



**OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL**
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FCC OIG Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations Status of Open Recommendations [Public Report]

April 3, 2025

FCC OIG Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations

Status of Open Recommendations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducts audits, inspections, and evaluations, we issue recommendations to the Commission to address identified risks and issues. FCC OIG staff from the Office of Audits monitor progress towards corrective actions and once FCC provides adequate support and documentation that it has addressed and implemented each recommendation, FCC OIG will close the recommendation. There are currently 37 open recommendations from FCC OIG's audits, inspections, and evaluations.

The purpose of this new product is to provide the current status of these open FCC OIG recommendations, and to identify nine recommendations that FCC OIG has assessed as priorities. We hope this resource will help highlight the Commission's progress and identify opportunities for continued improvements to address these open recommendations. The first 27 open recommendations listed arise out of our Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) evaluations and relate to Information Technology. These recommendations are considered sensitive and contain non-public information. Therefore, this public version of the report includes the domain for each FISMA recommendation and modified descriptions of the status to avoid the release of sensitive and non-public information.

The Commission has made significant progress over the past six months to resolve several open FCC OIG recommendations from prior audits, evaluations, and inspections. At the conclusion of each semiannual period, we issue a memorandum to FCC summarizing the recommendations that were closed during the preceding six months. For example, on October 9, 2024, we issued a [memorandum](#) listing 24 recommendations that were closed for the semiannual period of April 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024. We plan to issue a separate memorandum on the recommendations closed for the semiannual period ending March 31, 2025.

We appreciate FCC's cooperation and attention to these issues and its significant efforts to resolve them. We look forward continuing to coordinate with the Commission as it works to address the remaining open recommendations.

| Number | Project Name | Project Code | Report Date | Rec # | Recommendation | Status Update | Priority |
|--------|---|---------------|-------------|-------|------------------------------|--|----------|
| 1 | FY 2024 Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) Evaluation | 24-EVAL-05-01 | 1/7/2025 | 6 | Risk Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |
| 2 | FY 2024 FISMA Evaluation | 24-EVAL-05-01 | 1/7/2025 | 7 | Risk Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |
| 3 | FY 2024 FISMA Evaluation | 24-EVAL-05-01 | 1/7/2025 | 10 | Supply Chain Risk Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |
| 4 | FY 2024 FISMA Evaluation | 24-EVAL-05-01 | 1/7/2025 | 12 | Configuration Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |

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| 5 | FY 2024 FISMA Evaluation | 24-EVAL-05-01 | 1/7/2025 | 13 | Identity and Access Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |
| 6 | FY 2024 FISMA Evaluation | 24-EVAL-05-01 | 1/7/2025 | 20 | Identity and Access Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |
| 7 | FY 2024 FISMA Evaluation | 24-EVAL-05-01 | 1/7/2025 | 22 | USAC - Access Controls (USAC) | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |
| 8 | FY 2024 FISMA Evaluation | 24-EVAL-05-01 | 1/7/2025 | 23 | USAC - Access Controls (USAC) | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |

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| 9 | FY 2024 FISMA Evaluation | 24-EVAL-05-01 | 1/7/2025 | 24 | USAC - Access Controls (USAC) | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |
| 10 | FY 2024 FISMA Evaluation | 24-EVAL-05-01 | 1/7/2025 | 25 | USAC - Access Controls (USAC) | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |
| 11 | FY 2023 FISMA Evaluation | 23-EVAL-05-01 | 1/5/2024 | 2 | Risk Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | High |
| 12 | FY 2023 FISMA Evaluation | 23-EVAL-05-01 | 1/5/2024 | 3 | Risk Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |

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| 13 | FY 2023 FISMA Evaluation | 23-EVAL-05-01 | 1/5/2024 | 6 | Supply Chain Risk Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | High |
| 14 | FY 2023 FISMA Evaluation | 23-EVAL-05-01 | 1/5/2024 | 17 | Identity and Access Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |
| 15 | FY 2023 FISMA Evaluation | 23-EVAL-05-01 | 1/5/2024 | 18 | Identity and Access Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |
| 16 | FY 2022 FISMA Evaluation | 22-EVAL-06-01 | 3/13/2023 | 1 | Risk Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |

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| 17 | FY 2022 FISMA Evaluation | 22-EVAL-06-01 | 3/13/2023 | 2 | Risk Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |
| 18 | FY 2022 FISMA Evaluation | 22-EVAL-06-01 | 3/13/2023 | 5 | Supply Chain Risk Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |
| 19 | FY 2022 FISMA Evaluation | 22-EVAL-06-01 | 3/13/2023 | 12 | Identity and Access Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |
| 20 | FY 2022 FISMA Evaluation | 22-EVAL-06-01 | 3/13/2023 | 13 | Identity and Access Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |

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| 21 | FY 2022 FISMA Evaluation | 22-EVAL-06-01 | 3/13/2023 | 14 | Identity and Access Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |
| 22 | FY 2022 FISMA Evaluation | 22-EVAL-06-01 | 3/13/2023 | 17 | Configuration Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |
| 23 | FY 2022 FISMA Evaluation | 22-EVAL-06-01 | 3/13/2023 | 18 | Configuration Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | |
| 24 | FY 2019 FISMA Evaluation | 19-EVAL-07-01 | 1/8/2020 | 4 | Identity and Access Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | High |

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| 25 | FY 2018 FISMA Evaluation | 18-EVAL-07-01 | 12/21/2018 | 3 | Configuration Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | High |
| 26 | FY 2018 FISMA Evaluation | 18-EVAL-07-01 | 12/21/2018 | 11 | Information Security Continuous Monitoring | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | High |
| 27 | FY 2017 FISMA Evaluation | 17-EVAL-07-01 | 12/22/2017 | 3 | Risk Management | On 3/18/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. The status of this recommendation will be updated during testing of prior year recommendations in the FCC FY 2025 FISMA Evaluation. | High |

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| 28 | FY 2023 Payment Integrity Information Act (PIIA) Audit | 24-AUD-01-01 | 12/31/2024 | 4 | Direct USAC to perform a cost-benefit analysis to identify additional approaches for further reducing the IPR below the reporting threshold. Additional approaches could include, but are not limited to, evaluating the appropriateness of the volume of applications assigned per reviewer, increasing the effectiveness of employee training, providing program requirement reminders and updates, adding additional layers of review, creating a documentation checklist to determine program eligibility, and providing ongoing coaching to educate staff on the Lifeline Program requirements, including documentation requirements relating to eligibility. | FCC's recommendation closure request was reviewed during FY 2024 PIIA audit field work and the audit team concluded based on testing that the recommendation has not been fully implemented and could not yet be closed. Detailed feedback regarding the actions taken to address this recommendation will be included in the PIIA draft and final reports. | |
| 29 | FY 2023 Payment Integrity Information Act (PIIA) Audit | 24-AUD-01-01 | 12/31/2024 | 5 | Develop and implement policies and procedures to identify, quantify, and report in the OMB Annual Data Call any downward revisions that are submitted by providers resulting from provider non-compliant conduct. | FCC's recommendation closure request was reviewed during FY 2024 PIIA audit field work and the audit team concluded based on testing that the recommendation has not been fully implemented and could not yet be closed. Detailed feedback regarding the actions taken to address this recommendation will be included in the PIIA draft and final reports. | High |

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| 30 | FY 2021 Privacy and Data Protection Program Inspection | 21-INSP-10-01 | 3/29/2024 | 2 | Implement a baseline of technologies that sustain and do not erode privacy protections relating to the use, collection, and disclosure of information | On 3/20/25, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. FCC OIG will evaluate and provide a response within 30 days. | High |
| 31 | FY 2021 Privacy and Data Protection Program Inspection | 21-INSP-10-01 | 3/29/2024 | 3 | Implement the EDR tool that was previously acquired for privacy protection. | On 3/20/25, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. FCC OIG will evaluate and provide a response within 30 days. | |
| 32 | FY 2021 Privacy and Data Protection Program Inspection | 21-INSP-10-01 | 3/29/2024 | 4 | Identify and implement other technologies that will bring the FCC into full compliance with the requirement for continuous auditing of compliance with stated privacy policies and practices. | On 12/4/24, FCC Officials stated that technologies are still being implemented and requested to extend their target date of implementation to 4/30/25. | |
| 33 | FY 2021 Privacy and Data Protection Program Inspection | 21-INSP-10-01 | 3/29/2024 | 5 | Document a formal process to perform PIAs for proposed rules, including details on the type of personally identifiable information collected and the number of people affected, in the FCC Privacy Act Manual, as a requirement. | On 3/12/2025, FCC officials submitted documentation requesting closure of this recommendation. FCC's Privacy team developed a checklist for conducting Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) of proposed rules that provides details on the type of personally identifiable information collected and the number of people affected incorporated in the FCC Privacy Program Manual 2024. FCC OIG is in the process of reviewing the agency's implementation of this recommendation. | |

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| 34 | FY 2014 WCB Audit | 13-AUD-12-29 | 6/3/2015 | 4 | Develop and implement a plan that ensures the closure of pending appeals in a timely manner, and prioritizes the resolution of appeals filed 2010 and earlier. | FCC officials provided an updated corrective action plan on 3/19/2025 stating FCC will develop and implement a plan to ensure the closure of the pending appeals in a timely manner. FCC has agreed to implement the recommendation by 4/30/2025. FCC OIG will update the status of this recommendation when we receive additional information from management. | High |
| 35 | FY 2021 DATA Act Audit | 21-AUD-08-06 | 11/8/2021 | 5 | Develop and implement oversight policies and procedures to ensure component entities report financial assistance awards timely. | On 3/28/2025, FCC officials requested closure of this recommendation on the basis that USAC and the FCC are holding regularly scheduled meetings to discuss accurate and timely submissions. Additionally, USAC implemented a new ERP system which has the capability to report activity in accordance with OMB M-20-21. USAC submitted the first half of March activity on March 19, 2025, as evidenced in the attachment. The remainder of March will be run on April 1, 2025. FCC and USAC's actions are currently under FCC OIG review. | |
| 36 | FY 2021 DATA Act Audit | 21-AUD-08-06 | 11/8/2021 | 7 | Coordinate with USAC management to develop and implement processes for obtaining all required data elements from awardees prior to issuing an award. This may include updating or creating program forms to include all required data elements needed for financial assistance broker assistance submission (FABS). | FCC officials provided an updated corrective action plan on 3/28/2025 stating that it is working with USAC to determine how best to implement this recommendation by program as each program has unique aspects to them in terms of timing of commitments and payments. FCC has agreed to resolve the recommendation by 12/31/2025. | |

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| 37 | FY 2021 DATA Act Audit | 21-AUD-08-06 | 11/8/2021 | 8 | Develop and implement oversight policies and procedures for monitoring data reported by component entities to ensure that all DATA Act information is being reported timely, accurately, and completely.. | FCC officials provided an updated corrective action plan on 3/28/2025 stating that it is working with USAC to determine how best to implement this recommendation by program as each program has unique aspects to them in terms of timing of commitments and payments. FCC has agreed to resolve the recommendation by 12/31/2025. | |