In Your Inbox

Insights, Advisories and Alerts

Vol. 2, Issue 11 | November 2026

Fighting Fraud is a Team Sport

In observance of International Fraud Awareness Week (November 15 to 21, 2026), the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is calling on our partners in government to take steps to raise awareness of fraud, signs of fraud, and how to report fraud within their organizations. As leaders of public entities, you have a special duty to take proactive steps to safeguard public resources.

According to the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), organizations that provide fraud awareness training detect fraud faster and experience fewer losses from fraud, and their employees are twice as likely to submit a tip that results in the detection of fraud.[1]

Providing fraud awareness training is not as difficult as you may think. The OIG and the ACFE offer a variety of resources at no cost.

The OIG's Fraud Prevention Toolkit is a good place to start. This Toolkit consists of printed materials, videos, and a virtual training. You can find this information on the Fraud Prevention page on our website.

Similarly, the ACFE offers a wide array of resources that you can find on the International Fraud Awareness Week website.

According to the ACFE's Fraud Awareness Training Benchmarking Report, good fraud prevention training commonly covers topics such as fraud red flags, ethics, how to report fraud, and cybersecurity.

You can promote fraud awareness in a number of ways, including:

- Offer a "lunch and learn" for employees at various municipal job sites. Present the OIG's videos on Understanding Fraud, the Fraud Hotline, and Whistleblowers.

[1] Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, *Occupational Fraud 2026: A Report to the Nations*, page 42, available at https://www.acfe.com/-/media/files/acfe/pdfs/rttn/2026/2026-report-to-the-nations.pdf.



Post informational flyers at all municipal job sites that explain the signs of fraud and include information on how to report suspected fraud. (Both of the OIG's posters include this information.)



Include fraud awareness training in new employee onboarding, along with ethics and cybersecurity, and require those trainings annually for all employees.



Conduct a Fraud Prevention Check-Up to identify any gaps in your fraud prevention strategy.

Fraud awareness training is an integral part of any risk management strategy. It does not need to be complicated or lengthy, but it should be consistent. Regular training on fraud awareness and prevention, combined with robust internal controls, helps an organization set a strong tone from the top and build a culture of accountability that goes a long way toward preventing and detecting fraud.

*The OIG periodically issues **OIG In Your Inbox: Insights, Advisories and Alerts** as a way to succinctly share timely topics with key stakeholders, most notably the leaders within the Commonwealth's 351 local communities. The OIG hopes that **OIG In Your Inbox: Insights, Advisories and Alerts** will prompt dialogue and needed action on matters important to public entities.*