

The Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (OIG) today released a report examining the implementation of three Department of Justice (DOJ) grants, totaling \$23,177,286, awarded to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBSA). The grants were awarded by the DOJ Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in 2009, 2010, and 2011 to support BBBSA's national programs designed to provide mentoring services to tribal youth, youth with a parent in the military, and other high-risk populations that were considered underserved.

The OIG audit determined that BBBSA, headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was in material non-compliance with the majority of the grants' requirements as BBBSA's grant administration practices were inadequate to safeguard grant funds and ensure compliance with the grant-funded programs. The audit found that BBBSA could not adequately support any of the expenditures it made for the grant-funded programs because grant funds were commingled within BBBSA's general fund account, making it impossible to identify how grant funds were used. We also determined that BBBSA did not adequately oversee the funds provided to local affiliate agencies by failing to require the local chapters to provide documentary support for the grant funds received and expended. And we found that BBBSA charged unallowable expenditures to the grants, failed to adequately monitor consultants, and did not properly report program income generated through the programs.

Due to the significant findings and recommendations that we found during this audit, the OIG provided OJP with a preliminary briefing on our audit findings, in response to which OJP froze the disbursement of all grant funds to BBBSA and notified BBBSA of this restriction. The OIG audit report made 15 recommendations to OJP, including remedying \$19,462,448 in questioned costs and putting to better use \$3,714,838 in funds not yet disbursed – covering the total award amount provided to BBBSA. In addition to addressing the questioned costs, the report's recommendations to OJP included management improvements to help ensure that BBBSA effectively manages federal funds, implements appropriate accounting procedures and internal controls, and complies with applicable laws, regulations, guidelines, and the specific terms and conditions of the grants. OJP agreed with all of the OIG's recommendations except the recommendation that the funds not yet disbursed be put to better use. OJP's position was that, as a result of additional oversight of BBBSA that has been implemented by OJP, the funds will be adequately safeguarded.

The report can be found on the OIG's website at the following link: <http://www.justice.gov/oig/reports/2013/g7013006.pdf>.