

**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

September 14, 2020

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly Chairman House Committee on Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Government Operations 2157 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515-6143

Dear Chairman Connolly:

We are in receipt of your letter of June 15, 2020, requesting that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) examine the plans and procedures of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for returning employees to federal offices in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, and your staff's follow-up communications requesting acknowledgement of receipt and a timeframe for response.

Our Office of Audit has started a review of HUD's plans to return employees to offices. Specifically, we plan to determine whether HUD is following (1) its "Resuming Normal Operations Guide, COVID-19 Response, Headquarters and Field Offices"; (2) Federal, state, and local government and appropriate non-governmental guidance; and (3) best practices in reopening its offices to employees.

We share your concerns about the health and safety of the federal workforce at all times, and especially in relation to reopening plans. Should you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Congressional Affairs, Kathleen Hatcher, at <u>khatcher@hudoig.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Ras aluis Daws

Rae Oliver Davis Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Jody B. Hice, Ranking Member Subcommittee on Government Operations