
**OFFICE OF
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

**SINGLE AUDIT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO,
DEPARTMENT OF THE FAMILY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 1998**

January 2002

A-77-02-00006

AUDIT REPORT



Mission

We improve SSA programs and operations and protect them against fraud, waste, and abuse by conducting independent and objective audits, evaluations, and investigations. We provide timely, useful, and reliable information and advice to Administration officials, the Congress, and the public.

Authority

The Inspector General Act created independent audit and investigative units, called the Office of Inspector General (OIG). The mission of the OIG, as spelled out in the Act, is to:

- Conduct and supervise independent and objective audits and investigations relating to agency programs and operations.**
- Promote economy, effectiveness, and efficiency within the agency.**
- Prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse in agency programs and operations.**
- Review and make recommendations regarding existing and proposed legislation and regulations relating to agency programs and operations.**
- Keep the agency head and the Congress fully and currently informed of problems in agency programs and operations.**

To ensure objectivity, the IG Act empowers the IG with:

- Independence to determine what reviews to perform.**
- Access to all information necessary for the reviews.**
- Authority to publish findings and recommendations based on the reviews.**

Vision

By conducting independent and objective audits, investigations, and evaluations, we are agents of positive change striving for continuous improvement in the Social Security Administration's programs, operations, and management and in our own office.



SOCIAL SECURITY

Office of the Inspector General

MEMORANDUM

Date: JAN 29 2002

Refer To

To: Dan Sweeney
Acting Director
Management Analysis and Audit Program Support Staff

From: Assistant Inspector General
for Audit

Subject: Single Audit of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Department of the Family for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1998 (A-77-02-00006)

This report presents the Social Security Administration's (SSA) portion of the single audit of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Department of the Family (DOF) for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 1998. Deloitte & Touche, Certified Public Accountants (CPA) performed the audit and its reports on compliance and internal controls are attached (see Appendix A). Results of the desk review conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have not been received. We will notify you when the results are received if HHS determines the audit did not meet Federal requirements.

The Puerto Rico Disability Determination Services (DDS) performs disability determinations under SSA's Disability Insurance (DI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs in accordance with Federal regulations. The DDS is reimbursed for 100 percent of allowable costs. The Puerto Rico DOF is the Puerto Rico DDS' parent agency.

For single audit purposes, the Office of Management and Budget assigns Federal programs a Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number. SSA's DI and SSI programs are identified by CFDA number 96. SSA is responsible for resolving single audit findings reported under this CFDA number.

The single audit reported the following findings (see Appendix B):

Documentation to support expenditures was not available to test the base used for indirect costs. The corrective action plan indicates that DOF disagrees with the finding and that documentation was available but not requested by the auditors.

- A reconciliation of physical inventory results with the accounting records was not performed, and accurate records for acquisitions and dispositions of property acquired with SSA funds were not maintained. The corrective action plan indicates that DOF corrected the equipment inventory listing and is working to improve the process and the documentation of its inventory.

- DDS expenditures of \$170,768 were not supported by documentation. The corrective action plan indicates that DOF disagrees with the finding and states that documentation was provided for all disbursements requested by the auditors.

We recommend that SSA:

1. Ensure that the DDS has a system in place to retain accounting records and supporting documentation for the time period required by applicable requirements and regulations.
2. Verify that the DDS has procedures in place to reconcile inventory results with accounting records and to maintain accurate records for acquisition and disposition of property purchased with SSA funds.
3. Determine whether the \$170,768 in undocumented expenditures was allowable and recover any portion which is not allowable.

The single audit also disclosed the following findings that may impact DDS operations, although they were not specifically identified to SSA. Some of these findings were reported for several DOF programs indicating pervasive problems within DOF. If the finding was reported in more than one DOF program, we identify the number of times the finding was reported in parenthesis at the end of each finding. I am bringing these matters to your attention as they represent potentially serious service delivery and financial control problems for the Agency (see Appendix C).

- Financial statements were not prepared in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles due to a lack of policies, procedures, and financial reporting practices. Therefore, management did not have accurate and complete financial information on a timely basis to carry out other duties.
- Procedures were not in place to ensure financial reports are completed and submitted timely (2).
- Supporting documentation and accounting records were not retained for expenditures charged to Federal funds (18).
- DOF did not verify if parties were debarred or suspended when contracting for services or procuring goods with Federal funds (2).
- A system was not in place to prepare and implement corrective action plans and clear audit findings in a timely fashion.
- DOF did not follow required bidding procedures for procurement and contracting activities (5).
- Property and equipment management procedures were not adequate (2).

Transactions were not reviewed to ensure that payments agree with invoice amounts.

DOF expended Federal funds for costs that benefited other programs (6).

Periodic reviews of cash management transactions for compliance with the Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA) agreement were not conducted.

- The Financial Status Report did not agree with the general ledger (2).

DOF did not calculate and report interest liabilities that may be owed to the Federal government.

Fiscal evaluations were not performed to ensure funds were expended for allowable activities.

- DOF expended Federal funds for unallowable costs (4).

Please send copies of the final Audit Clearance Document to Mark Bailey in Kansas City and Paul Wood in Baltimore. If you have questions contact Mark Bailey at (816) 936-5591.


Steven L. Schaeffer

Attachments

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON
INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING BASED
UPON AN ENGAGEMENT TO AUDIT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

The Honorable Secretary of the Family
San Juan, Puerto Rico

We have audited the Combined Statement of Cash Receipts and Cash Disbursements – All Fund Types of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Department of the Family (the “Department”), for the year ended June 30, 1998, and have issued our report thereon dated May 11, 2001, which expressed a qualified opinion because of limitations on the scope of our work with respect to the Foster Care program. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Department’s Combined Statement of Cash Receipts and Cash Disbursements – All Fund Types is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of cash receipt and disbursement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed reportable instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*, which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as items 98-1 to 98-78. However, had the scope of our work not been limited, other reportable instances of noncompliance may have been disclosed.

**Deloitte
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The instances of noncompliance that were disclosed are summarized below and discussed in detail in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs. Because of the materiality of the Federal programs to overall Department operations, compliance with such requirements is necessary, in our opinion, for the Department to comply with the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the Department.

<u>Compliance Requirement</u>	<u>Major Program</u>	<u>Reference Number</u>
Allowable Costs/ Cost Principles	Nutrition Assistance Program for Puerto Rico	98-11, 98-13, 98-14, 98-16
	The Emergency Food Assistance Program	98-29
	Rehabilitation Services-Vocational Rehabilitation Grants to States	98-39
	Temporary Assistance For Needy Families	98-44, 98-45, 98-46, 98-47, 98-54
	Community Services Block Grant	98-55, 98-56, 98-62
	Child Care and Development Block Grant	98-64, 98-65, 98-66, 98-67, 98-72
	Social Services Block Grant	98-75
	Disability Determination Services	98-78
Cash Management	Nutrition Assistance Program for Puerto Rico	98-17
	The Emergency Food Assistance Program	98-35
	Temporary Assistance For Needy Families	98-50
Davis-Bacon Act Eligibility	Rehabilitation Services-Vocational Rehabilitation Grants to States	98-36
	Nutrition Assistance Program for Puerto Rico	98-18, 98-19, 98-20, 98-21, 98-22, 98-23, 98-24, 98-25, 98-28
	The Emergency Food Assistance Program	98-30
	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	98-48, 98-49
	Community Services Block Grant	98-57, 98-58, 98-59, 98-60
	Child Care and Development Block Grant	98-68
Equipment and Real Property Management	Nutrition Assistance Program for Puerto Rico	98-12
	Rehabilitation Services-Vocational Rehabilitation Grants to States	98-37
	Temporary Assistance For Needy Families	98-52
	Disability Determination Services	98-77
Matching, Level of Effort, Earmarking	The Emergency Food Assistance Program	98-31, 98-32
	Rehabilitation Services-Vocational Rehabilitation Grants to States	98-40
	Temporary Assistance For Needy Families	98-51
Procurement, Suspensions and Debarments	Nutrition Assistance Program for Puerto Rico	98-10, 98-15, 98-26

<u>Compliance Requirement</u>	<u>Major Program</u>	<u>Reference Number</u>
Procurement, Suspensions and Debarments	Rehabilitation Services-Vocational Rehabilitation Grants to States	98-38
	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	98-42, 98-43
	Community Services Block Grant	98-61
	Child Care and Development Block Grant	98-69, 98-70, 98-71
Reporting	Social Services Block Grant	98-76
	Nutrition Assistance Program for Puerto Rico	98-27
	Rehabilitation Services-Vocational Rehabilitation Grants to States	98-41
Subrecipient Monitoring	Child Care and Development Block Grant	98-74
	The Emergency Food Assistance Program	98-33
	Community Services Block Grant	98-63
Special Test and Provisions	Child Care and Development Block Grant	98-73
	The Emergency Food Assistance Program	98-34
	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	98-53
All Requirements	Head Start	98-8
All Requirements	Foster Care	98-9
All Requirements	Nutrition Assistance Program	98-1 to 98-6

The management of the Department has elected not to submit a corrective action plan in response to the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs. Such corrective action plans are required by OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations* for findings relating to federally funded programs.


Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Department's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our audit procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the Combined Statement of Cash Receipts and Cash Disbursements – All Fund Types and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted certain matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be reportable conditions. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operations of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the Department's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the Combined Statement of Cash Receipts and Cash Disbursements – All Fund Types. Reportable conditions are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as items 98-1 to 98-78.

A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts, that would be material in relation to the Combined Statement of Cash Receipts and Cash Disbursements – All Fund Types, being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses.

However, of the reportable conditions described above, we consider Findings Number 98-1 to 98-6, and 98-9 to be material weaknesses. In addition, Findings Number 98-7 and 98-10 to 98-78 are deemed to be material weaknesses because of the pervasive number of the instances of the weakness across all programs. However, had the scope of our work not been limited, other reportable conditions or material weaknesses may have been identified.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Secretary of the Family, management, and officials of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the United States Department of Agriculture (cognizant audit agency), pass-through entities, and other regulatory agencies and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deloitte & Touche LLP".

May 11, 2001

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& Touche**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND
INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE APPLICABLE
TO EACH MAJOR FEDERAL AWARD PROGRAM AND ON THE
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS**

The Honorable Secretary of the Family
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Compliance

We have audited the compliance of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Department of the Family (the "Department"), with the types of compliance requirements described in the *U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement* that are applicable to each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 1998. The Department's major federal programs are identified in the Summary of Auditors' results section of the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs. Compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, applicable to each of its major federal programs is the responsibility of the Department's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Department's compliance based on our audit.

Except as discussed in the fourth paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Those standards and OMB Circular A-133 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Department's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures, as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our audit does not provide a legal determination on the Department's compliance with those requirements.

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As summarized below and discussed in detail in the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs listed in the Table of Contents, the Department did not comply with certain federal compliance requirements for the following federal award programs. Compliance with such requirements is necessary, in our opinion, for the Department to comply with requirements applicable to those programs. However, had the scope of our work not been limited, as discussed in the following paragraph, other instances of noncompliance may have been identified.

<u>Compliance Requirement</u>	<u>Major Program</u>	<u>Reference Number</u>
Allowable Costs/ Cost Principles	Nutrition Assistance Program for Puerto Rico	98-11, 98-13, 98-14, 98-16
	The Emergency Food Assistance Program	98-29
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	Social Services Block Grant	98-75
	Disability Determination Services	98-78
	Cash Management	Nutrition Assistance Program for Puerto Rico
The Emergency Food Assistance Program		98-35
Temporary Assistance For Needy Families		98-50
Davis-Bacon Act	Rehabilitation Services-Vocational Rehabilitation Grants to States	98-36
Eligibility	Nutrition Assistance Program for Puerto Rico	98-18, 98-19, 98-20, 98-21, 98-22, 98-23, 98-24, 98-25, 98-28
	The Emergency Food Assistance Program	98-30
	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	98-48, 98-49
	Community Services Block Grant	98-57, 98-58, 98-59, 98-60
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<u>Compliance Requirement</u>	<u>Major Program</u>	<u>Reference Number</u>
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	Social Services Block Grant	98-76
Reporting	Nutrition Assistance Program for Puerto Rico	98-27
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Subrecipient Monitoring	The Emergency Food Assistance Program	98-33
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	Child Care and Development Block Grant	98-73
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	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	98-53
All Requirements	Head Start	98-8
All Requirements	Foster Care	98-9
All Requirements	Nutrition Assistance Program	98-1 to 98-6

Finding No. 98-7 applies to the general fund only.

In accordance with the Department's request, we did not audit the Department's compliance applicable to its Foster Care program which constituted 1.9% of total expenditures of federal awards.

In our opinion, because of the number of instances of noncompliance reported and the total dollar amount of questioned costs relating to the instances of noncompliance that were identified, the Department did not comply with the applicable federal regulations for the major programs tested.

The management of the Department has elected not to submit a corrective action plan in response to the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs. Such corrective action plans are required by OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations* for findings relating to federally funded programs.

Internal Control Over Compliance

The management of the Department is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to federal programs. In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Department's internal control over compliance with requirements that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with OMB Circular A-133.

We noted certain matters involving the internal control over compliance and its operation that we consider to be reportable conditions. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over compliance that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the Department's ability to administer a major federal program in accordance with applicable requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. Reportable conditions are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as items 98-1 to 98-6 and 98-8 to 98-78.

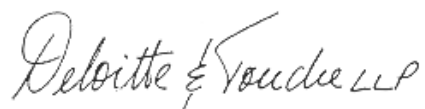
A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that noncompliance with applicable requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants that would be material in relation to a major federal program being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over compliance would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, of the reportable conditions described above, we consider Findings Number 98-1 to 98-6 and 98-8 to 98-9 to be material weaknesses. In addition, Findings Number 98-10 to 98-78 are deemed to be material weaknesses because of the pervasive number of the instances of the weakness across all programs. However, had the scope of our work not been limited, as discussed above, other reportable conditions or material weaknesses may have been identified.

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

We have audited the Combined Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements – All Fund Types of the Department, for the year ended June 30, 1998, and have issued our report thereon dated May 11, 2001, which expressed a qualified opinion because of limitations on the scope of our work with respect to the Foster Care program. We were not engaged to audit the cash receipts and disbursements of the Head Start program for the year ended June 30, 1998, which cash receipts and disbursements constitute 5.4% and 5.3%, respectively, of the special revenue fund cash receipts and disbursements for the year then ended. Those cash receipts and cash disbursements were encompassed in the audits of the statements of cash receipts and disbursements of the Head Start program for the twelve-month periods ended February 28, 1999 and 1998 that were performed by other auditors whose reports (which as to 1999 expressed a qualified opinion because of the lack of a cost allocation plan, and which as to 1998 expressed a qualified opinion because of year 2000 disclosures) have been furnished to us, and our report, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the Head Start program, is based solely on the reports of such other auditors. The scope of the other auditors' engagement includes an audit on compliance and internal control over compliance applicable to each major federal award program of the Head Start program and includes separately issued findings and questioned costs. Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the Combined Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements – All Fund Types taken as a whole. The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is presented for the purpose of additional analysis as required by OMB Circular A-133 and is not a required part of Combined Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements – All Fund Types. This schedule is the responsibility of the management of the Department.

Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the Combined Statement of Cash Receipts and Cash Disbursements – All Fund Types and, in our opinion, based on our audit and the reports of the other auditors, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had we audited the cash receipts and disbursements of the Foster Care program, is fairly stated, in all material respects when considered in relation to the Combined Statement of Cash Receipts and Cash Disbursements – All Fund Types taken as a whole.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Secretary of the Family, management, and officials of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the United States Department of Agriculture (cognizant audit agency), pass-through entities, and other regulatory agencies and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

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May 11, 2001

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Finding Number: 98-5 (Prior Year Finding No.97-6)

Program: All federal assistance programs to which indirect costs were allocated (CFDA # 10.566, 84.126, 93.558, 93.563, 93.645, 93.667 and 96.001)

Topic Sentence

It was impractical to test the base used in the indirect cost plan due to the pervasiveness of lack of supporting documentation throughout the Department.

Category

Compliance

Compliance Requirement

Allowable Costs/Cost Principles

Condition Found

The Indirect Cost Plan applicable to the fiscal year ended June 30, 1998 was prepared using information from the fiscal year ended June 30, 1995. Due to the pervasiveness of the lack of records throughout the Department, we determined that it would be impractical to test the base used for the proposed Indirect Cost Plan.

Criteria

As per OMB Circular A-87, attachment C, section G (5), requires that all central service cost allocation plans and related documentation used as a basis for claiming costs under Federal awards must be retained for audit in accordance with the records retention requirements contained in OMB Circular A-102.

Effect

The Department is unable to support the assumptions and actual costs used in the state/local-wide central service Indirect Cost Plan and might be subject to administrative sanctions from the federal government.

Underlying Cause

As discussed in finding No. 98-3, the Department's internal control procedures regarding the filing of documents are inadequate.

Known Questioned Costs

None

Recommendation

The Department's management should ascertain that adequate source documentation exists to support amounts and items reported as expenditures. The Department should also establish a recordkeeping system to ensure that accounting records and documentation are retained for the time period required by applicable requirements and the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements applicable to the program.

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF THE FAMILY
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1998

SOCIAL SECURITY-DISABILITY INSURANCE-CFDA #96.001

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is responsible for disability determinations under the Disability Insurance (DI) and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. The DI program was established in 1954 under Title II of the Social Security Act and provides benefits to disabled wage earners and their families in the event the family wage earner becomes disabled (Section 221 of the Social Security Act). In 1974, Congress enacted Title XVI, the SSI program, which provides benefits to financially needy individuals who are aged, blind or disabled (Section 1633 of Social Security Act). Total Disability Determination disbursements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1998 amounted to \$13,059,589.

The following findings arose from our tests of compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grants, and the tests of compliance with internal control applicable to the Social Security - Disability Insurance Program.

Finding Number: 98-77 (Prior Year Finding No. 97-91)

Program: Social Security-Disability Insurance-CFDA # 96.001

Topic Sentence

The Department does not perform a physical inventory over property and equipment.

Category

Internal Control/Compliance

Compliance Requirement

Equipment and real property management

Condition Found

During our examination of the property and equipment we found that the Department does not perform a reconciliation of the physical inventory results with the accounting records. There are items that are repeated in the subsidiary ledger and consequently items selected for testing in 18 out of 26 items selected could not be traced to the inventory listing as follows:

<u>Tag number Selected</u>	<u>Equipment could not be traced to physical location</u>	<u>Equipment not included in the annual inventory</u>
4960		x
4917		x
4937		x
4929	x	x
4968	x	x
4549		x
4554		x
4556		x
4560		x
4561		x
4563		x
4564		x
4567		x
4568		x
4570		x
4575		x
4587		x
4786		x

Criteria

As per OMB Circular A-102, every two years, at a minimum, a physical inventory shall be conducted and the results shall be reconciled with the property records to verify the existence, current utilization, and continued need for the equipment. Any discrepancies between quantities determined by the physical inspection and those shown in the accounting records shall be investigated to determine the causes of the differences. Property records shall be maintained accurately. The records shall include the following for each item of equipment; a description of the equipment including manufacturer's serial numbers, an identification number such as the manufacturer's serial numbers, identification of the grant under which the recipient acquired the equipment, the information needed to calculate the federal share of the equipment, the acquisition date and unit acquisition cost, location, use and condition of the equipment and the date the information was reported, and all pertinent information on the ultimate transfer, replacement, or disposal of the equipment.

Effect

The Department is exposed to the risk of possible unauthorized use and disposition of equipment due to the lack of internal controls and the lack of adequate property and equipment records. The possible misappropriation of the equipment acquired with federal funds could result in disallowed costs.

Underlying Cause

The Department does not maintain accurate records for acquisitions and dispositions of property acquired with federal awards.

Known Questioned Costs

None

Recommendation

The Department's management should conduct periodic inventories and follow up on inventory discrepancies. In addition, the Department's management should review all dispositions of property to ensure appropriate valuation and reimbursement to federal awarding agencies.

Finding Number: 98-78 (Prior Year Finding No. 97-94)

Program: Social Security-Disability Insurance-CFDA # 96.001

Topic Sentence

The Department could not locate evidence to support disbursements.

Category

Internal Control/Compliance

Compliance Requirement

Allowable Costs/Cost Principles

Condition Found

In testing allowability over disbursements, we selected 33 Disability Determination administrative disbursements made during fiscal year 1997-98, which totaled \$1,485,643 or 11% of total disbursements. Total Disability Determination administrative disbursements during the fiscal year amounted \$13,059,589. The Department could not provide us the cancelled checks in 18 out of 33 disbursements tested amounting to \$170,768 or 11% of our sample.

Voucher Number Amount

98729CM0883	\$64,596
97729005320	1,888
98729000768	5,843
98729001859	4,722
98729003805	1,545
98729000931	7,112
98729001103	3,585
98729002014	1,739
98729003054	2,226
98729CM3145	51,856
98729CM1314	6,600
98729CM2966	1,900
98729CM3202	834
98729CM3107	1,636
98729CM2759	202
99045989	9,557
98729CM0128	4,750
96729CM1817	<u>177</u>

Total **\$170,768**

Criteria

OMB Circular A-102 requires that financial records, supporting document, statistical records, and all other records pertinent to an award shall be retained for a period of three years from the date of submission, unless there is any litigation, claims, audits or other actions involving the records that has been started before the end of the three-year period in which the records shall be retained until all issues are resolved or the end of the three-year period, whichever is later.

Effect

The Department may have expended program funds for unallowable activities, which could result in disallowed costs by the federal awarding agency.

Underlying Cause

As discussed in finding No.98-3, the Department's internal control procedures regarding the filing of documents are inadequate.

Known Questioned Costs

\$170,768

Recommendation

The Department's management should ascertain that adequate source documentation exists to support amounts and items reported as expenditures. The Department should also establish a recordkeeping system to ensure that accounting records and documentation are retained for the time period required by applicable requirements and the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements applicable to the program.

Finding Number and Topic Sentence Reference:	Recommendations/ Total Question Costs:	Corrective Action Taken:	Assign Date	Due Date for Completion Per Finding	Employee/Department Responsible for Implementation:
	<p>federal participation in procurement and non-procurement Program. The Department should also require entities and individuals to submit a certification stating that they are not suspended or debarred.</p>	<p>the "List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Nonprocurement Programs" to the Purchase and Legal Offices.</p> <p>In addition, our contracts include three clauses that require the supplier to notify us if they have been or will be accused for a misdemeanor or any offense to the state and federal government.</p> <p>The Department will provide Internet access to the Purchase Office for continuous verification of the said list. Also, will prepare a form for the entities or individuals in which they certify that they are not suspended or debar from participation in federal programs.</p>			
<p>98-5</p> <p>It was impractical to test the base used in the indirect cost plan due to the pervasiveness of lack of supporting documentation throughout the Department.</p>	<p>The Department's management should ascertain that adequate source documentation exists to support amounts and items reported as expenditures. The Department should also establish a record keeping system to ensure that accounting records and documentation are retained for the time period required by applicable requirements and the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements applicable to the program.</p>	<p>Disagree with recommendation.</p> <p>The auditors did not request evidence to perform their tests.</p> <p>The Indirect Cost Plan applicable to the year ended June 30, 1998 was prepared using information from the fiscal year ended June 30, 1995 because the Department was restructured and reorganized in the year 1996.</p> <p>Therefore, the year 1995 was used as base year, and the Federal Government was informed. Then, the Federal Government visited us to readjust the rates and amounts.</p> <p>Our filing system is effective in the custody of the fiscal documents. The Finance Office had updated records at the time the audit sample was performed.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Mr. Ramón F. Cancel Director Finance Office</p>
<p>98-6</p> <p>The Department does not have a system in place to prepare and implement corrective</p>	<p>None.</p> <p>The Department needs to implement a system that prioritizes and monitors the resolution</p>	<p>The Department concurs with the recommendation expressed by external auditors.</p> <p>The Department of the Family</p>	<p>September 20, 2001</p>	<p>May 15, 2002</p>	<p>Mr. José Fonseca Director Internal Audit Office Administration for</p>

Finding Number and Topic Sentence Reference:	Recommendations/ Total Question Costs:	Corrective Action Taken:	Assign Date	Due Date for Completion Per Finding	Employee/Department Responsible for Implementation:
<p>98-77 The Department does not perform a physical inventory over property and equipment.</p>	<p>The Department's management should conduct periodic inventories and follow up on inventory discrepancies. In addition, the Department's management should review all dispositions of property to ensure appropriate valuation and reimbursement to federal awarding agencies.</p>	<p>The Disability Program performs an annual physical inventory. In 1997, the floppy disc containing the inventory list was damaged and some of the information was lost. The equipment cited in this finding as "not included in the annual inventory", was properly registered and the situation was corrected. The equipment that "could not be traced to physical location" is physically in the Program (two dictionaries) and the auditors were notified. We are working on improving the process and the documentation of the inventory list.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Mr. Victor Flores Director Disability Determination</p>
<p>98-78 The Department could not locate evidence to support disbursements.</p>	<p>The Department's management should ascertain that adequate source documentation exists to support amounts and items reported as expenditures. The Department should also establish a recordkeeping system to ensure that accounting records and documentation are retained for the time period required by applicable requirements and the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements applicable to the program.</p>	<p>Disagree with recommendation.</p> <p>The secretary component provided all the evidence that support any exceptions related to disbursements test realized by external auditors.</p> <p>Auditors did not request additional samples for the test of disbursement process. However, if any exception is noted or is identified during our CAP evaluation, they will be corrected immediately.</p>	<p>March 23, 2001</p>	<p>Immediately</p>	<p>Mr. Ramón F. Cancel Director Finance Office</p>

Finding Number: 98-1 (Prior Year Finding No.97-1)

Accounting and Finance Department

Topic Sentence

The Department has significant deficiencies in its internal control structure, accounting and financial management systems, budgetary controls and financial reporting practices.

Category

Internal Control

Compliance Requirement

All applicable compliance requirements as stated in OMB Circular A-133.

Condition Found

The Department's has an inadequate internal control structure and has not established accounting policies, procedures, and financial reporting practices necessary to conform to generally accepted accounting principles, ("GAAP"), as applicable to governmental entities. Significant deficiencies noted are as follows:

- There is a lack of an effective internal control structure to reasonably ensure compliance with the requirements of federal laws, regulations and program compliance requirements. The Department has deficiencies in internal control such as the absence of sufficient level of control consciousness throughout all of the Department's separate administrative operations, the absence of an appropriate segregation of duties, the absence of appropriate management review and approval of transactions, accounting entries and financial and other reporting.
- There are inadequate procedures for appropriately assessing and applying accounting principles, inadequate provisions for the safeguarding of assets, the absence of an accounting procedures manual and the absence of many controls considered appropriate for an entity of this size and type.
- There is a lack of a self-balancing set of accounts for each fund to record cash and other financial resources, together with the related liabilities, residual equities balances or fund balances, and any related changes therein. Accounts should be segregated into funds or subfunds for purposes of demonstrating the accountability of the Department while carrying out a specific activity or attaining certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions, or limitations.
- The manual controls over documents are ineffective and not consistently carried out. Documents show alterations for which there is no evidence of authorization and the numerical sequence of documents is frequently interrupted.
- There are inappropriate and incomplete cut-off procedures for month-end and year-end closings. Many transactions are posted months after the applicable closing with a retroactive effect, or not posted at all.

In addition to the general deficiencies mentioned in the preceding paragraph we found the following:

- The General Fund budget furnished by the Department for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1998 did not agree with the state Office of Management and Budget confirmation of the budgeted amounts.
- The Department did not furnish a financial statement line item budget for the Special Revenue Fund on a fiscal year basis coinciding with the Department's annual reporting period.
- The Department does not reconcile federal grant revenues recorded in the Department's records, with the amounts received by the Government Development Bank (GDB). The GDB is the agency which receives

all federal funds requests made by the Department of the Family. A significant difference exists between the federal agency amounts confirmed and the amounts recorded in the Department's general ledger.

- The Department does not reconcile disbursements recorded in the Department's records with the Puerto Rico Treasury Department amounts disbursed. The Treasury Department is the agency which makes all disbursements for the Department of the Family.
- The Department is not able to provide accurate information on the status of receivables from the federal government for inclusion in the Commonwealth's annual financial statements.

Criteria

Auditee's must prepare their financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). OMB Circular A-133 section 310, states that the auditee shall prepare financial statements that reflect its financial position, results of operations or changes in net assets, and, where appropriate, cash flows for the fiscal year audited.

GASB Codification section 1200, "Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and Legal Compliance," states that a governmental accounting system must make it possible, both: (a) to present fairly and with full disclosure the financial position and results of operations of the funds and account groups of the governmental unit in conformity with GAAP, and (b) to determine and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions.

GASB Codification section 1300, "Fund Accounting," states that governmental accounting systems should be organized and operated on a fund basis. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts to record cash and other financial resources, together with all related liabilities and residual equities or balances, and changes therein which are segregated for the purpose of carrying on specific activities or attaining certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions, or limitations.

GASB Codification section 1900, states that governmental entities should prepare interim and year-end financial statements and reports of financial position, operating results, and other pertinent information to facilitate management control of financial operations, legislative oversight, and for external reporting purposes.

OMB Circular A-102 subpart C, section 20, states that a state must expend and account for grant funds in accordance with state laws and procedures for expending and accounting for its own funds. Fiscal control and accounting procedures of the state, as well as its subgrantees and cost-type contractors, must be sufficient to permit preparation of reports required by this part and the statutes authorizing the grant, and permit the tracing of funds to a level of expenditures adequate to establish that such funds have not been used in violation of the restriction and prohibitions of applicable statutes. The financial management systems must meet the following standards:

- Financial reporting: accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the financial results of financially assisted activities must be made in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the grant or subgrant.
- Accounting records: grantees and subgrantees must maintain records which adequately identify the source and application of funds provided for financially-assisted activities. These records must contain information pertaining to grant or subgrant awards and authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, liabilities, outlays or expenditures, and income.
- Internal control: effective control and accountability must be maintained for all grant and subgrant cash, real and personal property, and other assets. Grantees and subgrantees must adequately safeguard all such property and must ensure that it is used solely for authorized purposes.

- Budget control: actual expenditures or outlays must be compared with budgeted amounts for each grant or subgrant. Financial information must be related to performance or productivity data, including the development of unit cost information whenever appropriate or specifically required in the grant or subgrant agreement. If unit cost data are required, estimates based on available documentation will be accepted whenever possible.
- Allowable costs: applicable OMB cost principles, agency program regulations, and the terms of grant and subgrant agreements will be followed in determining the reasonableness, allowability, and allocability of costs.
- Source documentation: accounting records must be supported by such source documentation as canceled checks, paid bills, payrolls, time and attendance records, contract and subgrant award documents, etc.
- Cash management: procedures for minimizing the time elapsing between the transfer of funds from the U.S. Treasury and disbursement by grantees and subgrantees must be followed whenever advance payment procedures are used. Grantees must establish reasonable procedures to ensure the receipt of reports on subgrantees' cash balances and cash disbursements in sufficient time to enable them to prepare complete and accurate cash transactions reports to the awarding agency. When advances are made by letter-of-credit or electronic transfer of funds methods, the grantee must make drawdowns as close as possible to the time of making disbursements.

In addition to the above requirements, the Department's internal control system must provide for reconciliations reflected in control accounts with subsidiary records and the reconciliations of transactions and balances between different departments and agencies.

Underlying Cause

The Department's management has not adopted a policy of following generally accepted accounting principles that are applicable to governmental entities. In addition, management has not adopted and enforced internal control policies and procedures over its accounting and financial management, budgetary practices and financial reporting, and has not ensured that the Department is in compliance with applicable laws, regulations and grant provisions.

Effect

The Department's ineffective internal control structure is conducive to many deficiencies as described in the numerous findings contained in this report. The continued existence of these deficiencies could result in significant cost disallowances by the federal awarding agencies, or ultimately, in the reduction or elimination of federal awards received by the Department.

Known Questioned Costs

None

Recommendation

The Department should implement an internal control structure to provide reasonable assurance that:

- Transactions are properly recorded and accounted for to permit the preparation of reliable financial statements and federal reports, maintain accountability over assets; and demonstrate compliance with laws, regulations, and other compliance requirements.
- Transactions are executed in compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on a federal program.
- Funds, property, and other assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition.

The Department should also reorganize its accounting practices and policies to conform with GAAP. This will require a plan for the implementation of an accounting and financial management system that permits the preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP and of financial reports required by the different oversight entities. This plan should cover the operations of the central, regional, and district offices, consider the forthcoming changes and developments in the governmental accounting industry and their impact on the financial and operational practices of the Department, and demonstrate accountability over the federal programs and the related accounts receivable from the federal government.

In addition, the Department should be prepared to take the necessary steps for the successful future adoption of accounting developments such as statement No. 34 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

Finding Number: 98-2 (Prior Year Finding No.97-2)

Accounting and Finance Department

Topic Sentence

The Department did not comply with the established due date for the submission of the required Single Audit Report.

Category

Internal Control/Compliance

Compliance Requirement

All applicable compliance requirements as stated in OMB Circular A-133.

Condition Found

The Department does not have a program in place to comply with the deadlines established by federal law for the submission of Single Audit reports. As a result, the Department did not comply with the required submission date of the Single Audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1998. The due date for this report was no later than July 31, 1999. It should also be noted, that the Single Audit report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1997 was submitted later than the required due date established by federal regulations.

Criteria

OMB Circular A-133, Subpart C, Section 320 establishes that all audits shall be completed and submitted to the cognizant agency within the earlier of 30 days after receipt of the auditor's report or nine (9) months after the end of the audit period. However, for fiscal year beginning on or before June 30, 1998, 13 months after the end of the audit period was permitted.

Underlying Cause

Due to the failure to ensure that adequate accounting records exist and that the timely and accurate closing of books occurs, management did not comply with the requirements established in OMB Circular A-133.

Effect

The Department could be exposed to a reduction or elimination of funding by the federal awarding agencies.

Known Questioned Costs

None

Recommendation

The Accounting and Finance Division should establish aggressive monthly closing schedules and improve its year-end closing procedures to allow for the timely performance of the Single Audit and enable the Department to comply with the reporting requirements established by applicable regulations.

Finding Number: 98-3 (Prior Year Finding No.97-3)

Accounting and Finance Department

Topic Sentence

The Department does not have an effective filing system.

Category

Internal Control

Compliance Requirement

All applicable compliance requirements as stated in OMB Circular A-133.

Condition Found

Procedures followed by personnel at the filing division did not permit the timely retrieval of documents requested. In addition, we observed that various payment documents processed by the different federal program accountants and the personnel at the payment division are maintained and filed at the divisions without an organized system. A substantial number of documents requested in connection with the testing of compliance with laws, regulations, grant requirements and testing of internal controls could not be found.

Criteria

OMB Circular A-102, part C, Section 20 (a)(2), of the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants Agreements to state and local governments establishes that fiscal control and accounting procedures of the state must be sufficient to permit the tracing of funds to a level of expenditures adequate to establish that such funds have not been used in violation of the restriction and prohibitions of applicable statutes.

Underlying Cause

The Department has inadequate internal controls over record retention and the filing of documents due to the lack of an overall control system that provides guidance to the different agencies and divisions on the filing and retention requirements of documents.

Effect

The Department cannot support many of the disbursements made and therefore is unable to prove compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The continued occurrence of this situation could result in disallowed costs by the federal awarding agencies and the reduction or elimination of federal grant awards.

Known Questioned Costs

None (Amounts are included in questioned costs specific to individual major federal programs as identified in subsequent findings.)

Recommendation

The Department's management should ascertain that adequate source documentation exists to support amounts and items reported as expenditures. The Department should also establish a recordkeeping system to ensure that accounting records and documentation are retained for the time period required by applicable requirements and the provisions of laws and regulations.

Finding Number: 98-4 (Prior Year Finding No.97-4)

Accounting and Finance Department.

Topic Sentence

The Department does not verify the status of parties as to suspensions and debarments when contracting services or procuring goods with federal funds.

Category

Internal Control/Compliance

Compliance Requirement

Procurement, suspensions and debarments

Condition Found

In testing procurement, suspensions and debarments, we were not able to find evidence indicating that the Department performs procedures to ensure that individuals and entities that receive contracts or sub-awards are not suspended or debarred from participation in federal programs.

Criteria

As per OMB Circular A-102, federal agencies shall not award assistance to applicants that are debarred or suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs under Executive Order 12549. Agencies shall establish procedures for the effective use of the list of parties excluded from federal procurement or non-procurement programs to assure that they do not award assistance to listed parties in violation of the executive order. Agencies shall also establish procedures to provide for effective use and/or dissemination of the list to assure that their grantees and subgrantees (including contractors) at any tier do not make awards in violation of the non-procurement debarment and suspension common rule.

Effect

The Department could have procured goods or services from organizations and individuals that are suspended or debarred which could result in cost disallowances by the federal awarding agency.

Underlying Cause

There are no procedures to verify that the organizations and its principals are not suspended or debarred.

Known Questioned Costs

None

Recommendation

The Department should revise established procurement procedures and include a step to verify whether or not the individual or entity is on the list of parties excluded from federal participation in procurement and non-procurement Programs. The Department should also require entities and individuals to submit a certification stating that they are not suspended or debarred.

Finding Number: 98-6 (Prior Year Finding No.97-7)

Program: All financial assistance programs

Topic Sentence

The Department does not have a system in place to prepare and implement corrective action plans and clear audit findings in a timely fashion.

Category

Internal Control/Compliance

Compliance Requirement

All applicable compliance requirements as stated in OMB Circular A-133.

Condition Found

The Department did not prepare a corrective action plan and did not take any corrective action for findings included in the current year and prior year auditors' reports.

Criteria

OMB A-133 Circular, section .315 (c), requires auditees to prepare a corrective action plan at the completion of the audit to address each audit finding included in the current year auditor's reports.

Effect

The Department will not be able to correct audit findings in a timely manner and as a result conditions found will be recurring. In addition, the Department could be subject to sanctions from the federal government including but not limited to the reduction or elimination of grant awards.

Underlying Cause

The Department's management did not comply with the requirements established in OMB Circular A-133.

Known Questioned Costs

None

Recommendation

The Department needs to implement a system that prioritizes and monitors the resolution of audit findings. The resolution of audit findings can strengthen internal controls and ensure compliance with state and federal rules and regulations.

Top-level management within the Department needs to reemphasize the need to resolve all audit findings as quickly as possible and take ownership of the issues resulting from all audits. The appointment of a supervisor of audit and compliance is a step in the right direction, but more attention from top-level management will assist the supervisor in helping to resolve recurring issues. If resource constraints are an impediment to resolving findings and improving internal controls, the Departments management needs to investigate this issue.

Finding Number: 98-10 (Prior Year Finding No.97-19)

Program: Nutrition Assistance Program For Puerto Rico-CFDA #10.566

Topic Sentence

The Department did not follow required bidding procedures in one procurement transaction tested.

Category

Internal Control/Compliance

Compliance Requirement

Procurement, Suspensions and Debarments

Condition Found

In testing procurement, suspensions and debarments for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1998, we selected 25 procurement disbursements from the Nutrition Assistance Program For Puerto Rico (NAP) which totaled \$944,825 or 29% of total procurement disbursements of \$3,206,143 for the year. The Department did not follow the required bidding process for one procurement transaction amounting to \$344,400 or 36% of our sample as follows:

<u>Youcher Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
98127CM0296	\$344,400

Criteria

7 CFR Part 3015.182 requires all procurement transactions, regardless of whether by sealed bids or by negotiation and without regard to dollar value, shall be conducted in a manner that provides maximum open and free competition.

Effect

The Department may have acquired goods or services at a higher price or of lower quality than expected. In addition, not following bidding procedures could result in disallowed costs by the federal awarding agency.

Underlying Cause

The Department's management does not always review procurement and contracting activities for compliance with federal and local procurement policies.

Known Questioned Costs

\$344,400

Recommendation

The Department should conduct periodic independent reviews of procurement and contracting activities to determine whether policies and procedures are being followed as intended.

Finding Number: 98-12 (Prior Year Finding No.97-17)

Program: Nutrition Assistance Program For Puerto Rico-CFDA #10.566

Topic Sentence

The Department has deficiencies in the execution of property management procedures.

Category

Internal Control/Compliance

Compliance Requirement

Equipment Management

Condition Found

In testing real property and equipment management, we found that the Department does not perform a reconciliation of physical inventory with the accounting records. In addition, the following items are not specified in the Department's property subsidiary ledger:

- The percentage of federal participation in the cost of the property.
- The grant under which the recipient acquired the equipment.
- All information on the ultimate transfer, replacement or disposal of the equipment.

Total Nutritional Assistance Program For Puerto Rico property and equipment additions for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1998 totaled \$32,088.

Criteria

As per 7 CFR Part 3015, Subpart R, section 3015.169 property records shall be accurately maintained. The records shall include, for each item of equipment, a description of the equipment including manufacturer's serial numbers, an identification number, identification of the grant under which the recipient acquired the equipment, the information needed to calculate the federal share of the equipment, the acquisition date and unit acquisition cost, the location, use and condition of the equipment and the date the information was reported and all pertinent information on the ultimate transfer, replacement, or disposal of the equipment.

In addition 7 CFR Part 3015, Subpart R, section 3015.169 also states that every two years, at a minimum, a physical inventory shall be conducted and the results shall be reconciled with the property records to verify the existence, current utilization, and continued need for the equipment. Any discrepancies between quantities determined by the physical inspection and those shown in the accounting records shall be investigated to determine the causes of the differences.

Effect

The Department is exposed to the risk of possible unauthorized use and disposition of equipment due to the lack of internal controls and the lack of adequate property and equipment records. The possible misappropriation of the equipment acquired with federal funds could result in disallowed costs.

Underlying Cause

The Department does not maintain accurate records for acquisitions and dispositions for property acquired with federal awards.

Known Questioned Costs

None

Recommendation

The Department's management should determine that proper procedures are in place to ensure that property purchased with federal funds is identified and conduct periodic inventories and follow up on inventory discrepancies. In addition, the Department's management should review all dispositions of property to ensure appropriate valuation and reimbursement to federal awarding agencies.

Finding Number: 98-13

Program: Nutrition Assistance Program For Puerto Rico-CFDA #10.566

Topic Sentence

The Department overpaid a supplier invoice related to administrative disbursements.

Category

Internal Control/Compliance

Compliance Requirement

Allowable Costs/Cost Principles

Condition Found

In testing allowability of administrative disbursements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1998, we selected 31 disbursements from the Nutrition Assistance Program For Puerto Rico which totaled \$4,933,183 or approximately 14% of the total disbursements of \$34,660,187 for the year. The Department overpaid an invoice in the amount of \$117,670 as follows:

<u>Voucher Number</u>	<u>Voucher Amount</u>	<u>Invoice Amount</u>	<u>Overpayment</u>
98127CM0296	\$344,400	\$226,730	\$117,670

Criteria

7 CFR Part 3015, Subpart H, section 3015.61 requires recipients to maintain effective control over and accountability for all USDA grant or sub-grant funds, real and personal property assets.

Effect

This situation could result in the disallowance of costs by the federal awarding agency.

Underlying Cause

The Department's management does not always review transactions to ensure that payments agree with invoice amounts.

Known Questioned Costs

None. (Overpayment of \$117,670 was included as part of finding No.98-10.)

Recommendation

The Department's management should review expenditures to ensure that amounts are adequately supported and approved before federal funds are disbursed.

Finding Number: 98-14 (Prior Year Finding No.97-11)

Program: Nutrition Assistance Program For Puerto Rico-CFDA #10.566

Topic Sentence

The Department expended federal funds for unallowable administrative costs that benefited other programs.

Category

Internal Control/Compliance

Compliance Requirement

Allowable Costs/Cost Principles

Condition Found

In testing allowability of administrative disbursements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1998, we selected 31 disbursements from the Nutrition Assistance Program For Puerto Rico which totaled \$4,933,183 or approximately 14% of the total disbursements of \$34,660,187 for the year. We found that the Department used NAP funds for expenditures that benefited other programs. This occurred in five out of the 31 administrative disbursements tested, amounting to \$31,958 or less than 1% of our sample as follows:

<u>Voucher Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
98ADSEF0283	\$ 940
98127CM0321	1,280
98127CM0313	22,193(*)
98127CM0290	545
98708CM0618	<u>7,000</u>
Total	<u>\$31,958</u>

(*) Amount questioned in finding No.98-11. Net questioned costs amount to \$9,765.

Criteria

7 CFR 277.2 states that unless authorized by federal legislation, costs charged to other federal grants or to other federal contracts may not be considered as reimbursable state agency costs. Furthermore, OMB Circular A-87 states that to be considered as allowable, a cost cannot be included as a cost or used to meet cost sharing or matching requirements of any other federal award in either the current or a prior period, except as specifically provided by federal law or regulation.

Effect

This situation could result in the disallowance of costs by the federal awarding agency.

Underlying Cause

The Department's management did not review the disbursements to determine if they were made for allowable costs.

Known Questioned Costs

\$9,765. However, we have estimated the likely questioned costs to be in excess of \$10,000.

Recommendation

The Department's management should provide personnel approving and pre-auditing expenditures with a list of allowable and unallowable expenditures and there should be interaction between management and staff regarding questionable costs.

Finding Number: 98-17 (Prior Year Finding No.97-12)

Program: Nutrition Assistance Program For Puerto Rico-CFDA #10.566

Topic Sentence

The Department did not request administrative grant federal funds in accordance with established procedures.

Category

Internal Control/Compliance

Compliance Requirement

Cash Management

Condition Found

During the year ended June 30, 1998, the Department requested funds from the Nutrition Assistance Program administrative grant, totaling \$35,380,350. From a sample of nine requests totaling \$5,883,847, or approximately 17% of total requests, we found that in five requests the Department requested funds for administrative costs using a different method (Zero-Balance) than the one specified in the Treasury-State Agreement, which is prorated drawdowns. The requests were as follows:

<u>Voucher</u> <u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Requested</u>
118	5,113,023
137	2,131
139	2,090
182	15,358
239	<u>7,872</u>
Total	<u>\$140,474</u>

Criteria

31 CFR 205, which implements the Cash Management Improvement Act of 1990 (CMIA) (P.L. 101-453), requires state recipients to enter into agreements which prescribe specific methods of drawing down federal funds for selected large programs. Also, according to the signed Treasury-State agreement, NAP administrative expenses should be requested using the Prorated Drawdowns funding technique which requires the Program to request one-sixth (1/6) of the administrative expenses on the payroll's average clearance date (4 days after the payroll check's date) when the payroll is paid semi-monthly, or one-third if paid monthly.

Effect

The Department could be exposed to sanctions by the federal awarding agency due to violations of the Treasury State agreement.

Underlying Cause

The Department does not conduct periodic reviews of cash management transactions for compliance with the Treasury-State agreement.

Known Questioned Costs

None

Recommendation

The Department's management should schedule periodic independent evaluation (e.g. by internal audit, top management) of entity cash management, budget and actual results, repayment of excess interest earnings, and federal drawdown activities.

Finding Number: 98-27 (Prior Year Finding No.97-30)

Program: Nutrition Assistance Program For Puerto Rico-CFDA #10.566

Topic Sentence

The Department filed a Financial Status Report that does not agree with the general ledger.

Category

Internal Control/Compliance

Compliance Requirement

Reporting

Condition Found

We could not agree the amounts of disbursements in the Financial Status Reports to the general ledger. Furthermore, no reconciliation is prepared by the Department's personnel.

<u>Quarter Ended</u>	<u>General Ledger</u>	<u>Financial Status Report</u>	<u>Financial Status Report Over/ (Under)</u>
12/31/97	\$268,453,601	\$249,818,490	\$(18,635,111)
3/31/98	299,634,167	292,883,838	(6,750,329)
6/30/98	281,121,533	278,519,387	(2,602,146)

In addition, we could not agree the amount reported for the SWIP portion of the NAP program as follows:

<u>Quarter Ended</u>	<u>General Ledger</u>	<u>Financial Status Report</u>	<u>Financial Status Report Over / (Under)</u>
3/31/98	\$ 6,719,512	\$5,878,843	\$840,669
6/30/98	6,124,039	5,570,765	553,274

Criteria

7 CFR Part 3015, Subpart H, section 3015.61 states that complete, accurate and current disclosure of the financial results of each USDA sponsored project or program shall be made.

Effect

Failure to report accurate performance prevents the federal awarding agency from monitoring the performance of the program's financial activities, from assessing the achievements of the program and from evaluating the grant award for the following year. At the same time, the federal awarding agency could make significant adjustments to the grant already awarded, resulting in disallowed costs.

Underlying Cause

There is no supervisory review of reports performed to ensure the accuracy and completeness of data and information included in the reports.

Known Questioned Costs

None

Recommendation

The Department's management should conduct reviews of the Financial Status Report prior to filing comparing amounts to supporting records to ensure accurate reporting of award activities to the awarding agency.

Finding Number: 98-35

Program: The Emergency Food Assistance Program (Administrative Costs) -CFDA #10.568

Topic Sentence

The Department does not calculate and report interest liabilities.

Category

Internal Control/Compliance

Compliance Requirement

Cash Management

Condition Found

During our Cash Management test, we selected 13 Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) federal funds drawdowns, which amounted to \$808,893, or approximately 34% of total TEFAP drawdowns. Total TEFAP drawdowns amounting to \$2,402,665.

In 12 out of the 13 drawdowns selected, we were unable to determine the date of the vouchers used to disburse such funds because the voucher was not dated. For the remaining drawdown selected, the disbursement (voucher #98708000384) was prepared on December 11, 1997, or 56 days after the drawdown was made.

Criteria

As per 31 CFR Part 205.6, when using pre-issuance funding technique a state shall request funds not more than three business days prior to the day on which it makes a disbursement, and a Federal agency shall deposit funds in a State account the next business day after receiving a request for funds. In addition, 31 CFR Part 205.7 defines pre-issuance funding as a method of transferring Federal funds to a State prior to the day the State issues checks or initiates EFT payments. When this funding technique is applied, a State will incur an interest liability to the Federal Government from the day Federal funds are credited to a State account to the day the State pays out the funds for programs purposes.

Also, 31 CFR Part 205.13 requires the State to calculate and report interest liabilities on the basis of its fiscal year. A State shall ensure that its interest calculations are auditable. As set forth in Section 205.9, a Treasury-State Agreement must include the method a State will use to calculate and document interest liabilities pursuant to this subpart.

Effect

As a result of the lack of appropriate accounting records and inefficient controls over cash management, the Department is unable to determine the interest liability owed to the Federal Government for the use of Federal funds beyond the applicable timeframe.

In addition, the Department may owe the federal government interest accrued due to the inefficiencies in the cash management and check issuance procedures.

Underlying Cause

The accounting records do not provide the information necessary to comply with grant requirements and the Commonwealth's check issuance process is inefficient and takes more than three days to complete. In addition, the Department's accounting records are deficient and inaccurate as explained in finding No. 98-1.

Known Questioned Costs

None (Due to the nature of this finding, we were unable to determine the amounts resulting in questioned costs.)

Recommendation

The Department should reorganize its accounting and cash management procedures to conform with the requirements in 31 CFR Part 205. Additionally, the P.R. Department of the Family and the Commonwealth's Treasury Department's personnel should prepare new check issuance procedures to enable them to comply with the pre-issuance funding requirements also found in 31 CFR Part 205.

Finding Number: 98-45

Program: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families-CFDA # 93.558

Topic Sentence

The Department did not perform fiscal evaluations before expending federal funds.

Category

Internal Control/Compliance

Compliance Requirement

Allowable Costs/Cost Principles

Condition Found

In testing allowability, we selected 25 disbursements from the TANF program totaling \$3,212,849 or approximately 4% of total program disbursements of \$71,631,520 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1998. The Department did not perform a fiscal evaluation before making disbursements, in 13 out of the 25 selections tested amounting to \$82,599 or 3% of our sample as follows

<u>Voucher</u>	<u>Amount</u>
98707CM0615	529,964
98ADSEF0023	4,140
98103101628	32,526
9801CM0315	5,835
98ADSEF0066	3,080
98ADSEF0027	687
98ADSEF0120	135
98ADSEF0150	159
98127CM0198	329
98127CM0326	1,280 (*)
98127CM0419	385
98127CM0402	2,698
98127CM0357	<u>1,380</u>
Total	<u>\$82,598</u>

(*) Disbursement included as part of the questioned costs reported in finding No. 98-42. Net questioned costs amount to \$81,318.

Criteria

As per OMB Circular A-102, actual expenditures or outlays must be compared with budgeted amounts for each grant or subgrant. Financial information must be related to performance or productivity data, including the development of unit cost information whenever appropriate or specifically required in the grant or subgrant agreement.

Effect

The Department may have expended program funds for unallowable activities, which could result in disallowed costs by the federal awarding agency.

Underlying Cause

Employees are not trained to obtain the correct information and files are not reviewed by management to determine that all required information is present.

Known Questioned Costs

\$81,318

Recommendation

The Department's management should ascertain that adequate source documentation exists to support amounts and items reported as expenditures. The Department should also establish a recordkeeping system to ensure that accounting records and documentation are retained for the time period required by applicable requirements and the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements applicable to the program.

Finding Number: 98-66

Program: Child Care and Development Block Grant-CFDA #93.575

Topic Sentence

The Department expended federal funds for unallowable costs.

Category

Compliance

Compliance Requirement

Allowable Costs/Cost Principles

Condition Found

In testing allowability over administrative disbursements, we selected 25 Child Care and Development Block Grant administrative disbursements from the fiscal year ended June 30, 1998, which totaled \$754,096, or 9% of total administrative disbursements. Total Child Care and Development Block Grant administrative disbursements during the fiscal year amounted to \$8,631,392. The Department used Child Care program funds to pay for permanent improvements of the administrative offices. This occurred in one out of the 25 administrative disbursements tested, or 2% of our sample amounting to \$12,500 as follows:

Voucher Number Amount

92247	\$12,500
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Criteria

45 CFR 98.54 states that no funds shall be expended for the purchase or improvement of land, or for the purchase, construction, or permanent improvement of any building or facility.

Effect

The Department expended program funds for unallowable activities, which could result in disallowed costs by the federal awarding agency.

Underlying Cause

The Department's management did not review the disbursement to determine if it was an allowable cost.

Known Questioned Costs

\$12,500

Recommendation

The Department's management should establish controls to ensure that all disbursements are reviewed in order to provide reasonable assurance that federal awards are expended only for allowable activities and that costs for goods or services charged to federal awards are allowable and in accordance with applicable cost principles.

Overview of the Office of the Inspector General

Office of Audit

The Office of Audit (OA) conducts comprehensive financial and performance audits of the Social Security Administration's (SSA) programs and makes recommendations to ensure that program objectives are achieved effectively and efficiently. Financial audits, required by the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, assess whether SSA's financial statements fairly present the Agency's financial position, results of operations, and cash flow. Performance audits review the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of SSA's programs. OA also conducts short-term management and program evaluations focused on issues of concern to SSA, Congress, and the general public. Evaluations often focus on identifying and recommending ways to prevent and minimize program fraud and inefficiency.

Office of Executive Operations

The Office of Executive Operations (OEO) provides four functions for the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) – administrative support, strategic planning, quality assurance, and public affairs. OEO supports the OIG components by providing information resources management; systems security; and the coordination of budget, procurement, telecommunications, facilities and equipment, and human resources. In addition, this Office coordinates and is responsible for the OIG's strategic planning function and the development and implementation of performance measures required by the Government Performance and Results Act. The quality assurance division performs internal reviews to ensure that OIG offices nationwide hold themselves to the same rigorous standards that we expect from the Agency. This division also conducts employee investigations within OIG. The public affairs team communicates OIG's planned and current activities and the results to the Commissioner and Congress, as well as other entities.

Office of Investigations

The Office of Investigations (OI) conducts and coordinates investigative activity related to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement of SSA programs and operations. This includes wrongdoing by applicants, beneficiaries, contractors, physicians, interpreters, representative payees, third parties, and by SSA employees in the performance of their duties. OI also conducts joint investigations with other Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies.

Counsel to the Inspector General

The Counsel to the Inspector General provides legal advice and counsel to the Inspector General on various matters, including: 1) statutes, regulations, legislation, and policy directives governing the administration of SSA's programs; 2) investigative procedures and techniques; and 3) legal implications and conclusions to be drawn from audit and investigative material produced by the OIG. The Counsel's office also administers the civil monetary penalty program.