

Transcript: “A Message from the Inspector General: Office of Justice Programs’ Management of the Crime Victims Fund Grant Programs,” September 2017

Hello, I’m Michael Horowitz, Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Today, our office released an audit of the risks associated with management of the Crime Victims Fund by the Office of Justice Programs, or OJP. The Fund is an account supported entirely by federal criminal fees, penalties, forfeited bail bonds, gifts, donations, and special assessments. It is used to support crime victims through DOJ programs and state and local victim services. Over the past 3 fiscal years, DOJ has provided nearly \$8 billion in funding for these programs.

Today’s audit is part of the OIG’s strategy to provide oversight of DOJ grants to programs supported by the Fund. Our report today concludes that OJP had sufficient controls in place for the solicitation, selection, and awarding of the Fund’s grants. We also determined that OJP has made progress toward meeting new congressional requirements for grant recipients of the Fund. However, we identified risk areas where OJP’s management of the Fund’s grant programs needs improvement, including its onsite monitoring of state administering agencies, understanding of grant and financial monitoring procedures, training for staff, and use of performance measures.

Today’s report makes 11 recommendations to OJP to address the risk areas identified in its management of the Fund. I encourage you to listen to a podcast that we also released today, which features a member of our Audit Division discussing the report’s findings in greater depth.

The OIG is committed to robust oversight of the Department’s administration of the Fund as it continues to grow. We have issued 16 audits since January 2016 of programs that received grant money from the Fund, and we have 16 audits ongoing. As a result of those audits, we’ve issued dozens of recommendations to improve administration of the Fund and enhance the performance of its programs. We’ve also identified over \$2.4 million in questioned costs and nearly \$200,000 in money that can be put to better use.

Our ongoing Fund-related audit work includes:

- Assessments of how state administering agencies’ are managing the Fund’s grants;
- Evaluations of state administering agencies’ practices for monitoring the performance of grant sub-recipients; and
- Audits of grants that provide funding for victim services and for financial assistance and reimbursement to crime victims for certain out-of-pocket expenses.

Finally, in fiscal year 2018 and in future years, the OIG plans to perform audits of the Fund’s grant sub-recipients to evaluate these organizations’ performance in achieving grant objectives to provide services and assistance to victims.

To learn more about today’s report, or the OIG’s ongoing work in this area, please visit our website, oig.justice.gov. Thank you for joining us.