The Office of Justice Programs Could Improve the Quality of a Key Fraud Control

Accuracy of Quarterly GAT Risk Scores and Monitoring Priority Levels for OJJDP Grants for Fiscal Years 2017-2019

OJP officials identified several potential explanations for the scoring discrepancies and errors, including manual score changes that had not been documented and problems with the technical processes used to transfer data from the Grants Management System into the GAT. OJP officials did not identify these issues until GAO’s review, in part because GAT scoring and quality assurance processes had not been documented in policy or standard operating procedures. In October 2020, OJP began using a new system to manage the grant-making process called JustGrants. As a result, OJP has an opportunity to ensure that the issues leading to incorrect GAT risk scores are not replicated in the new system. As part of the implementation of JustGrants, OJP has made or plans to make adjustments to address the issues GAO identified. However, OJP has not yet documented the revised GAT scoring and quality assurance processes, though officials stated they plan to do so. By documenting the GAT scoring and quality assurance processes developed for the JustGrants system, OJP can help ensure that quarterly GAT risk scores are accurately assigned and monitoring priority levels correctly represent the grant’s risk level, thereby improving the effectiveness of OJP’s fraud risk management efforts.