



Fraud, Waste and Abuse of Federal Funds: It's Everyone's Problem

Role of the Inspector General in Preventing and Detecting Fraud, Waste, Abuse and Mismanagement

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is an independent office within the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) that is charged with helping to improve the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of EAC programs. In addition, the OIG must help to detect and prevent fraud and abuse in EAC programs. This charge includes reviewing EAC grant programs and recipients.

The OIG serves as a clearinghouse for receiving and handling allegations regarding fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement or misconduct affecting EAC programs and operations. The OIG operates a hotline for federal employees, grant recipients, and members of the public to report wrong doing. Persons may make anonymous or confidential complaints by phone, fax, mail, or the OIG's web-based complaint form.

The OIG evaluates all complaints and initiates audits or investigations when the complaints warrant further review. All audit and investigations are completed with a report, the releasable portions of which are posted to the OIG's Web site.

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Making a Complaint of Fraud, Waste or Abuse

Report crime, fraud, waste or abuse involving EAC and HAVA funds by contacting the OIG Hotline. Complaints can be made confidentially or anonymously.

1-866-552-0004;

202-566-0957 (fax)

www.eac.gov/eac_ig

**MAKE AN ON-LINE
COMPLAINT**

What is fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement?

The following are some examples of fraud, waste, abuse or mismanagement that could impact EAC programs:

False Claims. A false claim is the presentation of a claim to the U.S. Government for money, property or services knowing that the claim is false, fictitious, or fraudulent. Some examples are fraudulent travel vouchers or claims for payment for work that was not performed.

Embezzlement of Government Funds. Unlawful taking of money, vouchers or anything of value from the United States.

Theft from Programs Receiving Federal Funds (including grant funds). Theft from programs receiving federal funds, including HAVA requirements payments, HAVA early money (Section 101 and 102), HAVA College Program grants, data collection grants, technology grants, etc.

Bribes and Gratuities. Bribery is an offer to give something of value with the intent that the recipient will do something improper or will fail to do something they should do within the authority of their position. This also includes organizations and programs receiving Federal funds.

Conflict of Interest and Ethics Violations. EAC employees are prohibited from personally and/or substantially participating in any matter in which they have a direct or indirect financial interest. EAC employees are also prohibited from negotiating employment with any person or company in which they have an official interest.

Significant Mismanagement and Waste of Funds. Mismanagement is a collective term of waste and abuse, such as extravagant, careless or needless expenditure of Government funds or the misuse of Government property resulting from deficient practices, systems or controls.

Theft of Government Property. Theft of property is stealing, embezzling or converting to personal use money, property or anything of value owned by the United States or any agency or department thereof.



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Things to Consider When Making a Complaint of Fraud, Waste or Abuse

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What information should I include in my complaint?	Do I have to give my name?
<p>Persons who report wrong doing should provide as much information as they have available about the situation. This is particularly true when making an anonymous complaint, as the OIG will not have the ability to contact the complainant to clarify or obtain more information.</p> <p>When making a complaint to the OIG, please be prepared to provide the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your name, home address or email address, and telephone number (except for anonymous complaints)• What is the alleged wrong doing?• When and where did it occur?• Who was involved?• Was harm done and to whom?• Was anything done to remedy the wrongdoing?	<p>The OIG can extend confidentiality to a complainant upon request of the complainant and approval by the Inspector General. If confidentiality is granted, the complainant's identity will be protected unless the complainant agrees to release the information or the Inspector General determines that release of the person's identity is unavoidable during an investigation.</p> <p>If you choose to make an anonymous complaint, please be sure that you are providing all of the information that you have available regarding the alleged wrongdoing. The OIG does not have the ability to contact anonymous complainants after the complaint is submitted.</p>

Is the EAC OIG the right place to complain?

There are some election-related issues that are outside of the EAC OIG's jurisdiction. The following types of allegations will be referred by the OIG to the proper agency:

- Campaign finance—Federal Election Commission
- Accessibility grants distributed by the Department of Health and Human Services — Department of Health and Human Services
- Political activity by Federal employees—Office of Special Counsel
- Irregularities in state or local elections — State or local election official
- Irregularities in federal elections— U.S. Department of Justice
- Criminal activity in state, local, or federal elections — state or local law enforcement or the Department of Justice or U.S. Attorney for the appropriate district, respectively.

[**MAKE AN ON-LINE**](#)[**COMPLAINT**](#)

TRAINING AVAILABILITY: The OIG is available to attend national and state conferences of election officials to provide training on what to expect when audited. Contact the OIG today to schedule.

Contact the OIG

1225 New York Avenue, NW, Ste. 1100, Washington, DC 20005; 1-866-552-0004 (hotline); 202-566-0957 (fax); eacoig@eac.gov