



U.S. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION Office of Inspector General

External Peer Review Report

September 16, 2025

Norbert E. Vint, Acting Inspector General
Office of Personnel Management, Office of the Inspector General
1900 E Street NW, Room 6400
Washington, D.C. 20415

To Acting Inspector General Vint:

We reviewed the system of quality control for the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in effect for the year ended March 31, 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's) *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* (Blue Book), December 2020 and January 2012 editions.¹

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the OPM OIG in effect for the year ended March 31, 2025, has been suitably designed and complied with, to provide the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) OIG with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with the Blue Book.

Inspection and Evaluation (I&E) organizations can receive a rating of pass, pass with deficiencies, or fail. The OPM OIG has received an External Peer Review rating of pass.

Letter of Comment

We have issued a letter dated September 16, 2025, that sets forth findings that were not considered to be of sufficient significance to affect our opinion expressed in this report.

Basis of Opinion

This required external 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*, July 2023 and December 2020 editions, and the Memorandum of

¹ During this peer review, NSF OIG reviewed four OPM OIG reports, three of which followed the December 2020 Blue Book and one of which followed the January 2012 Blue Book.

Understanding between the Offices of the Inspectors General of the NSF and the OPM, entered into on April 9, 2025.

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

In performing our review, we obtained an understanding of the system of quality control for the OPM OIG's I&E function. In addition, we tested compliance with the OPM OIG's quality control policies and procedures to the extent we considered appropriate. These tests covered the application of the OPM OIG's policies and procedures on selected I&E reports. Our review was based on selected tests; therefore, it would not necessarily detect all weaknesses in the system of quality control or all instances of noncompliance with it.

Prior to concluding the peer review, we reassessed the adequacy of the scope of the peer review procedures and met with OPM 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 OPM OIG's office that we visited and the I&E reports we reviewed.

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

Responsibilities and Limitations

The OPM OIG is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of quality control designed to provide the OPM 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 the OPM 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,



Megan E. Wallace
Acting Inspector General

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE 1: Scope and Methodology

We reviewed compliance with OPM OIG's system of quality control in effect for the year ended March 31, 2025, to the extent we considered appropriate. We selected and reviewed all four reports issued during the 3 year scope of our review.

We reviewed the following reports:

- (1) *Evaluation of the Merit Accountability and Compliance Office*, 2021-OEI-001, December 12, 2022
- (2) *Evaluation of COVID-19's Impact on FEHBP Telehealth Services and Utilization*, 2022-CAAG-0014, March 6, 2023
- (3) *Evaluation of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's Processing of Initial Retirement Claim Applications*, 2023-OEI-001, November 15, 2023
- (4) *Evaluation of the Office of Personnel Management's Personal Property Management Process*, 2023-OEI-002, August 28, 2024

We conducted a site visit from April 28 through May 2, 2025. We interviewed key personnel from the OPM OIG Office of Evaluations, reviewed supporting workpapers and documentation, and reviewed OPM OIG Office of Evaluations policies and procedures.

ENCLOSURE 2: OPM OIG's Comments to Draft Peer Review Report



Office of the
Inspector General

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Washington, DC 20415

September 9, 2025

Megan E. Wallace
Acting Inspector General
U.S. National Science Foundation Office of Inspector General
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft results of your peer review of our operations in performing evaluations. We are pleased that this external peer review has confirmed that the OPM OIG's system of quality control, including our policies and procedures within the scope of this peer review, complied with the CIGIE *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluations* (Blue Book).

We concur with the peer review team's overall rating of pass and accept the finding and recommendation provided in your Letter of Comment. While this rating of pass confirms our system of quality control gave reasonable assurance of performing and reporting our work in conformity with Blue Book standards, we remain committed to improving how we conduct high-quality evaluations. We appreciate the professionalism your team displayed during the review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norbert E. Vint". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "N" and "V".

Norbert E. Vint
Deputy Inspector General
Performing the Duties of Inspector General