



Office of Inspector General

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Executive Summary, 2025-FMIC-B-014, December 15, 2025

The Board's Contract Solicitation, Selection, and Award Processes for the Contracts We Reviewed Were Generally Effective but Can Be Further Enhanced

Findings

For the 30 sampled contracts that we reviewed—which did not include construction or governmentwide contracts—the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System's Division of Financial Management (DFM) generally designed and operated its contract solicitation, selection, and award processes effectively to help ensure the Board acquires goods and services at the best possible value.

However, DFM Procurement section guidance can better explain to its contract specialists when to request independent government estimates (IGEs) and how to use IGEs to assess price reasonableness. Using and requesting IGEs will increase the contract specialists' understanding of program offices' needs, assist in contract negotiations, and help ensure that prices are fair and reasonable.

Recommendations

Our report does not contain recommendations because Procurement section management implemented a series of actions that we confirmed fully addressed our planned recommendation. We describe those actions in finding 2.

Purpose

We conducted this audit to assess the effectiveness of the Board's contract solicitation, selection, and award processes, including its compliance with internal policies and procedures. The scope of our review did not include certain procurements, including construction contracts and governmentwide contracts. We reviewed a nonstatistical sample of 30 contracts awarded in 2022 and 2023 with a total value of about \$30 million.

Background

The DFM Procurement section oversees the contract solicitation, selection, and award processes. Procurement section staff include contract specialists, who have the delegated authority to sign contracts on behalf of the Board, and contract managers, who oversee contract specialists' actions and review contract files for completeness and accuracy before award.

Because the Board is not required to comply with the *Federal Acquisition Regulation*, the Procurement section developed its own *Acquisition* policy with supplemental guidance and checklists.