

ETHICS PROGRAM REVIEW FOLLOW-UP REPORT

Agency: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Follow-up to OGE Report Number: 22-38

Report No.: 24-04F

Date: October 19, 2023

**UNITED STATES OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENT ETHICS**Preventing Conflicts of Interest
in the Executive Branch

As a result of its review of the U.S. Department of the Agriculture's ethics program, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued four recommendations in its June 2022 plenary review report. OGE conducted a follow-up review to assess whether the USDA has taken sufficient action to resolve the deficiencies underlying these recommendations. The results of the follow-up review are summarized below.

	Recommendation	Agency Action and OGE Finding	Status
1	Ensure that public financial disclosure reports are certified timely.	OGE found that only 60% of the sampled public financial disclosure reports were certified timely. OGE is leaving this recommendation open.	Open
2	Ensure that new entrant confidential financial disclosure reports are filed timely.	OGE found that 100% of the sampled new entrant confidential financial disclosure reports were filed timely. OGE is closing this recommendation.	Closed
3	Ensure that all SGEs file their confidential financial disclosure reports no later than the first committee meeting they attend or before providing advice to the agency, as required by 5 C.F.R. § 2634.903(b)(3).	OGE found that 85% of sampled SGE confidential financial disclosure reports were filed timely. OGE is closing this recommendation.	Closed
4	Ensure that SGEs receive required ethics training.	OGE reviewed a sample of SGE training records and found that 90% of SGEs whose records were examined received initial ethics training before their advisory committee's first meeting of the calendar year. OGE is closing this recommendation.	Closed

Based on the results of OGE's follow-up review, recommendations 2, 3 and 4 are closed. OGE will conduct an additional follow-up review in approximately 12 months to assess whether the USDA has taken sufficient action to resolve the deficiencies underlying the recommendation, which remains open.