

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL (OIG)

\$23,393,000
+\$5,782,000 / 32.8%

The Appropriations Act that funds the National Science Foundation contains a separate appropriation for NSF's Office of Inspector General. Accordingly, this FY 2023 Budget Request identifies the resources needed to support OIG, including amounts for personnel compensation and benefits (PC&B), contract services, training, travel, supplies, materials, and equipment.

The FY 2023 Budget Request for OIG is \$23.39 million, an increase of \$5.78 million over the FY 2021 Actual of \$17.61 million

OIG Funding					
(Dollars in Millions)					
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	Change over	
	Actual	(TBD)	Request	FY 2021 Actual	Amount Percent
Total	\$17.61	-	\$23.39	\$5.78	32.8%
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	68	79	93	25	36.8%

OIG Responsibilities and Structure

OIG provides independent oversight of NSF's programs and operations. The office promotes effectiveness, efficiency, and economy in administering the Foundation's programs and prevents and detects fraud, waste, and abuse within NSF or by individuals who receive NSF funding. By statute, NSF OIG is organizationally independent from the agency, with the Inspector General (IG) reporting directly to the National Science Board and Congress. Given the geographic breadth of the projects NSF funds, OIG needs to be equipped to conduct audits and investigations across the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Antarctica. To fulfill its important mission, OIG employs a diverse staff of scientists, attorneys, certified public accountants, criminal investigators, management analysts, data analysts, and information technology (IT) specialists. OIG's FY 2021 appropriation was just 0.21 percent of NSF's nearly \$8.50 billion appropriation and just 0.04 percent of its \$39.8 billion portfolio of active awards, yet OIG provides a much greater return on investment and serves as an invaluable safeguard against fraud, waste, abuse, and whistleblower reprisal. Recognizing the value of work done by OIGs, President Biden has stated that he expects executive departments and agencies to restore the integrity and independence of inspectors general and to work with them to ensure resources provided for federal relief programs are safeguarded.

OIG's work is divided into two functional areas: the Office of Audits and the Office of Investigations, which are supported by the Office of Management, the Office of Counsel, and the IG's Immediate Office. Highlights of the OIG's operational impact and strategic focus by functional area follow.

Appropriations Language

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General as authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, ~~\$17,850,000~~**\$23,393,000**, of which \$400,000 shall remain available until September 30, ~~2023~~**2024**.

**Office of Inspector General
FY 2023 Summary Statement**

(Dollars in Millions)

	Enacted/ Request	Unobligated Balance Available Start of Year	Unobligated Balance Available End of Year	Adjustments to Prior Year Accounts	Obligations Actual/ Estimates
FY 2021 Appropriation	\$17.85	\$0.40	-\$0.40	-\$0.24	\$17.61
FY 2022 Annualized CR	17.85	0.40			18.25
FY 2023 Request	23.39				23.39
\$ Change from FY 2022 Annualized CR					\$5.14
% Change from FY 2022 Annualized CR					28.2%

Totals exclude reimbursable amounts.

Explanation of Carryover

Within the OIG two-year account, \$400,000 was carried over into FY 2022.

Office of the Inspector General

- Amount: \$400,000
- Purpose: Funds are expected to be used to procure financial and performance audit services. The selection of awards and institutions to be audited will require careful preparation and is subject to changing circumstances and new information that may require additional time to process.
- Obligation: Anticipated FY 2022 Quarter 3

Audit Impact and Strategic Focus

OIG's Office of Audits (OA) conducts audits of NSF's contracts, cooperative agreements, and grants to universities and other research institutions, as well as internal audits of NSF's programs. These audits help ensure that financial, administrative, and programmatic activities are conducted economically, effectively, and in compliance with applicable regulations.

From FY 2017 through FY 2021, OIG audited approximately \$9.30 billion in NSF funding in 31 states and Washington, D.C.—resulting in 122 audit and other engagement reports containing a total of \$15.92 million in questioned costs and 995 recommendations to recover misspent funds and improve awardee and NSF operations.

In FY 2021, OA identified more than \$3.70 million in questioned costs and made 256 recommendations to strengthen program and grant operations. As a result of OIG audits, NSF recouped misspent funds and required awardees to improve their management of NSF awards and subawards to prevent future misuse of taxpayer money. NSF also took other corrective actions in FY 2021 in response to recent audits. For example, NSF updated its Standard Operating Guidance to better account for and monitor government-owned equipment purchased with award funds. This improvement made NSF a better steward of federal funds.

Areas of Risk for Potential Audit Coverage in FY 2023

Much of OIG's audit work is mandatory, including the annual financial statement audits, as well as

audits required by the *Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014*,¹ and the *Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019*.² For discretionary audits, OA uses a risk-based approach to identify the highest priority issues that would benefit from OIG review. Although additional areas may emerge by FY 2023, the top six current high-risk areas include:

The Antarctic Infrastructure Modernization for Science Project. The NSF Office of Polar Programs manages the U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP), through which it operates three year-round research stations and two research vessels and coordinates all U.S. science and logistical support on the southernmost continent. The Antarctic Infrastructure Modernization for Science (AIMS) project is a key component of the Future USAP. AIMS includes a series of redevelopments and upgrades to the buildings, utilities, logistics, and technology that make up the USAP stations. This work, budgeted at \$90.0 million in 2021, will serve the continent's ongoing scientific mission over a 35 to 50-year planning horizon and is aimed at reducing costs, finding efficiencies, conserving energy, and supporting Antarctic science. AIMS' construction at the largest USAP facility, McMurdo Station, has been put on hold due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. There was no AIMS-related construction in McMurdo during the 2020-2021 or 2021-2022 seasons due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions and supply chain delays. NSF is currently working with the USAP contractor to re-baseline the Vehicle Equipment and Operations Center (VEOC) and Lodging Building modules of the AIMS' construction contract, with associated cost increases and possible work extending beyond the end of the current USAP contract. Additionally, NSF has identified needed investments in USAP facilities and infrastructure that cannot be deferred until after completion of the AIMS' modules and is transitioning into a broader recapitalization of Antarctic infrastructure under the Antarctic Infrastructure Recapitalization (AIR) program. In FY 2023 OA will evaluate NSF's oversight of these critical, highly visible, long-term projects and assess the adequacy of the re-baselining process.

Divestment of Major Facilities. NSF funds the construction, management, and operation of major research facilities, which are shared-use infrastructure accessible to a broad community of researchers and educators. NSF's major facilities typically have construction costs greater than \$70.0 million, with total construction costs ranging from one hundred to several hundred million dollars over a multi-year period. Once the award recipient completes construction, NSF facilities may operate for 20 to 40 years with annual operations and maintenance budgets ranging between 6 and 10 percent of the original construction cost. The American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (P.L. 114-329),³ requires NSF to address divestment as part of the lifecycle plans for its major facilities. At a time of rising costs, divestment is an essential part of NSF's responsibilities for managing its major facilities. OA is assessing the adequacy of NSF's processes for prioritizing, planning for, and managing divestment of its major facilities.

Public-Private Partnerships. NSF plans to scale up public-private partnerships agency-wide. Some of these partnerships share the following characteristics: industry review or participation in part of the merit review process; joint (but distinct) funding by NSF and industry; and industry funders' participation as advisors and fellow researchers at awardee universities if universities permit. Potential risks of these partnerships include conflicts of interest; proposals tailored to accommodate specific companies' needs; cultural differences; reputational damage; and inadequate controls over

¹ www.congress.gov/113/plaws/publ283/PLAW-113publ283.pdf

² www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr5389/BILLS-116hr5389ih.pdf

³ www.congress.gov/114/plaws/publ329/PLAW-114publ329.pdf

company employees working with university researchers. OA plans to assess the effectiveness of NSF's oversight of public-private partnerships, including operations at selected awardees.

Mid-scale Research Infrastructure. In its FY 2022 Budget Request, NSF requested about \$180 million for mid-scale projects agency wide. These projects, which cost between \$6.0 and \$100.0 million, include research instrumentation, equipment, and upgrades to major research facilities or other research infrastructure investments. NSF's *Major Facilities Guide*⁴ provides guidance for these projects. OA may review management requirements in mid-scale solicitations, controls for mid-scale projects, and training and experience of NSF staff responsible for making and providing oversight of mid-scale awards.

NSF's Oversight of Awardee Compliance with Harassment Policies. NSF added an award term and condition, effective October 22, 2018, requiring awardees to notify the agency of harassment based on ethnicity, race, gender, or disability, among other categories, on NSF awards. In response, NSF indicates that it has received about 1.5 notifications a month. NSF's Office of Equity and Civil Rights receives the notifications and works with NSF staff to evaluate the notifications and determine the appropriate course of action. NSF's current *Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* (PAPPG)⁵ states that "NSF expects all research organizations to establish and maintain clear and unambiguous standards of behavior to ensure harassment-free workplaces wherever science is conducted." It further requires awardees to notify NSF if senior personnel have violated the institution's harassment rules or if the institution imposes an administrative action against senior personnel related to a harassment finding or claim. Our audit or audits will evaluate NSF's policies regarding harassment and its oversight over institutions and selected awardees.

Hybrid NSF Workforce. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, NSF will likely be managing a hybrid workforce in FY 2023, which will require support for both on-site and remote workers. This development will create new individual and collective risks for NSF management. To assess NSF's response to these risks, OA envisions audits on topics such as the adequacy of NSF's IT infrastructure; utilization of space at the Alexandria headquarters; management of personnel hiring, supervision, and retention; structure and location of merit review panels; and controls over the award lifecycle and NSF's assets.

Audits of Recipients of NSF Grant Funds

Discretionary audits of NSF recipients are an essential part of OA's efforts to protect NSF funds. All statutorily mandated audits and most in-house performance audits focus on NSF's internal operations. Because the bulk of NSF's funding is provided to the academic community via grants and cooperative agreements, robust oversight of that funding is imperative. Audits of NSF recipients determine whether awardees comply with the financial and administrative terms and conditions of the awards. They address the highest risk areas at institutions, identifying systemic issues, recapturing misused funds, and making recommendations ensuring proper stewardship of federal funds going forward.

Historically the OIG has procured audits of NSF recipients to provide this much-needed audit coverage over the recipient community. The coverage of each of these audits at recipients ranged from \$9.8

⁴ www.nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19068/nsf19068.pdf

⁵ www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg20_1/nsf20_1.pdf

million to \$440.0 million from 2017 to 2021. Beyond the findings specific to the institutions being audited, these audits may identify evidence of behavior that could violate criminal or civil laws, which OA would refer to the Office of Investigations. Additionally, these audits may identify inconsistent treatment of similar charges across the academic community, which OA would share with NSF staff so they could address the inconsistencies. The impact of this work is not limited to the entities that are audited: NSF recipients carefully monitor the results of these audits to identify situations where they need to strengthen their own policies and procedures. OA typically uses independent public accounting firms to conduct these audits. OA will also conduct multiple desk review audits at small to medium sized institutions and continue to monitor the quality of Single Audits.

Investigative Impact and Strategic Focus

OIG's Office of Investigations (OI) conducts investigations of criminal, civil, and administrative wrongdoing related to NSF programs and operations, including all entities and individuals that receive NSF funds. OI also evaluates and investigates allegations of research misconduct—data fabrication, data falsification, and plagiarism—related to NSF-funded research, and investigates allegations of whistleblower retaliation. OI's vigilance ensures that those who seek or receive NSF funds to conduct research are held accountable and serves as a meaningful deterrent to grant fraud, research misconduct, and other wrongdoing.

OI opens investigations based upon consideration of OIG's strategic goals, NSF Management Challenges, the seriousness and magnitude of the offense, the significance of programmatic vulnerability, and the high-risk status of the program or institution. From FY 2017 through FY 2021, OI's investigative oversight of NSF's multi-billion-dollar award portfolio included 645 investigations spanning 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as Puerto Rico and Antarctica. OIG investigations—civil, criminal, and administrative—led to financial recoveries to the federal government of more than \$40 million during this period. Investigators also helped protect NSF research funds through 47 debarments of individuals and entities, 14 voluntary exclusions of individuals, 22 award suspensions, and 17 award terminations. More than 290 other administrative actions, such as reprimands; directed remedial training, certifications, and assurances in communications with NSF; and prohibitions from serving as an NSF reviewer, advisor, or consultant, have also resulted from OI work during this time. Investigative staff also worked with NSF to remedy numerous administrative practices and procedures that insufficiently protected the integrity of NSF funding processes.

Research Security Plan Investigations

OI continues to be a leader in the response to the theft of U.S. federally funded research and development by foreign states who use "talent plans" to exploit the openness of American universities and the federal research enterprise. In FY 2018, OI initiated its first criminal investigations focused on potential fraudulent application for and misuse of NSF funding by members of foreign talent plans. The volume and complexity of such investigations has steadily increased through FY 2021. These complicated investigations now account for over half of OI's workload.

Although China is not the only foreign government exploiting the openness of American universities, many of our research security investigations concern Chinese talent plans. OI has confronted this national security threat in several ways. In addition to dedicating a significant portion of investigative resources to these investigations, in FY 2019 OI hired an analyst to perform immediate, onsite

translation of Chinese documents. Within one month the analyst saved OIG more than the FTE salary in translation costs. The addition of this FTE has been a force multiplier; knowledge of the cases and ability to quickly bring matters to the attention of the investigators saved months of investigative time and greatly increased investigation efficiency. OI has also adopted new analytical tools to enhance efficiencies in research and data correlation efforts. OI's investigative work on these cases has resulted in award suspensions and terminations, recoveries of NSF funds, and many referrals to the U.S. Attorney's Office for prosecution.

In addition to conducting research security investigations, OI also:

- Founded and now serves as co-leader of a Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Working Group, which informs and assists investigative colleagues with threat identification, case predication, and best practices in conducting research security investigations.
- Collaborates with the FBI and other investigative partners to conduct outreach to internal and external stakeholders (e.g., grantees, institutions) to explain the risks posed by talent plan membership.
- Conducts outreach and provides education to NSF, which has resulted in the issuance of new or amended agency advisories and policies to address the threat, including an express prohibition of talent plan members serving as federal employees or Intergovernmental Personal Act (IPA) rotators, requiring IPA rotators to be U.S. citizens, and increasing disclosure requirements for researchers seeking NSF funding.
- Supports the operation of a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) at NSF to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of research security investigations by facilitating essential communication and coordination with investigative partners across the government.

SBIR/STTR Investigations

Since 2010, OI has conducted more than 150 investigations related to the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. With NSF's total active SBIR/STTR awards now approximately \$590.0 million, protecting SBIR/STTR funds from fraud and abuse remains a significant concern for OI. OI has successfully partnered with NSF program managers to improve SBIR/STTR processes and procedures to reduce the opportunity for fraud to occur. OI also conducts SBIR/STTR-related outreach at NSF awardee workshops, which provides guidance to the small business community on how to properly handle federal funds and the consequences of not following the rules. In addition, OI has led an OIG community working group focused on fraud in these programs to share best practices and lessons learned. OI's efforts have produced significant programmatic improvements and enhanced understanding throughout the research community. As a result, there has been a substantial decrease in the number of allegations, investigations, prosecutions, and recoveries relating to SBIR/STTR. This great success in identifying and resolving a significant threat to federal research funding provides a model for our posture towards research security investigations and other emerging threats.

Support Offices' Actions and Impacts

Office of Management

OIG's Office of Management (OM) is responsible for directing OIG's financial management, procurement, and administrative functions, as well as managing the OIG Hotline operation. Working in partnership with the other OIG divisions, OM guides the strategic vision of the OIG and ensures that all operational needs are met. Critical functional areas include:

Human Capital. Having a strong human capital strategy is vital to the success of any organization. OIG's competitive advantage has long been its highly skilled staff. Expediting the onboarding process, finding ways to improve employee retention, developing leaders from within, and providing specialized training are all OM priorities. Recent adoption of a fully automated Performance Management system has allowed supervisors to spend less time on administrative tasks and more on providing direct guidance to their employees.

Information Technology. OM strives for continuous process improvement. Investment in IT plays a critical part in achieving that goal. From providing recommendations to senior management on modernization to protecting OIG information systems and data to handling day-to-day hardware and software issues, OM supports all aspects of IT for OIG.

Data Analytics. Every year, the amount of data that is received is exponentially growing and being able to analyze it efficiently is a core component of OIG's ability to provide effective oversight. To that end, OM employs an in-house forensic accountant to assist OI in managing the large amounts of information that investigators receive through subpoenas and other means. Moreover, OM utilizes data analytics to streamline internal processes such as procurement oversight and budget execution. These applications yield great efficiency and allow OIG management to make more informed decisions.

Office of Counsel

The Office of Counsel (OC) consists of the Counsel to the IG and two assistant counsels. It provides comprehensive legal advice and critical analysis to the IG and all OIG offices, including legal review of externally issued OIG work products and correspondence. OC handles a myriad of subject areas, including audit-related support, ethics, appropriations law, contract law, information disclosure, privacy, federal personnel law, and IG Act authorities. OC also supports the larger IG community through active participation in CIGIE projects and committees. On average, OC handles about 250 actions per year, including legal sufficiency reviews of reports and other externally focused documents, proposed procurements; Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests; and legal opinions on various matters. OC attorneys also participate in key meetings and decisions, conduct training, and publish legal updates. This level of involvement enables the office to identify and address potential legal issues and risk areas before they mature.

Immediate Office

The Inspector General's immediate office includes the Chief of Staff. The Chief of Staff handles all matters relating to external affairs, including congressional relations and media contacts.

Government-wide Impact

Though small relative to many other OIGs, NSF OIG continues to make significant contributions to the Inspector General community and the government at large. For example:

- NSF's Inspector General began serving as the Chair of the Council of the Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency in January 2021, having served as the vice chair of CIGIE since 2015.
- NSF OIG has conducted outreach to the federal IG community, provided training to other investigative agencies, and taken the lead to establish and run four IG community working groups to:
 - Prevent fraud within the SBIR/STTR programs;

- Increase the use of government-wide suspension and debarment as tools to deter and reduce instances of fraud, waste, and abuse;
- Foster the next generation of senior investigative leaders within the IG community; and
- Address emerging threats to U.S. national security through efforts by foreign governments to illegally obtain intellectual property and other research.

Financial Discussion

Office of Inspector General
Personnel Compensation and Benefits and General Operating Expenses
(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 (TBD)	FY 2023 Request	Change over FY 2021 Actuals	
				Amount	Percent
Personnel Compensation & Benefits ¹	\$14,311	-	\$20,249	\$5,939	41.5%
Travel & Transportation of Persons ²	11	-	270	259	2418.4%
Advisory & Assistance Services ³	2,322	-	1,976	-347	-14.9%
Rent ⁴	326	-	-	-326	-100.0%
Information Technology	178	-	205	27	15.3%
Communications, Supplies, Equipment, and Other Services	464	-	693	229	49.5%
<i>Training</i>	269	-	255	-14	-5.4%
<i>Other</i> ⁵	137	-	354	217	159.2%
<i>CIGIE Assessment</i> ⁶	58	-	84	26	45.9%
Total	\$17,611	-	\$23,393	\$5,782	32.8%
Full-Time Equivalents	68	79	93	25	36.8%

¹ FY 2023 includes the addition of 25 FTE over FY 2021 (or 14 FTE over FY 2022), an anticipated 4.6 percent COLA, and expected within grade increases.

² OIG anticipates travel will return to pre-pandemic levels by FY 2023.

³ This line includes the costs of the annual financial statements audit and the outsourcing of contracting services.

⁴ In FY 2021, OIG closed a field office in Denver, CO.

⁵ Other Services includes the cost for Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF), which began construction in FY 2022.

⁶ In FY 2023, the CIGIE assessment is expected to increase from 0.33% to 0.36% of OIG's appropriation.

FY 2023 Budget Request

Our FY 2023 Budget Request represents a 32.8 percent increase over the FY 2021 Actual. This increase will ensure the continuation of robust oversight of NSF's programs and activities as well as the expansion of our efforts in multiple high-risk and emerging areas of concern.

Specific Impact on the Office of Audits

OA would be able to increase staff by five FTE to expand staffing for oversight of high-risk areas:

- Two auditors to conduct proactive audits, including ones focusing on controls which can prevent talent plan members from engaging in fraudulent or other criminal activity. This area will require continual auditing to identify and respond to the evolving approaches used by adversaries.
- One additional certified information systems auditor to enhance OIG's ability to respond to the complexities of ever-evolving IT systems and the risks posed by increasing reliance on those systems to provide accurate and timely information to decision makers. This need will continue to increase as NSF implements the major AIMS project, which includes significant changes to the USAP IT network.

- Two additional auditors to conduct internal reviews of NSF programs in the high-risk areas identified, including AIMS, public-private partnerships, the move to a hybrid NSF workforce, and expansion of NSF funding to institutions with less grant experience to reach the “missing millions”.⁶

OA would have sufficient funds to procure external audits focused on critical issues affecting NSF and its recipients. Among other things, OIG could dedicate resources to outreach and oversight of smaller recipients and others with less experience managing federal awards. Interaction with these types of organizations allows NSF OIG to share lessons learned and best practices through presentations to institutions and research administration communities of practice and capstone reports that help organizations identify ways to reduce administrative burden and effectively and appropriately manage federal funds. In addition to enhancing OIG’s staff audit capability, this funding level allows OIG the critical flexibility to extend its oversight of NSF programs and awards.

Funding at this level would ensure that OA staff will be able to perform essential onsite fieldwork at auditees across the U.S. and NSF facilities in Antarctica. Given the significant revisions the pandemic caused to NSF’s plans for infrastructure improvements to NSF’s facilities in Antarctica, there is a heightened need for OIG to independently review plans and implementation there in order to provide independent insights to NSF, Congress, and taxpayers.

OIG will also maintain the current level of contractor support for audits of NSF’s annual financial statements and IT security and have flexibility if new statutory mandates come into being.

Specific Impact on the Office of Investigations

OI would be able to increase staff by six FTE:

- Three criminal investigators: one senior investigator to address planning, policy, and proactive initiatives; and two mid-level investigators to conduct increasingly complex research security investigations as well as essential proactive reviews of higher-risk programs and operations.
- Two investigative attorneys to provide essential legal support during investigations, resulting in additional referrals to DOJ for civil and criminal prosecution, increased expertise in whistleblower protection and retaliation claims, and more robust investigation of the impact of foreign influence on the U.S. research enterprise. In addition, these investigative attorneys will reduce the number of cases to which the head of the investigative legal team is assigned, resulting in greater and more effective management of this critical staff section.
- One junior general investigator/analyst to provide critical investigative and administrative support and assistance to all of the units within OI.

Staffing at this level will provide for expanded oversight of current NSF programs and operations and help reduce per-agent caseloads to manageable levels. It will also allow OI to address the increasing number of research security investigations, which have grown dramatically and now account for more than 50 percent of investigative work. It will allow OI to engage in proactive efforts designed to uncover significant wrongdoing as well as the identification and resolution of systemic weaknesses in NSF programs. Return to this critical mission will enhance OI’s ability to assess and address a wide range

⁶ NSF leadership and the National Science Board define “missing millions” as those who are yet to be engaged for the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce so that it reflects the racial, ethnic, and gender representation in the general population.

of high-risk programs and recipients of NSF funds. This staffing level also enables OI to conduct critical outreach to the research community that serves the interests of NSF and the U.S. research enterprise.

Funding at this level will enable OIG investigative teams to conduct the full spectrum of investigative actions including interviews, execution of search warrants, and participation in trial activities. OI will also be able to support the training and professional development necessary to recruit, build, and retain a professional staff, including training necessary for responsible succession planning.

Specific Impacts on the Office of Management and Office of Counsel

OM will have the ability to ensure timely refresh of aging IT equipment, renewal of software licenses, and invest in new technologies and platforms as they become available. OM will continue to invest in new applications, particularly in the areas of analytics, automation, and presentation, that increase efficiency and reduce time spent by managers on administrative tasks. OM will also be able to expand the use of collaborative workspace tools as the need for shared information grows.

OM and OC would hire an additional three FTEs as follows:

- One data analyst/IT specialist to increase the knowledge base and skillsets within OM to support the growing use of data analytics, sophisticated software tools, and increasingly complex applications, and the demand for timely evaluation of emerging technologies as they become available.
- One human resource specialist/management analyst to provide targeted support for the rising number of personnel actions stemming from high attrition rates and the growing size and complexity of the OIG workforce.
- One senior attorney in the Office of Counsel to provide critical legal support to the OIG, including: developing a Privacy Act System of Records Notice that would allow OA to gather and analyze personal data (e.g., to support oversight in the research security area or to examine diversity of merit review panels); undertaking comprehensive research projects and draft papers that shed light on ambiguous, but important, oversight topics; mitigating legal risks across OIG activities through sustained and more frequent proactive measures (training, regular legal updates, greater participation in key meetings); and ensuring transparency of OIG information by reducing processing times for responses to FOIA requests.

Inspector General Reform Act Statement

Section 6(g)(1) of the IG Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 3, was amended by the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-409) to require a summary statement concerning OIG's annual budget request.

In accordance with this, OIG submits the following summary:

- NSF OIG's FY 2023 Budget Request is \$23.39 million.
- The portion for training is \$255,000.
- The portion for operation of the CIGIE is \$84,000.⁷

The portion of the FY 2023 Budget Request for staff training is expected to suffice for all training needs in FY 2023.

⁷ This is an estimate of CIGIE's annual membership assessment, which is tied to each member OIG's annual appropriation.