



U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General





OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

United States Department of Agriculture



DATE: September 18, 2024

ENGAGEMENT

NUMBER: 88303-0003-12

TO: **Gary Washington**
Chief Information Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer

ATTN: **Angelo Rhodes**
Audit Liaison
Director of IT Policy and Audits (IRMC)

FROM: **Janet Sorensen**
Assistant Inspector General for Audit

SUBJECT: Independent Service Auditor's Report on the Office of the Chief Information Officer's Description of Its Data Center Hosting and Security Systems and the Suitability of the Design and Operating Effectiveness of Its Controls for the Period October 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

This report presents the results of the System and Organization Controls 1 Type 2 examination conducted in accordance with relevant attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) description of its data center hosting and security systems used to process user entities' transactions throughout the period October 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. The report contains an unmodified opinion on the description and controls that were suitably designed to provide reasonable assurance that the control objectives would be achieved.

An independent certified public accounting firm conducted the audit. In connection with the contract, we reviewed the independent firm's report and related documentation and inquired of its representatives. Our review, as differentiated from an audit in accordance with Government Auditing Standards (issued by the Comptroller General of the United States), was not intended to enable us to express, and we do not express, opinions on the USDA OCIO's description of its data center hosting and security systems used to process user entities' transactions throughout the period October 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. The independent firm is responsible for the attached auditor's report, dated September 11, 2024, and the conclusions expressed in the report. However, our review disclosed no instances where the independent firm did not comply, in all material respects, with Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and relevant attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

This report contains sensitive information that is being withheld from public release due to concerns about the risk of circumvention of law.

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