



OFFICE OF THE  
**UTAH STATE AUDITOR**

**News Release**  
**For Immediate Release**  
March 2, 2016

**Office of the Utah State Auditor Releases  
Statewide Accountability Survey Observations**

**Salt Lake City, UTAH –**

The Office of the Utah State Auditor (Office) today released *Statewide Accountability Survey Observations*. Based on the 2016 survey observations, we believe that individual state agencies and offices could increase state employee accountability and better safeguard public assets and resources by doing the following:

1. Ensuring adequate internal audit coverage
2. Educating employees about the role of internal auditors
3. Encouraging employees to report misuse of state resources
4. Ensuring that organizational policies address professional conduct, conflicts of interest, and fraud
5. Regularly training employees how to address misconduct

Compared to survey respondents who claim *not* to have organizational internal auditors, respondents *with* organizational internal auditors reported (1) significantly fewer allegations of fraud, (2) better controls to prevent and detect fraud, (3) fewer concerns for retaliation for reporting concerns, and (4) stronger controls to prevent employee conflicts of interest.

The purposes of the annual survey are to (1) promote individual and organizational accountability, (2) assess systematic risks as part of an ongoing risk assessment, and (3) identify individual instances of potential misuses of state funds or resources. Systematic risks identified in the survey may contribute to the prioritization of future audit work. Some individual instances of concern were communicated to organizational management and internal auditors.

The full audit report and audit brief may be found on the Office's website, [auditor.utah.gov](http://auditor.utah.gov). The full audit report is specifically located at <https://secure.utah.gov/auditor/osaReports/downloadReport.html?reportId=9807>.

**About the Office of the Utah State Auditor**

The Office of the Utah State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting Federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program performance audits, performing fraud and compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah's government agencies.

The Utah State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every four years. The role of the Utah State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see [auditor.utah.gov](http://auditor.utah.gov).

**Contact:**

Nicole Toomey Davis  
Public Information Officer  
Office of the Utah State Auditor  
801-678-4835  
[ndavis@utah.gov](mailto:ndavis@utah.gov)