



Report Highlights

Department of Children and Family Services

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Why We Conducted This Audit

We performed certain procedures at the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) as a part of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report of the State of Louisiana, the Single Audit of the State of Louisiana, and to evaluate DCFS's accountability over public funds for the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

What We Found

In state fiscal year 2023, DCFS had four repeat findings in this report. In total, six findings were reported:

- DCFS did not ensure that all work activity supporting documentation for cash assistance recipients was accurate and maintained for hours worked under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. This is the twelfth consecutive year we have reported exceptions with internal controls and compliance related to this TANF requirement.
- DCFS did not have a formalized process in place to ensure \$16 million of TANF grant funds transferred to the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) were only used for programs or services for children or their families whose income is less than 200% of the poverty level.
- DCFS did not follow established payroll policies and procedures for the certification and approval of time statements, as well as for the approval of leave requests. This is the second consecutive year a weakness in controls over payroll has been reported.
- DCFS did not report subawards in compliance with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) in the FFATA Subaward Reporting System during fiscal year 2023 for the Foster Care Title IV-E and TANF programs, as required by federal regulations. This is the second consecutive year we have reported noncompliance with FFATA reporting.
- The DCFS Fraud and Recovery Unit identified possible improper activity by two employees who appear to have violated department policy, as well as state law, related to payroll.
- DCFS did not have adequate controls in place to ensure that expenditures were properly charged and allocated in accordance with the Cost Allocation Plan, which assigns costs to federal programs.

View the full report, including management's responses, at www.la.gov.