thank y'all.

Katherine Jett: Thank you. And, Keitra, I'll defer to you.

Keitra Hill: Yes, we have a question from Mark. Your mic is unmuted, if you go ahead and unmute yourself and ask your question.

Mark Runyan: Thank you. I have a question on the carryover year. You say Quarter 8, but would we want to include the liquidation period of that '21 grant, that it's the final report of the '21

variant? Or do we use what is ended at 9/30? I just wanted to make sure that I was hearing correctly.

Erica Loomis: I think that's a question for me. Can you guys still hear me?

Mark Runyan: Yes.

Erica Loomis: So, yeah, you want to use the final report for Quarter 8.

Mark Runyan: Okay, perfect. Thank you.

Erica Loomis: You're welcome.

Katherine Jett: Hi, we have Vincent on the line. Did you have a question, Vincent, or want to say something?

Vincent Carter: Good afternoon. Can you hear me okay?

Katherine Jett: Yes, sir.

Vincent Carter: Okay. Yeah, I was just going to respond to Mark to say, yeah, that it is Quarter 8 because the information is all cumulative. And, yeah, you do have to back out the previous Quarter 4 information. But my next question is, Eric, then, for the next one, are we using FY '23 or we using FY '22 Quarter 8 for the next reporting?

Eric Schmidt: We would basically, do the exact same thing, just carry it from 10/1/2022 to 9/30/2023. And then just shift all of the quarters required, for all the RSA forms the next year.

Vincent Carter: Okay. So, we're looking at 9/30/23 and 9/30/22.

Eric Schmidt: 10/1/22, 9/30/23 would be the –

Vincent Carter: Okay.

Eric Schmidt: Range.

Vincent Carter: Oh, okay. Got it.

Erica Loomis: So, when you use the form, when you're entering the dates on Line I5 and Line I6, those dates will drive and populate all the other cells. So, it'll change your federal fiscal year to '23 and '22. So, all your references will be updated. So, basically, when you're updating the form for this time and next time, because you're doing it for the first time. You're populating all the cells in Column I that are yellow highlighted. And everything else should be able to compute on its own. But you've got to pay attention to the date format that's over to the right in the instructions in Column M to make sure that is input in the same – in that format that we suggest you use. So, the form should drive itself, and it should then tell you -- once you put in those dates from and to, the formula should update all the other cells and tell you what form to go to for what federal fiscal year so you'll be able to pick up the correct lines.

Katherine Jett: Thank you. And, Keitra, do we have anyone else with their hands raised?

Keitra Hill: We do not have any hands raised at this time.

Katherine Jett: Okay. I'm going to do a final call for the raised hands. If you have any questions, please raise your hand at the top of your screen.

Eric Schmidt: So, just real fast, I went ahead and just updated per what Erica was saying to 10/1/22, 9/30/23. As you can see, it updated the years, federal fiscal year for Part 1(A) to '23 and the carryover year to '22. So, the form automatically does that for you as long as you put the right information in the reporting period from N2. So, smart form. So, it helps you out to make sure you get that right information to the accounting department so they can help you out and get the right forms that you need, the right RSA forms.

I did have one additional question that came via email prior to the call. I just wanted to go ahead real fast if I could. It's basically maybe a semantics question or like a definitions question and whether or not — and we probably shouldn't really call it total federal expenditures. We probably should call it something more like total allowable expenditures, because there is some non-federal share in here. So, bottom line on that question was, yeah, you're probably right, maybe you don't call it total federal, maybe you call it total allowable expenditures. But the form itself is accounting for it appropriately. So, I wouldn't get bogged down in the fact that maybe that lists a non-federal share in this line under something that says federal expenditures. So, I don't want that to confuse folks. Again, that question came via email. It's a good question. And I think the important thing is just to understand that the form itself is functioning appropriately. Next time we go around and have different revisions again, maybe we'll just tweak the language a little bit so we don't bump into that. But I did want to make sure that was clarified for folks because, again, it's from the accounting side, I can imagine someone's probably going to see that and go, "Okay, wait a minute, that doesn't seem like it should be added into that line." So, just so you're aware, the form's functioning appropriately. Maybe the definitions or language need tweaking a little teeny bit next time.

Katherine Jett: Thank you, Eric, appreciate that. Keitra, I see we have another hand raised.

Keitra Hill: Yes, we have a question from Thomas. Your mic is unmuted, you can unmute yourself and go ahead and ask your question.

Thomas Zobebe: Yes, good afternoon. So, as it relates to all of this is -- from what I'm understanding, is that I'm going to have to rely heavily on my finance and accounting department. I'm from the state of New Jersey. So, is that essentially what I'm getting at in terms of these forms that I'm going to need and all of that. That's who I'm going to have to lean on pretty much in order to assist me in getting the information off to Social Security? Is that correct?

Eric Schmidt: For Maryland, that was our fiscal folks, especially for Part 1, Step 1. For the RSA-911 data, that was actually coming from a different part of our agency. That's going to be more on the RSA-911 data reporting. So, maybe the data reporting step is a little bit different than the accounting step for Maryland. So, there are a couple of folks at play there. Now, maybe that's all the same person or persons in your state. And I would say that's going to differ from state to state. Especially in a smaller state versus a larger state, some of those things might be

under the same umbrella. A larger state, you might have different folks doing each of these pieces of the process. So, yeah, I think the critical thing is just — for the first step, yes, fiscal accounting, however that's called and whoever that is in your agency. Second step, which is — let me scroll down. The total number of individuals served from the RSA-911 data, that's more likely coming from data reporting folks that may or may not be the same people. For us, that's somebody who's more involved in our case management side. So, just make sure you get both of those. And, again, it may not be the same person.

Thomas Zobebe: Thank you. And, obviously, I would imagine that they would be able to delineate between those who have a Ticket and those who do not in terms of the purposes of what we need here. So, we're not lumping in individuals who are non-Ticketholders. Correct? I would imagine that you're only looking for Ticketholders, nobody else. And that's what is needed in terms of that number of individuals served.

Eric Schmidt: That may be a Patrick question. That's not my interpretation of that line. But, Patrick, are you still online?

Katherine Jett: And we have Patrick on the line. Patrick is on mute. If you'll just unmute and —

Patrick: Okay. Sorry, that was —

Katherine Jett: No problem.

Patrick Peto: Teams is not my first language. But, as Eric said, no, when we ran ours, we're looking at participants defined as individuals that have been found eligible for services and have completed an Individualized Plan for Employment. So, no, we didn't bring in the Ticket status to that calculation.

Eric Schmidt: And that was not brought into that calculation previously. So, we kept that calculation, you know, the same as previous. So, that's never been the — like a —

Thomas Zobebe: Okay.

Eric Schmidt: An extra filter on that is not — does not include Tickets. I want to make sure if Patrick clarified.

Thomas Zobebe: Okay. Thank you. So, it's all VR — it's all those who've walked through the doors of VR. And you only want the most recent — would logically be the most recent case for that individual. If they've had multiple cases open, it would be looking at the most recent open case or in doesn't.

Eric Schmidt: Within that time period, yeah. Again, where either it didn't close before that cut-off date or that it started, you know, after that cut-off date. In that step of the process, there's some instruction there, just to make sure you're capturing somebody that. You don't want to capture somebody that closed before the period in question or that started after the period in question. So, you're trying to capture that window in time. And then, obviously, the other thing is you're trying to capture folks with IPEs, you're not looking at transitioning youth, those sorts of

things where they're not on an IPE. So, those are the real critical elements to make sure you're not over-forecasting as well and coming up with folks that shouldn't be included.

Thomas Zobebe: Sorry with all my questions. I'm just kind of trying to wrap my head around all of it. So, thank you.

Katherine Jett: Thank you very much. Thank you, Eric. Keitra?

Keitra Hill: Yes, we have another question from Ann Lynn. Your mic is unmuted, if you can unmute yourself and go ahead and ask your question.

Ann Lynn Banton: Sure. I should have taken my hand down. But to piggyback on what Eric and Patrick just said to the lady who was just on the phone, your 911 people are going to know how to give you that figure. Don't try to take that calculation piece of those clients served and nitpick it through. Take the total number of what your 911 people give you and work with it at that point. You're not trying to make it that complicated. It's everybody who was in a service status with an IPE that fits within that timeframe. That's all you need to worry about. That's it.

Katherine Jett: Thank you, Ann. Keitra, I think we have one more with a hand raised.

Keitra Hill: Yes. Chris, your mic is unmuted, unmute yourself and go ahead and ask your question.

Chris Montagna: Hello and thanks for not attempting to say my last name. So, we have a blind and a general agency. Do we combine those numbers for blind and general? Or do we do separate cost formulas for each?

Eric Schmidt: Maryland is a combined agency, and we submit one cost formula. So, unless you have completely separate agencies and completely separate — like if you're submitting RSA documentation separately, then maybe you would do that separately. But Maryland's a combined agency, we only submit one cost formula. I don't know if anybody else from maybe SSA side or somebody else wants to chime in on that piece.

Raquel Donaldson: Chris, what — I should know this, but what VR are you from? Don't kill me.

Chris Montagna: Maine, Maine.

Raquel Donaldson: You have two separate, you have main general ACP number and your main blind. So, two separate —

Chris Montagna: That's correct [inaudible] —

Raquel Donaldson: So, you should submit two separate.

Chris Montagna: All right, thank you.

Raquel Donaldson: You're welcome.

Katherine Jett: Thank you, Chris. Thank you, Raquel and Eric. We'll do one more last call and then we'll turn it over to Raquel. Again, if you'd like to have a question answered, just raise your hand or press *5. And we have someone, Keitra?

Keitra Hill: Yep, we have a hand raised. Andy, your mic is unmuted, if you unmute yourself and go ahead and ask your question.

Andy Hendricks: Okay. On the form where Column I on the Lines 5 and 6, do we need to change that to 10/1/22 on our formula? Or are we just going to use it just like it is as — do you want —

Eric Schmidt: For this year, for this calculation, you want to keep it 10/1/21 to 9/30/22. For the formula that we're trying to accomplish right now.

Andy Hendricks: Okay.

Eric Schmidt: As it was sent out to you in email, that is what you use. We were just showing you that we're already coming up on the next time we're going to have to do this. So, you can go ahead and update the form at that time. But, no, at this point, you don't need to change that. It's basically plug and play this year as it came to you.

Andy Hendricks: Okay. And one last question. For Arkansas, we are under one agency number with general and our blind services, but we do separate RSAs. So, would we submit two cost formulas for Arkansas?

Eric Schmidt: Probably a Raquel question.

Raquel Donaldson: Hi, Andy. Yes, you would, two separate.

Andy Hendricks: Okay. All right. Thank you very much.

Raquel Donaldson: You're welcome.

Katherine Jett: Thank you. And we have one last question. Keitra?

Keitra Hill: From Kat Martin. Kat, your mic is unmuted, go ahead and unmute yourself and ask your question.

Kat Martin: One last question, I promise. How long will this calculation be good for?

Raquel Donaldson: This is the Fiscal Year '23 cost formula. So, it's for anything that's closed as of — or as of October, I believe, October 2022 was the closure date. Am I correct Eric?

Kat Martin: I'm sorry, I'm not quite as close —

Eric Schmidt: That's correct, 10/1/22 was the end of the reporting period.

Kat Martin: Okay, I've had —

Raquel Donaldson: So, that — go ahead. I'm sorry.

Kat Martin: I'm so sorry for talking over you. I'm not quite as close to this as some of the other folks on here, but I monitor the cash that comes in from the Social Security reimbursements. And, so, if we are just now submitting the '23 calculation, I'm assuming there's a period of time where we'll have to wait for it to be approved, which may also hold up reimbursements. And I'm

wondering what happens when the new federal fiscal year rolls on October 1st. Do we keep submitting and will they be evaluated under this cost formula? Or how is that going to work?

Raquel Donaldson: So, this cost formula is based off of claims that are closed after October 1, 2022, to September 30 of 2023. So, if you check what you may have now in your pending claim list, I'm not sure if you have more that you will be submitting by September 30 or that have — I'm not sure. I can't say because I'm not — I don't — I'm not with your VR. But you can actually look now at your pending claim list to see the dollar amount. That doesn't mean that every claim is even going to be paid. It could be dollar amount — it could be higher or lower. Unfortunately, I can't give you, you know, the — a dollar amount to say, "Hey, base it off of this," not even a high or a low amount. Eugenia, did you want to jump in on that one?

Kat Martin: Okay, so —

Raquel Donaldson: Kat, hold on one second. It looks like Eugenia probably wants to give you a little bit more information.

Eugenia Cox: Yeah, when the claims — sorry, I'm dealing with a throat problem. When the claims are put into diary and they're given a subject line of waiting for the '23 cost formula, has it been approved for payment at that point? Because I know they're denying them as they needed to be denying them. But I was under the assumption any of them put in diary for the '23 cost formula were already going to be paid.

Raquel Donaldson: That is correct.

Eugenia Cox: Is that correct?

Raquel Donaldson: That is correct.

Eugenia Cox: Okay. Thank you.

Raquel Donaldson: Unless an issue comes up where we go through, we process it and maybe they're requesting late startup SGA, something like that. Who knows?

Eugenia Cox: Okay.

Raquel Donaldson: So, I don't guarantee that. Or if it becomes -- if we go to pay it and it becomes a PVR and the VR says, "Uh, sorry, we have no receipts." So, I don't want to give a 100 percent guarantee that the claim is going to be paid, but I'll give you a 98.9 percent guarantee that the claim that's just awaiting the cost formula will be paid.

Eugenia Cox: Yeah. And if there were multiple claims for one person and one of them got paid as, let's say, a 950, which was reduced for savings to the trust, that also could be a factor that could be denied because of no money left on that claim. OK, OK.

Raquel Donaldson: Correct. It could become a 610. You're correct.

Eugenia Cox: Okay. Okay. Thank you.

Raquel Donaldson: You're welcome.

Katherine Jett: Thank you, everyone. Raquel, at this time, we don't have any raised hands. And I'll turn it back over to you.

Raquel Donaldson: Thank you, Katherine. And, again, thank you for everyone that's on the line. This is probably the largest All VR call, even though it's about the cost formula that we've had this many participants. I did take a few notes as I was going along, just so I could remember. This is probably one of the most important parts, what are you guys sending to SSA when this is all said and done. And I think Eric mentioned it earlier. The only thing that I will need when you're emailing the VR Help Desk is that final ACP number that you come up with in your calculation. I do not need the documentations that I normally would request in the past. With that being said, I'd strongly suggest that you do hold on to those documents until you receive an actual approval letter from me. That is me or SSA saying, "We've got your information. We've reviewed it. And, yes, you are allowed to use this ACP number in your calculations for Fiscal Year '23. So, any documentation that you use to come up with that calculation, please, please, hold on to. I could come back and say, "Hey, I need to see your documentation." So, please hold on to it, at least until you receive that approval letter from me.

When you do get that approval letter, you will also receive a blank cost containment policy. This is to be signed by your signatory authority and emailed back to me as well. I do keep a record of who has submitted it. We have to have one for each fiscal year. When I don't receive that back within 30 days, I will be emailing you and the director reminding that I do need that back. So, that's just an FYI. For anyone who has said that they did not receive the document, if you look at the very bottom, scroll to the very bottom of the GovDelivery announcement that came out, you should see three attachments. You should be able to click on those to receive the documents. Again, if you don't have that, something was forwarded to you or someone just told you about the call, please feel free to email the VR Help Desk and we'll get those three documents over to you. If you need your past ACP amounts, that — those amounts are available on the Portal as well. If you don't know how to find that information, that's another quick email to the VR Help Desk. We can walk you through it or we can actually provide you with those past fiscal year ACP amounts. Any other questions, again, email the VR Help Desk. And, of course, as Katherine said, the call is being recorded. It will be available in a couple of weeks. That is another email that I will be sending out just to let you know that that information is available. It's probably more so for folks who weren't able to make the call, but you guys may have questions as well or want to go back and hear something that Erica said or anyone else has said. So, just know that information as well. And that is all I have. Again, thank you for everyone that took a part of the call. And have a great day.

Katherine Jett: Thank you. This call is now concluded.