



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554
www.fcc.gov/inspector-general

April 24, 2026

Sent Via Email

Re: Protecting the Integrity of FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund

Dear ECF Participant:

As a prior participant in the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC's) Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), I am writing to share information about our continued oversight of this program. As you are aware, ECF was implemented in 2021 to help schools and libraries support remote learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Those were especially challenging times, and the nation is grateful to all who responsibly carried out this emergency program to ensure that students could continue their educations remotely during the public health crisis.

FCC's Office of Inspector General (FCC OIG) is an independent office responsible for detecting and deterring waste, fraud, abuse, and misconduct related to FCC's programs, and promoting economy and efficiency in FCC's operations. While the ECF Program expired in June 2024, FCC OIG continues its oversight of this multi-billion dollar taxpayer funded program to identify fraud and improper payments that plagued many federal emergency programs during that era. Further, FCC OIG issued a [lessons learned report](#) from our investigative review of this program, with examples of potential fraud, false claims, and program violations we identified.

Additionally, we recently announced a criminal plea agreement in a kickback scheme between a consultant and vendors in the [ECF program](#). Beyond ongoing criminal and civil investigations, we've issued numerous administrative referrals to FCC and are preparing to conduct a full scope audit of this program to identify and recover program funds that were improperly requested and disbursed. Using data-informed risk models, we will focus on those entities that have the highest risk of non-compliance or potential fraud.

We are sharing this information with ECF participating schools and libraries, as well as telecommunications providers, vendors, and consultants, because we need help in protecting the integrity of this program.

Towards that end, we encourage you to perform a review of your own activities under this program, as well as the activities of your program partners, to determine if there are any issues your organization may have encountered during its participation that may have resulted in improper payments. You may find the [Commission's March 1, 2023 Public Notice](#), [ECF FAQs](#), and [Compliance Reminders](#) helpful for your review of activities in the program. Proactive disclosures on your part can help avoid misunderstandings, assist with explaining data anomalies, and allow greater efficiencies for our work in this important area.

Further, if you suspect any fraud, waste, and abuse against this program, or any other FCC program, please report your concerns to our [FCC OIG hotline](#), as provided in the below information.

We appreciate your assistance in helping FCC OIG protect FCC's ECF program from fraud, waste, and abuse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fara Damelin".

Fara Damelin
Inspector General
Federal Communications Commission

Report Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

We accept information and complaints from all sources about potential fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in FCC programs.



Contact:

PHONE: (888) 863-2244 or 202-418-0473

Website: [Visit FCC OIG Website](#)

Hotline: [Submit a Complaint at FCC OIG Hotline](#)

Who can report?

Anyone who suspects fraud, waste, and abuse in an FCC program should report their concerns to OIG. We investigate alleged or suspected fraud and other misconduct related to all FCC programs and operations.

How Does it help?

By reporting concerns to OIG, you help us perform effective oversight, safeguard taxpayer investments, and increase FCC program integrity.

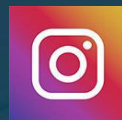
Who is protected?

The Privacy Act, the Inspector General Act, and other applicable laws protect people who report fraud, waste, and abuse. The Inspector General Act of 1978 states that the Inspector General shall not disclose the identity of an employee who reports an allegation or provides information without the employee's consent, unless the Inspector General determines that disclosure is unavoidable during the investigation. By law, Federal employees may not take or threaten to take a personnel action because of whistleblowing or the exercise of a lawful appeal, complaint, or grievance right. Non-FCC employees who report allegations may also specifically request confidentiality.



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