

wide range of firms, both large and small, veteran-owned and disabled veteran-owned, in order to benefit from the broad array of IT services that exist. The VA is urged to expand the number of awards under T4NG that are not reserved for particular categories of vendors in order to maximize its consideration of emerging technologies.

#### OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The agreement appropriates \$126,411,000 for the Office of Inspector General (OIG). Of the amount provided, \$12,141,000 is available for obligation until September 30, 2016. The increase above the budget request is intended to be used for ongoing responsibilities associated with the waitlist/appointment scheduling audits as well as the two reviews described below.

The OIG is instructed to review a complaint to the Montana Board of Psychologists reprimanding a VA psychologist in Ft. Harrison, Montana, for practicing outside the scope of his professional qualifications when performing a Compensation and Pensions examination for traumatic brain injury (TBI). The OIG review should address the specific Montana case, but also the protocols the VA uses for examinations for TBI throughout the VA medical system to judge whether the VA needs to revise its protocols nationwide.

Due to questions about VA residential substance abuse treatment in Miami, Florida, that have been raised by the VA OIG (Report No. 13-03089-104, March 27, 2014), the OIG is requested to conduct a broader review of the operations and effectiveness of VA substance abuse inpatient rehabilitation programs and report back to the Committees by August 1, 2015, on the following: the current number

of VA inpatient rehabilitation programs; the annual number of veterans who participate and their average length of treatment; the average length of time for VA treatment compared to that of non-VA residential treatment programs; the rate of recidivism for both types of programs; the process used to refer patients to VA inpatient treatment; the degree of supervision of patients in VA programs and how often drug tests are performed; and how well mental health and substance abuse treatment are integrated for veterans with comorbidities.

## CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

The agreement provides \$561,800,000 for Construction, Major Projects. The agreement makes this funding available for five years, except that \$34,000,000 is made available until expended.

As requested in the House and Senate reports, the agreement requires an annual report on the process used to identify construction project priority listing and directs the VA to work collaboratively with other executive branch agencies with substantial construction portfolios, private sector contractors and other non-governmental experts to explore the feasibility of new funding mechanisms, such as private development lease-backs.

The agreement directs the VA to increase its use of design-build contracting processes and off-site construction methods, including prefabricated components and panelized structures.

The agreement funds the following items as requested in the budget submission: