

**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL (OIG)****\$28,460,000**

The Appropriations Act that funds the National Science Foundation contains a separate appropriation for NSF's Office of Inspector General (OIG). Accordingly, this FY 2025 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 2025 Budget Request for the Office of Inspector General is \$28.46 million, an increase of \$5.07 million over the FY 2023 Appropriation of \$23.39 million.

<b>OIG Funding</b>					
(Dollars in Millions)					
	FY 2023 Base Plan	FY 2024 (TBD)	FY 2025 Request	Change over	
				FY 2023 Base Plan Amount	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23.39</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$28.46</b>	<b>\$5.07</b>	<b>21.7%</b>
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	93	-	102	9	9.7%

**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 investigators, auditors, attorneys, scientists, management analysts, data analysts, and information technology (IT) specialists. OIG's FY 2023 appropriation was just 0.24 percent of NSF's nearly \$9.90 billion in funding and just 0.06 percent of its approximately \$38.3 billion portfolio of active awards, yet OIG provides significant return on investment and serves as an invaluable safeguard against fraud, waste, abuse, and whistleblower reprisal.

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 OIG Immediate Office. Highlights of the OIG's operational impact and FY 2025 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, \$28,460,000, of which \$400,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026.

**Office of Inspector General  
FY 2025 Summary Statement**

(Dollars in Millions)

	Estimate/ Request	Unobligated Balance Available Start of Year	Unobligated Balance Available End of Year	Adjustments to Prior Year Accounts	Obligations Actual/ Estimates
FY 2023 Appropriation	\$23.39	\$0.40	-\$0.40	-\$0.11	\$23.28
FY 2024 (TBD)	-	-	-	-	-
FY 2025 Request	28.46	-	-	-	28.46
\$ Change from FY 2023 Appropriation					\$5.07
% Change from FY 2023 Appropriation					21.7%

Totals exclude reimbursable amounts.

**Explanation of Carryover**

Within the OIG two-year account, \$399,158 was carried over into FY 2024.

Office of Inspector General

- Amount: \$399,158
- Purpose: Funds are expected to be used for (1) travel expenses to Antarctica, because the austral summer crosses fiscal years, to address allegations of sexual assault and stalking, and conduct risk-based audits of Antarctic operations; and (2) to procure performance audit services. The selection of awards and institutions to be audited requires careful preparation and is subject to changing circumstances and new information that may require additional time to process.
- Obligation: Anticipated FY 2024 Quarters 1, 3 and 4

**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 and operations. These audits help ensure that financial, administrative, and programmatic activities are conducted economically, effectively, and in compliance with applicable regulations.

From FY 2019 through FY 2023, OIG audited approximately \$9.80 billion in NSF funding in 34 states and Washington, D.C. These audits resulted in 127 audit and other engagement reports containing a total of \$13.0 million in questioned costs and 1,099 recommendations to recover misspent funds and improve awardee and NSF operations. In addition, OIG issued 414 desk reviews of federally required single audits for which NSF was the cognizant or oversight agency.

From October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, OA identified nearly \$700,000 in questioned costs and made 127 recommendations to strengthen program and grant operations. As a result of OIG audits, NSF recouped misspent funds and required award recipients to improve their management of NSF awards to prevent future misuse of taxpayer money. NSF also took other corrective actions in response to recent audits. For example, NSF developed an outreach webinar series for its Graduate Research Fellowship Program to help institution officials better manage their awards and help fellows to understand their responsibilities. To improve accuracy of IPA salary calculations, NSF now requires institutions to support IPA salaries and NSF human resource specialists to complete salary calculation

worksheets. To improve IT security, NSF implemented a shared service with the Department of Justice to ensure proper incident response monitoring within the USAP IT environment and strengthened controls over international telework. NSF improved oversight of its Purchase Card Program through additional data analytics and updated training and policies. Further, NSF's Chief Officer for Research Facilities established an agency-level requirement for meetings with Integrated Project Teams for each major facility in construction twice per calendar year, and for each major facility in operations once per calendar year.

#### Areas of Risk for Potential Audit Coverage in FY 2025

Much of OIG's FY 2025 audit work is statutorily required, including the annual financial statement audit, the annual audit of NSF's information security program as required by the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014, the audit of NSF's compliance with the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019, the periodic purchase card risk assessment required by the Government Charge Card Abuse Prevention Act of 2012, and the triennial Sunshine Act compliance risk assessment required by the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022. 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 2025, the current high-risk areas include:

#### *NSF's Processes for the Re-competition of the Antarctic Support Contract*

On March 31, 2025, the current Antarctic Support Contract (ASC), for the United States Antarctic Program (USAP) expires. The ASC, NSF's largest contract, has a total obligated amount of more than \$2.3 billion and a period of performance of more than 13 years. OA will monitor the re-competition process for the new contract.

#### *Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP)*

On March 16, 2022, NSF announced the creation of the new Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) Directorate to support use-inspired R&D, to bring new technologies to market rapidly, and to address major economic and social challenges. OA will monitor TIP as it addresses the practical, logistical, and personnel challenges of establishing a new directorate, absorbing established programs, and creating controls over and managing its developing portfolio.

#### *Oversight of NSF's Regional Innovation Engines Program*

The flagship of NSF's new Technology, Innovation and Partnerships Directorate is the Regional Innovation Engines (Engines) program. The goal of Engines is to promote economic growth in regions that have not fully participated in past technological development. Each award recipient, known as an Engine, can receive up to \$160 million for up to 10 years (Type-2 awards) with a possible two years' funding for planning (Type-1 awards). OA plans to review policies and procedures for the operation and implementation of the Engines program, the award selection process; and early-stage management of the initial Type-2 awards.

#### *NSF's and Award Recipient Compliance with Research Security Requirements*

NSF's *Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) includes provisions and procedures to comply, in part, with research security requirements established by *National Security Presidential Memorandum 33* (NSPM-33). NSPM-33 strengthens protections of U.S. government-supported research and development against foreign government interference and exploitation while maintaining an open environment to foster research discoveries and innovation that benefit our nation and the world. In addition to guidance on conflicts of interest, the PAPPG now includes new

pre-award and post-award disclosure requirements. Further, NSPM-33 requires research organizations with more than \$50 million per year in total federal research funding to have a research security program. Additionally, the *CHIPS and Science Act of 2022* (CHIPS Act, Pub. L. No. 117-167) enacted additional research security requirements that are applicable to both NSF and its award recipients. OA plans to assess NSF's and award recipients' compliance with applicable research security requirements.

*Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program*

The Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program provides funding to institutions of higher education to provide scholarships, stipends, and fellowships to recruit and prepare science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors and professionals to become K-12 teachers. The program seeks to increase the number of K-12 teachers with strong STEM content knowledge who teach in high-need school districts. Recipients of Robert Noyce scholarships, stipends, and fellowships must teach for a specified number of years or repay the funding if teaching commitments are not met. This audit will assess NSF's and institutions' oversight of recipients' compliance with teaching commitments.

*NSF's Oversight of Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers (IUCRCs)*

In 1973, NSF created the Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers (IUCRC) program to foster long-term partnerships among industry, academia, and government. OA is auditing IUCRC awards at five universities, an initial step in assessing NSF's management of public-private partnerships. This audit will assess NSF's management and oversight of this significant program portfolio.

*NSF's Preparation for a Broader Use of Award Instruments*

Historically, NSF has been an assistance award agency with a long history of achieving its mission using grants and cooperative agreements. However, NSF is preparing to use a broader range of award instruments, particularly in its new Technology, Innovation and Partnerships directorate. This includes the use of contracts and other transaction agreements (OTAs), which are significantly different from grants and cooperative agreements. In particular, OTAs are subject to federal fiscal law, they are not subject to the Uniform Guidance and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), which governs grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts. As such, agencies must develop a rigorous control environment with comprehensive policies, processes, and procedures to ensure proper oversight and accountability of the use of OTAs. OA will assess the adequacy of NSF's plans for expanding its use of award instruments, including plans for increased staffing, training, and modernizing its contract management system to ensure compliance with the FAR and efficient and effective operations, and for building the capacity to successfully award, manage, and oversee OTAs.

*Audit of NSF's Compliance with Controlled Unclassified Information Requirements*

Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) is any information the government creates or possesses, or that an entity creates or possesses for or on behalf of the government, that is required to be protected under law, regulation, or government-wide policy. This information does not include classified information. Executive Order 13556's Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) Program standardizes how the executive branch processes unclassified information requiring protection. 32 CFR Part 2002 implements and standardized the CUI program for the executive branch agencies. NSF issued bulletin No. 21-02 to establish the NSF policy for its CUI program in accordance with EO 13556 and 32 CFR Part 2002. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) SP 800-172 specifies enhanced security of CUI associated with a high value asset or a critical program. NIST SP 800-172A provides federal

agencies (and non-federal organizations) with procedures to assess the requirements in NIST SP 800-172. Agencies are required to maintain CUI in a controlled environment with adequate controls to protect CUI from unauthorized access or disclosure. This audit will determine NSF's compliance with the CUI requirements.

#### 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 follow 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. These audits also help identify systemic issues resulting from NSF policy and/or guidance, leading to recommendations for NSF to make internal adjustments and improvements.

Historically, the OIG contracted with independent public accounting firms to provide much needed audit oversight of the recipient community. From FY 2019 through FY 2023, the coverage of each of these audits ranged from \$5.30 million to \$440.0 million. 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 will also conduct 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) investigates criminal, civil, and administrative wrongdoing related to NSF programs and operations, including allegations involving 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 research funds are held accountable and serves as a meaningful deterrent to grant fraud, research misconduct, and other wrongdoing.

OI opens investigations based upon a variety of considerations, including 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 2019 through FY 2023, OI investigations resulted in actual recoveries of more than \$37.0 million. During that period, OI conducted over 500 investigations in 49 states and the District of Columbia, as well as Puerto Rico and Antarctica; and further helped protect NSF research funds through 45 debarments of individuals and entities, eight voluntary exclusions of individuals, 28 award suspensions, 13 award terminations, and 36 research misconduct findings. More than 370 other

administrative actions were taken as a result of OI investigations. OI investigators also worked with NSF to remedy numerous administrative practices and procedures to help prevent fraud and continued its leadership and outreach efforts on research security.

#### Sexual Assault Investigations in Antarctica

In response to the *Sexual Assault/Harassment Prevention and Response (SAHPR) Report* that was commissioned by NSF and released in August 2022, OIG has expanded its investigative mission to provide a criminal investigative response capability for the United States Antarctic Program (USAP) in Antarctica. The SAHPR report indicated that sexual assault and stalking are problems in the USAP community. Sexual assault and stalking are criminal offenses. When they occur in Antarctica and are committed by or against a U.S. national, these offenses can be prosecuted under the Special Maritime and Territorial Jurisdiction, which includes “any place outside the jurisdiction of any nation with respect to an offense by or against a national of the United States.” Historically, NSF relied upon the USAP McMurdo Station Manager, authorized as a Special Deputy U.S. Marshal, to serve as the on-ice law enforcement official. After conferring at length with NSF, the U.S. Department of Justice, the FBI, and the U.S. Marshals Service, OI has committed to investigating allegations of sexual assault, stalking, and other crimes occurring in Antarctica.

During a site-visit to McMurdo Station in Antarctica in February 2023, OIG conducted outreach with USAP participants, the Special Deputy U.S. Marshal, on-site medical staff, and the local victim advocate. The interviews with USAP participants confirmed that sexual assault and stalking are ongoing problems in Antarctica. Following that site visit, OI received numerous allegations of sexual assault and stalking from current and former USAP participants and initiated investigations into these criminal offenses. OI recruited and hired an expert in the investigation of sexual assault to assist in building a robust program from the ground up. Current OI staff participated in training on investigating sexual assaults and on the conduct of victim-centered, trauma-informed interviews. In November 2023, The Assistant Inspector General for Investigations and her recently hired expert conducted a second site visit to McMurdo Station. Based on investigative assessments following both site visits, OI plans to recruit a team of three specially trained and highly skilled sexual assault criminal investigators to provide an onsite law enforcement presence at McMurdo Station. These experienced investigators will rotate to the ice for extended periods of temporary duty during austral summers and lead remote investigations on an as-needed basis during the winter season. These positions are essential to OIG’s ability to have an on-site capacity to respond to allegations of sexual assault, stalking, and retaliation in the USAP.

To ensure the success of this new investigative mission, OI and NSF’s Office of Polar Programs and Office of the Director formed a Coordination Group on Law Enforcement in Antarctica. The group’s charter is to determine an appropriate and feasible law enforcement posture and develop a plan for the longer-term posture. Further, OI has shared its efforts with the federal investigative community, leading to the establishment of a CIGIE Sexual Assault Special Agent Level Working Group.

#### Investigative Action on Research Security Threats

OI continues to be a leader in the response to the theft of U.S. federally funded research and development by foreign states that 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 complexity of these investigations has steadily increased as malicious foreign governments have

taken steps to obfuscate their practices to make identification, investigation, and prosecution of such conduct more difficult. Such investigations continue to account for approximately one-third of OI's workload. To meet the many challenges of such investigations, OI has 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 continues to deliver robust outreach and training to its stakeholders throughout the research enterprise and among our investigative partners. Specifically, OI

- 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, the requirement that IPA rotators be U.S. citizens, and increased disclosure requirements for researchers seeking NSF funding.
- Supports the operation of a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility at NSF to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of research security investigations by facilitating essential communication and coordination with investigative partners across the government.

#### Investigative action on SBIR/STTR Program Risks

OI has successfully partnered with NSF program managers to greatly improve Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) processes and procedures to reduce the opportunity for fraud to occur. OI also contributes to 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.

OI has also 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 NSF's SBIR/STTR programs. This great success in identifying and resolving a significant threat to federal research funding has provided a model for our posture towards research security investigations and other emerging threats. Nevertheless, protecting NSF's nearly \$600 million portfolio of active SBIR/STTR awards from fraud and abuse remains a significant concern, especially since the size of that portfolio continues to increase.

#### Investigative response to the new NSF Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP).

As noted earlier in this document, in FY 2022 NSF established a new TIP directorate to provide further innovation in emerging technologies and more broadly engage equity holders nationwide. The CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 authorized the directorate. This significant expansion of the NSF mission and initiatives represents a similarly significant increase in the need for investigative oversight to protect

federal dollars from fraud and other misconduct. OI has conducted outreach to, and will continue to closely monitor developments in, this new directorate to identify emerging risks.

## **Support Offices' Actions and Impacts**

### Office of Management

OIG's Office of Management (OM) directs OIG's human resources, information technology, financial management, procurement, and administrative functions. Working in partnership with the other OIG offices, 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*

A robust data analytics capacity 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 uses data analytics to streamline internal processes such as procurement oversight and budget execution. These applications yield great efficiency, especially in the new hybrid environment, and allow OIG management to make more informed decisions. Lastly, the Compliance Analytics Team (CAT) which was embedded in, and supported, the Office of Audits, has been realigned within the Office of Management. This provides additional and streamlined data analytics capabilities across all OIG components, which reduces administrative burden and increases synergy across teams.

### Office of Counsel

The Office of Counsel (OC) consists of the Counsel to the IG and two assistant counsels. OC 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 served as the Chair of the Council of the Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) from January 2021 to December 2022, and vice chair from 2015 through 2020. She currently serves as a member of CIGIE's Executive Committee.
- 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 2023 Base Plan	FY 2024 (TBD)	FY 2025 Request	Change over	
				FY 2023 Base Plan Amount	Percent
Personnel Compensation & Benefits <sup>1</sup>	\$17,017	-	\$23,234	\$6,217	36.5%
Travel & Transportation of Persons	580	-	650	70	12.1%
Advisory & Assistance Services <sup>2</sup>	4,547	-	3,062	-1,485	-32.7%
Information Technology	425	-	490	65	15.3%
Communications, Supplies, Equipment, and Other Services	824	-	1,024	200	24.3%
<i>Training</i>	<i>540</i>	-	<i>480</i>	<i>-60</i>	<i>-11.1%</i>
<i>Other</i> <sup>3</sup>	<i>200</i>	-	<i>430</i>	<i>230</i>	<i>115.0%</i>
<i>CIGIE Assessment</i> <sup>4</sup>	<i>84</i>	-	<i>114</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>35.7%</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,393</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$28,460</b>	<b>\$5,067</b>	<b>21.7%</b>
Full-Time Equivalents	93	-	102	9	9.7%

<sup>1</sup> FY 2025 PC&B includes base salary costs and anticipated within grade and promotion increases.

<sup>2</sup> This includes the mandated annual financial statement audit and associated evaluations, and other support services.

<sup>3</sup> Starting in FY 2025, this line includes the operations cost for the Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF).

<sup>4</sup> In FY 2024, the CIGIE assessment increased from 0.36% to 0.40% of OIG's appropriation.

## **FY 2025 Budget Request**

The FY 2025 Budget Request for NSF OIG represents a 21.7 percent increase over the FY 2023 Base Plan level. This increase will help OIG achieve critical audit and investigative priorities, and fund vital contracts, travel, and training. Funding at this level would enable OIG to retain existing staff and support an additional three FTE. The focus for the three new staff will be primarily on the expansion of our law enforcement mission and oversight at the U.S. Antarctic program (USAP) stations. Specifically, OIG will hire **three criminal investigators** with specialized skills and experience to conduct sexual assault investigations, and a willingness to work away from home for extended periods in a remote and harsh location. To support deployment for a full summer season on the ice, which generally runs from October to February, OIG needs at least two teams of two experienced investigators. The first investigator was hired in late 2023 but the other three investigators need to be on board, trained and outfitted for full deployment in the summer season beginning in the fall of 2025.

## **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:

- FY 2025 Budget Request for NSF OIG is \$28.46 million.
- The portion for training is \$480,000.
- The portion for operation of the CIGIE is \$114,000.<sup>1</sup>

The portion of the FY 2025 Budget Request for staff training is expected to suffice for all training needs in FY 2025.

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<sup>1</sup> This is an estimate of CIGIE's annual membership assessment, which is tied to each member OIG's annual appropriation.