

What You Should Know About the U.S. Federal Government's Inspector Generals

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

Who is the U.S. Federal Government's inspector generals (IGs)? And why should you care about these IGs when doing business with or receiving money, services, and products from the U.S Federal Government. Individuals, nonprofits, businesses, and any other organizations need to know who these IGs are when being involved with the Federal Government. Cities, towns, counties, townships, state, and tribal governments are just as wise to know who these IGs are as it plays a role in using the Federal government's services, products, and money. We will provide you with a brief rundown of these IGs to help make you aware of these agencies' existence in the U.S. Federal Government realm.

Who are the IGs?

Agencies tasked with providing independent oversight and promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness throughout the Federal Government. The agencies are tasked to include, but not limited to 1) overseeing federal operations; 2) identify, detect, and prevent fraud, waste, abuse, and misconduct throughout Federal programs; and 3) identify cost savings to the Federal Government and other stakeholders including the taxpayer.

These agencies are commonly known as either IGs or watchdog agencies due to the nature of the work related to protecting the U.S. Federal Government's interest and taxpayers' money.

When were IGs created?

On October 12, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a bipartisan legislation into law that created the IGs.

What do IGs do?

These agencies operate independently of the respective parent agencies to achieve its missions through audits, investigations, and evaluations of federal programs, organizations and individuals that do business with or receive money, services, and products from the U.S. Federal Government.

What Federal regulations govern the IGs?

- [Inspector General Act of 1978](#)
- [Executive Order 12301](#)
- [The Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988](#)
- [Executive Order 12805](#)
- [Executive Order 12993](#)
- [The Homeland Security Act of 2002](#)

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- [The Inspector General Reform Act of 2008](#)
- [The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#)
- [The Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010](#)
- [The Intelligence Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2010](#)
- [The Whistleblower Protection and Enhancement Act of 2012](#)
- [Inspector General Empowerment Act of 2016](#)

How many IGs are there in the U.S. Federal Government?

In 1978, when the initial law creating the IGs was signed, there were 12 presidentially appointed IGs. Currently, there are 74 independent IGs in operation.

Who do the IGs answer to?

- Heads of parent agency
- Congress

Where can I find out more about these IGs?

Each of the IGs have its own respective website to find out more about these federal agencies. However, you can go to [Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency \(CIGIE\)](#) for a listing of each IG and its respective website. For information on the various IGs' work, you can go to <http://oversight.gov/> to find audits, evaluations, investigates, or other resources from the U.S. Federal IGs. CIGIE operates and maintains the site, but the IGs upload reports and other information to it. Many of the IGs performed audits, investigations, evaluations, and or actions related to U.S. Federal Government pandemic funding in the United States. You can find this information at the designated Pandemic Oversight [webpage](#).

Takeaway

Many organizations that include businesses, nonprofits, and various governments are involved with the Federal Government. These organizations compete or apply for Federal Government money to provide services or goods that meet its goals or objectives. Many of these organizations manage and use these Federal Government money without paying attention to the potential audits, investigations, and evaluations that may occur. Knowing and understanding the IGs will help prepare you and your organization prepare for any potential audits, investigations, and evaluations involving Federal Government money, contracts, services, and products.