



Illinois Ethics Matters

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Honesty, Integrity, Service

A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies
of the Illinois Governor

Office of Executive Inspector General

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Announcements

- The OEIG is pleased to announce the hiring of **Megan Morgan** as an Assistant Inspector General in its Springfield office.

Publications

- The Executive Ethics Commission recently published an additional 12 OEIG investigative reports relating to Paycheck Protection Program fraud by State employees. Those reports (Case Nos. 23-00059, 23-00061, 23-00063, 23-00064, 23-00089, 23-00109, 23-00112, 23-00119, 2300127, 23-00165, 23-00166, & 23-00862) are available on the OEIG website [here](#). As reported on in previous newsletters, these cases are a part of the OEIG's systematic review of PPP loans received by public employees under its jurisdiction. To date, OEIG's investigation has resulted in 299 reports of findings that employees obtained loans using false information.

Mismanagement

The OEIG received a complaint that the Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) mismanaged a grant when it failed to reimburse a grantee for services in federal fiscal year 2020 and later created a fictitious grant agreement in order to improperly effectuate the late payment to the grantee.

The grantee in question had submitted a cash request for over \$10,000 in November 2020, but that request went mistakenly unpaid in fiscal year 2020. According to a high-ranking employee at the Comptroller, if a State agency fails to pay a grantee for services provided during a fiscal year, the only valid option she was aware of was for the agency to go back to the General Assembly and either (1) ask for an appropriation for the unpaid funds during the fiscal year they wish to make the payment, or (2) request authorization for prior year spending in a certain appropriation.

Instead of pursuing either of these options, in February 2022, IDoA executed a special grant agreement in the exact amount of the missing 2020 payment. However, that grant agreement contained false information, namely that the service and project dates fell with fiscal year 2022, when in fact the payment was intended for services previously provided in fiscal year 2020. If the grant agreement had contained the actual service dates, the Comptroller would not have processed the payment. The OEIG observed that “[b]y including false dates of service on its voucher, IDoA circumvented the established rule framework in order to accomplish its own needs.”

The OEIG concluded that an IDoA employee participated in dishonesty in the performance of her duties in violation of IDoA policy. The OEIG also determined that the former IDoA director engaged in mismanagement by signing off on the made-up grant agreement in circumvention of Comptroller requirements. Case No. 22-00503 is available on the OEIG website [here](#).