



CHAMPIONING BETTER GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

OSIG NEWS

Office of the State Inspector General • P.O. Box 1151 • Richmond, VA 23218

Maggie Sotos, Public Relations Officer
communications@osig.virginia.gov

For Immediate Release: August 15, 2024

OSIG ACHIEVES RARE DUAL ACCREDITATION

On July 27, 2024, the Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) officially earned accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). This newest accolade makes OSIG the first Inspector General office in the nation to achieve CALEA accreditation. Additionally, OSIG earned its first state-level law enforcement accreditation through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) in March of this year, giving it a rare dual accreditation status.

“This is a great accomplishment for the Commonwealth and for OSIG,” says State Inspector General Michael Westfall. “Dual accreditation speaks to the high standards of performance and professionalism Virginians should expect of us. Governor Youngkin’s Office has supported this multi-year venture, and we appreciate their support.”



(Left to right: State Inspector General Michael Westfall, Accreditation Manager Elizabeth Knudson, Chief Katrina Goodman, Forensic Analyst Charen Johnson, and Deputy Inspector General Corrine Louden)

OSIG oversees executive branch agencies in the Commonwealth, investigating instances of state fraud, waste, and abuse. A recent performance audit found \$51 million in potential costs savings in overtime pay throughout the Commonwealth. In June and July, criminal investigations conducted by the agency resulted in a state employee pleading guilty to embezzlement of more than \$16,000 in fraudulent unemployment benefits, and a former Associate Director at the Virginia Department of Health pleading guilty to embezzling \$4.1 million.

“Congratulations to OSIG on their dual accreditation,” said Governor Glenn Youngkin. “Virginians deserve the highest standards of performance from their government and OSIG is a prime example of what it means to be best-in-class.”

Initial accreditation is earned through a multi-year self-assessment phase and a meticulous site-based assessment of community engagement, policy, procedures, equipment, and facilities by CALEA assessors. The process takes an average of three years to complete; grant funding and executive prioritization allowed OSIG to accomplish the feat in two. Fewer than 120 law enforcement agencies in Virginia have earned VLEPSC accreditation, while only 37 have earned CALEA law enforcement accreditation on a national level.

The standards OSIG has met were created by the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), along with other law enforcement organizations and professionals. OSIG's dual accreditation status requires reassessment every one to four years (one for CALEA, four for VLEPSC). The agency plans to keep accreditation status in both categories for the foreseeable future.

###

Established in 2012, the Virginia Office of the State Inspector General manages the State Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Hotline; conducts administrative and criminal investigations and performance audits of state agencies; provides training and standards for the commonwealth's internal audit programs; and conducts inspections and reviews of Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services-run facilities and programs.