



DIANA DIZOGLIO
AUDITOR

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

AUDITOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

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April 8, 2024

Aaron Michlewitz, House Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means
24 Beacon Street
Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Michael Rodrigues, Senate Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
24 Beacon Street
Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI) FY2024 first quarter report

Dear Chair Michlewitz, Chair Rodrigues and members of the Committees on Ways and Means:

Pursuant to its obligations relative to fiscal year 2024 budget language (0710-0200), the Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI) submits the enclosed quarterly report detailing and summarizing its activities during the first quarter of fiscal year 2024.

Please contact my office if you have any questions or wish to discuss the Bureau's work in greater detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diana DiZoglio".

Diana DiZoglio
Auditor of the Commonwealth

Bureau of Special Investigations 1st Quarter Report

Fiscal Year 2024

July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023

About the Bureau of Special Investigations

Operating as a division within the Office of the State Auditor, the Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI) is charged with investigating allegations of public assistance fraud throughout the Commonwealth. The work of BSI fraud examiners ensures taxpayer dollars used to fund Massachusetts' public benefits programs are managed effectively so that programs are available to residents who truly need them.

Pursuant to M.G.L. c.11, §17, BSI's investigative authority extends to any assistance program administered by the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and the Division of Medical Assistance, which administers MassHealth (the state's Medicaid program). Although the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) is not included in BSI's enabling statute, BSI also works with EEC through a Memorandum of Understanding. As a result of BSI's investigations, public assistance fraud cases are: referred to agencies for administrative action; fraudulent overpayments are recovered through civil agreements; individuals are disqualified from programs for specified periods of time; and, cases are prosecuted in state and federal courts.

BSI fraud examiners operate from five offices across the Commonwealth. BSI consists of three separate investigative units: the Central Processing Unit; the MassHealth, Department of Transitional Assistance, and Early Education and Care Unit; and the Data Analytics Unit. While each unit has its own specific concentration, there is extensive cross-unit collaboration, and investigations often involve overlap. BSI also participates in joint investigations and task forces with other state and federal agencies that focus on combating fraudulent activities throughout the Commonwealth. BSI cases may be settled through civil recoupment or criminal prosecution, but BSI does not collect settlement payments of any kind; the individual benefit programs are responsible for collection activities related to BSI cases.

During Quarter 1 of fiscal year 2024, BSI investigated a total of 1,768 cases. Of these, 120 were completed with fraud identified. Further detail regarding these 120 cases may be found below.

Summary of Investigations Completed with Fraud Identified

Assistance type	Amount	% of total
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	\$1,287,743.00	83.24%
Medicaid	\$136,117.54	8.80%
Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC)	\$87,175.59	5.63%
Personal Care Attendant Program (PCA)	\$29,681.36	1.92%
Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC)	\$6,385.05	0.41%
Grand Total	\$1,547,102.54	100%
Restitution Settlements (Civil Recoveries) ¹	\$153,318.57	

¹ BSI is unable to report on monthly collections or circumstances that produce shortfalls in collections.