

# OIG Recovery Act Plan Overview

**OIG Name:** U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Inspector General

**OIG Broad Recovery Act Goals:**

In fulfilling our accountability requirements under ARRA, we will continue to take a three-pronged approach of prevention, detection, and reporting. We will focus on: preventing fraud, waste, and abuse of recovery and reinvestment dollars; reducing the impact of such misuse when it does occur; and ensuring transparency in our oversight efforts. Our Recovery Oversight Office is a multi-faceted staff composed of 22 auditors, evaluators, investigators, and analysts who work on teams in an integrative fashion. Our primary approach for reviews will be a Critical Point Evaluation (CPE) of the Department and one for each bureau, as well as a CPE of the Department’s risk management process. The broad goal of a CPE is to review planned and on-going programs, processes, and projects to identify problems that could lead to waste or poor performance before the consequences of such problems are realized. To ensure timely feedback to the Department and transparency in our efforts, we will continue to issue a number of products under each CPE. The CPE approach has allowed us to cover the broad areas of implementation under the Recovery Act in an on-going manner, an approach that works well for a short-term program with high dollars and high visibility such as the Recovery Act implementation. It also allows us to issue work products more quickly than traditional approaches. We have already issued 38 separate work products using the CPE approach and the Department has responded quickly and effectively to our observations and recommendations. The products are smaller in scope and shorter in length than many of our other OIG products allowing us to provide more immediate feedback, a real necessity considering the timelines established for Recovery spending. Our main product has been the Recovery Advisory, an independent, objective report based on the examination of particular program elements, that may or may contain recommendations. The Advisories follow the Quality Standards for Inspections (Blue Book) and are usually completed in 60 days or less. We will also continue to respond quickly to Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board requests. We will perform other types of work, including but not necessarily limited to: performance audits, evaluations, and other engagements as we deem appropriate to provide the quick and effective feedback to the Department. The Recovery Oversight Office will also coordinate with other OIG units, including the Office of Audits, Inspections and Evaluations; the Office of Investigations; the Office of General Counsel; and the Associate Inspector General for Whistleblower Protection. Our oversight efforts will include: review of internal controls, tracking of Department wide solicitations and awards, evaluations of awarding offices and individual awards, site visits to places of performance, review of disbursements, and interviews of government and contractor/recipient staff. We will take a risk-based approach, focusing our efforts in those areas we deem to be of highest risk and greatest potential impact to the Department and bureaus. To prevent or detect fraud, waste, and mismanagement, we will also conduct outreach to provide best practices and technical assistance to all parties involved with ARRA monies. We will continue to enhance our suspension and debarment program to ensure referral of all instances where recipient irresponsibility is detected to the Department Suspension and Debarment Official.

**OIG Broad Training and Outreach Recovery Act Goals:**

Our goals through our outreach efforts are to provide best practices and technical assistance to all parties involved with ARRA monies to prevent or detect fraud, waste, and mismanagement. To do this, we are aggressively planning and conducting many preventative outreach efforts including: 1) Fraud Awareness, Whistleblower Protection Awareness, Suspension and Debarment, and Single Audit briefings through numerous training sessions for Department personnel, ARRA recipients, contractors, and CPA firms auditing ARRA monies, 2) advisories with observations, best practices and recommendations to the Department and bureaus, and 3) informal feedback to the Department throughout the Recovery period, based on recurring meetings with senior officials in the Department and attendance at Department meetings. We have also instituted a suspension and debarment referral function, through which we will provide outreach to the Department on entities that should be considered for suspension and debarment due to fraud or poor performance. We will continue to support ARRA compliance in the Insular Areas, even though we have no ARRA monies appropriated to the Areas. We will also be providing Davis-Bacon Act briefings in 2010 and beyond. A unique idea we will be implementing in 2010 is holding town hall sessions where there are concentrated amounts of high dollar projects. These will be conducted jointly by the Department's Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Economic Recovery and Stimulus and the OIG's Assistant Inspector General for Recovery Oversight. We believe this unique, collaborative approach between the OIG and the Department will enhance our Department performance in ARRA spending.

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<b>OIG Recovery Act Risk Assessment Process:</b>	We will conduct our risk assessment process as part of our critical point evaluations, in which we will review planned and on-going activities, programs, and projects to identify potential problems that could result in waste of DOI resources or otherwise limit the effectiveness of the activities, programs and projects before such consequences are realized. We will 1) identify and review programs and program areas which represent areas of vulnerability in the Department, and 2) identify and review Recovery Act projects that are at a higher risk of waste, fraud, and abuse. Based on our past work, initial reviews of bureau project lists and program plans, and on-going meetings with senior Department officials, we have identified--to date--seven initial high risk areas or programs: 1) Financial assistance oversight and monitoring; 2) Awards to high-risk tribes, particularly through Public Law 93-638 awards; 3) Design-Build Construction; 4) BOR Water and Related Resource Projects; 5) Acquisition and financial assistance planning; 6) Staff capacity (acquisition staff and staff for administration and monitoring of projects); and 7) indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contracts. We will also use a risk-based approach to select projects-- building on our experience, perception of risk identified by senior bureau staff, knowledge gained in our reviews, and risk assessment tools developed for ARRA programs and recipients. For example, for financial assistance recipients, we have developed a mechanism to identify higher risk financial assistance recipients, and have issued a related advisory to the Department. In FY 2010, we will begin using this tool to identify and target higher risk programs and projects.
<b>OIG Staff Dedicated to Recovery Act Oversight:</b>	We currently have 22 staff dedicated to Recovery Act Oversight and will be hiring 2 more in the near future.
<b>OIG Recovery Act Funds:</b>	\$15,000,000
<b>Expiration Date of OIG Recovery Act Funds:</b>	September 30, 2012
<b>OIG Recovery Act Funds Allocated to Contracts:</b>	No
<b>Purpose of Recovery Act Contracts:</b>	An example purpose is that Contractors have been used to assist with moving services, information technology (IT) equipment, and furnishings. We secured additional space in Lakewood, Colorado to accommodate our Recovery Office staff. We have hired eight new full time staff and plan to hire two more full time staff and we have realigned 16 existing OIG staff to work exclusively on our recovery oversight team. These efforts triggered the need for additional IT equipment, hiring moving services to realign staff and the procurement of additional office furnishings and equipment. We are not using contractors for actual oversight work because our analysis of current and future work force needs lead us to establishing a multi-faceted staff composed of 22 auditors, evaluators, investigators, and analysts. We will monitor our work force frequently and adjust within our budget accordingly.
<b>Types of Recovery Act Contracts Awarded to Date:</b>	They are all fixed price contracts.
<b>Link to OIG Recovery Act Work Plan:</b>	<a href="http://www.doioig.gov/recovery/OIGSTIMULUSPLAN.pdf">http://www.doioig.gov/recovery/OIGSTIMULUSPLAN.pdf</a>