Who are we?

Each federal agency has an independent Office of Inspector General (OIG) charged with conducting objective investigations, audits, and inspections/evaluations, as well as preventing and detecting fraud, waste and abuse.

What do we do?

The NSF OIG Office of Investigations examines allegations of wrongdoing involving organizations or individuals that receive awards from, conduct business with, or work for NSF. We examine allegations in which NSF is the potential victim of fraud by employees, grantees, contractors, or others. We receive allegations from proposal reviewers, agency employees, the OIG hotline, other OIG offices, and the public. We also investigate allegations of research misconduct.

The NSF OIG Office of Audit reviews agency operations as well as grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements funded by NSF. By providing independent and objective assessments of NSF's program and financial performance, we are committed to improving NSF's business policies and practices to better support NSF in promoting science and engineering research and education.

Where can you get additional information?

Internet
www.oig.nsf.gov

Telephone
703 292-7100

OIG Anonymous Hotline
1-800-428-2189

Fax
703 292-9158/9159

Write
National Science Foundation
Office of Inspector General
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

E-mail Hotline
oig@nsf.gov

Ensure you identify the matter as being related to ARRA-funded activities.

National Science Foundation Office of Inspector General

A Guide to NSF OIG And The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

On February 17, 2009, ARRA was signed into law, providing supplemental appropriations intended for:

- job preservation and creation; infrastructure investment; and
- energy efficiency and science; assistance to the unemployed; and State and local fiscal stabilization.

ARRA provided NSF $3Billion for Research and Related Activities; Education and Human Resources; and Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction.

ARRA instructs Inspectors General to work in close collaboration with Agencies to minimize fraud, waste, and abuse, and to provide additional oversight, auditing and investigating to ensure that the funds are protected and used appropriately.

The NSF OIG is committed to providing active oversight of NSF funds under ARRA both within NSF and throughout the research community.

Broad New Whistleblower Protections!

ARRA's whistleblower protection is more expansive than that provided in other whistleblower statutes. It prohibits retaliation in any way against state and local employees who disclose fraud or illegal activity in connection with ARRA funds. ARRA also protects those who report mismanagement or waste, danger to public health or safety, or an abuse of authority related to Recovery Act funds. This prohibition applies to direct recipient institutions as well as subawardees and subcontractors. Federal employees remain covered by existing protections.

Complaints alleging retaliation should be directed to OIG. Our obligation under ARRA is to investigate the allegation thoroughly and expeditiously. *Please ensure you note that the matter relates to an ARRA-funded program.*

NSF OIG Priorities

- Ensure NSF has adequate plans and systems for the appropriate expenditure of ARRA funds;
- Verify that grant and contract outcomes are meaningful, measurable, and consistent with ARRA goals.
- Suggest techniques ways to limit risk in ARRA awards.
- Plan specific audits, reviews, and investigations after risk-based assessment, including past OIG findings.
- Conduct educational outreach efforts targeted to agency program managers, the research community, and the public.
- Conduct real-time focused reviews that ensure timely reporting and the prevention of problems.
- Investigate allegations of wrongdoing and retaliation relating to ARRA funds.
- Refer substantive cases to the Department of Justice for civil and criminal prosecution.