

Video Transcript: “Top Management and Performance Challenges Facing Multiple Federal Agencies” April 2018

Michael Horowitz (MH): Hello, I’m Michael Horowitz, Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Allison Lerner (AL): And I’m Allison Lerner, the Inspector General at the National Science Foundation.

MH: Hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars are spent on federal programs and operations each year to perform vital functions, like national security [image of U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel in helicopter, overlooking forested area], law enforcement [image of FBI vehicle on street], public health and safety [image of U.S. Food and Drug Administration personnel observing food handling], and protecting the nation’s critical infrastructure [image of personnel working on electric tower with helicopter nearby]. And it’s crucial that federal agencies and organizations that receive federal funds use tax dollars efficiently and effectively to accomplish their missions.

But agencies face many challenges. Challenges that are common, regardless of size and mission. Like outdated IT systems. Poor contract management. And the inability to determine if federal programs are meeting their goals.

AL: That’s where the 73 independent federal Inspectors General come in. As IGs, we root out waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. And we issue reports providing recommendations to ensure that the organizations we oversee spend taxpayer dollars more efficiently and effectively. You can find our reports at [Oversight.gov](https://www.oversight.gov), and learn more about how your money is being spent.

In addition, each year many IGs issue a Top Management and Performance Challenges Report. These reports identify the most critical, systemic problems in the agencies they oversee. And they pinpoint areas for action for agency leadership, policymakers, and IG staff.

MH: And today, for the first time ever, the Council of the Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency, or CIGIE, released its own report of the Top Management and Performance Challenges facing federal agencies, as determined by the Inspector General community.

The report identifies the 7 challenges most frequently identified by Inspectors General in 2017. They include management challenges related to IT security and modernization, mission performance and accountability, human capital, financial reporting and data systems, procurement, grants, and facilities maintenance.

AL: The Challenges we identified transcend individual agencies, and cut across agency size and mission. We hope that by highlighting common issues, we can assist policymakers in determining how to address these challenges in the future and foster improvements in the government.

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MH: Today’s CIGIE Top Management and Performance Challenges report is part of our ongoing effort to make the federal government more efficient and effective, and to allow the public to learn more about the challenges facing the federal government. To read the report, please visit [Oversight.gov](https://www.oversight.gov) or the CIGIE website at [ignet.gov](https://www.ignet.gov). Thank you for joining us.

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