



DIANA DIZOGLIO
AUDITOR

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

AUDITOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

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February 18, 2025

Timothy Carroll, Clerk of the House of
Representatives
24 Beacon Street
Room 145
Boston, MA 02133

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

Michael D. Hurley, Clerk of the Senate
24 Beacon Street
Room 335
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) FY2025 first quarter report

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

Pursuant to its obligations relative to fiscal year 2025 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 2025.

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

Best regards,

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 2025

July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024

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 Fraud Investigations Unit¹; 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 are enforced by other agencies and may be settled through civil recoupment or criminal prosecution. BSI is not enabled under our governing statute to 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 2025, BSI investigated a total of 814 cases and received overpayment calculations in 207 cases with identified fraud. Further details regarding these 207 cases may be found below.

Summary of Investigations Completed with Fraud Identified

Assistance type	Amount	% of total
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	\$1,528,615.00	60%
Medicaid	\$568,517.13	22.3%
Department of Early Education and Care (EEC)	\$307,324.63	12.1%
Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC)	\$112,787.47	4.4%
Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC)	\$28,392.66	1.1%
Personal Care Attendant (PCA) ²	\$3,719.10	0.1%
Grand Total	\$2,549,324.63	100%
Restitution Settlements (Civil Recoveries) ³	\$457,616.10	

¹ Formerly the MassHealth, Department of Transitional Assistance, and Early Education and Care Unit.

² PCA cases identify MassHealth overpayments for PCA services; overpayments for member healthcare benefits are identified by Medicaid.

³ BSI is unable to report on monthly collections or circumstances that produce shortfalls in collections. Restitution settlements are ongoing and continue beyond the issuance of this report. While this report informs the public of what we have found to date, benefit programs require time to implement and manage collections.