



Fraud, Waste, or Abuse: Suspect It? Report It! Inspector General Hotline 1-800-424-5197



Know Your Rights Under the Recovery Act!

Did you know?

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009¹ (Recovery Act) provides protections for certain employees of non-federal employers making specified disclosures relating to possible fraud, waste, or abuse of Recovery Act funds.

Who is protected?

Employees of non-federal employers receiving Recovery Act funds—including state and local governments, contractors, subcontractors, grantees, or professional membership organizations acting in the interest of Recovery Act fund recipients

How are whistleblowers protected?

You cannot be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as reprisal for protected disclosures.

What types of disclosures are protected?

The employee must make the disclosures to the Recovery Act Accountability and Transparency Board, an Inspector General, the Comptroller General, a member of Congress, a state or federal regulatory or law enforcement agency, a person with supervisory authority over the employee, a court or grand jury, or the head of a federal agency or his/her representatives. The disclosures must involve information that the employee believes is evidence of:

- gross mismanagement of an agency contract or grant relating to Recovery Act funds;
- a gross waste of Recovery Act funds;
- a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety related to the implementation or use of Recovery Act funds;
- an abuse of authority related to the implementation or use of Recovery Act funds; or
- a violation of law, rule, or regulation related to an agency contract or grant awarded or issued relating to Recovery Act funds.

Take action!

You can report suspected fraud, waste, or abuse by calling the toll-free hotline at (800) 424-5197—or emailing hotline@oig.doc.gov—or filing an online complaint form with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Office of Inspector General at <http://www.oig.doc.gov/oig/hotline/000016.html>.

¹Section 1553 of Division A, Title XV, of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P.L. 111-5; for more information, see <http://www.recovery.gov>.