



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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PPP Fraud Update

In 2022, the OEIG began a large-scale investigation to examine whether employees under its jurisdiction failed to disclose secondary employment or improperly obtained federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans during the COVID-19 pandemic. These investigations involved comparing evidence of secondary employment against loan applications submitted to the U.S. Small Business Administration. Generally, each individual employee was assigned a designated case number.

As of the close of Fiscal Year 2025 (June 30, 2025), the OEIG completed **501** individual cases, and **373** of those resulted in findings of misconduct against employees within our jurisdiction. PPP reports published by the Executive Ethics Commission are available on the [OEIG website](http://oeig.illinois.gov).

Planning Social Events Responsibly

State agencies may want to engage in social activities for well-intended purposes such as increased morale or development of working relationships inside or outside of the agency. However, agencies should take care to ensure that any such events do not violate agency policy or other applicable laws. Two recently published OEIG cases illustrate when social activities may turn into mismanagement.

In Case No. 23-02902, which is available on the [OEIG website](http://oeig.illinois.gov), the OEIG investigated allegations that Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) employees improperly solicited donations for a holiday event, and that the event included alcohol as a prize. The OEIG found that the IDHS Center Director engaged in mismanagement by approving a fundraiser that violated the Illinois Raffles and Poker Runs Act (Raffle Act) and IDHS's zero-tolerance alcohol policy. Under Illinois law, a person or entity must first obtain a license to operate a raffle. The OEIG previously found violations of the Raffle Act when State agencies did not obtain required licenses in the published reports for Case Nos. 19-00003 and 17-01266.

In Case No. 23-02054, the OEIG examined allegations that senior staff at the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) consumed alcohol while earning overtime at conferences. The OEIG concluded that multiple OSFM employees received overtime for after-hours events at a 2023 conference during which alcohol was available and consumed by some of those employees. Although OSFM policy prohibited the consumption of alcohol on State time, the OSFM employees had been attending conferences for years that provided alcohol with little to no employee guidance. In response to the OEIG investigation, the OSFM revised its alcohol-free workplace policy. It also issued an agency-wide procedure regarding the approval of overtime, and stated that upon receiving approval for overtime, staff would be reminded that consumption of alcohol is prohibited on State time. This investigative report is available on the [OEIG website](http://oeig.illinois.gov).