

BRIEFLY...

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

THE DEPARTMENT NEEDS TO ENSURE IT IS ON TRACK TO IMPLEMENT DATA ACT REQUIREMENTS

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE REVIEW

The Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act) was passed to make federal spending data more accessible, searchable, and reliable. The DATA Act requires federal agencies to report financial and spending data in accordance with new government-wide data standards and make the data available on a public website by May 2017. The website is intended to increase transparency in federal spending by linking grant, contract, loan, and other financial data to program results. It is critical that the Department of Labor (Department) works toward meeting these new requirements so it will be able to provide accurate and reliable data needed to understand how it is spending taxpayer dollars.

WHAT OIG DID

We performed a review to determine the following:

Is the Department on track to implement DATA Act requirements by the May 2017 deadline?

READ THE FULL REPORT

To view the report, including the scope, methodology, and full agency response, go to: <http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2016/17-16-002-13-001.pdf>

WHAT OIG FOUND

The Department was unable to demonstrate that it is on track to effectively implement DATA Act requirements by the May 2017 deadline because of the following three issues:

- The Department could not demonstrate it had completed major milestones — performing an inventory of agency data and mapping agency data from agency source systems to the DATA Act schema.
- The Department did not accurately track the status of key tasks required for successful implementation.
- The Department did not implement a risk mitigation strategy because it did not identify any risks to successful implementation.

Although the Department believes it will meet the DATA Act reporting deadline and has begun testing the data it will report, based on the issues we noted, there is no reasonable assurance that the Department has, in fact, completed key tasks or effectively managed significant delays and challenges. A lack of proactive risk management could diminish the Department's ability to successfully meet the DATA Act requirements by the deadline.

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

We recommended the Principal Deputy Chief Financial Officer ensure all completed tasks are accurately reported and documented, the Implementation Plan submitted to OMB and the Project Plan are updated as necessary, risks are identified using a risk register, and mitigation strategies are developed and documented for each risk.

Agency officials generally agreed with our recommendations.