

# Worth Noting

## **GAO reports on human trafficking**

In June, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) published a report assessing federal agencies' efforts to combat human trafficking. The report, GAO-16-555, focuses on the prevalence of human trafficking, victim issues, and avoiding grant duplication.

Many U.S. federal agencies lead efforts to address human trafficking. The Departments of Justice and Homeland Security lead federal investigations and prosecutions of trafficking crimes. The Departments of Defense, Labor, and State, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission investigate trafficking related offenses under certain circumstances, and take further action, as appropriate. And the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services award grants to fund victim service programs.

While completing this study, GAO found that federal agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services, have begun efforts to assess the prevalence of human trafficking in the United States and develop data standards and definitions to help facilitate prevalence studies. GAO's interviews with federal, state, and local law enforcement revealed that victim service programs, such as those that provide mental health and substance abuse services, have helped improve victim cooperation in trafficking cases.

GAO also identified 42 grant programs with awards made in 2014 and 2015 that may be used to combat human trafficking or to assist victims of human trafficking.

**- Government Accountability Office**

## **Administration releases cybersecurity workforce strategy**

On July 12, the Obama Administration announced a new strategy to help agencies build the cybersecurity workforce. The Cybersecurity Workforce Strategy is designed to "grow the pipeline of highly skilled cybersecurity talent entering federal service" and to retain and invest in that talent.

In a blog post announcing the Cybersecurity Workforce Strategy, the authors discuss the persistence of cyber threats, saying that "Addressing these cyber threats has required a bold reassessment of the way we approach security in the digital age and a significant investment in critical security tools and our cybersecurity workforce."

The new strategy establishes four key initiatives: expanding the cybersecurity workforce through education and training, recruitment of the nation's best cyber talent for federal service, retain and develop highly skilled talent, and identifying cybersecurity workforce needs. The strategy also encourages private sector companies and the federal government work together to expand the cyber workforce.

**- White House**