What GAO Found

To date, states have been subject to limited requirements to assist federal agencies in estimating improper payments. For the 25 major state-administered federal programs surveyed, only 2 programs—the Food Stamp and Unemployment Insurance programs—have federal requirements for all states to estimate improper payments. A limited number of federal agencies are conducting pilots to estimate improper payments in other programs, but state participation is voluntary. Where no federal requirement or pilot is in place, 5 programs involving 11 states had estimated improper payments during fiscal years 2003 or 2004.

What GAO Recommends

GAO is making four recommendations to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to better assist federal agencies’ implementation of IPIA requirements for state-administered federal programs, including determining states’ role in assisting federal agencies to report national improper payment estimates on federal programs. OMB agreed with GAO’s recommendations.

To view the full product, including the scope and methodology, click on the link above. For more information, contact McCoy Williams at (202) 512-9095 or williamsm1@gao.gov.