

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS
302 West Washington Street
Room E418
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2769

FEDERAL COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

OF

CITY OF NEW CASTLE

HENRY COUNTY, INDIANA

January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022



FILED

08/01/2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Page</u>
Schedule of Officials	2
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of the Financial Statement Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	3-4
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program; Report on Internal Control over Compliance; and Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance	5-8
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and Accompanying Notes:	
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	11
Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.....	12
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.....	13-24
Auditee-Prepared Documents:	
Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings.....	26
Corrective Action Plan	27-28
Other Reports.....	29

SCHEDULE OF OFFICIALS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Term</u>
Clerk-Treasurer	Brenda Grider	01-01-22 to 12-31-23
Mayor	Greg York	01-01-22 to 12-31-23
President of the Board of Public Works and Safety	Greg York	01-01-22 to 12-31-23
President Pro Tempore of the Common Council	Rex Peckinpaugh	01-01-22 to 12-31-23



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

TO: THE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE, HENRY COUNTY, INDIANA

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statement of the City of New Castle (City), for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statement, which collectively comprise the City's financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated July 6, 2023, wherein we noted the City followed accounting practices the Indiana State Board of Accounts prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement, we considered the City's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the City's financial statement will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, as described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as items 2022-001 and 2022-002, that we consider to be material weaknesses.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*
(Continued)

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the City's financial statement is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as items 2022-001 and 2022-002.

City of New Castle's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the City's response to findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs. The City's response to the findings identified in our audit is described in the accompanying Corrective Action Plan. The City's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statement, and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the City's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Beth Kelley, CPA, CFE
Deputy State Examiner

July 6, 2023



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR THE MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM; REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE; AND REPORT ON SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

TO: THE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE, HENRY COUNTY, INDIANA

Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the City of New Castle's (City) compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended December 31, 2022. The City's major federal program is identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.

Qualified Opinion on COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

In our opinion, except for the noncompliance described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinions* section of our report, the City complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on the COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for the year ended December 31, 2022.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the City and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the City's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Matter Giving Rise to Qualified Opinion on COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

As described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs, the City did not comply with requirements regarding 21.027 COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, as described in item 2022-003 for Procurement and Suspension and Debarment. Compliance with such requirement is necessary, in our opinion, for the City to comply with the requirements applicable to that program.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR THE MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM; REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE; AND REPORT ON SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE
(Continued)

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the City's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the City's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not absolute assurance, and, therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually, or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the City's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the City's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the City's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the City's response to the noncompliance findings identified in our audit described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs. The City's response to the noncompliance findings identified in our audit is described in the accompanying Corrective Action Plan. The City's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance, and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR THE MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM; REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE; AND REPORT ON SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE
(Continued)

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance, and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we did identify certain deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A material weakness in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiencies in internal control over compliance, as described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as items 2022-003 and 2022-004, to be material weaknesses.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

Government Auditing Standards require the auditor to perform limited procedures on the City's response to the internal control over compliance findings identified in our audit described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs. The City's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance, and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR THE MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM; REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE; AND REPORT ON SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE
(Continued)

Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance

We have audited the financial statement of the City, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statement. We issued our report thereon dated July 6, 2023, which contained a dual opinion on the financial statement. An adverse opinion was issued regarding the presentation in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and an unmodified opinion was issued regarding the presentation in accordance with the regulatory basis of accounting. Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statement as a whole. The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the Uniform Guidance and is not a required part of the financial statement. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statement. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statement and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statement or to the financial statement itself, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statement as a whole.



Beth Kelley, CPA, CFE
Deputy State Examiner

July 6, 2023

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS AND ACCOMPANYING NOTES

The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and accompanying notes presented were approved by management of the City. The schedule and notes are presented as intended by the City.

(This page intentionally left blank.)

CITY OF NEW CASTLE
 SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Federal Grantor Agency Cluster Title/Program Title/Project Title	Pass-Through Entity or Direct Grant	Assistance Listings Number	Pass-Through Entity (or Other) Identifying Number	Passed Through to Subrecipient	Total Federal Awards Expended
<u>Department of Transportation</u>					
Highway Planning and Construction Cluster Highway Planning and Construction Fitzgerald Trail	Indiana Department of Transportation	20.205	DES #1600976	\$ -	\$ 6,794
Total - Highway Planning and Construction Cluster				-	6,794
Highway Safety Cluster State and Community Highway Safety Operation Pullover	Indiana Criminal Justice Institute	20.600	CHIRP-2022-00036	-	26,420
Total - Highway Safety Cluster				-	26,420
Formula Grants for Rural Areas and Tribal Transit Program Community Transit System	Indiana Department of Transportation	20.509	1803710c	-	345,095
Total - Department of Transportation				-	378,309
<u>Department of the Treasury</u>					
COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds ARPA State Water Infrastructure Fund	Direct Grant Indiana Finance Authority	21.027	FY 2021 SWIF222533	-	746,153 1,880,565
Total - COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds				-	2,626,718
Total - Department of the Treasury				-	2,626,718
<u>Department of Health and Human Services</u>					
COVID-19 - Provider Relief Fund and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Rural Distribution Provider Relief Fund	Direct Grant	93.498	FY2021	-	111,407
Total - Department of Health and Human Services				-	111,407
Total federal awards expended				\$ -	\$ 3,116,434

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.

CITY OF NEW CASTLE
NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) includes the federal grant activity of the City under programs of the federal government for the year ended December 31, 2022. The information in the SEFA is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the SEFA presents only a select portion of the operations of the City, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position of the City.

B. Other Significant Accounting Policies

Expenditures reported on the SEFA are reported on the cash basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following, as applicable, either the cost principles in OMB Circular A-87, *Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments*, or the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowed or are limited as to reimbursement. When federal grants are received on a reimbursement basis, the federal awards are considered expended when the reimbursement is received.

Note 2. Indirect Cost Rate

The City has elected not to use the 10 percent de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

CITY OF NEW CASTLE
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

Section I - Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statement:

Type of auditor's report issued:	Adverse as to GAAP; Unmodified as to Regulatory Basis
Internal control over financial reporting:	
Material weaknesses identified?	yes
Significant deficiencies identified?	none reported
Noncompliance material to financial statement noted?	yes

Federal Awards:

Internal control over major program:	
Material weaknesses identified?	yes
Significant deficiencies identified?	none reported
Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)?	yes

Identification of Major Program and type of auditor's report issued on compliance for it:

Assistance Listings Number	Name of Federal Program or Cluster	Opinion Issued
21.027	COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	Qualified

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs: \$750,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?	no
--	----

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

FINDING 2022-001

Subject: Financial Transactions and Reporting
Audit Findings: Material Weakness, Noncompliance

Repeat Finding

This is a repeat finding from the immediately prior audit report. The prior audit finding number was 2022-001.

CITY OF NEW CASTLE
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

Condition and Context

Cash and Investments (Bank Reconciliations)

The City had not designed or implemented a system of internal controls, which would include appropriate segregation of duties, that would likely be effective in preventing, or detecting and correcting, errors related to cash and investments, including bank reconciliations, to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the ledgers.

Monthly bank account reconciliations for all 12 bank accounts were not prepared timely. January through July 2022 bank reconciliations were prepared on average 5 to 11 months late while August through December 2022 bank reconciliations were prepared on average 1 to 6 months late.

The monthly bank reconciliations included numerous reconciling items from previous years which were not correctly posted to the City's financial system as of December 31, 2022. In addition, the deposits in transit, outstanding checks, and adjustments lists included interfund transfers, interbank transfers, and interbank activity that were not timely resolved. As a result, as of December 31, 2022, the cash and investment balances were understated by \$8,532.

Receipts

The City designed and implemented internal controls over receipts to ensure the accuracy of the ledger postings; however, the internal controls were ineffective. Due to the lack of effective internal controls the following errors occurred:

1. There was 1 receipt number, in our sample of 79, that was issued twice with posting dates of September 16, 2022, and November 17, 2022, as the City's software system allowed receipt numbers and dates to be altered.
2. The LIT-Public Safety Distributions totaling \$251,610 were incorrectly posted to the LOIT fund instead of the LOIT Public Safety fund.
3. Two Motor Vehicle Highway (MVH) distributions were incorrectly posted entirely to the MVH fund instead of 50 percent being allocated as required to the MVH Restricted Fund. This resulted in the MVH fund receipts being overstated and the MVH Restricted Fund receipts being understated by a total of \$64,202.

Financial Reporting

The City had not designed or implemented a system of internal controls, which would include appropriate segregation of duties, that would likely be effective in preventing, or detecting and correcting, errors related to financial reporting.

The financial information was prepared and electronically submitted by the Clerk-Treasurer to the Indiana Gateway for Government Units financial reporting system, which was the source of the City's financial statement. An oversight or review process had not been designed or implemented that would likely prevent, or detect and correct, errors on the financial statement. Due to the lack of internal controls, receipts, and disbursements of \$1,880,565 for the State Water Infrastructure Fund grant were omitted from the financial statement.

Audit adjustments were proposed, accepted by the City, and made to the financial statement.

CITY OF NEW CASTLE
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

Criteria

The Indiana State Board of Accounts (SBOA) is required under Indiana Code 5-11-1-27(e) to define the acceptable minimum level of internal control standards. To provide clarifying guidance, the State Examiner compiled the standards contained in the manual, *Uniform Internal Control Standards for Indiana Political Subdivisions*. All political subdivisions subject to audit by SBOA are expected to adhere to these standards. The standards include adequate control activities. According to this manual:

"Control activities are the actions and tools established through policies and procedures that help to detect, prevent, or reduce the identified risks that interfere with the achievement of objectives. Detection activities are designed to identify unfavorable events in a timely manner whereas prevention activities are designed to deter the occurrence of an unfavorable event. Examples of these activities include reconciliations, authorizations, approval processes, performance reviews, and verification processes.

An integral part of the control activity component is segregation of duties. . . .

There is an expectation of segregation of duties. If compensating controls are necessary, documentation should exist to identify both the areas where segregation of duties are not feasible or practical and the compensating controls implemented to mitigate the risk. . . .

The Green Book identifies a list of control activity categories that are meant only to illustrate the range and variety of control activities; the list is by no means all inclusive, but is reproduced here for reference purposes: . . .

- Accurate and timely recording of transactions. . . ."

Indiana Code 5-11-1-4(a) states:

"The state examiner shall require from every audited entity financial reports covering the full period of each fiscal year. These reports shall be prepared, verified, and filed with the state examiner not later than sixty (60) days after the close of each fiscal year. The reports must be in the form and content prescribed by the state examiner and filed electronically in the manner prescribed under [IC 5-14-3.8-7](#)."

Indiana Code 5-13-6-1(e) states: "All local investment officers shall reconcile at least monthly the balance of public funds, as disclosed by the records of the local officers, with the balance statements provided by the respective depositories."

All financial transactions pertaining to the unit must be recorded in the records of the unit at the time of the transaction. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Cities and Towns, Chapter 1)

When it is determined that an error has been posted in the financial records, the error must be corrected in a timely manner. The correction of the error should be dated as of the date that the correction occurred and should not be back dated to the date the error occurred. The adjustment should be labeled as a correcting entry. All documentation of the error and the adjustments must be maintained to support the correction. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Cities and Towns, Chapter 1)

Indiana Code 8-14-1-5(c) states: "For funds distributed to a city or town from the motor vehicle highway account, the city or town shall use at least fifty percent (50%) of the money for the construction, reconstruction, and preservation of the city's or town's highways."

CITY OF NEW CASTLE
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

Cause

Management of the City had not established a proper system of internal controls that would have ensured timely bank reconciliations and accurate recording of transactions and reporting.

Effect

The failure to establish a system of internal controls enabled misstatements or irregularities to remain undetected. The failure to monitor the internal control system placed the City at risk that internal controls may not be either designed properly or operating effectively to provide reasonable assurance that internal controls will prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements in a timely manner. The financial statement contained the errors identified in the *Condition and Context*.

Views of Responsible Officials

For the views of responsible officials, refer to the Corrective Action Plan that is part of this report.

FINDING 2022-002

Subject: Preparation of the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
Audit Findings: Material Weakness, Noncompliance

Repeat Finding

This is a repeat finding from the immediately prior audit report. The prior audit finding number was 2021-002.

Condition and Context

The City had not designed or implemented a system of internal controls, which would include appropriate segregation of duties, over the federal award information entered into the Indiana Gateway for Government Units financial reporting system, which was the source of the City's Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA). The Clerk-Treasurer prepared and electronically submitted the federal award information without a review or oversight process in place to prevent, or detect and correct, errors on the SEFA.

Due to the lack of internal controls, the SEFA presented for audit included the following errors:

1. The Highway Planning and Construction Cluster expenditures were understated by \$6,794.
2. The Formula Grants for Rural Areas and Tribal Transit Program expenditures were overstated by \$204,642.
3. The COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds grant was omitted, which understated expenditures by \$2,626,718.
4. The COVID-19 - Provider Relief Fund and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Rural Distribution grant was omitted, which understated expenditures by \$111,407.

Audit adjustments were proposed, accepted by the City, and made to the SEFA presented in this report.

CITY OF NEW CASTLE
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

Criteria

The Indiana State Board of Accounts (SBOA) is required under Indiana Code 5-11-1-27(e) to define the acceptable minimum level of internal control standards. To provide clarifying guidance, the State Examiner compiled the standards contained in the manual, *Uniform Internal Control Standards for Indiana Political Subdivisions*. All political subdivisions subject to audit by SBOA are expected to adhere to these standards. The standards include adequate control activities. According to this manual:

"Control activities are the actions and tools established through policies and procedures that help to detect, prevent, or reduce the identified risks that interfere with the achievement of objectives. Detection activities are designed to identify unfavorable events in a timely manner whereas prevention activities are designed to deter the occurrence of an unfavorable event. Examples of these activities include reconciliations, authorizations, approval processes, performance reviews, and verification processes.

An integral part of the control activity component is segregation of duties. . . .

There is an expectation of segregation of duties. If compensating controls are necessary, documentation should exist to identify both the areas where segregation of duties are not feasible or practical and the compensating controls implemented to mitigate the risk. . . ."

Indiana Code 5-11-1-4(a) states:

"The state examiner shall require from every audited entity financial reports covering the full period of each fiscal year. These reports shall be prepared, verified, and filed with the state examiner not later than sixty (60) days after the close of each fiscal year. The reports must be in the form and content prescribed by the state examiner and filed electronically in the manner prescribed under [IC 5-14-3.8-7](#)."

2 CFR 200.303 states in part:

"The non-Federal entity must:

- (a) Establish and maintain effective internal control . . ."

2 CFR 200.1 states in part:

". . . *Internal controls* for non-Federal entities means:

- (1) Processes designed and implemented by non-Federal entities to provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of objectives in the following categories:
 - (i) Effectiveness and efficiency of operations;
 - (ii) Reliability of reporting for internal and external use; . . ."

2 CFR 200.508 states in part:

"The auditee must: . . .

- (b) Prepare appropriate financial statements, including the schedule of expenditures of Federal awards in accordance with § 200.510. . . ."

CITY OF NEW CASTLE
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

2 CFR 200.510(b) states:

"Schedule of expenditures of Federal awards. The auditee must also prepare a schedule of expenditures of Federal awards for the period covered by the auditee's financial statements which must include the total Federal awards expended as determined in accordance with § 200.502. While not required, the auditee may choose to provide information requested by Federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities to make the schedule easier to use. For example, when a Federal program has multiple Federal award years, the auditee may list the amount of Federal awards expended for each Federal award year separately. At a minimum, the schedule must:

- (1) List individual Federal programs by Federal agency. For a cluster of programs, provide the cluster name, list individual Federal programs within the cluster of programs, and provide the applicable Federal agency name. For R&D, total Federal awards expended must be shown either by individual Federal award or by Federal agency and major subdivision within the Federal agency. For example, the National Institutes of Health is a major subdivision in the Department of Health and Human Services.
- (2) For Federal awards received as a subrecipient, the name of the pass-through entity and identifying number assigned by the pass-through entity must be included.
- (3) Provide total Federal awards expended for each individual Federal program and the Assistance Listings Number or other identifying number when the Assistance Listings information is not available. For a cluster of programs also provide the total for the cluster.
- (4) Include the total amount provided to subrecipients from each Federal program.
- (5) For loan or loan guarantee programs described in § 200.502(b), identify in the notes to the schedule the balances outstanding at the end of the audit period. This is in addition to including the total Federal awards expended for loan or loan guarantee programs in the schedule.
- (6) Include notes that describe that significant accounting policies used in preparing the schedule, and note whether or not the auditee elected to use the 10% de minimis cost rate as covered in § 200.414."

Cause

Management had not established a system of internal controls that would have ensured proper reporting of the SEFA.

Effect

Without a proper system of internal controls in place that operated effectively, material misstatements of the SEFA remained undetected. The SEFA contained the errors identified in the *Condition and Context*.

Views of Responsible Officials

For the views of responsible officials, refer to the Corrective Action Plan that is part of this report.

CITY OF NEW CASTLE
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

Section III - Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs

FINDING 2022-003

Subject: COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds - Procurement and Suspension and Debarment
Federal Agency: Department of the Treasury
Federal Program: COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
Assistance Listings Number: 21.027
Federal Award Numbers and Years (or Other Identifying Numbers): FY 2021, SWIF222533
Pass-Through Entities: Direct, Indiana Finance Authority
Compliance Requirement: Procurement and Suspension and Debarment
Audit Findings: Material Weakness, Modified Opinion

Condition and Context

Procurement

The Indiana General Assembly allocated \$100 million of federal State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) to provide grants for drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater projects that protect and improve public health throughout the State. As such, the IFA created the Water Infrastructure Grant Program which consists of two grants, the State Water Infrastructure Fund (SWIF) and Transportation and Stormwater (TRSW). The City applied for and was awarded a SWIF grant in the amount of \$5,500,000.

Federal regulations allow for informal procurement methods when the value of the procurement for property or services does not exceed the simplified acquisition threshold, which is customarily set at \$250,000. However, Indiana Code 5-22-8 has a more restrictive threshold of \$150,000 or less for when small purchase procedures may be used. Indiana Code provides that the proper purchasing method would be the bidding process, unless the purchase meets certain other qualifications.

Two vendors fell within the simplified acquisition threshold. The total dollar value of the two covered transactions was \$8,825,455. Of that amount, \$1,880,565 was paid to the vendors in 2022. For one vendor, paid \$365,512, the City did not have contract files to document the history of the procurement, including the rationale for the method of procurement, nor selection of the contract. In addition, there was no documentation that a cost or price analysis was performed.

The lack of internal controls and noncompliance were systemic throughout the audit period.

Suspension and Debarment

The City elected to receive the standard revenue loss allowance, allowing them to claim their total SLFRF allocation from the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) of \$3,863,645 as revenue loss to use for government services. As such, all SLFRF program funds were expended under the revenue loss eligible use category. The Treasury determined that there are no subawards under this eligible use category, and that recipients' use of revenue loss funds would not give rise to subrecipient relationships given that there is no federal program or purpose to carry out in the case of the revenue loss portion of the award. In addition, the City's SWIF award funded with SLFRF program funds, in the amount of \$5,500,000, is subject to suspension and debarment requirements.

CITY OF NEW CASTLE
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

Prior to entering into subawards and covered transactions with SLFRF award funds, recipients are required to verify that such contractors and subrecipients are not suspended, debarred, or otherwise excluded. "Covered transactions" include, but are not limited to, contracts for goods and services awarded under a non-procurement transaction (i.e., grant agreement) that are expected to equal or exceed \$25,000. The verification is to be done by checking the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS), collecting a certification from that person, or adding a clause or condition to the covered transaction with that person. Due to the Treasury's determination that the revenue loss eligible use category does not give rise to subawards and the fact the City did subgrant any of its SWIF award, the City was only required to comply with suspension and debarment requirements related to covered transactions.

Upon inquiry of the City in order to review the procedures in place for verifying that an entity with which it plans to enter into a covered transaction is not suspended, debarred, or otherwise excluded, the City divulged that they were unaware of the suspension and debarment requirements related to the SLFRF awards. Nine covered transactions that equaled or exceeded \$25,000 were identified. All nine transactions, totaling \$2,339,050, were selected for testing. The City did not verify the vendors' suspension and debarment status prior to payment on any of the covered transactions due to the City not having any policies or procedures in place to verify that contractors were neither suspended nor debarred, or otherwise excluded or disqualified from participating in federal assistance programs or activities.

The lack of internal controls and noncompliance were systemic issues throughout the audit period.

Criteria

2 CFR 200.303 states in part:

"The non-Federal entity must:

- (a) Establish and maintain effective internal control over the Federal award that provides reasonable assurance that the non-Federal entity is managing the Federal award in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award. These internal controls should be in compliance with guidance in 'Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government' issued by the Comptroller General of the United States or the 'Internal Control Integrated Framework', issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). . . ."

2 CFR 200.318 states in part:

"(a) The non-Federal entity must have and use documented procurement procedures, consistent with State, local, and tribal laws and regulations and the standards of this section, for the acquisition of property or services required under a Federal award or subaward. The non-Federal entity's documented procurement procedures must conform to the procurement standards identified in this part. . . ."

- (i) The non-Federal entity must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of procurement. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: Rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, and the basis for the contract price. . . ."

CITY OF NEW CASTLE
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

2 CFR 200.324(a) states:

"The Non-Federal entity must perform a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action in excess of the Simplified Acquisition Threshold including contract modifications. The method and degree of analysis is dependent on the facts surrounding the particular procurement situation, but as a starting point, the non-Federal entity must make independent estimates before receiving bids or proposals."

2 CFR 200.320 states in part:

"The non-Federal entity must have and use document procurement procedures, consistent with the standards of this section and §§ 200.317, 200.318, and 200.319 for any of the following methods of procurement used for the acquisition of property or services required under a Federal award or sub-award . . .

(b) *Formal procurement methods.* When the value of the procurement for property or services under a Federal financial assistance award exceeds the SAT, or a lower threshold established by a non-Federal entity, formal procurement methods are required. Formal procurement methods require following documented procedures. Formal procurement methods also require public advertising unless a non-competitive procurement can be used in accordance with § 200.319 or paragraph (c) of this section. The following formal methods of procurement are used for procurement of property or services above the simplified acquisition threshold or a value below the simplified acquisition threshold the non-Federal entity determines to be appropriate:

(1) *Sealed bids.* A procurement method in which bids are publicly solicited and a firm fixed-price contract (lump sum or unit price) is awarded to the responsible bidder whose bid, conforming with all the material terms and conditions of the invitation for bids, is the lowest in price. The sealed bids method is the preferred method for procuring construction, if the conditions.

(i) In order for sealed bidding to be feasible, the following conditions should be present:

- (A) A complete, adequate, and realistic specification or purchase description is available;
- (B) Two or more responsible bidders are willing and able to compete effectively for the business; and
- (C) The procurement lends itself to a firm fixed price contract and the selection of the successful bidder can be made principally on the basis of price.

(ii) If sealed bids are used, the following requirements apply:

- (A) Bids must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified sources, providing them sufficient response time prior to the date set for opening the bids, for local, and tribal governments, the invitation for bids must be publicly advertised;
- (B) The invitation for bids, which will include any specifications and pertinent attachments, must define the items or services in order for the bidder to properly respond;

CITY OF NEW CASTLE
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

- (C) All bids will be opened at the time and place prescribed in the invitation for bids, and for local and tribal governments, the bids must be opened publicly;
- (D) A firm fixed price contract award will be made in writing to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Where specified in bidding documents, factors such as discounts, transportation cost, and life cycle costs must be considered in determining which bid is lowest. Payment discounts will only be used to determine the low bid when prior experience indicates that such discounts are usually taken advantage of; and
- (E) Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason.
..."

31 CFR 19.300 states:

"When you enter into a covered transaction with another person at the next lower tier, you must verify that the person with whom you intend to do business is not excluded or disqualified. You do this by:

- (a) Checking the *EPLS*; or
- (b) Collecting a certification from that person if allowed by this rule; or
- (c) Adding a clause or condition to the covered transaction with that person."

Cause

A proper system of internal controls was not designed by management of the City. Embedded within a properly designed and implemented internal control system should be internal controls consisting of policies and procedures. Policies reflect the City's management statements of what should be done to effect internal controls, and procedures should consist of actions that would implement these policies.

Effect

Without the proper implementation of an effectively designed system of internal controls, the internal control system cannot be capable of effectively preventing, or detecting and correcting, material noncompliance. As a result, proper procurement procedures were not adhered to for all vendors and vendors to whom payments equal to or in excess of \$25,000 were not verified to be not suspended, debarred, or otherwise excluded.

Noncompliance with the provisions of federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award could result in the loss of future federal funding to the City.

Questioned Costs

There were no questioned costs identified.

Recommendation

We recommended that management of the City establish a proper system of internal controls and develop policies and procedures to ensure proper procurement methods are adhered to for all purchases of good and services and that contractors and subrecipients, as appropriate are not suspended, debarred, or otherwise excluded prior to entering into any contracts or subawards.

CITY OF NEW CASTLE
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

Views of Responsible Officials

For the views of responsible officials, refer to the Corrective Action Plan that is part of this report.

FINDING 2022-004

Subject: COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds - Reporting
Federal Agency: Department of the Treasury
Federal Program: COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
Assistance Listings Number: 21.027
Federal Award Number and Year (or Other Identifying Number): FY 2021
Compliance Requirement: Reporting
Audit Finding: Material Weakness

Condition and Context

The City had not properly designed or implemented a system of internal controls, which would include appropriate segregation of duties that would likely be effective in preventing, or detecting and correcting, noncompliance. Recipients are required to submit quarterly or annually Project and Expenditure (P&E) reports to the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury). The reporting periods, as well as the respective due dates are based upon type of recipient and its population, as well as the recipient's allocation amount. Information to be reported includes projects funded, expenditures, and contracts for the appropriate reporting period.

The City was classified as a metropolitan city with a population below 250,000 residents that received an allocation of less than \$10 million in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. As such, the initial P&E report, covering the period from March 3, 2021 to March 31, 2022, was required to be submitted to the Treasury by April 30, 2022. The subsequent annual reports are to cover one calendar year and must be submitted to the Treasury by April 30 each year.

The City submitted one P&E report during the audit period; however, the Clerk-Treasurer prepared and submitted the P&E report without a review or oversight process in place to prevent or detect and correct errors.

The lack of internal controls was a systemic issue throughout the audit period.

Criteria

2 CFR 200.303 states in part:

"The non-Federal entity must:

- (a) Establish and maintain effective internal control over the Federal award that provides reasonable assurance that the non-Federal entity is managing the Federal award in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award. These internal controls should be in compliance with guidance in 'Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government' issued by the Comptroller General of the United States or the 'Internal Control Integrated Framework', issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). . . ."

CITY OF NEW CASTLE
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
(Continued)

Cause

A proper system of internal controls over the P&E report was not designed by management of the City, which would include segregation of key functions to ensure the City provided the Treasury with complete and accurate information related to the SLFRF awards. Embedded within a properly designed and implemented internal control system should be internal controls consisting of policies and procedures. Policies reflect the City's management statements of what should be done to effect internal controls, and procedures should consist of actions that would implement these policies.

Effect

Without the proper implementation of an effectively designed system of internal controls, including policies and procedures that provide segregation of duties and additional oversight as needed, the internal control system cannot be capable of effectively preventing, or detecting and correcting, material noncompliance.

Questioned Costs

There were no questioned costs identified.

Recommendation

We recommended that management of the City design and implement a proper system of internal controls that would provide a segregation of duties for the preparation and review of federal reports to ensure appropriate reviews, approvals, and oversight are taking place.

Views of Responsible Officials

For the views of responsible officials, refer to the Corrective Action Plan that is part of this report.

AUDITEE-PREPARED DOCUMENTS

The subsequent documents were provided by management of the City. The documents are presented as intended by the City.



City of New Castle, Indiana

City Clerk Treasurer's Office

Brenda Grider
City Clerk Treasurer

227 N. Main Street
New Castle, IN 47362

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

FINDING 2021-001

Fiscal year in which the finding initially occurred: 2019

STATUS OF FINDING

The City is in the process of implementing new internal controls over cash and investments, financial transactions and reporting.

The City is striving to complete bank reconcilements timely and accurately, in order to detect and correct posting errors.

The City will implement review of annual financial report prior to submission in order to ensure the City's activities are correctly reported.

FINDING 2021-002

Fiscal year in which the finding initially occurred: 2019

STATUS OF FINDING

The City is in the process of implementing new internal controls over grant files.

The City will implement review of the grant worksheet which is part of the annual financial report prior to submission to ensure the City's grant activities are properly reported.

Brenda Grider

Clerk Treasurer
May 24, 2023



City of New Castle, Indiana

City Clerk Treasurer's Office

Brenda Grider
City Clerk Treasurer

227 N. Main Street
New Castle, IN 47362

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

FINDING 2022-001

Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action: Brenda Grider, Clerk Treasurer
Contact Phone Number: 765-521-6803

Views of Responsible Official: We concur with this finding

Description of Corrective Action Plan:

The City is in the process of implementing new internal controls over cash and investments, financial transactions and reporting.

The City is striving to complete bank reconciliements timely and accurately, in order to detect and correct posting errors.

The City will implement review of annual financial report prior to submission in order to ensure the City's activities are correctly reported.

Anticipated Completion Date: Immediately

FINDING 2022-002

Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action: Brenda Grider, Clerk Treasurer
Contact Phone Number: 765-521-6803

Views of Responsible Official: We concur with this finding

Description of Corrective Action Plan:

The City is in the process of implementing new internal controls over grant files.

The City will implement review of the grant worksheet which is part of the annual financial report prior to submission to ensure the City's grant activities are properly reported.

Anticipated Completion Date: Immediately



City of New Castle, Indiana

City Clerk Treasurer's Office

Brenda Grider
City Clerk Treasurer

227 N. Main Street
New Castle, IN 47362

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

FINDING 2022-003

Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action: Brenda Grider, Clerk Treasurer
Contact Phone Number: 765-521-6803

Views of Responsible Official: We Concur with this finding

Description of Corrective Action Plan:

Internal controls have been put into place and the segregation of duties has been implemented.

A policy has been approved on moving forward for the procurement, suspension and disbarment.

Anticipated Completion Date: Immediately

FINDING 2022-004

Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action: Brenda Grider, Clerk Treasurer
Contact Phone Number: 765-521-6803

Views of Responsible Official: We concur with this finding

Description of Corrective Action Plan:

An internal control for the segregation of duties has been implemented related to grant reporting.

Finance and Council who oversees the ARP funds receives a spreadsheet of all the expenditures and earmarks with balances that match and fund at the end of the month.

Anticipated Completion Date: Immediately

OTHER REPORTS

In addition to this report, other reports may have been issued for the City. All reports can be found on the Indiana State Board of Accounts' website: <http://www.in.gov/sboa/>.