



At a Glance

Performance Audit of the National Science Foundation's Information Security Program for FY 2016

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Why we did this Audit

We contracted with Kearney & Company, P.C., (Kearney) to review the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Information Security Program for fiscal year (FY) 2016 in accordance with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA). Kearney's objective was to evaluate the effectiveness of NSF's Information Security Program.

For further information, contact us at: (703) 292-7100 or oig@nsf.gov.

Audit Results

Kearney performed detailed testing of the NSF network and two major applications for compliance with selected National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication (SP) 800-53, Revision (Rev.) 4 controls. Kearney found that although NSF has an established Information Security Program and has closed 16 of the 22 findings reported in the FY 2015 FISMA report, additional work is needed to address shortfalls in information technology (IT) security controls. Kearney issued one new and four modified-repeat findings in the areas of vulnerability remediation; privileged account access; and U.S. Antarctic Program contingency planning, interconnection security agreements, and accreditation packages.

Recommendations

Kearney made several recommendations which, if implemented, will improve NSF's IT security controls.

Agency Response

NSF generally agreed with the recommendations and intends to develop an action plan to address the findings.