



Inspector General Insights

Background: On July 30, 1778, America's first whistleblower law was passed during the height of the American Revolution, which affirmed:

"That it is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States, as well as all other inhabitants thereof, to give the earliest information to Congress or any other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any persons in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge."

In recognition, the United States Senate recognized National Whistleblower Appreciation Day on July 30, 2013. This day celebrates the people who raise their voice in the name of combatting fraud, corruption, and other crimes. It commends the courage, strength of conviction, and dedication to the truth of whistleblowers.

Objective: To inform the public of the importance of whistleblowers, which is defined as someone who brings wrongdoing by an employer or by other employees to the attention of a government or law enforcement agency. A whistleblower typically (but not always) works inside of the organization where the wrongdoing is taking place.

Additionally, to detail the source, number and departments associated with the complaints to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) in 2022.

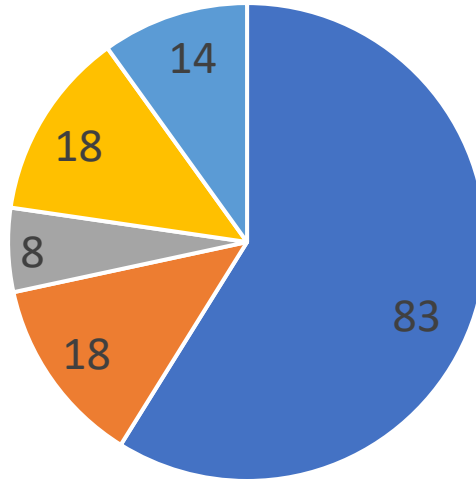
Observations: Inspectors General nationwide, working with whistleblowers, recovers billions of taxpayer dollars annually and help establish controls designed to prevent further waste, fraud, abuse and/or corruption. In Florida, a whistleblower who reports gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, gross waste of public funds, suspected or actual fraud or abuse, or gross neglect of duty is protected by Florida Statute 112.3187 (Whistleblower's Act).

The Collier County Clerk & Comptroller's Office of Inspector General has established a confidential hotline that serves as an effective mechanism for preventing and detecting fraud, theft, or abuse of county dollars and resources carried out by any person, business, or organization that has a relationship with the Collier County Board of County Commissioners or the Collier County Clerk of Courts, to include:

- * Contractors
- * Subcontractors
- * Vendors
- * Employees
- * Volunteers
- * Officials
- * Organizations performing under County-authorized programs
- * Organizations utilizing County facilities
- * Organizations applying for County funding
- * Persons or entities filing or recording documents with the Clerk

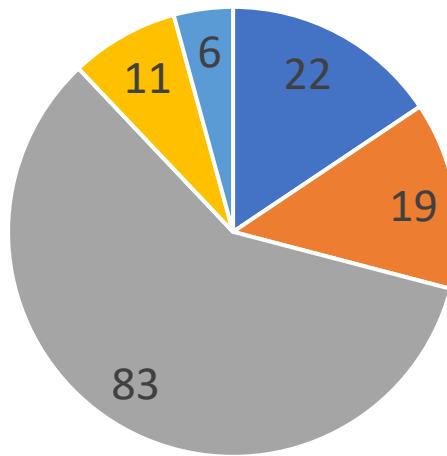
In 2022, 141 Complaints or Cases were initiated in the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) Case Management System. Most complaints (59%) filed in 2022 related to potentially fraudulent grant applications filed by residents, which were referred to the OIG for investigation by the Grants department. Other departments had only a few complaints filed, with no discernable trends or patterns noted for the year. The dollar amount related to complaints reviewed for 2022, which were not reported separately in another OIG report, was \$3,548,724.50.

Types of Complaints / Cases Filed in 2022 (Total 141)



■ Grant Compliance ■ Fraud ■ Public Records Request ■ Compliance & Ethics ■ Other

Source of Complaints / Cases Filed in 2022 (Total 141)



■ Email ■ Phone ■ Referred by Department ■ Self-discovery ■ Other

Recommendations & Actions: Report suspected fraud or wrongdoing 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, in English or Spanish by calling our confidential hotline at 844-ClerkIG, or call us locally during business hours at 239-252-8412. You can also report fraud at [CollierClerk.com/Report Fraud](https://CollierClerk.com/ReportFraud).

| Total # Transactions | Amounts Reviewed Not Reported Separately | Questioned Costs Not Reported Separately | Taxpayer Savings Not Reported Separately | # Observations / Recommendations |
|----------------------|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
| 141 | \$ 3,548,724.50 | \$ 3,548,724.50 | \$ 14,000.00 | N/A |