



November 18, 2016, 2016

To: Federal Co-Chair
ARC Executive Director
ARC General Counsel
ARC Director of Finance and Administration
From: Hubert Sparks, Inspector General

Subject: OIG Report 17-05, DATA Act Implementation

This assessment pertains to ARC actions initiated to implement the requirements of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 20147 (DATA Act). The assessment included reviewing agency responsibilities under the DATA Act, implementation plan, agreement with the servicing agency and interview with the ARC Senior Accountable Official.

We concluded that ARC action to prepare for full implementation of the DATA Act was satisfactory.

Background

In an effort to increase the availability, accuracy, and usefulness of online federal spending information, Congress enacted the DATA Act. The DATA Act requires agencies report financial and payment data in accordance with data standards established by the Department of Treasury (Treasury) and the OMB. The data reported will be displayed on a website available to taxpayers and policy makers. The DATA Act requires federal agencies to begin reporting federal spending data using the data standards by May 20 17.

The DATA Act directs agency Inspectors General (IG) to perform reviews on agencies' implementation and use of data standards as well review statistical samples of the data submitted by the agency under the DATA Act and report on the completeness, timeliness, quality and accuracy of the data sampled and the use of the data standards by the agency. The initial OIG formal report is due November 2017.

ARC utilizes the US Department of Agriculture Pegasys Accounting Services for accounting and financial services under a shared services agreement. Under the arrangement USDA is the lead agency in complying with DATA Act requirements on behalf of ARC. ARC provides the necessary information to USDA and communicates with USDA concerning implementation of the Act.

Results

ARC has identified the Director Finance and Administration as the Senior Accountable Official (SAO) who has full responsibility for ARC implementation of the Act. An implementation plan has been prepared in conjunction with the USDA servicing agency.

USDA will post data standards online and ARC will communicate with USDA about ARC data inventory elements including any elements not captured in its systems.

ARC communicates with USDA about the implementation process including tracking implementation.

An observation is that the shared services agreement with USDA should include USDA's agreement with respect to providing DATA Act services to ARC.

This assessment is being provided to the Senate Committees on Homeland Security, Governmental Affairs and Budget Committees and to the House Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and Budget.