

How we came to be

The idea of independent watchdogs has always been important in our democracy. George Washington himself had an Inspector General of the Army who played a key role in shaping the fighting force that won America's war for independence. In 1978, Congress passed the Inspector General Act. The Act created Inspector General positions and offices in several federal government agencies and departments. More came later. The ARC's Office of Inspector General was established in 1988.

What we do

Congress envisioned the mission of Inspector General's Offices as making sure that government agencies run efficiently, effectively, and with integrity. As part of that mission, OIG's are responsible for finding and preventing waste, fraud and abuse in government agencies and departments.



Did you know?
George Washington
himself had an
Inspector General of
the Army.

Help us do our job.
Let us know.



If you suspect fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement within the ARC or with one of its grantees, contact the Office of Inspector General.

Call: (202) 884-7667

Email: OIG@ARC.GOV

or

Come see us in Room 718.

Office of
Inspector General:

What we do.
Why it matters.



Promoting and preserving
the efficiency, effectiveness,
and integrity of the
Appalachian Regional
Commission

How we do our job

These are the functions our OIG carries out:

- 1) We provide independent and objective audits and investigations relating to ARC grantee programs and operations. We review ARC grants to determine whether grantees are meeting their obligations as recipients of ARC funds.
- 2) We review and audit the Commission's programs and operations to evaluate their effectiveness and efficiency. Our audits and reports include recommendations for addressing any problems we identify.
- 3) We investigate possible violations of law, wasting of funds, abuses of authority, or fraudulent activity involving the Commission and our grantees.
- 4) We provide leadership and coordination, and recommend policies for supporting the prevention and detection of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement.
- 5) We keep Congress, the Commission, and the public informed about the results of all our work. (We report to Congress twice a year on our activities, and post publicly available reports on our OIG website.)



We report to Congress twice a year

OIGs: Independent for a reason

Inspectors general provide the independent oversight of government that any democracy needs to survive and thrive. Thus, inspectors general are independent within the agencies and departments in which we work. The Commission does not direct our work.

The powers of the OIG

The OIG has access to all documents and records within the Commission. We can subpoena records and documents outside of the Commission needed to conduct our investigations. We're required to report suspected violations of the law to the U.S. Attorney General. All of this isn't because we want to make life tougher for the people at our commission. It's because inspectors general are responsible to America's taxpayers and citizens—and to Congress.

Contact us:



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Inspector General



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Talking to the OIG: Whistleblowers are protected.



When people suspect fraud, waste, abuse or mismanagement at the ARC or with one of its grantees, they can report it to the Office of Inspector General. Whistleblowers have key rights and protections:

- There is no requirement for the individual who's reporting to go through his or her chain of command.
- The Commission is forbidden by law from retaliating against an employee or applicant for reporting wrongdoing or retaliation.
- Reports don't have to be accurate to be protected, but the person reporting needs to have a reasonable belief that the report being made to us is true.
- An individual's personal motivation for reporting doesn't affect the reasonableness of a report or the OIG's obligation to evaluate the individual's information.



Employees or the general public can report to us.