# Promoting Coordinated, Comprehensive Oversight of Federal Pandemic Relief and Response Efforts

Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC)
October 1, 2021

Notes:

# The PRAC oversees $5 trillion in pandemic relief.

**$5+ Trillion**

**$7.8B**
**The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020**

*Signed into law on March 6, 2020, the Act provided emergency funding to Health and Human Services, the State Department, and the Small Business Administration.*

**$15.4B**
**The Families First Coronavirus Response Act**

*Signed into law on March 18, 2020, the FFCR Act provided paid sick leave, tax credits, and free COVID-19 testing, while also expanding food assistance and unemployment benefits.*

**$1.9T**
**American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**

*Signed into law on March 11, 2021, this legislation includes direct payments, unemployment benefits, and tax provisions as well as support for small businesses and schools.*

**$2.1T**
**The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act**

*Signed into law on March 27, 2020, the CARES Act created the Paycheck Protection Program, provided tax rebates to individuals, and provided relief to federal agencies.*

**$900B**
**The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021**

*Signed into law on December 27, 2020, this legislation extended federal unemployment benefits, provided direct payments to individuals, and started a second round of PPP loans.*

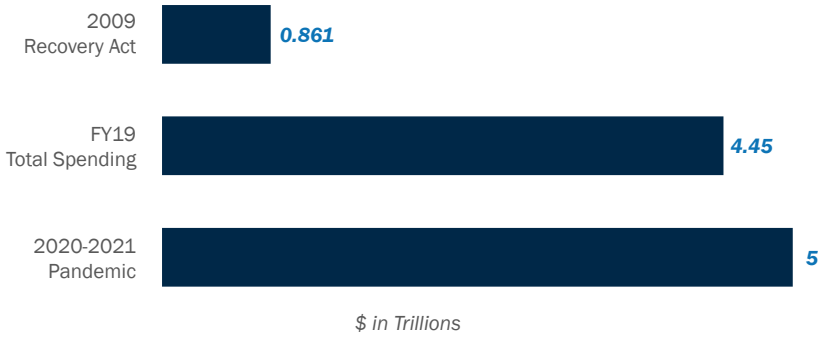
**$483B**
**Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act**

*Signed into law on April 24, 2020, the Act added funds to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and other SBA programs.*



Notes:

# To put U.S. pandemic relief spending in context






Notes:

# Impact of the ongoing pandemic and federal response

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 42M+<br>Cases in US | 43<br>Federal agencies involved | $3T<br>Dollars spent | $830B<br>Economic Impact Payments |
| 685K+<br>Deaths in US | 14.7M<br>Award recipients | $800B<br>PPP loans | $604B<br>UI Benefits |



Notes:

# PRAC is a committee of Inspectors General.

IG CHAIR
IG VICE CHAIR

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Currently 22 Inspectors General

STAFF

~40 permanent staff + data science fellows



Notes:

# Fighting pandemic-related fraud

Pandemic Analytics Center of Excellence (PACE)

**Fraud Task Force**
30+ Agents
8+ OIGs

Identity Fraud Reduction & Redress Working Group



Notes:

# Applying leading edge data analytics

**Hotline Risk Scoring Model**

Develop a risk scoring model to help an OIG address the dramatic increase in fraud complaints submitted to the complaint tip line in relation to pandemic spending

**Recipient Risk Scoring Model**

Develop a risk scoring model to help an OIG better identify high risk Prime and sub-recipients for oversight activity

**Robotic Process Automation**

Utilize business logic and structured inputs to automate tasks associated with the Quarterly Report Reviews for a COVID-19 program

**Social Network Analysis**

Quickly build out networks using AI to reveal actionable insights on targets, groups and topic using social media and dark web data



Notes:

# Providing independent insights and observations

## Federal COVID-19 Testing Report: Data Insights from Six Federal Health Care Programs

1. At a macro level, the federal health care infrastructure is not currently designed for massive public health efforts.

2. Quick test results are imperative for patients and for an effective public health response. But information about test processing times was not readily available in all federal health programs included in the PRAC report.

3. The average costs for tests varied across federal programs. These variations likely reflect a number of factors, such as use of different types of tests, cost of supplies and the reimbursement policies for each program.

4. For programs with available data, Covid-19 test recipients generally represented the demographics of the populations served by those federal health care programs. This raises the important question of whether testing efforts targeted groups within these populations that are disproportionately affected by COVID-19.



Notes:

# Identifying risks that cross agency and program boundaries

What we've learned overseeing $5 trillion in pandemic relief funds

**The PRAC and its members have issued 280+ oversight reports. We've covered a lot, and recommended a lot.**

**Our new report breaks it all down to five basics.**

1. Verify eligibility before sending money.
2. Give underserved communities better access to relief funds.
3. Use existing data to prevent fraud.
4. Get guidance out quickly and accurately.
5. Let the public see who got grants and loans.



Notes:

## The PRAC Coordinates with State and Local Counterparts

Coordination between federal, state, and local oversight agencies helps auditors identify challenges, issues, and even fraud schemes that cross state and program boundaries. The PRAC has made over **90 state and local reports** on the pandemic response available on PandemicOversight.gov, as of July 2021, and will continue to add new reports as they are released.

**Washington State Auditor found that unemployment insurance fraud may be as high as $1 billion.**

**Ohio State Auditor found that the state lagged in collecting and disseminating negative COVID-19 test data.**

**North Carolina State Auditor found that $3.1 billion in Coronavirus Relief Funds were distributed with limited monitoring and without performance measures.**

**California State Auditor reported that $1.3 billion in Coronavirus Relief Funds did not go to communities most affected by COVID-19.**

**Louisiana Legislative Auditor found that prisoners received $6.2 million in unemployment benefits.**

**Delaware State Auditor found that officials at long-term care facilities said COVID-19 guidance was confusing and changed frequently.**

**What types of pandemic relief challenges have states discovered so far?**

***Visit PandemicOversight.gov for more details.***

### Why share state and local reports?

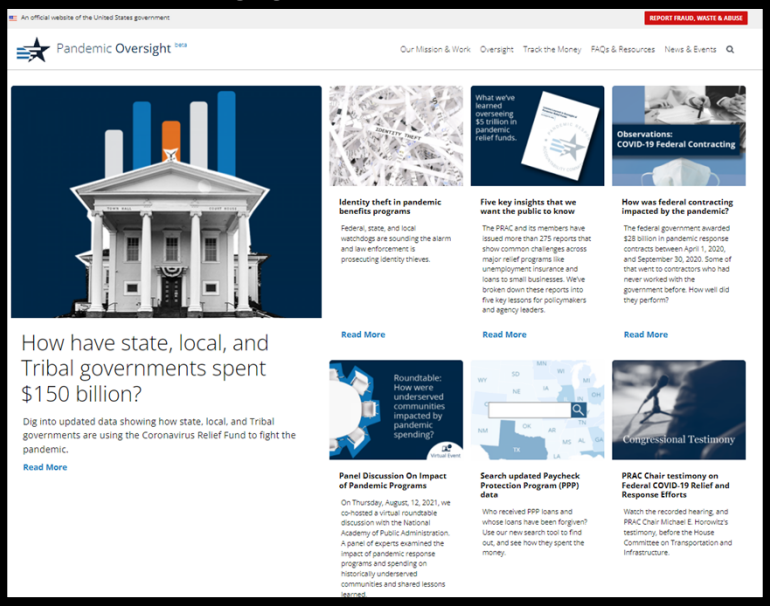
A searchable database of state and local reports allows policy makers and the public to better understand pandemic response oversight at all levels and helps federal oversight agencies, like the PRAC, better monitor and protect the **$5 trillion in pandemic relief** distributed across the United States.

***Real-Time Impact***

*A coordinated outreach across federal, state, and local oversight offices led the Department of the Treasury to adjust reporting requirements for the state and local funds under the American Rescue Plan to better track the funds.*

Notes:

www.pandemicoversight.gov

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