



Illinois Chapter Association of Inspectors General

Advancing Professionalism, Accountability & Integrity

Newsletter

Message from Illinois AIG Chapter Communications Committee

Nick Infusino, Assistant Inspector General, Chicago Board of Education Office of Inspector General

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Happy New Year, Chapter Members!

As we make our way through the first few weeks of 2025, the AIG Illinois Chapter is gearing up to provide members with outstanding training seminars, opportunities to meet and network with your IG peers, and informative monthly communications. This important work is spearheaded by the Illinois Chapter's Training, Communications, and (brand-new) Networking Committees, all of which are open to all Illinois Chapter members, even if they are not board members.

If you are interested in joining a committee, please reach out to the committee's chair:

- Training Committee - Cynthia Bryant
Cbryant@igchicago.org
- Networking Committee - Samantha Giacobbe
Samantha.Giacobbe@chicagoparkdistrict.com
- Communications Committee - Nick Infusino
Njinfusino@cpsioig.org

Besides committee participation, all chapter members are also welcome to attend the chapter's board meetings, which will take place on April 2, 2025; June 4, 2025; August 6, 2025; October 1, 2025; and December 4, 2025. Simply email Board President Kathryn Richards at krichards@thecha.org to be added to the Outlook calendar invite list.

Finally, keep an eye out for our upcoming training seminar survey, which will poll chapter members on what topics they are most interested in seeing presented at future training seminars.



CHA Inspector General Releases Fourth Quarter 2024 Report

The Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) released its 2024 fourth Quarter Report on January 15, 2025. Highlights of the OIG's work this quarter include the following:

Audit of Public Housing Capital Construction Change Orders and Supplemental Contracts - identified critical deficiencies in the CHA's oversight and management of capital construction activities. The OIG is hopeful that CHA leadership will use this audit as objective, independent evidence of the need for improved managerial oversight, internal controls, and quality assurance in the building operations department as well as an increased emphasis on compliance with CHA procurement policies.

Public Housing Rent Collection, Lease Enforcement, and Tracking of Pending Eviction Matters - identified a backlog of residents with significant past due rent balances but no eviction case filed. The backlog is due to a lack of coordination and communication between the PPMs, Portfolio Managers, and CHA's Office of General Counsel. Management acknowledged the findings and has identified a potential IT solution to improve coordination for effective lease enforcement.

Effective Tracking and Management of CHA Fleet Vehicles - found that employees were not accurately recorded in CHA's fleet vehicle GPS tracking software, and Vehicle Usage forms were often incomplete. Inaccurate records limit CHA's ability to hold employees accountable for misuse of CHA vehicles. Management responded that it would provide additional training to all relevant employees and was further exploring options for improved software solutions.

Five sustained administrative investigations - reported findings of misconduct by CHA employees, a contract employee, and program participants. Wherever possible, the OIG provides, not just disciplinary recommendations, but also programmatic recommendations to prevent such misconduct in the future and improve operations.

[Read more here](#)





[City of Chicago OIG Releases Fourth Quarter 2024 Report](#)

This quarterly report provides an overview of the operations of the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) from October 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

This quarter OIG reported 10 sustained administrative investigations in which OIG found serious misconduct by City actors. In 7 of those 10 cases, OIG recommended subjects either be terminated from their City jobs or designated ineligible for rehire by the City. The sustained administrative investigations reported this quarter include ones in which OIG found multiple members of the Chicago Fire Department falsified reports, made misrepresentations to the Chicago Police Department, and took other actions to provide what they called a "professional courtesy" to a Chicago Fire Department supervisor who was found slumped over the wheel of their vehicle. OIG found a Department of Finance employee who used their access to City systems to award themselves more than \$6,500 in unearned compensatory time. OIG found a Department of Streets and Sanitation Ward Superintendent who attempted to sell an illegal machine gun on City time using a City vehicle.

[Hear from Inspector General Witzburg on 2024 Fourth Quarter highlights](#)

[Read more here](#)

[Draft OIG Audit and Program Review 2025 Annual Plan](#)

The OIG Audit and Program Review (APR) section supports the OIG mission by conducting independent, objective analysis and evaluation of municipal programs and operations, issuing public reports, and making recommendations to strengthen and improve the delivery of public services.

Share Your Feedback: Help Shape OIG's Project Priorities for 2025.

The Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) has published two draft documents outlining details of proposed projects under consideration for 2025. We invite you to read the plans and [take the Community Prioritization Survey to provide your feedback](#).

[Read more here](#)

[Draft Public Safety Annual Outlook 2025](#)

The Public Safety section of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) works to improve the effectiveness, accountability, and transparency of the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and Chicago's police accountability agencies, and to transform the critical relationship between CPD and the communities it serves.

The Public Safety section does this by conducting independent and objective evaluations, inspections, and reviews of the operations of CPD, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability, and the Chicago Police Board.

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[Read more here](#)

Advisory Concerning Gifts Accepted on Behalf of the City

As a general rule, gifts accepted on behalf of the City must be reported to the Board of Ethics (BOE) and the City's comptroller, and those reports are publicly available. Pursuant to a long-running, unwritten arrangement dating back to the administration of Mayor Eugene Sawyer, gifts accepted by the Mayor's Office on behalf of the City were not reported in this way, but rather were to be logged in a book which would be available for public viewing on the Fifth Floor of City Hall.

OIG visited the Fifth Floor in a covert capacity and asked to see this logbook; that request was denied and undercover OIG personnel were directed to file a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the log. OIG did so, again in a covert capacity; the Mayor's Office failed to timely respond, constituting a denial of the FOIA request. Thereafter, OIG sent an official document request for the log, and received a spreadsheet detailing gifts accepted by the Mayor's Office on behalf of the City. The log identified many of those gifts—including Hugo Boss cufflinks; Givenchy, Gucci, and Kate Spade handbags; a personalized Mont Blanc pen; and size 14 men's shoes—as being stored in a "Gift Room," and others in the Mayor's personal office in City Hall. OIG subsequently visited the Fifth Floor to conduct an unannounced inspection of the Gift Room, and was denied access.

OIG recommended that the Mayor's Office comply with the generally applicable rules for public reporting of gifts accepted on behalf of the City, and that the Gift Room be made available for announced or unannounced inspection by OIG. In its response, the Mayor's Office indicates that it would allow OIG access to the Gift Room, but only with "a properly scheduled appointment." Their response further attaches a letter from BOE in which BOE "concur[s]" with OIG's recommendation on public reporting; the Mayor's Office says it will "work closely with [BOE] to transition to this new guidance."

[Read more here](#)

Recommendation to Reopen Chicago Police Department Misconduct Investigation 2020-0002558

Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) investigated allegations that a Chicago Police Department (CPD) member wore a balaclava bearing the Three Percenters insignia while on duty during a protest in the summer of 2020. The CPD member's display of the Three Percenters insignia was the subject of news coverage in June 2020, and a CPD spokesperson was quoted as saying of the case, "These symbols are not representative of the Department...Members are prohibited from participating in any political activity while on duty or when in uniform, including wearing or displaying political paraphernalia."

BIA conducted a preliminary investigation that relied on the opinion of a single source, that described the Three Percenters as "Red Blooded Americans," and stated that "the majority of law enforcement officers display the [Three Percenters] flag simply because they like the design, [and] not so much [for] what it represents." BIA administratively closed the case without a finding referring to CPD's directive U04-01, Uniform and Appearance Standards, Section XVII.(E), which permits members to wear protective balaclava.

Office of Inspector (OIG) recommended that BIA reopen the investigation to conduct any necessary additional investigation and analysis, including but not limited to determining whether a CPD member's on-duty display of the insignia of the Three Percenters constitutes a violation of CPD's rules and directives, including Rules 2, 3, and 12-Failure to wear the uniform as prescribed.

[Read more here](#)

Did you know that OIG has a Socioeconomic and City Data comparison dashboard?

The City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG) Socioeconomic and City Data Comparison dashboard allows you to compare U.S. Census data and City data from various sources by ward, by Community Area, and by Chicago Police Department (CPD) District.

[View the dashboard insight here](#)

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Chicago Board of Education, Office of Inspector General

On January 8, 2025, the Office of Inspector General for the Chicago Board of Education released its Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report, summarizing its investigations and other matters reported to the Chicago Board of Education between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. During this period, the OIG received 1,487 complaints of misconduct, waste, fraud, financial mismanagement, and adult-on-student sexual misconduct, resulting in 544 new investigations.

Highlights from the report include investigations of ongoing fraud and abuse of CPS family income disclosure forms; athletics oversight issues, including improper student-athlete recruitment and enrollment fraud at one high school as well as inadequate background screening processes for referees; improper volunteer outreach to CPS staff and students from a mayoral campaign; continuing JROTC automatic enrollment issues despite CPS reforms following a previous OIG report; and seven sexual abuse cases substantiated by the OIG's Sexual Allegations Unit.

[Read more here](#)



Office of the Inspector General Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

The Office of Inspector General for the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS OIG) issued its Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report on October 30, 2024. The report illustrates the HFS OIG's recent achievements, including work resulting in \$133 million in cost avoidance, \$9.3 million in dollars recovered, 317 opened cases, 57 criminal referrals, and 49 completed audits.

[Read more here](#)



Association of Inspectors General - Inspector General Institute – March 10-14, 2025, in Jacksonville, Florida

The Association of Inspectors General is now accepting applications for the 2025 AIG Certified Inspector General® Institute.

Course offerings include:

- Certified Inspector General®
- Certified Inspector General Investigator®
- Certified Inspector General Auditor®
- Certified Inspector General Inspector/Evaluator®
- Certified Inspector General Counsel® NEW!

The deadline to submit an application is Friday, February 14, 2025.

Visit AIG's website for more information, eligibility requirements, and to apply: [Inspector General Institute](#)



City of Chicago Office of the Inspector General

Technical Support Administrator

Chicago Board of Education Office of Inspector General

Assistant Inspector General (Sexual Allegations Unit)

Performance Analyst (Performance Analysis Unit)

Chicago Housing Authority Office of the Inspector General

Investigator

Chicago Park District Office of Inspector General

Investigator

City Colleges of Chicago Office of the Inspector General

Investigator III



ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS GENERAL

Advancing Professionalism, Accountability & Integrity

Maintaining Your AIG Professional Certification

Illinois chapter members: If you've recently earned a certification at one of the AIG's Inspector General Institutes, you may be wondering what you need to do to maintain it. Fortunately, maintaining your certification is easy! There are two basic requirements:

1. You must be a current **national** AIG member.
2. You must earn **40 continuing professional education (CPE)** credits every **2 years**.

National Membership

If you are not already a national AIG member, you can join [online](#). Annual national memberships are \$100 and run from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

Please note that if you are currently only a chapter member, you must also obtain a national membership—local chapter-only membership is insufficient to maintain your certification. The AIG offers a discount to members who purchase both national and chapter memberships at the same time. AIG chapters like Illinois's provide regular, in-depth training seminars, which can help certified members meet their CPE credit requirements, discussed below.

CPE Credit Requirement

To meet the AIG's CPE requirement, certified members must obtain 40 **relevant** hours of CPE credit every 2 years. Twelve of these 40 hours must directly relate to the certified member's job responsibilities (e.g., investigation, inspection, evaluation, reviews, audit, or legal counsel), the government environment, or the specific or unique environment in which the government entity that your office oversees operates.

So, what counts as "relevant" CPE hours?

In short, certified members can earn CPE credits by attending educational seminars and classes, passing certification examinations, authoring articles, giving oral presentations, serving as a board member for a professional organization, or participating in certain other relevant activities that meet the following basic criteria:

- Be a formal program of learning that contributes directly to the professional competence of the certified member.
- Clearly state program objectives, which specify the level of knowledge the participants should have attained, or the level of competence to be demonstrated upon completion of the program.
- Clearly state education or experience prerequisites, if appropriate for the program.
- Be developed by individuals who are qualified in the subject matter and instructional design.
- Provide current program content.
- Provide evidence of program completion or participation and the appropriate number of CPE hours earned (e.g., a certificate of completion).

The AIG's Professional Certification Board recognizes the following activities as meeting these criteria for credit towards the 40-hour CPE requirement:

- **Seminars, conferences, and meetings** provided by national, state, or local professional organizations such as AIG state chapters, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, the Institute of Internal Auditors, the Association of Government Accountants, ISACA, state bar associations, and other relevant educational programs provided by other professional organizations or societies. CPE credits will be recognized by the AIG that may additionally be recognized by these professional organizations (i.e. "double counted" credits are acceptable).
- **Formal in-house training programs** that meet the above educational program requirements.
- **Passing certification examinations** offered by other professional organizations with aligned missions such as the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, the Institute of Internal Auditors, the Association of Government Accountants, ISACA, state bar associations, and other relevant educational programs provided by professional organizations or societies. Generally, passing such certification examinations will support the award of 10 CPE during a two-year period.
- **Authoring or contributing to publications**, including books, research papers, and professional periodicals, so long as the contribution pertains to relevant subject areas. Members can earn up to 10 CPE credits per year at a rate of 1 CPE per 200 published words during a two-year reporting period.
- **Delivering oral presentations** (e.g., at institutes, seminars, conferences, university or other academic settings, or in-house training) so long as their contributions pertain to relevant subject areas.

Certified members may earn one CPE hour for each 50 minutes of presentation time, plus credit for preparation time equivalent to three times the presentation time. For example, for delivering a 50-minute presentation, a certified individual would earn 4 CPE hours (1 CPE hour for the presentation and 3 CPE hours for preparation). Subsequent presentations of the same material may be reported as presentation time only. Maximum CPE reportable in this category annually is 10 during a two-year period.

- **Participating as a board member in a professional organization** such as the AIG or a chapter of the AIG, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, the Institute of Internal Auditors, the Association of Government Accountants, ISACA,

and other relevant industry-specific professional organizations. Maximum CPE reportable in this category annually is 10 during a two-year period.

- **Participating in internal office meetings when a structured educational programs with learning objectives are presented** (e.g. that portion of a meeting when a structured educational program is used to teach certified members how professional standards apply to their work). Maximum CPE reportable in this category annually is 5 during a two-year period.
- **Serving on AIG Peer Reviews.** Maximum CPE reportable in this category annually is 10 during a two-year period.

Please note that the AIG **does not** issue CPE certificates itself for these qualifying activities. Rather, certified members should retain proof of their participation in activities (e.g., formal in-house training syllabus, copy of published article, agenda for participation as an instructor at an AIG institute, certificates of completion issued by the program/course host, etc.), keep track of their CPE hours as they earn them, and then claim the number of allowable CPE hours they've earned when it is time to certify their CPE credits with the AIG.

Reporting your CPE Credits

When certified members renew their national membership, they will receive an email link to an online form where they can self-certify that they've satisfied the 40-hour CPE requirement for the preceding two-year period. Certified members do not need to submit proof of their CPE hours, but the AIG does audit up to 10% of certified memberships each year to ensure that the required CPE credits have been earned.

Please note that members must self-certify **every year**, even though the 40-hour requirement is for a two-year period. For example, after you renew your membership for 2024-25, you will subsequently be sent an email asking you to attest to the fact that you have met the CPE requirement. To be able to affirmatively attest that you have satisfied this requirement, you will have had to have earned a total of 40 CPEs within your two-year reporting period. The AIG's Professional Certification Board and Peer Review Teams will accept whatever annual training policy an OIG utilizes (e.g. calendar years, fiscal year). If the certified member's office does not have a training policy or the member is not in an OIG, the two-year reporting period will be from July 1 through June 30. Thus, as a matter of planning, you should make sure that you earn 40 CPE credits every two years.

Additional information regarding maintaining your AIG certification is available on the AIG's [website](#). Members can also contact Elizabeth Foreman at eforeman@inspectorsgeneral.org if they have questions or concerns.



<http://inspectorsgeneral.org/illinois/>