



August 14, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to share resources to assist Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and Urban Indian Organizations in identifying and reporting fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement to appropriate law enforcement, including the United States (U.S.) Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG). Timely reporting of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement helps in prevention and reduces negative impacts to beneficiaries, and Tribal, Urban, and Federal programs.

The HHS-OIG has a statutory responsibility to provide oversight over IHS programs and all Departmental funding recipients. Examples of areas for HHS-OIG-specific audits, evaluations, and investigations include, but are not limited to, fraudulent use of grant and contract funds, quality of care, Medicare and Medicaid fraud, and prescription drug diversion.

The effectiveness of HHS-OIG oversight depends on prompt reporting by anyone with knowledge of fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement of HHS funds. If you or anyone in your organization suspects fraudulent activities, we recommend immediately reporting the information to the HHS-OIG. Doing so minimizes the impact of the harm, protects additional depletion of Tribal and Urban Indian Organization resources, and initiates the process to help recover missing funds or assets.

The HHS-OIG Hotline accepts tips and complaints from all sources about potential fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement of Federal programs, as well as federally funded Tribal and Urban Indian programs. Please transmit information and complaints online by using the [HHS-OIG Hotline online form](#). Toll-free access by telephone to the HHS-OIG Hotline is available by calling (800) 447-8477. A more comprehensive listing of HHS-OIG resources is available online at <https://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud/>.


The HHS-OIG also offers free online training to any Tribe, Tribal Organization, or Urban Indian Organization that receives Federal HHS funding. We encourage you to take advantage of the [Fraud, Waste, and Abuse for Grantees - Overview](#) training, which includes instruction on fraud prevention, grantee responsibilities, and whistleblower protections. This training also addresses Federal laws, such as the *False Claims Act*, which applies to grantees. This training is beneficial for all audiences, with particular relevance to compliance officers and staff of organizations that receive HHS grant funding. Upon completion of an HHS-OIG training module, a certificate of completion is generated, which will enable Tribal and Urban Indian organizations to track fraud, waste, and abuse training by staff.

In addition, the HHS-OIG provides a variety of training resources to help Tribal and Urban Indian programs develop effective internal controls to address fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, while implementing targeted strategies to continually identify and address program vulnerabilities. The enclosures provide a wealth of HHS-OIG developed content, in addition to HHS OIG job aids for reference.

Thank you for actively partnering with the IHS on the important work of preventing fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

**Phillip B.
Smith -S**

 Digitally signed by Phillip B.
Smith -S
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P. Benjamin Smith, M.B.A., M.A.
Acting Director

Enclosure No. 1: HHS-OIG Fraud, Waste, Abuse, and Mismanagement Training Resources for Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and Urban Indian Organizations

Enclosure No. 2: Selected HHS-OIG-Developed Summaries on Fraud, Waste, Abuse, and Mismanagement