



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Inspector General

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May 5, 2011

Jonathan R. Carlson, Executive Director
Self Help, Inc.
142 Crescent Street
Brockton, MA 02302

Dear Mr. Carlson,

As you know, the Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has reviewed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program (LHC) grants in Massachusetts. These grants have totaled \$8,624,565 of which your agency has received \$745,000 as a subrecipient of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

The OIG is reviewing ARRA-related grants to identify potential vulnerabilities for fraud, waste, and abuse and other risks that could negatively impact the accountability, transparency, and anti-fraud mandates contained in the statutory language and interpretive guidance of ARRA. The OIG focused its review on verifying the internal controls and policies of your grant program and did not identify any significant findings.

The OIG had previously recommended that SHI implement an anti-fraud policy and associated training. In response, SHI developed and sent the OIG a draft of an anti-fraud policy for review. The OIG reviewed this draft and responded by letter on July 26, 2010 with comments and suggestions. Additionally, the OIG prepared an advisory with recommendations regarding the LHC grant. This advisory is attached for your review. The OIG is suggesting that all LHC grant recipients implement any recommendations applicable to their respective programs.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further assistance with this or other programs or to report evidence of potential fraud, waste, or abuse in the expenditure of public funds. Our point of contact for your agency is Neil Cohen, Deputy Inspector General. Thank you again for the assistance and cooperation of you and your staff during this review.

Sincerely,

Gregory W. Sullivan

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Inspector General

Attachment