



# Fraud, Waste, or Abuse: Suspect It? Report It! Inspector General Hotline 1-800-424-5197



## Know Your Rights Under the Recovery Act!

### ***Did you know?***

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009<sup>1</sup> (Recovery Act) provides protections for certain employees of non-federal employers making specified disclosures relating to possible fraud, waste, or abuse of Recovery Act funds.

### ***Who is protected?***

Employees of non-federal employers receiving Recovery Act funds—including state and local governments, contractors, subcontractors, grantees, or professional membership organizations acting in the interest of Recovery Act fund recipients

### ***How are whistleblowers protected?***

You cannot be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as reprisal for protected disclosures.

### ***What types of disclosures are protected?***

The employee must make the disclosures to the Recovery Act Accountability and Transparency Board, an Inspector General, the Comptroller General, a member of Congress, a state or federal regulatory or law enforcement agency, a person with supervisory authority over the employee, a court or grand jury, or the head of a federal agency or his/her representatives. The disclosures must involve information that the employee believes is evidence of:

- gross mismanagement of an agency contract or grant relating to Recovery Act funds;
- a gross waste of Recovery Act funds;
- a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety related to the implementation or use of Recovery Act funds;
- an abuse of authority related to the implementation or use of Recovery Act funds; or
- a violation of law, rule, or regulation related to an agency contract or grant awarded or issued relating to Recovery Act funds.

### ***Take action!***

You can report suspected fraud, waste, or abuse by calling the toll-free hotline at (800) 424-5197—or emailing [hotline@oig.doc.gov](mailto:hotline@oig.doc.gov)—or filing an online complaint form with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Office of Inspector General at <http://www.oig.doc.gov/oig/hotline/000016.html>.

<sup>1</sup>Section 1553 of Division A, Title XV, of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P.L. 111-5; for more information, see <http://www.recovery.gov>.