



“A Message from the Inspector General: Audit of the Management and Coordination of Pandemic-Related Fraud Allegations and Referrals Between the Criminal Division and Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys,” September 2022

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

Today, my office released a report on the management and coordination of pandemic-related fraud allegations and referrals between the Justice Department's Criminal Division and its Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys.

The sheer magnitude of \$5 trillion in pandemic relief funding has provided an opportunity for wrongdoers to exploit a national emergency to fraudulently obtain relief funds. We found that the Department has taken several proactive steps that enhances its ability to prosecute COVID fraudsters across the country, including: conducting data analytics to develop leads, appointing COVID Coordinators in US Attorneys Offices, convening the COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force, and appointing a national Director for COVID-19 fraud enforcement.

However, our audit identified opportunities for greater coordination and management, including: the tracking, reporting and sharing of data within the U.S. Attorneys' Offices case management system; the guidance, training, and tools for COVID Coordinators; and the communications regarding matters across different COVID-19 relief programs.

Our report contains 4 recommendations, which we believe will help the Department leverage its resources to successfully root out these fraud schemes and bring perpetrators to justice.

To read our report and all of our recommendations, visit our website oig.justice.gov, or go to oversight.gov.

Thank you for joining me today.

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