



OKLAHOMA
Human Services

Office of the Director
2400 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
<https://oklahoma.gov/okdhs.html>

October 30, 2024

Via Email and Hand delivery

The Honorable Cindy Byrd
Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Rm. 123
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Auditor Byrd,

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services ("OKDHS") Office of Inspector General has conducted an initial review of 10 grantees who received funding through the Child Care Desert Startup Grant ("program"). This initial review revealed numerous potentially disallowable expenditures. A summary of the review was presented to members of your staff and staff from the Office of the Attorney General at a meeting last month.

The program was intended to increase accessibility to quality child care in areas of significant need throughout Oklahoma. That was, and remains, a worthy goal. Unfortunately, the program, as designed and implemented, may not have completely protected against abuse, fraud and self-dealing.

Accordingly, pursuant to 74 O.S. § 227.8, I am requesting the Oklahoma Auditor and Inspector conduct an audit of the Child Care Desert Startup Grant program from inception to present. OKDHS staff will be available to assist in whatever manner your office deems appropriate and beneficial.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions. We appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Cartmell
Director of Human Services