



MESSAGE FROM
THE SECRETARY AND THE INSPECTOR GENERAL



HUD employees do outstanding work every day to better the lives of families and strengthen communities. To build on these efforts and maximize our impact for the people we serve, we are building a more transparent and accountable HUD for the future. When we work together to eliminate waste and mismanagement, we can apply more time and resources towards our mission of expanding opportunity for all.

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is essential to this work. OIG prevents and detects inefficiencies and wrongdoing by conducting independent and objective audits, investigations, and evaluations to improve HUD's operations. HUD employees are critical in this process. The OIG routinely needs information from Department offices to conduct its work effectively. Without full, complete and timely access to all information related to HUD programs and activities, OIG cannot fully determine how HUD is, or the recipients of funding from HUD are, fulfilling their respective responsibilities.

HUD employees must take an active role in supporting the OIG's activities. This should be a collaboration that is built on mutual respect, professionalism and a shared mission to serve the American people. One way we do that is for HUD personnel to produce materials requested by the OIG in a timely and complete fashion. We want to be clear that there is no basis for withholding any information from OIG when requested. HUD employees should make the OIG aware when requested materials contain classified national security information, privacy-protected materials, attorney-client or deliberative communications, other sensitive information, or materials from agencies outside the Department. However, this should not cause any delay or prevent the production of materials.

Finally, because accountability makes us better, all HUD employees have a responsibility to report instances of fraud, waste and abuse directly to the OIG. All managers should respect employees' rights to speak directly and confidentially with the OIG, and refrain from inappropriate activity that might inhibit an employee or contractor's cooperation. OIG will maintain employee confidentiality when requested, consistent with legal requirements.

By strengthening collaboration between HUD and the OIG, we can make this Department an even better place to work. Through partnership, we can advance HUD's mission by enhancing the integrity, efficiency and effectiveness of our programs and operations.

For more information, please visit the [OIG's website](#).

Sincerely,

Secretary Julián Castro
Inspector General David A. Montoya