



OFFICE of
INSPECTOR GENERAL
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

November 19, 2024

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Senator Grassley,

I write to respond to your November 5, 2024 letter requesting information about how the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) uses Federal funding to settle Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) complaints of sexual harassment.

In the past five years, OIG received 10 formal complaints, none of which involved an element of sexual harassment. Accordingly, OIG made no payments to settle such complaints subject to the No FEAR Act, and had no requirement to reimburse the Judgment Fund. Further, OIG retained no outside counsel or private law firms for sexual harassment claims against our employees. Finally, OIG executed no settlements with a nondisclosure agreement without the required anti-gag whistleblower provision and had no sexual harassment investigations lasting longer than 180 days.

OIG relies in part on HUD's EEO processes, like many other Offices of Inspector General. We share your interest in the timely processing of EEO complaints, as their timely processing is an essential element of an effective EEO program. In prior status reports about its EEO program, HUD identified timeliness in processing complaints as a deficiency. My office recently completed an evaluation of HUD's handling of its EEO formal complaints process from fiscal years 2017 to 2023. Our evaluation found among other things, that HUD improved timeliness in investigating formal EEO complaints. However, HUD did not improve the timeliness of issuing its final agency decisions, which is due in large part to a lack of sufficient staff to handle the EEO docket. The full report is available at <https://www.hudoig.gov/library/audits-evaluations>.

My team and I are available to further discuss this matter or provide additional information. Should additional information be needed, please contact Chris Fontanesi, Acting Chief of Staff, at cfontanesi@hudoig.gov.

Sincerely,

Rae Oliver Davis
Inspector General