



ARRA REPORT BY THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL AND STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS

2009-08-0167

August 24, 2009

ARRA REVIEW OF FSSA ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM

Indiana Inspector General David O. Thomas, and State Agency Supervisor Michael Hoose and Patti Serbus of the Indiana State Board of Accounts, report as follows:

This report addresses an evaluation of the Elderly Nutrition Program (Title III) administered by the Division of Aging¹ of the Family and Social Services Agency (FSSA). This funding is through the Older Americans Act Senior Nutrition Program Stimulus Fund.

I

On February 17, 2009, the United States Government enacted the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act² (ARRA). The ARRA intends to provide a stimulus to the United States economy by providing \$787 billion in program funding and tax credits.³

¹ The FSSA Division of Aging is established in IC 12-9.1-1-1.

² 40 USC 1606.

³ Indiana is expected to receive \$4.3 billion in ARRA funds and perhaps more in competitive

The purpose of this report is to document an initial evaluation by the SBOA and OIG of the FSSA Elderly Nutrition Program with regard to ARRA compliance.

II

The FSSA Division of Aging in 2009 was provided \$1,945,401 in ARRA funds to be expended through June 30, 2010. Funds will be used to enhance the existing Senior Nutrition Program by providing additional seniors with congregate and home delivered meals.

III

A

Findings

From our initial review, we find that the program controls outlined in the

grand funds. It is the experience of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and State Board of Accounts (SBOA) that the expenditure of government funds may invite fraud and waste. The OIG's enabling statute states that the OIG "is responsible for addressing fraud, waste, abuse and wrongdoing in agencies." IC 4-2-7-2(b). The OIG is also mandated to "recommend policies and carry out other activities designed to deter, detect and eradicate fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement and misconduct in state government." IC 4-2-7-3(2). These duties include the authority to "initiate, supervise and coordinate" investigations, IC 4-2-7-3(1), to perform audits, IC 4-2-7-2(a), and to "prepare interpretive and educational materials and programs." IC 4-2-7-3(16). Immediately upon the OIG's creation in 2005, the SBOA provided assistance to the OIG. Many of the two agencies' missions are similar. In addition to the above OIG duties, the SBOA is charged to develop and publish "accounting and uniform compliance guidelines manuals" ("Manuals") to provide guidance to public entities, IC 5-11-1-24(a), to perform audits, IC 5-11-1-9, and to make written findings regarding violations of its Manuals or "any law". IC 5-11-5-1(a). Both the SBOA and OIG also review compliance with the Circulars issued by the State Budget Agency issued under IC 4-12-1-13(h). Following the above authorities and precedent, both the OIG and SBOA have and continue to confer, research and seek education regarding ARRA. Substantial guidance has been provided by the Indiana Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Older Americans Act Senior Nutrition Program Stimulus Fund spending plan approved by OMB or other related documentation are adequate to meet the respective federal ARRA and State OMB guidelines and requirements.

B

Recommendation

Accordingly, we offer no recommendations at this time, but advise FSSA employees to continue to apprise themselves of ARRA requirements and developments.

Dated this 24th day of August, 2009.



David O. Thomas, Inspector General