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AGA and Guidehouse Unveil New Survey Report
Survey Focuses on Trends in Fraud Prevention and Detection

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Association of Government Accountants (AGA), in partnership with Guidehouse, unveiled the results of their latest survey report entitled: [Reduce Government Fraud with a Dynamic Approach](#). Fraud poses an increased risk at all levels of government. More than 300 government professionals with expertise in fraud mitigation share solutions that work or don't work — against the escalating problem of fraud detection, prevention and elimination.

“While government agencies can leverage various technologies in the war against fraud, technology itself is not a silver bullet. With increasing and more sophisticated fraud risks resulting from the pandemic, agencies should take this opportunity to reexamine their fraud prevention and detection programs,” said AGA CEO Ann Ebberts. “We partnered with Guidehouse to examine how agencies prioritize emerging risks, learn about their biggest challenges, and hear how they are combatting fraud today and what their focus will be for the foreseeable the future.”

“As our public sector clients grapple with the evolving fraud landscape, Guidehouse felt it was important to bring insightful and actionable data and solutions to fraud practitioners through the 2021 AGA fraud survey” said Caitlin McGurn, a partner in the Financial Services practice

Professional cybercriminals and other fraudsters are becoming more sophisticated and organized in their attempts against government systems. Moreover, the sudden expansion of government benefits and the unprecedented upsurge in hiring new vendors in response to the COVID-19 pandemic leads many experts to believe fraud risks will continue to escalate throughout all levels of government.

The survey found that most government entities (84%) handle their own fraud detection and prevention. However, among more than 300 survey respondents, 53% said they face higher or dramatically higher fraud risk now than before the pandemic. The most common targets of fraud and waste were benefit payments, payroll and vendor purchases of PPE and products in demand during the pandemic. According to the

survey, the most significant types of fraud encountered by government entities were security breaches and misrepresentations of facts.

Nearly one-third of government entities surveyed said they had not implemented technology in their anti-fraud program, despite its potential to address fraud risk. Many entities that have used technology tools for fraud said their effectiveness remains unclear. Better data sharing within agencies and amongst government entities improved fraud detection and prevention efforts.

Fraud is complex and increasingly costly. It can take many forms and stem from any person or organization with which an agency interacts. Contenting with the array of often sophisticated fraud tactics requires reliable processes, competent staff and the use of the right technology.

This online survey was conducted in April 2021. It draws on responses of 308 qualified respondents from all levels of gov who bear at least moderate levels of responsibility for fraud prevention and detection within their organizations. Qualitative interviews with respondents explored potential solutions and best practices.

About AGA

AGA is *the* member organization for government financial management professionals. We lead and encourage change that benefits our field and all citizens. Our networking events, professional certification, publications, and ongoing education help members build their skills and advance their careers. For more information, visit www.agacgfm.org/

About Guidehouse

Guidehouse is a leading global provider of consulting services to the public and commercial markets with broad capabilities in management, technology, and risk consulting. We help clients address their toughest challenges and navigate significant regulatory pressures with a focus on transformational change, business resiliency, and technology-driven innovation. Across a range of advisory, consulting, outsourcing, and digital services, we create scalable, innovative solutions that prepare our clients for future growth and success. The company has more than 10,000 professionals in over 50 locations globally. Guidehouse is a Veritas Capital portfolio company, led by seasoned professionals with proven and diverse expertise in traditional and emerging technologies, markets, and agenda-setting issues driving national and global economies. For more information, please visit: www.guidehouse.com.

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