



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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MEMORANDUM FOR PROGRAM ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS
DEPUTY ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS
OMB BRANCH CHIEFS

FROM: Alice Rivlin *Alice*
Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Inspector General Vision Statement

The Inspectors General (IGs) recently responded to NPR criticisms of their style and focus by adopting the attached "vision statement," which details strategic plans for working more closely with agency management and focussing more work on program outcomes. To put it simply, the IGs have pledged to focus more on whether Federal programs are working (the "big picture") and less on identifying individual, minor infractions of procedures (the "gotchas").

The changes now taking place in the IGs -- and in OMB -- make this an excellent opportunity to begin regular, two-way communication between the IGs and the RMOs. The IGs can provide the kind of independent, rigorous analysis that will help you understand your agencies' management challenges and help you work with your agencies to improve services and save dollars. Remember, although IGs determine their own audit plans, you can request that they look at certain issues or programs. Up to one-third of some IGs' studies have been requested by Administration officials or members of Congress.

Strong RMO-IG connections will also help see to it that the IGs' vision is fully operationalized. The IGs need to know that the RMOs are interested in their outcome analyses and in their implementation of the vision statement.

As you begin to work more closely with the IGs, you might want to consult with OFFM's IG "policy" people: Wendy Zenker and Sue Murrin (x56911). They have technical expertise in IG operations and would be interested in your feedback on how the IGs' vision is working -- or could be working better -- in your agencies.

cc Administrator for Information and Regulatory Affairs
Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy