

**U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Inspector General
Office of Audit**

BRIEFLY...

Highlights of report number 18-13-004-10-105, issued to the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health.

WHY READ THE REPORT

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) was passed to preserve and create jobs, promote economic recovery, and assist those most impacted by the recession. The Recovery Act provided approximately \$80 million to the Department of Labor (DOL) for Departmental Management (DM) funds. Of this, DOL transferred approximately \$13.6 million to its Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for enhanced inspection and enforcement activities.

The inspection and enforcement programs are central activities of OSHA's core mission, which is to ensure a safe and healthy workplace for every working man and woman in the nation. OSHA had until September 30, 2011 to obligate these funds.

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

We conducted a performance audit of the use of Recovery Act funds provided to and administered by OSHA. The audit objectives were to answer the following questions:

- (1) How did OSHA spend Recovery Act funds and did it achieve its objectives for increased compliance assistance, construction data, and State Plan state enforcement activities?
- (2) Did OSHA achieve its objective, as described in its Recovery Act Plan, to conduct additional inspections and enforcement activities?

READ THE FULL REPORT

To view the report, including the scope, methodology, and full agency response, go to:

<http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2013/18-13-004-10-105.pdf>.

July 2013

Recovery Act: OSHA Activities Under the Recovery Act

WHAT OIG FOUND

OSHA obligated \$7.7 million under the Department of Labor's Recovery Act and disbursed \$7.2 million of the funds on Recovery Act related activities. OSHA did not obligate the remaining \$5.9 million in Recovery Act funds.

OSHA obligated \$2.2 million in funding, and disbursed \$1.6 million of these funds for contracts and orders. Of this, \$0.6 million was used to collect injury and illness data from approximately 20,000 high-risk designated construction firms. OSHA could not provide evidence the additional data was used to target 200 additional inspections as identified in the OSHA Recovery Act Plan.

OSHA made \$3.7 million available to State Plan states to increase inspection and enforcement activities at Recovery Act-funded projects. OSHA disbursed \$1.2 million to 7 of the 27 State Plan states.

OSHA obligated and disbursed \$4.3 million for salaries and expenses related to federal Recovery Act enforcement activities. Recovery Act coded data in OSHA's information databases show OSHA exceeded its goal to increase federal Recovery Act inspections for FYs 2009, 2010, and 2011. However, 21 percent of the inspections sampled during this audit did not contain documentation to support such coding.

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

We recommended the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health: 1) develop a framework for implementing temporarily-funded inspection programs; and 2) identify and record the source of an inspection in its information databases.

The Assistant Secretary accepted our recommendations and agreed to develop a framework for implementing the recommendations.