



Council of the
INSPECTORS GENERAL
on INTEGRITY and EFFICIENCY

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OMB Releases New Memorandum Encouraging Federal Agency Cooperation with Inspectors General

Today, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released guidance to Federal agencies regarding actions needed to support the role of agency Inspectors General (IGs). In the new memorandum, entitled [*Promoting Accountability through Cooperation among Agencies and Inspectors General*](#), OMB requests that agency leaders communicate with their staffs the expectation that all government employees and contractors fully cooperate with their IG. The memorandum also includes best practices and general guidelines to enhance this cooperation.

In support of OMB's efforts to enhance agency and IG cooperation across the Federal government, the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) surveyed all Inspectors General and identified the key elements of the most effective agency communications, which are enumerated in today's guidance. OMB's memorandum also includes CIGIE's sample framing language for use as a template by agency leadership. Prior to today's guidance, many of the responding Inspectors General reported that leaders of Federal agencies had not communicated directly with their workforce on the importance of ensuring IG access and communication. Moreover, in some cases where such communications did occur, they were dated.

"CIGIE appreciates OMB's efforts to ensure inspectors general receive the cooperation required by the *Inspector General Act*. The guidance issued today by OMB is unprecedented and will enhance the ability of OIGs to conduct the independent oversight that is needed to serve the interests of the American public," said CIGIE Chair Allison Lerner. "The framework cooperation memorandum issued today emphasizes what we believe to be the best practices across the IG community. It helps communicate the vital issues of full IG access and cooperation consistently throughout the Executive Branch and will strengthen OIG independence," said Vice Chair Mark Lee Greenblatt.

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The Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) is an independent Federal entity comprising 75 Federal IGs and 6 other Federal leaders. CIGIE's mission is to address integrity, economy, and effectiveness issues that transcend individual Government agencies; and increase the professionalism and effectiveness of personnel by developing policies, standards, and approaches to aid in the establishment of a well-trained and highly skilled workforce in the offices of the Inspectors General.

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