

Human Services Reviews

The HHS agencies that administer human services programs are the:

- **Administration for Children and Families (ACF).** ACF operates over 30 programs that promote the economic and social well-being of children, families, and communities, including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program; the national child support enforcement system; the Head Start program for preschool children; and assistance for childcare, foster care, and adoption services.
- **Administration for Community Living (ACL).** ACL includes the Administration on Aging (AoA), which provides services such as meals, transportation, and caregiver support to older Americans at home and in the community through the nationwide network of services for the aging.

Effective management of these programs is essential to ensure that they achieve their goals and best serve the programs' intended beneficiaries. OIG's planning efforts for 2015 and beyond will focus on planning for emergencies, access to quality services, and compliance with safety requirements.

Acronyms and Abbreviations for Selected Terms:

ACF—Administration for Children and Families
 ACL—Administration for Community Living
 AoA—Administration on Aging
 CCDF—Child Care and Development Fund

CSBG—Community Services Block Grant [program]
 OCC—Office of Child Care
 SMP—Senior Medicare Patrol

Descriptions of OIG's human services work in progress for FY 2015 follow.

Administration for Children and Families

➤ **NEW** Foster care – Monitoring the health and safety of children through the complaint resolution and licensing process

We will review whether the States' complaint procedures for handling allegations or referrals of abuse and noncompliance of health and safety requirements for Foster Care Children under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, are reported, investigated and resolved in accordance with Federal and State requirements. We will also review State's oversight process to ensure licensing requirements are met for foster care family homes. Social Security Act Title IV-E Section 471(a)(9) and Title IV-E Section 472(c)(1). (OAS; W-00-15-25056; various reviews; expected issue date: FY 2015)

➤ **Child support enforcement – Investigations under the child support enforcement task force model**

We will continue to encourage and coordinate enforcement efforts in States, particularly in States that have not pursued prosecutions of nonsupport cases. Project Save Our Children seeks to identify, investigate, and prosecute individuals who fails to meet their court-ordered support obligations. The project brings together OIG, the U.S. Marshals Service, DOJ, the Department of State, local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors, State child support agencies, and others to enforce Federal and State criminal child support statutes.

➤ **Superstorm Sandy—Emergency preparedness and response plans for child care facilities**

We will determine the extent to which States develop and/or update emergency preparedness and response plans specific to childcare services and programs. We will also describe emergency responses and experiences of States and childcare providers during and after recent disasters. In February 2011, the Office of Child Care (OCC) in ACF recommended that States develop plans to address preparedness, response, and recovery efforts specific to childcare services and programs. OCC outlined a framework that States should consider when developing and updating these plans. (OEI; 04-14-00410; expected issue date: FY 2016)

➤ **Head Start—Implementation of Head Start grant competition**

We will determine the extent to which Head Start grant competition resulted in new entities' competing for and winning Head Start grants in 2013 and 2014. The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 required that grantees be awarded 5-year (rather than indefinite) grants. Grantees who provide high-quality services receive future 5-year grants on a noncompetitive basis. Regulations at 45 CFR § 1307.3 describe seven deficiency conditions under the Designation Renewal System; if a grantee meets any of the seven conditions, it is not deemed a high-quality grantee and must compete for renewal. We will also describe the characteristics of grantees that were not deemed "high quality" by the Head Start Designation Renewal System in 2013 and 2014. (OEI; 12-14-00650; expected issue date: FY 2016)

➤ **NEW States' CCDF payment rates and access to childcare services**

We will determine the extent to which States' payment rates under the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) are sufficient to ensure access to childcare for low-income families. We will also review States' processes for calculating CCDF payment rates, as well as ACF's methods for determining whether States' CCDF payment rates are sufficient to ensure access to childcare services. Reauthorized in the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, CCDF is the primary Federal funding source devoted to subsidizing the childcare expenses of low-income families. Payment rates for childcare providers are set by each State and overseen by ACF. States must certify that payment rates "are sufficient to ensure equal access, for eligible families in the area served by the [State], to child care services comparable to those provided to families not eligible" for CCDF subsidies. (45 CFR § 98.43) (OEI; 03-15-00170; expected issue date: FY 2016).

➤ **NEW CCDF—Licensing and oversight of health and safety standards at Federally funded facilities**

We will summarize our work conducted in 10 different States that reviewed licensing, health, and safety standards at child care facilities that received Federal funding from the CCDF to determine the extent to which the facilities have complied with applicable State and Federal requirements. Our previous reviews of CCDF child care providers found many instances of noncompliance with applicable health and safety requirements. We will also identify actions ACF has taken to implement and oversee the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act's new requirements at the State level. On November 19, 2014, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, P.L. No. 113-186, reauthorized the CCDF program and enacted additional childcare health, safety, and quality requirements. Federal regulations for the CCDF require States to certify that they have licensing and health and safety requirements applicable to childcare services pursuant to 45 CFR §§ 98.15, 98.40 and 98.41. (OAS; W-00-15-25052; expected issue date: FY 2016)

Administration for Community Living

➤ **ACL—Senior Medicare Patrol projects' performance data**

We will review performance measures for Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) projects, including documentation supporting expected recoveries for the Medicare and Medicaid programs. In 1997, SMP projects were established to recruit and train retired professionals and other senior citizens to recognize and report instances or patterns of health care fraud. The initiative stemmed from recommendations in a congressional committee report accompanying the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997. OIG reports these performance data annually. The information was requested by AoA, which is part of ACL, and will support ACL's efforts to evaluate and improve the performance of the projects. (OEI; 02-15-00100; expected issue date: FY 2015)