

DETAILS

BY: JORDAN SMITH

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Pandemic Response Watchdog Launches Website, Names Executive Director

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ABOUT

JORDAN SMITH

Jordan Smith is a MeriTalk Senior Technology Reporter covering the intersection of government and technology.

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The Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) launched its [website](#) and [Twitter account](#) today, and appointed Robert Westbrook as Executive Director of the committee.

PRAC was created as a part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security ([CARES Act](#)) and “is charged with coordinating oversight efforts of Federal Inspectors General (IG) to promote transparency of the \$2.4 trillion in Federal emergency relief for individual citizens, businesses, hospitals, and industries impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.”

The PRAC website will provide the public with resources regarding Federal pandemic spending, such as:

- Federal funding allocations authorized by four emergency relief laws;
- Oversight reports from IGs overseeing agencies’ coronavirus responses;
- A listing of pandemic-related work by IGs;
- A hotline to submit allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, or whistleblower reprisal;
- A feedback form for the Federal response to the pandemic; and
- Pandemic-related press releases from U.S. Attorneys’ Offices, fraud awareness resources, and plans for pandemic-related fund use by agencies.

Westbrook most recently served as IG for the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to protect retirement benefits. He also served in leadership roles at the Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General, Department of Transportation OIG, U.S. Postal Service OIG, and U.S. Social Security Administration OIG.

“The entire oversight community – Federal, state, and local – will conduct independent oversight over relief programs, and help ensure they are implemented efficiently and major program risks are addressed,” Westbrook said in a press release.

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