



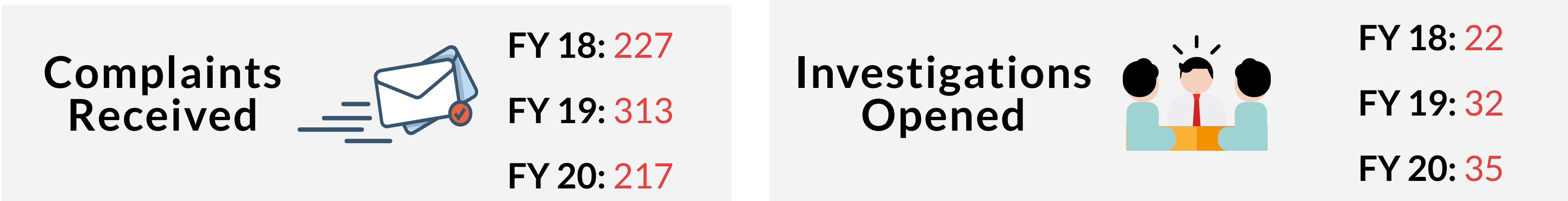
Annual Report

Office of the State Inspector General

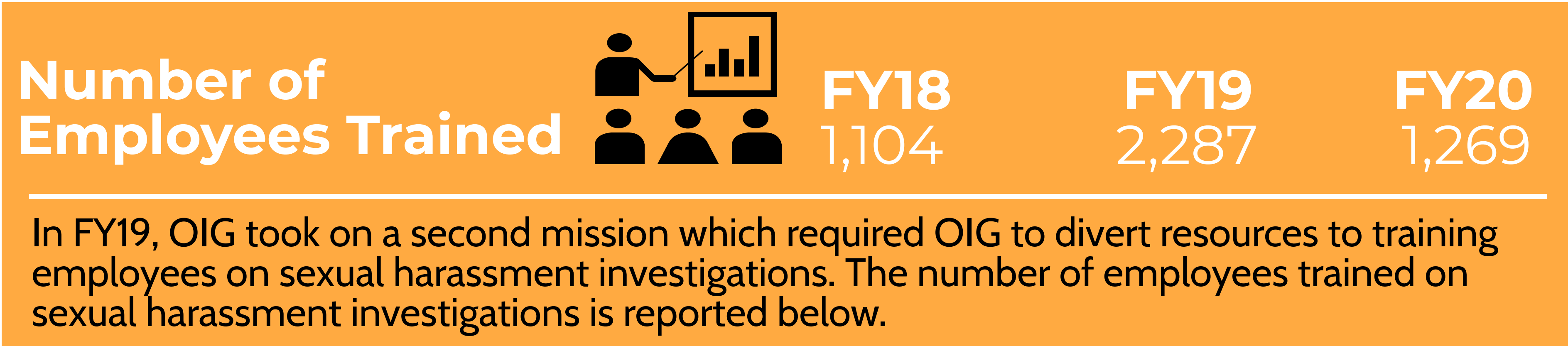
OIG Mission: The State of Georgia Office of the Inspector General promotes transparency and accountability in a sexual harassment free state government.

Fraud, Waste, Abuse & Corruption

OIG diligently investigates fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption in the executive branch. OIG conducts criminal and administrative investigations and works to promote effective controls, improve agency policies and procedures, and identify opportunities for efficiency.



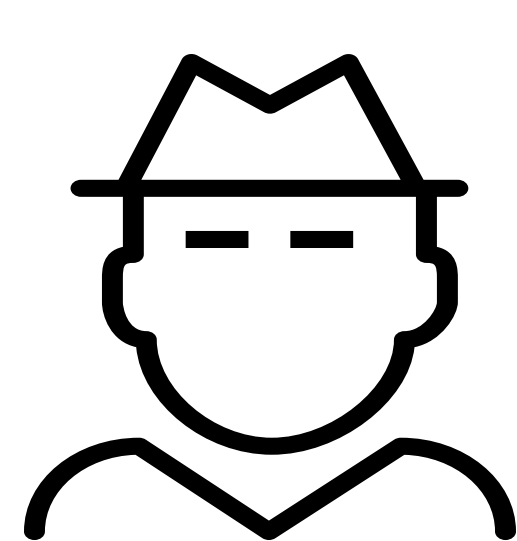
OIG conducts due diligence reviews for allegations that appear to be in our jurisdiction to determine if there is probable cause. If so, we open an investigation. Many allegations received were outside our jurisdiction, including but not limited to concerns regarding personnel issues, operational/management issues, and private industry concerns. When available, OIG refers those complaints to a more appropriate entity.



Return On Investment

	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20
Value of Fraud Referred for Prosecution & Savings for the State	\$8,113,364	\$7,337,553	\$13,056,949
OIG's Annual Budget	\$716,661	\$1,002,515	\$1,218,781
OIG Return on Investment	1,132%	732%	1,071%

In FY 19, OIG took on a second mission of overseeing sexual harassment investigations in state government, which caused a decrease in the ROI based on fraud, waste, and abuse. Additional resources were added to the office in FY20, resulting in a subsequent increase in the ROI.



Summary of White Collar Crimes Investigated

OIG closed 37 cases in FY20 that were predominantly initiated upon request from the affected agency. OIG worked with 22 executive branch agencies to address allegations including, but not limited to, conflicts of interest, grant fraud, benefit fraud, fuel card theft, billing schemes, payroll schemes, and check tampering. As a result of OIG's investigations, actions taken included employee terminations and resignations, policy and procedure changes, reimbursement to the state, and criminal charges against perpetrators.

Over the course of FY20, OIG has had the opportunity to lead and participate in several significant investigations. Some of those investigations were conducted in coordination with other investigative agencies such as the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and various federal Offices of Inspector Generals. Cases involving criminal activity were referred to prosecuting bodies such as the United States Attorney's Office, the Georgia Department of Law, and various local District Attorney's Offices. Below are highlights illustrating cases investigated by the OIG.

17-0019-I:

On Wednesday, June 12th, 2019, former Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) employee, Natasha Bray, and her husband, Devore Bray, pled guilty under First Offender to violations of O.C.G.A. § 16-14-4(a)- Racketeering. The Brays were both sentenced to serve 10 years of probation, 90 days in jail, and ordered to pay full restitution in the amount of \$222,233.85.

Natasha Bray utilized her position at the Department of Juvenile Justice to create, submit, and approve falsified invoices for payment to a fictitious shell company, Lowes Enterprise, that was created by the Brays. To accomplish this and to avoid detection, Natasha Bray fabricated invoices and other documentation that would generate a payment that the Brays would, in turn, deposit to a bank account created by Devore Bray. Through their fraudulent activity, the Brays embezzled approximately \$222,233.85 from DJJ.

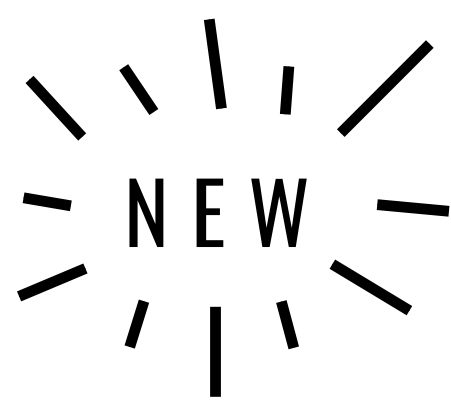
This case was initially referred by DJJ to OIG who requested assistance from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) and was investigated by former Deputy Inspector General Austin Mayberry with OIG and Special Agent Deborah Loving with GBI. Assistant Attorney General Sandra Bailey prosecuted the case.

20-007-I:

On November 12, 2019, former state employees, Kimetha Thompson Spoon and Diane Blassingame Wallace, were indicted by a Fulton County Grand Jury on charges of residential mortgage fraud. Spoon, a former Department of Human Services employee, was indicted on six counts of residential mortgage fraud, and Wallace, a former State Accounting Office employee, was indicted on two counts of residential mortgage fraud.

In August 2018, OIG was notified by a state employee of potential fraud by Spoon and Wallace. Upon notification, the OIG launched an investigation that led to the discovery of residential mortgage fraud. The indictment alleged that Spoon submitted falsified income and employment documentation when applying for a mortgage and that Wallace aided Spoon in submitting false information.

This case was initially referred to the OIG by the State Accounting Office. OIG Investigator Richard Schneider led the investigation and Assistant Attorney General Blair McGowan prosecuted the case.



Proactive Reviews

In March 2020, OIG conducted a review of outside employment disclosed by all employees for two executive branch agencies that expressed interest in this new service from our office. The purpose of the review was to identify all employees within the agency who have outside employment that was not disclosed with management. Per Georgia’s State Personnel Board Rule 478-1-.07 – Outside Employment, “Employees engaged in outside employment, including consultant relationships, must inform their supervisor of the nature of the additional work and their corresponding work hours. Employees must also disclose actual or potential conflicts of interest related to their outside employment activities and/or relationships as soon as they become aware of them.”

OIG obtained the most current outside employment disclosures from the two agencies and compared the information with official state records for the most recent calendar year. OIG’s review identified approximately 25 of 366 employees between the two agencies had outside employment that was not disclosed to management and did not appear to be prior employment that ended upon starting a position with agency. OIG provided the results of the review to management and encouraged them to review the results with those that did not disclose. A lack of disclosure of outside employment can lead to conflicts of interest which allow for opportunity for fraud, waste, and abuse within state government.

Sexual Harassment Prevention

In January 2019, Governor Kemp tasked OIG with oversight of the reporting and investigation of all sexual harassment complaints within the executive branch of State government. Pursuant to the executive order, OIG reviews all sexual harassment complaints to determine if the impacted agency can fairly and impartially investigate the complaint. If the agency cannot fairly and impartially investigate, OIG coordinates the appointment of an impartial investigator from another agency or from OIG.

Additionally, OIG is responsible for training all designated sexual harassment investigators and providing guidance regarding sexual harassment investigations. To ensure agency compliance with the executive order and policy, OIG conducts an annual compliance review of closed complaints.

