



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Federal Housing Finance Agency

400 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20219

April 25, 2023

The Honorable Larry D. Turner
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Inspector General
200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room S-5502
Washington, DC 20210

External Peer Review Report

Dear Mr. Turner:

This required external peer review was conducted in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Inspection and Evaluation Committee guidance as contained in the CIGIE *Guide for Conducting External Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General* (December 2020 and December 2021). The peer review was conducted from October 12, 2022, through April 25, 2023.

The Federal Housing Finance Agency Office of Inspector General (FHFA-OIG) assessed the extent to which the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL OIG) met seven standards in CIGIE's *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* (Blue Book), issued January 2012; specifically: Quality Control, Planning, Data Collection and Analysis, Evidence, Records Maintenance, Reporting, and Followup. This assessment included a review of the DOL OIG's applicable internal policies and procedures implementing the seven required Blue Book standards, including the July 2017 and August 2021 versions of its *Office of Audit Handbook*. It also included a review of three inspection and evaluation reports issued between October 1, 2019, and September 30, 2022, to determine whether the reports complied with the covered Blue Book standards and the DOL OIG's internal policies and procedures.

Overall Conclusion

FHFA-OIG determined that the DOL OIG's policies and procedures generally were consistent with the seven Blue Book standards addressed in the external peer review. All three reports we reviewed generally complied with the covered Blue Book standards.

We have issued a separate Letter of Comment dated April 25, 2023, that describes findings that were not considered to significantly impact compliance with a Blue Book standard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B.M. Tomney". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "B" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian M. Tomney
Inspector General

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE 1: Scope and Methodology

During the review period, DOL OIG issued four inspection and evaluation (I&E) reports under the 2012 Blue Book and its July 2017 *Office of Audits Handbook* (OA Handbook). The organization did not issue any I&E reports under the December 2020 Blue Book (i.e., the current Blue Book) or the August 2021 OA Handbook (i.e., the current OA Handbook). We selected the following three reports for our review:

- *DOL Did Not Demonstrate It Followed A Sound Process in Promulgating the 2017 Tip Rule Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (17-21-001-15-001), December 11, 2020
- *DOL Needs to Improve Debarment Processes to Ensure Foreign Labor Program Violators are Held Accountable* (06-20-001-03-321), September 30, 2020
- *DOL Needs to Do More to Secure Employees Personally Identifiable Information in the Travel Management System Report* (23-20-003-13-001), September 10, 2020

We applied the 2012 Blue Book as criteria for our assessment of whether DOL OIG met the seven standards listed in the December 2020 *Guide for Conducting External Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General*. We also assessed the consistency of the July 2017 OA Handbook with the January 2012 Blue Book under that guide. We assessed the current OA Handbook with the current Blue Book, in accordance with the December 2021 *Guide for Conducting External Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General*.

We conducted this peer review remotely. During our fieldwork, we reviewed the project teams' electronic files in TeamMate and obtained relevant information through document requests, questions for the record, and an interview. We also discussed our review's results with members of DOL OIG's Office of Audit Quality Assurance.

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

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April 20, 2023

The Honorable Brian M. Tomney
Inspector General
Federal Housing Finance Agency
Office of Inspector General
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20219

Dear Inspector General Tomney:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *External Peer Review Draft Report*. We are pleased that your review concluded that our policies and procedures and the three reviewed reports were consistent with and complied with the standards from the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's (CIGIE) *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* addressed in this external peer review. We agree with your team's assessment that our office can enhance its compliance with CIGIE's quality standards, and we appreciate the recommendations that your team identified. We will share your team's observations with our staff to help us continuously improve our processes.

We would like to thank you and the review team for the thorough and professional review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry D. Turner".

Larry D. Turner
Inspector General