Home

SBA's Oversight of Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Recipients

View Report

Title Full	The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is issuing this report to present the results of our audit of SBA's Oversight of Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) Recipients.
Date Issued	Tuesday, July 22, 2025
Submitting OIG	Small Business Administration OIG
Agencies Reviewed/Investigated	Small Business Administration
Report Number	25-21

Report Description

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is issuing this report to present the results of our audit of SBA's Oversight of Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) Recipients. The SVOG program was established on December 27, 2020, as part of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits and Venues Act. In total, Congress provided $16.25 billion for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to award grants to eligible businesses in the live arts and entertainment industry.

As of October 2024, SBA identified $544 million in potential improper payments that need to be recovered. SBA established performance goals, measured progress, and reported that the SVOG program met all three performance goals. However, we found one of those goals, the number of SVOG recipients that continued or reopened operations, was not measured with representative data. SBA should establish and implement timeframes for each closeout activity. Without prompt action to closeout these awards, SBA has no assurance that taxpayer funds were used for the intended purpose.

We made six recommendations for SBA to improve recovery of SVOG funds where needed, expedite the award closeout process, better monitor the use of SVOG funds, and report on the limitations of data used for SVOG performance results.

Report Type	Audit
Special Projects	Pandemic
Agency Wide	Yes
Number of Recommendations	6
Questioned Costs	$0
Funds for Better Use	$0
Report updated under NDAA 5274	No

Open Recommendations

This report has 4 open recommendations.

Recommendation Number	Significant Recommendation	Recommended Questioned Costs	Recommended Funds for Better Use	Additional Details
2	Yes	$0	$0	
Take immediate action to review the 380 recipients who program officials identified as having a potential improper payment and recover funds.				
3	Yes	$0	$0	
Ensure program officials enforce the established tier-based process timeline for the 438 recipients who have not responded to SBA's information requests.				
4	Yes	$0	$0	

Recommendation Number	Significant Recommendation	Recommended Questioned Costs	Recommended Funds for Better Use	Additional Details
Follow-up with 347 recipients who did not submit their required documents to initiate closeout and take action to recover funds, where necessary.				
5	Yes	$0	$0	
Establish and implement timeframes for each closeout activity.				

Small Business Administration OIG

[Website](#)

United States

[Return to top](#)

Sign up for CIGIE news and updates.

Subscribe