



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

September 30, 2023

Consistent with the *Inspector General Act of 1978*, as amended, this is a compilation of recommendations that are open and unresolved. The Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General made these recommendations to the Department in 18 reports issued between October 2017 and September 2023.

These recommendations remain open and unresolved until 1) DHS submits to DHS OIG a corrective action plan that addresses the findings and recommendations, including estimated completion dates, and 2) DHS OIG accepts the plan. DHS OIG typically closes recommendations once DHS completes the agreed upon corrective actions and DHS OIG verifies the actions were completed.

We continue to work with DHS and component leadership to resolve these recommendations. As of the end of fiscal year 2023, DHS has 36 recommendations open and unresolved more than 6 months.

OPEN UNRESOLVED RECOMMENDATIONS OLDER THAN SIX MONTHS AS OF SEPTEMBER 2023

Report Number	Report Title	Date Issued	Rec No.	Recommendation Text	DHS Comp	Reason Code*
OIG-18-04	<i>(U) FAMS' Contribution to Aviation Transportation Security Is Questionable</i>	10/24/2017	2	Report is classified.	TSA	B
			3	Report is classified.	TSA	B
			4	Report is classified.	TSA	B
OIG-18-36	<i>ICE Faces Challenges to Screen Aliens Who May Be Known or Suspected Terrorists (REDACTED)</i>	1/5/2018	2	We recommend that the Assistant Director of Field Operations immediately correct the limitations and challenges identified with KSTEP by ensuring ERO offices have the infrastructure necessary to communicate on known or suspected terrorists.	ICE	B

OIG-19-17	<i>FAMS Contribution to International Flight Security is Questionable</i>	9/19/2018	1	Report is classified.	TSA	C
			2	Report is classified.	TSA	C
OIG-19-23	<i>Border Patrol Needs a Staffing Model to Better Plan for Hiring More Agents</i>	2/28/2019	1	We recommend the Under Secretary for Management of DHS ensure CBP and Border Patrol expedite development and implementation of a workforce staffing model for U.S. Border Patrol as required by Congress to better inform staffing and resource deployment decisions.	CBP	B
OIG-19-66	<i>FEMA Did Not Sufficiently Safeguard Use of Transportation Assistance Funds</i>	9/30/2019	1	We recommend the FEMA Assistant Administrator for Recovery strengthen FEMA's transportation assistance policies and procedures and coordinate with FEMA Assistant Administrator for Mission Support to: a) require the collection and retention of eligibility documentation or where applicable, document the steps taken to validate applicant statements in FEMA's system of record, and b) ensure future information technology updates support the collection, use, and retention of unique Vehicle Identification Numbers to enable FEMA to cross-reference national databases to confirm insurance coverage and identify applicants' second vehicles.	FEMA	A
			3	We recommend the FEMA Assistant Administrator for Recovery, in accordance with the Stafford and Improper Payments Acts; develop controls to identify payments not used for critical transportation needs.	FEMA	A

OIG-20-13	<i>U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Criminal Alien Program Faces Challenges</i>	2/18/2020	2	We recommend the Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, conduct an independent workforce analysis to determine whether centralizing research of aliens and issuing detainers at the Pacific Enforcement Response Center would be more efficient than performing these tasks there as well as at local research centers.	ICE	C
OIG-20-23	<i>FEMA Has Made More than \$3 Billion in Improper and Potentially Fraudulent Payments for Home Repair Assistance since 2003</i>	4/6/2020	1	We recommend the Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator, due to the questioned costs exceeding \$3 billion, implement a process to collect documentation and verify eligibility for applicants claiming no homeowner's insurance prior to providing IHP home repair assistance payouts.	FEMA	A
			2	We recommend the Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator include the IHP as susceptible to significant improper payments subject to annual improper payments estimation and reporting.	FEMA	A
OIG-20-52	<i>CBP Has Not Demonstrated Acquisition Capabilities Needed to Secure the Southern Border</i>	7/14/2020	1	We recommend the Under Secretary for Management of DHS require CBP to conduct an up-to-date independent Analysis of Alternatives to identify the most appropriate and effective solutions to obtain complete operational control of the southern border.	CBP, MGMT	A

OIG-20-60	<i>FEMA Has Paid Billions in Improper Payments for SBA Dependent Other Needs Assistance since 2003</i>	8/12/2020	1	We recommend the FEMA Administrator, due to the more than \$3.3 billion in questioned costs throughout a 16-year period, implement a process to collect income and dependent documentation on SBA Dependent ONA applicants to ensure payments are proper.	FEMA	A
			2	We recommend the FEMA Administrator, due to the questioned costs in recommendation 1, implement a verification process to ensure accuracy of income and dependent information provided by SBA Dependent ONA applicants.	FEMA	A
			3	We recommend the FEMA Administrator include SBA Dependent ONA as susceptible to significant improper payments subject to annual improper payments estimation and reporting.	FEMA	A
OIG-20-77	<i>Evaluation of DHS' Information Security Program for Fiscal Year 2019</i>	9/30/2020	2	We recommend the Deputy Under Secretary for Management assess the risk posed to the Department's information security program [REDACTED], inform DHS senior leadership of the risks identified, document senior leadership's concurrence or non-concurrence with the former CIO's decision, and communicate the decision, in writing, to OMB and selected congressional oversight committees.	MGMT	B & C

OIG-21-66	<i>DHS Did Not Fully Comply with Requirements in the Transportation Security Card Program Assessment</i>	9/22/2021	1	We recommend the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with TSA and the Coast Guard, re-evaluate the HSOAC assessment, and report on further corrective actions necessary to address the four areas of concern from the assessment findings, as identified in this report, or justify excluding these areas of concern from the corrective action plan.	USCG, TSA	B
OIG-22-44	<i>ICE Did Not Follow Policies, Guidance, or Recommendations to Ensure Migrants Were Tested for COVID-19 before Transport on Domestic Commercial Flights</i>	5/18/2022	1	We recommend the ICE Executive Associate Director for Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) coordinate with CBP and the DHS Chief Medical Officer to determine and document whether noncitizen unaccompanied children and family units should be tested for COVID-19 before transport on domestic commercial flights. If ICE ERO determines noncitizen unaccompanied children and family units should be tested, we recommend ICE ERO develop detailed testing policies and establish controls to ensure staff and contractors follow the policies. These policies should include modes of transportation and timeframes for mandatory testing before transport.	ICE	B
			2	We recommend the ICE Executive Associate Director for Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) establish controls to ensure staff and contractors follow existing requirements to test single adults for COVID-19 before transfer using domestic commercial flights.	ICE	B
			3	We recommend the ICE Executive Associate Director for Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) clarify existing COVID-19 testing policies to include modes of transportation and timeframes for mandatory testing before transport.	ICE	B

			4	We recommend the ICE Executive Associate Director for Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) maintain complete and accurate migrant COVID-19 testing and transport records.	ICE	B
OIG-22-56	<i>FEMA Needs to Improve Its Oversight of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program</i>	8/10/2022	1	We recommend the FEMA Administrator collaborate with the National Board to reallocate all unclaimed and unpaid funds for all phases with closed spending periods to the earliest possible phase.	FEMA	A
			2	We recommend the FEMA Administrator collaborate with the National Board to develop a more proactive approach to determine, as early in the process as possible, whether Local Boards and State Set-Aside Committees are willing to accept funds, so that funds can be reallocated from jurisdictions unwilling or unable to participate in the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.	FEMA	A
			10	We recommend the FEMA Administrator collaborate with the National Board to implement a plan to enforce already established guidance including Local Boards' deadlines for board plan submission and the disbursement of funds to Local Recipient Organizations within the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act's 3-month required timeframe.	FEMA	A
OIG-22-61	<i>Vulnerabilities Continue to Exist in TSAs Checked Baggage Screening</i>	8/18/2022	3	Report is classified.	TSA	C

OIG-22-64	<i>DHS Encountered Obstacles to Screen, Vet, and Inspect All Evacuees during the Recent Afghanistan Crisis</i>	9/6/2022	1	We recommend the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner: a. Immediately identify evacuees from Afghanistan who are in the United States and provide evidence of full screening and vetting based on confirmed identification - especially for those who did not have documentation; and b. Ensure recurrent vetting processes established for all paroled evacuees are carried out for the duration of their parole period.	CBP, SEC, DSEC, COS	A
			2	We recommend the Secretary of Homeland Security develop a comprehensive contingency plan to support similar emergency situations in the future and account for, screen, vet, and inspect all individuals during unprecedented events when limited biographic data is available. Specifically: a. The plan should include, at a minimum, lessons learned from departmental after-action reports that can be incorporated into the plan for future events, lead roles and responsibilities, points of contact, established processes, and expected timeframes. b. The policies and procedures should ensure accountability, standard practices, and quality assurance across DHS components involved in screening, vetting, and inspecting individuals in emergency situations.	CBP, SEC, DSEC, COS	A
OIG-22-69	<i>FEMA Did Not Implement Controls to Prevent More than \$3.7 Billion in Improper Payments from the Lost Wages Assistance Program</i>	9/16/2022	1	We recommend the FEMA Administrator develop and implement a standard risk assessment process before initiating new Federal grant programs. This risk assessment should focus on identifying and evaluating program risks that may affect FEMA's ability to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in its programs and mitigating those external risks to the extent practical	FEMA	A

			2	We recommend the FEMA Administrator, when mandated to rely on eligibility determinations of non-FEMA programs, develop a process to assess the program controls and identify risk to the extent practical	FEMA	A
			3	We recommend the FEMA Administrator update the State Administrative Plan template to incorporate a requirement for grantees to include a description of the steps to prevent improper payments.	FEMA	A
			4	We recommend the FEMA Administrator develop and implement a process to monitor whether grantees implement and use the controls attested in FEMA-approved State Administrative Plans.	FEMA	A
			5	We recommend the FEMA Administrator work with state workforce agencies to evaluate the Lost Wages Assistance program payments and verify that all recipients who received payment have a self-certification on file, as required; to determine whether the claimant meets eligibility requirements if no self-certification is on file; and, if not, to recover the payment.	FEMA	A
			6	We recommend the FEMA Administrator conduct an after-action study of the Lost Wages Assistance program and update FEMA's Individuals and Households Program based on the lessons learned from the study.	FEMA	A
OIG-22-73	<i>More than \$2.6 Million in Potentially Fraudulent LWA Payments Were Linked to DHS Employees Identities</i>	9/27/2022	6	We recommend the FEMA Administrator develop and implement a process to review state administrative plans for consistency and ensure they include fraud prevention and mitigation strategies.	FEMA	A

OIG-23-20	<i>FEMA Should Increase Oversight to Prevent Misuse of Humanitarian Relief Funds</i>	3/28/2023	1	We recommend the FEMA Administrator ensure that the EFSP National Board resolve the \$7.4 million in questioned costs and incorporate controls in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Humanitarian Relief Funding and Application Guidance to minimize future reimbursements of unsupported costs. Additionally, the FEMA Administrator should ensure the labor hour reimbursements made to the COVID-19 testing contractor are appropriately supported.	FEMA	C
18 Reports		36 Recs				

*Reason Code Key

A = DHS did not concur and has not changed its original position

B = DHS did not provide timely/sufficient corrective action plan and/or expected completion date

C = Disagreement on evidence and/or proposed corrective actions