



Office of the Inspector General Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Contractors & Vendors Required to Report Fraud, September 2009

**Attention Contractors and Vendors!
You have a legal responsibility to report fraud
under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act!**

OIG ARRA Advisory

If you or your firm receives federal funding either directly or indirectly to provide goods or services to the government then you may be a "contractor." Contractors and their employees have an obligation under federal law and regulation to report fraud, waste or abuse to federal authorities.

You may be in violation of and subject to prosecution under the Federal False Claims Act if you know of a crime and fail to report the crime. For example, if you know that the business you work for is sending invoices with false information to the government and you fail to report it, even if you did not assist with the preparation of the invoice you may be in violation of the law.

According to federal regulations, you must "timely notify" the relevant Federal Office of Inspector General (OIG) whenever there is "credible evidence" that a violation of criminal law or the False Claims Act has occurred. You must disclose this evidence when you believe that fraud, bribery, gratuity, or conflict of interest violations have occurred in the award, performance, or closeout of a contract, subcontract, grant, or agreement.

To facilitate disclosure to federal authorities or to report fraud, waste, or abuse regarding any public funds including federal stimulus funds, please contact the:

**Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General
Fraud Hotline 1-800-322-1323
You have a right to protection under the federal whistleblower statute!**

This protection means that you cannot be fired, demoted, or discriminated against as a reprisal for reporting fraud. For more information contact the U.S. Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board or go to www.Recovery.gov.