

inappropriately approved a contract price adjustment that the contractor was not eligible to request and, as a result, the USMS paid the contractor a significant amount in unallowable costs.

Contract Planning and Drafting. In our contract audit work, the OIG has found repeated instances of contract documents with unclear or poorly-defined requirements, which impeded the Department's contract administration. For example, a 2018 [audit](#) of a sole-source contract found that the BOP did not adequately plan for its construction project prior to awarding the contract. The BOP did not consult with subject matter experts on the needs of the prison, such as programming, food services, and health services, until after the contract was awarded, which led to a failure to include detailed construction requirements related to those needs in the contract's applicable conditions section, despite concerns from the Warden. The BOP's failure to anticipate significant problems with its plan caused it to pay over \$1.7 million of taxpayer money to construct a building that was ultimately unnecessary. In addition, a 2018 [audit](#) of a DEA linguist services contract found the DEA had poorly defined contract requirements, which contributed to performance deficiencies.

Grant Administration and Oversight

Recent OIG grant audits have identified systemic grant administration and oversight challenges for the Department and its grantees, including in grant monitoring, controls over funds, documentation of progress towards achievement of grant goals, and compliance with award conditions. Specific areas of concern include the Department's challenges in managing awards made from the Crime Victims Fund (CVF); administering its non-CVF grant awards effectively; and monitoring grants to ensure safety of Department grant program participants.

Crime Victims Fund (CVF). In FY 2015, Congress more than tripled the amount of CVF funds available for distribution by the Department to support victims. As shown below, awards for CVF victim assistance and compensation programs rose from nearly \$600 million to \$2.1 billion in FY 2015. By FY 2018, awards for these programs totaled nearly \$3.5 billion. The OIG has received \$10 million from the CVF each year since 2015 to conduct oversight of the Department's awards for victims and victim services. As a result, the OIG has conducted numerous audits of CVF grant recipients. The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) awards the bulk of CVF grant funds to states and territories. We have observed several recurring issues that warrant the Department's attention to ensure proper administration and oversight of this substantial grant award program.