W100: What Major Management Challenges Put Agency and Program Performance at Risk?

May 19 | 8:10 – 9:00 AM ET

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Panelists

- Michelle Sager, Managing Director, Strategic Issues, Government Accountability Office (GAO)
- Allison Lerner, Chair, Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), Inspector General, National Science Foundation
- Bob Westbrooks, Executive Director, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC)
- Moderator: Amber Heimberg, Director, Guidehouse

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GAO High-Risk List
Spotlight on Major Management Challenges and Program Risks
Michelle Sager, Managing Director, Strategic Issues, GAO

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High-Risk List Purpose

• Identifies government operations with vulnerabilities to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement or in need of transformation to address economy, efficiency, or effectiveness challenges

• Created in 1990 and updated every 2 years

• Brings congressional and media attention to long-standing, significant issues within the federal government

History

• Original High-Risk List had 14 areas

• Since 1990, 50 areas have been added and 29 areas have been removed or consolidated

• On average, the removed high-risk areas were on the list for less than 10 years

• As of 2021, the current High-Risk List has 36 areas
Criteria For Removing High-Risk Areas

High-Risk Area

- LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT
- DEMONSTRATED PROGRESS
- CAPACITY
- MONITORING
- ACTION PLAN

+ Progressed since 2019
○ Declined since 2019

What’s New in 2021?

- 2 new areas: Emergency Loans for Small Businesses
  - National Efforts to Prevent, Respond to, and Recover from Drug Misuse

- 1 area removed: Department of Defense Support Infrastructure Management
  - On list since 1997

---------- Total High Risk areas: 36 ----------

Compared to 2019:
- 5 areas regressed
- 7 areas showed progress

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Areas Requiring Significant Attention

- Ensuring the Cybersecurity of the Nation
- IT Acquisition and Management
- Strategic Human Capital Management
- Federal Government’s Environmental liability
- USPS Financial Viability
- Decennial Census
- EPA’s Process for Assessing and Controlling Toxic Chemicals
- Federal Government’s Fiscal Exposure to Climate Change

CIGIE Top Management and Performance Challenges

Allison Lerner, Chair, CIGIE, Inspector General, National Science Foundation

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CIGIE Top Management and Performance Challenges

• Information Technology Security and Management
• Human Capital Management
• Financial Management
• Homeland Security, Disaster Preparedness and COVID-19
• Procurement Management
• Grant Management
• Performance Management and Accountability

Polling Question

Looking ahead, what do you see as the biggest challenge facing the federal government in 2021?

   a) Returning to the post-pandemic workplace;
   b) Information technology security and management;
   c) Financial management; or
   d) Preventing and detecting fraud against government programs
PRAC Top Challenges Update
Bob Westbrooks, Executive Director, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC)

• Released 2/3 with CIGIE
• PRAC and CIGIE Chairs interviewed for Government Matters and Federal News Network
• We identified four new challenges related to the pandemic and incorporated them in our latest update.

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Thank You for Participating!

Questions?

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