

Human Services Reviews

The principal Department of Health and Human Services (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 child care, 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

CSBG—Community Services Block Grant [program]

OCC—Office of Child Care

SMP—Senior Medicare Patrol

TANF—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [program]

Descriptions of the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) human services work in progress for fiscal year (FY) 2015 follow.

Administration for Children and Families

➤ TANF—Compliance and oversight of work participation verification and reporting requirements

We will review the extent to which States comply with TANF work verification plan requirements. We will review ACF's oversight of States' compliance with work verification plan and reporting requirements. We will also assess ACF's oversight of tribes' compliance with Tribal Family Assistance Plan requirements under TANF. TANF provides assistance and work opportunities for needy families by granting States Federal funds and wide flexibility to develop and implement their own welfare programs. Regulations implementing the TANF program include, among other things, the requirement that States ensure that 50 percent of all funded families and 90 percent of two-parent families are working and that States report and verify work activities. (45 CFR Parts 261-265.) (OEI; 09-11-00490; 09-11-00491; expected issue date: FY 2015)

➤ **Foster care and adoption assistance maintenance payments**

We will determine whether State agencies claimed foster care maintenance payments and adoption assistance payments in accordance with Federal requirements. Prior OIG audits found that States claimed costs for services that did not meet the requirements for the foster care and the adoption assistance programs. (Social Security Act, Title IV-E.) (OAS; W-00-13-24100; W-00-15-24100; various reviews; expected issue date: FY 2015)

➤ **Foster care—State oversight and coordination of health services for children**

We will determine the extent to which States provide oversight and coordination of health services for children in foster care, as required. For selected States, we will determine the extent to which children in foster care receive health care services as outlined in States' health oversight and coordination plans. Each State is required to develop a plan for ongoing oversight and coordination of health care services for children in foster care (Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008). States' plans must include certain elements, such as a schedule for initial and followup health screening and oversight of prescription medicines. (OEI; 07-13-00460; expected issue date: FY 2015)

➤ **Child support enforcement**

OIG continues to investigate noncustodial parents who fail to pay court-ordered child support. OIG works with the ACF Office of Child Support Enforcement; the Department of Justice; U.S. Attorneys' Offices; the U.S. Marshals Service; and Federal, State, and local partners to address egregious child support enforcement cases with appropriate law enforcement and prosecutorial action. (OI; various investigations)

➤ **Hurricane Sandy—Emergency preparedness and response plans for child care facilities (new)**

We will determine the extent to which States develop and/or update emergency preparedness and response plans specific to child care services and programs. We will also describe emergency responses and experiences of States and child care 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 child care 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 (new)**

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)

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; 00-00-00000; expected issue date: FY 2015)