

out and maintains an internal quality assurance system.

E. The Office of Audits (OA) (S8C) provides audit policy direction for and conducts and oversees comprehensive audits of SSA programs, operations, grantees and contractors, following generally accepted Government auditing standards. It maintains an internal quality assurance system, including periodic quality assessment studies and quality control reviews, to provide reasonable assurance the applicable laws, regulations, policies, procedures, standards and other requirements are followed in all audit activities performed by, or on behalf of, SSA.

F. The Office of Evaluations and Inspections (OEI) (S8E) conducts inspections of SSA programs, operations and processes to identify vulnerabilities, to prevent and detect misconduct, and to promote economy, efficiency and effectiveness in SSA programs and operations. In support of its mission, the office carries out and maintains an internal quality assurance system. The system includes quality assessment studies and quality control reviews of OEI processes and products to ensure that policies and procedures are effective, are followed and are functioning as intended.

Subchapter S8B—Office of Investigations

S8B.00 Mission
S8B.10 Organization
S8B.20 Functions

Section S8B.00 *The Office of Investigations*—(Mission): The Office of Investigations (OI) conducts and coordinates investigative activity related to fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement in SSA programs and operations. This includes wrongdoing by applicants, grantees, or contractors, or by SSA employees in the performance of their official duties. It serves as OIG liaison to the Department of Justice on all matters relating to investigations of SSA programs and personnel, and reports for the Attorney General when the OIG has reason to believe Federal criminal law has been violated. OI works with other investigative agencies and organizations on special projects and assignments. In support of its mission, the office carries out and maintains an internal quality assurance system.

Section S8B.10 *The Office of Investigations*—(Organization): The Office of Investigations (S8B) under the leadership of the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, includes:

A. The Assistant Inspector General for Investigations (S8B).

B. The Immediate Office of the Assistant Inspector General (S8B).

Section S8B.20 *The Office of Investigations*—(Functions):

A. The Assistant Inspector General for Investigations (S8B) is directly responsible to the Inspector General for carrying out the OI mission and providing general supervision to the major components of OI.

B. The Immediate Office of the Assistant Inspector General (S8B) provides the Inspector General with staff assistance on the full range of his/her responsibilities. Coordinates quality assurance studies to assure that applicable laws, regulations, policies, procedures standards and other requirements are followed in all investigative activities performed by, or on behalf of, SSA.

1. Establishes investigative priorities, evaluates the progress of investigations and reports to the IG on the effectiveness of investigative efforts. Develops and implements investigative techniques, programs, guidelines and policies.

2. Provides investigative programmatic expertise and issues information on new programs, procedures, regulations and statutes.

3. Directs and coordinates the investigative field offices which conduct investigations of fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement and violations of standards of conduct and other investigative matters within the jurisdiction of the OIG.

4. Coordinates investigations with SSA operating and staff components, OIG counterparts and other investigative and law enforcement agencies.

5. Prepares and issues completed reports of investigations and ensures accuracy and compliance with guidelines and recommends appropriate debarment actions, administrative sanctions, civil money penalties and other civil action or prosecution under the law.

6. Identifies systemic and programmatic vulnerabilities in SSA's operations and makes recommendations for changes to the appropriate official.

7. Provides policy guidance and technical expertise to SSA on civil fraud laws and regulations, penalties, sanctions and other remedies.

8. Maintains liaison with the Department of Justice on the civil fraud aspects of SSA investigations.

9. Coordinates and/or helps investigate matters arising under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act, the Civil Monetary Penalties Law and Public Law 100-93.

10. Assists the Department of Justice to investigate and evaluate civil fraud lawsuits under provisions of the Federal False Claims Act and related statutes.

11. Leads outreach activities to State and local investigative agencies.

12. Provides pertinent information from SSA records to assist Federal, State and local investigative agencies to detect, investigate and prosecute fraud.

13. Manages SSA Hotline to receive complaints and allegations of fraud, waste and abuse, and to refer the information for investigation, audit, program review or other appropriate action. Coordinates with the GAO Hotline and hotlines from other agencies.

14. Maintains investigative files for OI headquarters and an automated data and management information system used by all OI managers and investigators.

15. Provides technical expertise on computer applications for investigations and coordinates and approves investigative computer matches with other agencies.

16. Develops general management policy for OI; coordinates general management processes; develops and issues instructional media on wrongdoing and on investigating and processing cases; plans, develops, implements; and evaluates all levels of employee training in OI.

17. Assists the IG in reviews of proposed legislation, regulations, policies and procedures to identify vulnerabilities and recommends modifications where appropriate. Reviews investigative files in response to Privacy and Freedom of Information Act requests.

Subchapter S8C—Office of Audits

S8C.00 Mission
S8C.10 Organization
S8C.20 Functions

Section S8C.00 *The Office of Audits*—(Mission): The Office of Audits (OA) provides policy direction for and conducts and oversees comprehensive audits of SSA programs, operations, grantees and contractors, following generally accepted Government auditing standards. It maintains an internal quality assurance system, including periodic quality assessment studies and quality control reviews, to provide reasonable assurance the applicable laws, regulations, policies, procedures, standards and other requirements are followed in all audit activities performed by, or on behalf of, SSA.

Section S8C.10 *The Office of Audits*—(Organization): The Office of Audits (S8C) under the leadership of the Assistant Inspector General for Audits, includes:

A. The Assistant Inspector General for Audits (S8C).