



Illinois Ethics Matters

Honesty • Integrity • Service

August 31, 2026

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

Susan M. Haling
Executive Inspector
General

Neil P. Olson
General Counsel

Fallon Opperman
Chief of Chicago
Division

Erin K. Bonales
Director, Hiring &
Employment
Monitoring Division

Christine Benavente
Deputy Inspector
General-Executive
Projects

Angela Luning
Chief of Springfield
Division

Ogo Akpan
Chief Fiscal Officer

To file a complaint
with the OEIG, visit
oeig.illinois.gov



Or call us at:
(312) 814-5600
Main Line
(866) 814-1113
Hot Line

More PPP Fraud Cases Made Public

In July and August 2026, the Executive Ethics Commission (EEC) published an additional seven OEIG investigative reports relating to the improper receipt of federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans by public employees. To date, the EEC has published 292 PPP-related reports, and others will likely be published as any disciplinary or prosecutorial actions are completed.

Other Recently Released OEIG Investigations

Other recently released OEIG reports demonstrate the breadth of the OEIG's jurisdiction to "investigate fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, misconduct, nonfeasance, misfeasance, or violations of [the Ethics Act] or violations of other related laws and rules" and include the conduct of "vendors and others doing business with" the State, including grantees.

Conflicts of Interest

In [Case No. 26-01044](#), the OEIG investigated alleged conflicts of interest among high-ranking staff at the Office of Independent Juvenile Ombudsperson. The OEIG uncovered evidence of an intimate personal relationship between the Ombudsperson and a high-ranking Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) employee that took place when the Ombudsperson was investigating complaints from youth to ensure their rights. The Ombudsperson then hired the DJJ employee into the Ombudsperson's Office, and subsequently promoted him to Deputy Ombudsperson. At no time did the two employees disclose their personal relationship. The OEIG recommended that the employees be removed from their positions. In response to the OEIG's investigation, the Office of the Governor reported that the Ombudsperson had resigned, and the Deputy Ombudsperson was terminated.

Misuse of Grant Funds

In another case, [Case No. 24-02385](#), the OEIG looked at a grant program for home weatherization administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). The OEIG discovered that the grantee's weatherization coordinator had knowingly submitted a falsified photo to DCEO of weatherization work being done that had, in fact, not been completed. The OEIG recommended, among other things, that DCEO revoke the signature authority of the weatherization coordinator. DCEO reported that it had revoked this signature authority, and the grantee responded that it had dismissed the weatherization coordinator from employment.

All OEIG reports that have been made public by the EEC are available on the [OEIG website](#). The reports are searchable by employee name, agency, and subject matter.