



Office of Inspector General

Investigative Priorities Report Fiscal Years 2018-2019



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Overview

The Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, operating as the U.S. AbilityOne Commission (Commission), is an independent federal agency responsible for administering the AbilityOne Program pursuant to the authority of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 8501-8506). The AbilityOne Program provides employment opportunities for people who are blind or have significant disabilities, in the manufacture and delivery of products and services to the Federal Government. Federal agencies purchased over \$3 billion of goods and services through the AbilityOne Program in 2016. The AbilityOne Program has a national footprint with over 500 qualified nonprofit agencies employing nearly 47,000 people (3,000 veterans) who are blind or significantly disabled. The program generates over \$500 million in wages annually. The AbilityOne Program is an important federal programs designed to help people with disabilities find employment. It is the single largest source of employment for the blind and others with severe disabilities in the United States. Billions of federal procurement dollar flow through the program every year and tens of thousands of people who are blind or have severe disabilities are employed.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG), is charged to carry out a comprehensive nationwide program for the prevention, detection, and investigation of criminal or prohibited activity that may harm the operations or integrity of the AbilityOne Program. The OIG is committed to detecting and preventing fraud, waste and abuse in the AbilityOne Program. The OIG is pleased to present the investigative priorities report to help in the oversight of the AbilityOne Program.

Investigative Focus

The Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Quality Standards for Federal Offices of Inspector General and the Quality Standards for Investigations, directs OIGs to develop a methodology and process for identifying and prioritizing agency programs and operations that identify activities to investigate. As resources are rarely sufficient to meet all requirements, OIG planning should include an assessment of risk and an assignment of priorities to help ensure the optimum use of OIG resources. Investigative plans should be flexible enough to accommodate individual agency needs and the shifting of investigative priorities and

staff resources as circumstances dictate. The following investigative topical areas of focus include:

I. Fraud Awareness

OIG maintains a hotline reporting infrastructure (email, website, live hotline center) for individuals to report fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement.

Our program informs the public by encouraging fraud detection, fraud prevention and understanding of fraud reporting. The OIG fraud awareness program will serve as a frontline effort of the OIG to educate individuals on vulnerabilities within the AbilityOne Program. The Office of Investigations will become a leader in providing fraud awareness understanding for employees and individuals associated with the AbilityOne Program. In FY2018 OIG will initiate our fraud awareness training community wide.

What should you do if you suspect fraud?

Call our Hotline at (844) 496-1536, or email the Office of Inspector General at hotline@oig.abilityone.gov, to report fraud, waste and abuse. All callers may remain anonymous and are protected with confidentiality. Further details of the OIG Website and Hotline Contact information are below.

Hotline Toll-Free Number: (844) 496-1536
Email a hotline complaint: Hotline@oig.abilityone.gov
OIG website: abilityone.gov/commission/oig.html
Hotline link on the website: oig.abilityone.ethicspoint.com

II. Fraud Investigations

Investigations that focus on violations related to agency/program funds, agreements, and compliance documents associated with the operations of the program.

III. Collective and Joint Investigations

A priority for the Office of Investigations is working jointly with partners and other law enforcement agencies on cases involving the AbilityOne Program.

We anticipate that the Office of Investigations in participating with other agencies in Task Forces and Joint Investigation will enhance oversight. This includes

conducting investigations or working with the Department of Justice (DOJ) Criminal Division or Civil Fraud Division on False Claims Act investigations. It also includes working with DOJ on qui tam actions on acting and pendent investigations and referral investigations involving fraud within the AbilityOne Program that may lead to the recouping of government funds. The Office of Investigations will also participate in investigations involving the AbilityOne Program being conducted by other federal agency Inspector General Offices.

IV. Program Integrity Investigations

Investigations that focus on activities that could undermine the integrity of agency programs and erode confidence in the agency pursuing its mission by not following laws, rules or administrative processes of the program.

V. Protected Disclosure Investigations

Investigations that focus on Federal whistleblower protection law (with oversight by the U.S. Office of Special Counsel). These investigations deal with retaliation towards employees, job applicants, contractors, subcontractors, and grantees for disclosing information they reasonably believe shows evidence of fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, or substantial and specific danger to public safety or health. The OIG is certified under the Office of Special Counsel's 2302(c) Certification Program, meeting the statutory obligation.

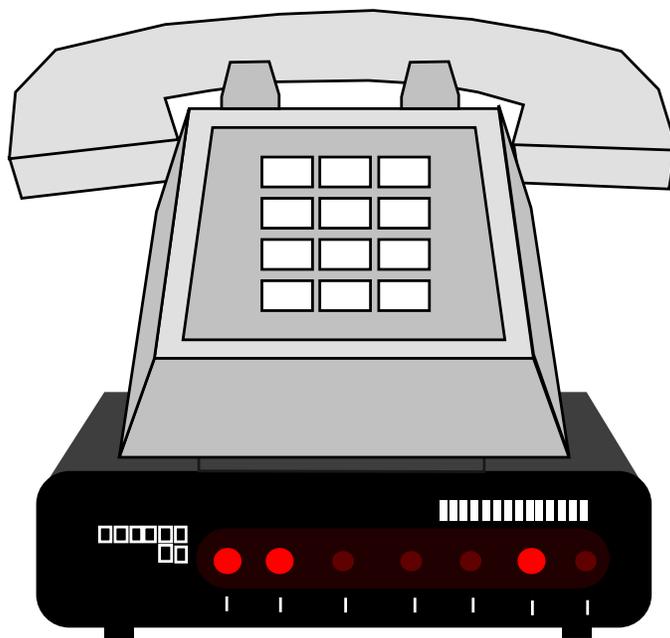
VI. Inspections and Evaluations of Agency Operations, Programs, or Policies

Inspections and evaluations that focus on systematic and independent assessment of the design, implementation and/or results of operations, programs, or policies of the AbilityOne Program. The use of inspections and evaluations include, but are not limited to, providing factual and analytical information, measuring performance, determined compliance with applicable law, regulation, and/or policy, identifying savings and funds put to better use, sharing best practices or promising approaches, and assessing allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement.

Figure – Investigative Priorities



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL HOTLINE



Hotline Toll-Free Number: [\(844\)-496-1536](tel:(844)4961536)

Email a hotline complaint: Hotline@oig.abilityone.gov

OIG website: <http://www.abilityone.gov/commission/oig.html>

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