

# REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

## Evaluation of Web Application Security at the Colorado Statewide Internet Portal Authority

Involved assessment of the security of web applications and supporting systems and processes at the Colorado Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA).

Information Technology Performance Evaluation, 2050P-IT, February 2021

### Evaluation Concerns

By statute, SIPA is the official internet portal for the state of Colorado. However, SIPA is not subject to any administrative direction by any department, commission, board, or agency of the state. Accordingly, SIPA does not report to or take guidance and direction from the State's designated information technology leaders or officers. SIPA is not subject to the information security requirements and standards disseminated by these individuals and the organizations they represent. SIPA's existence predates statute to merge information technology service providers to a central state service.

### Background

SIPA is responsible for developing and maintaining the officially recognized statewide internet portal. To meet this obligation, SIPA contracts with and oversees a statewide internet portal integrator (NIC Colorado) for the development, support, maintenance, and enhancement of state websites and web applications. This evaluation included a review of security of state websites and web applications developed and maintained by SIPA and its contractor.

### Key Facts and Findings

- SIPA management has not established a strategy, program, or formalized processes for managing the security of systems and applications.
- SIPA's vendor management procedures and practices do not fully address the risks associated with information system security at their portal integrator.

### Recommendations

- SIPA should establish policies and procedures to manage the security of people, processes, and technologies needed to develop and maintain state websites and web applications.
- SIPA should establish adequate vendor risk management practices to oversee the security activities of its portal integrator.