



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Report of Tips of Suspected and Confirmed
Provider Fraud Received by the Medical
Assistance Fraud Hotline

Act 132 of 2014

2020-21 Fiscal Year

Background

The Department of Human Services' (DHS) Bureau of Program Integrity (BPI) is committed to identifying and eliminating fraud, waste, and abuse within the Medical Assistance program. As part of that commitment, BPI operates a toll-free DHS Fraud Hotline at 1-844-DHS-TIPS (1-844-347-8477). The hotline is used to report cases of suspected Medical Assistance provider fraud to BPI for additional follow up.

BPI also receives tips relating to suspected provider fraud via an online reporting system that can be found at:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QSiOQSgB1U2bbEf8Wpob3qI3pAawcL5FtG_Hh_QOF81URERZQTJSMjExTEIBSEg5SEtORUc5UVNDTS4u, through the U.S. Mail and via fax.

Tips may include information on a provider that is potentially billing fraudulently or billing for services they did not perform. BPI staff carefully review each tip that is received. When a tip discloses information regarding suspected fraud or other criminal activity, BPI sends the information to the Office of the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit or to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

When a tip relating to a recipient that may be committing suspected welfare fraud is received, BPI sends the information to the Office of State Inspector General (OSIG) for additional investigation. The OIG's toll-free Welfare Fraud Tip Line is 1-800-932-0582.

Reporting Requirements

Act 132 of 2014 amended Act 132 of June 13, 1967 (P.L. 31, No. 21) to require DHS to establish a fraud tip line that would allow members of the public to report suspected fraud related to the provision or receipt of public assistance benefits. 62 P.S. § 1418(a). Section 1418(b)(1) requires DHS to publish an annual report related to its fraud prevention activities. The report must contain the following information:

- The number of complaints received through:
 - The toll-free DHS Fraud Tip Line telephone number
 - Regular mail
 - The internet
- The number of investigations conducted by DHS and OSIG as a result of such complaints.
- The number of criminal prosecutions and civil actions resulting from such investigations.
- The estimated total cost avoided and funds reclaimed by DHS as a result of such complaints.

Data

During fiscal year 2020-2021, BPI's DHS Fraud Hotline received 168 calls reporting suspected provider fraud. BPI determined that 7 of those calls warranted additional

investigation. Additionally, BPI received 1,800 other referrals via the website and U.S. Mail, which resulted in 309 Investigations. Criminal prosecutions are primarily conducted by the Office of Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud Control Section (“OAG MFCS”); data relating to criminal prosecutions may be obtained from the OAG MFCS. No civil actions resulted from these investigations.

DHS reclaimed approximately \$2,971,379.30 from providers as a result of tips received through the hotline, mail and website. There were \$0.00 cost avoidance as a result of tips received through the hotline, mail and website.

For information regarding DHS’ referrals to OSIG, as well as additional information relating to their investigations, civil actions, and recoveries, please refer to OSIG’s annual report which can be found by searching their website.