



## OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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May 12, 2026

T. March Bell  
Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General  
330 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20201

**Subject:** External Peer Review Report

We reviewed the system of quality control for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS OIG) in effect for the year ended September 30, 2025. A system of quality control includes multiple aspects of an organization, including but not limited to, policies and procedures designed to provide reasonable assurance of complying with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's (CIGIE) Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation<sup>1</sup> (Blue Book).

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the HHS OIG in effect for the year ended September 30, 2025 has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Inspector General (SBA OIG) with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with the Blue Book.

Inspection and evaluation organizations can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiencies*, or *fail*. The HHS OIG has received an external peer review rating of *pass*.

### **Basis of Opinion**

This required peer review was conducted in accordance with CIGIE's *Guide for Conducting External Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General*.<sup>2</sup> and the Memorandum of Understanding between SBA OIG and HHS OIG entered into on February 9, 2026.

During our review, we interviewed HHS OIG's personnel and obtained an understanding of the nature of its inspection and evaluation function and the design of the HHS OIG's system of quality control sufficient to assess the risks implicit in its inspection and evaluation function. Based on our assessments, we selected inspection and evaluation reports and administrative files to test for conformity with Blue Book standards and compliance with the HHS OIG's system of quality control.

In performing our review, we obtained an understanding of the system of quality control for the HHS OIG's inspection and evaluation function. In addition, we tested compliance with the HHS OIG's quality control policies and procedures to the extent we considered appropriate. These tests covered the application of the HHS OIG's policies and procedures on selected inspection and evaluation reports. Our

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<sup>1</sup> CIGIE, *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, (December 2020).

<sup>2</sup> CIGIE, *Guide for Conducting External Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General*, (July 2023).

review was based on selected reports; therefore, it would not necessarily detect all weaknesses in the system of quality control or all instances of noncompliance with it.

Before concluding the peer review, we reassessed the adequacy of the scope of the peer review procedures and met with HHS OIG management to discuss the results of our review. We believe that the procedures we performed provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. Enclosure 1 of this report identifies the HHS OIG's inspection and evaluation reports we reviewed.

HHS OIG management officials provided a response to our Peer Review Report (Enclosure 2) in which they agreed with our overall rating.

## **Responsibilities and Limitations**

The HHS OIG is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of quality control designed to provide the HHS OIG with reasonable assurance that the organization and its personnel comply in all material respects with Blue Book standards. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system of quality control and HHS OIG's compliance based on our review.

There are inherent limitations in the effectiveness of any system of quality control; therefore, noncompliance with the system of quality control may occur and may not be detected. Projection of any evaluation of a system of quality control to future periods is subject to the risk that the system of quality control may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or because the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will. W. Kirk". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

William W. Kirk  
Inspector General

Enclosures

**Scope and Methodology**

We reviewed compliance with the HHS OIG inspection organization’s system of quality control, in effect for the year ended September 30, 2025, to the extent we considered appropriate. We reviewed four reports issued from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. We selected:

- A mix of traditional “Blue Cover” reports, which are the most prevalent type of report, and Medicare Fraud Control Unit reports, which cover risk of Medicare fraud;
- Reports from its Office of Evaluation and Inspections from regions not reviewed in its prior peer review, such as Dallas, Texas; Baltimore, Maryland; and Atlanta, Georgia; and
- Reports with closed recommendations to adequately assess follow-up.

**Table 1: HHS OIG Selected Reports**

Report Number	Report Date	Report Title
OEI-04-23-00420	8/4/2025	<i>During Hurricanes Fiona and Ian, HHS Helped Minimize Disruptions to Medical Services at Select Health Care Facilities</i>
OEI-06-24-00300	9/11/2025	<i>Puerto Rico Medicaid Fraud Control Unit: 2024 Onsite Review</i>
OEI-07-24-00220	1/30/2025	<i>Wisconsin Medicaid Fraud Control Unit: 2024 Inspection</i>
OEI-BL-22-00520	8/22/2025	<i>Most Health Centers Provide Some Behavioral Health Services to Patients With Substance Use Disorder, Despite Facing Challenges That Limit Comprehensive Treatment</i>



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

WASHINGTON, DC 20201



**Enclosure 2**

April 21, 2026

The Honorable William W. Kirk  
Inspector General  
Small Business Administration  
409 Third Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Inspector General Kirk:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft report conveying the results of your organization's external peer review of the Office of Evaluation and Inspections (OEI) in the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (OIG).

In its draft report, the Small Business Administration OIG (SBA-OIG) concluded that the system of quality control for OEI was suitably designed to address risks implicit in its inspection and evaluation function and complied with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation (Blue Book). SBA-OIG also found that all OEI reports reviewed complied with Blue Book standards. As such, OEI passed its external peer review.

We appreciate the SBA-OIG peer review team's professionalism and thoroughness. The team executed its work with great care and diligence, adhering closely to the guidance issued by the CIGIE Inspection and Evaluation Committee.

If you have any questions, please contact Ann Maxwell, Deputy Inspector General for Evaluation and Inspections, at [Ann.Maxwell@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:Ann.Maxwell@oig.hhs.gov) or (202) 619-2482.

Sincerely,

T. March Bell  
Inspector General