



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

WASHINGTON, DC 20201



January 25, 2021

Rob Fairweather
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Acting Director Fairweather:

The Government Charge Card Abuse Prevention Act of 2012 requires Inspectors General to report on the implementation of recommendations made to their agencies to address audit findings for travel and purchase cards. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance requires Inspectors General to submit their reports to OMB by January 31 of each year.

As the Act requires, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) continues to conduct periodic assessments of the travel and purchase card programs at HHS. These assessments are completed to identify and analyze risks of illegal, improper, or erroneous purchases and payments.

HHS OIG issued one report during fiscal year 2020. In addition, since our last OMB status report on January 23, 2020, we closed four recommendations from previous audits. We have an ongoing assessment of the Food and Drug Administration's travel card program and an ongoing audit of the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs travel card program. The status of recommendations is summarized in the attached table, which includes the one report issued during fiscal year 2020, two earlier reports with closed recommendations, and one report with open recommendations.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Carla J. Lewis, Assistant Inspector General, Public Health and Human Services Programs, Office of Audit Services, at (202) 205-9125 or through email at Carla.Lewis@oig.hhs.gov. Please refer to report number A-04-21-06248 in all correspondence.

Sincerely,

/Amy J. Frontz/
Deputy Inspector General
for Audit Services

Enclosure

cc:

Joseph Pika
Director, Division of Payment Integrity Improvement
OS/ASFR/Office of Finance

Manny Van Pelt
Program Manager, Transportation Services
Program Support Center

Agency Progress in Implementing Audit Recommendations

Status of Recommendations as of January 31, 2021

Agency	Card Type	Summary of Recommendations	Status/ Disposition	Fiscal Year	OIG Report Number and Date
Indian Health Service	Travel	<p>Reemphasize the requirements for use of the travel card to ensure that all travel cardholders are aware of the requirements.</p> <p>Ensure that travel card usage is adequately monitored for compliance with travel card requirements.</p>	Closed Implemented 11/24/2020	2016	A-07-16-05091 4/12/2018
Indian Health Service	Purchase	<p>Ensure that purchase cardholders comply with Federal requirements and IHS's policy by adequately monitoring purchase card usage.</p> <p>Ensure that all IHS purchase cardholders complete HHS-required training on the use of the purchase card.</p>	Closed Implemented 11/24/2020	2016	A-07-16-05090 7/5/2018
Office of the Secretary	Travel	<p>Review the lack of compliance with Federal requirements.</p> <p>Determine appropriate administrative actions to recoup (1) \$333,014 related to the authorization and use of chartered aircraft, (2) \$4,926 related to travel that started or ended in locations other than the official duty station, and (3) \$2,960 related to other excess travel costs.</p> <p>Improve processes and internal controls related to the use of chartered aircraft and to ensure compliance with applicable Federal regulations and HHS policies and procedures.</p>	Open ¹ Unimplemented	2017	A-12-17-00002 7/11/2018
Food and Drug Administration	Purchase	There were no recommendations. We assessed FDA's purchase card program as low risk.	N/A	2019	A-04-19-06234 9/30/2020

¹ The OIG and the Office of the Secretary are in the resolution process for these findings.