



## BRIEFLY...

### DOL NEEDS TO DO MORE TO IMPLEMENT THE GEOSPATIAL DATA ACT OF 2018

September 30, 2020

#### WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

The Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA) was signed into law October 5, 2018, to foster efficient management of geospatial data, technologies, and infrastructure through enhanced coordination among federal, state, local, and tribal governments, along with the private sector and academia. The GDA requires Inspectors General to complete their first audit of agencies' progress toward implementing the requirements of the Act by October 5, 2020. However, agencies have 5 years from the establishment of applicable data standards to complete implementation.

#### WHAT OIG DID

To address this mandatory audit requirement, we focused on the Department of Labor's (DOL) progress toward compliance with the GDA. Specifically, we performed an audit to answer the following question:

To what extent has DOL fulfilled the requirements of the GDA to date?

We assessed the status of DOL's implementation efforts as of August 2020 by conducting interviews with DOL management officials and analyzing evidence provided.

#### READ THE FULL REPORT

<http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2020/23-20-004-01-001.pdf>

## WHAT OIG FOUND

DOL has taken some steps to address the 13 specific requirements of the GDA, but more remains to be done. Of the 13 requirements, we determined DOL initiated action and made limited progress on 3 of the requirements, completed or met 3, and made no progress to date on the remaining 7.

DOL's progress to date has been impaired by several factors. For one, DOL's Chief Data Officer (CDO) had only recently assumed the role to develop DOL's policies and procedures for implementing geospatial laws and regulations. Further, required guidance and regulations from the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) have not yet been issued, and DOL decided to wait for the required guidance before further developing and implementing policies and procedures.

DOL believes it will meet the deadlines imposed by GDA once the required guidance is provided; however, without having sufficient planning efforts underway, there is no reasonable assurance DOL will be able to achieve timely compliance with GDA.

#### WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

DOL can better prepare for full implementation and readiness to use geospatial resources by developing strategies for the creation, use, and contracting of geospatial data.

To accomplish this, we recommended the Deputy Secretary of Labor formalize the assignment of responsibility and authority for developing and implementing DOL policy for geospatial laws and regulations.

We also recommended the DOL Chief Data Officer create and implement strategies and internal planning that ensure compliance with the GDA, as well as update geospatial planning strategies once data standards and guidance are issued.

In responding to our draft report, both the Deputy Secretary and CDO generally agreed with our recommendations.