

Recognize and report fraud in federally funded programs, contracts, and grants—including instances of

# Bid Rigging & Antitrust Violations.

Antitrust laws provide guidelines for general business practices in the marketplace and seek to protect the competitive process for the benefit of consumers. Common antitrust violations include bid rigging (also known as “bid rotation”), price gouging, or similar schemes among competitors to divide or monopolize a marketplace, including on government contracts. Antitrust violations result in limited to no competition within a market sector, which leads the government, and ultimately the taxpayer, to overpay for goods and services.

Indicators of **bid rigging and antitrust violations** within government contracting can include the following:

- Fewer competitors bid on a contract than the normal or expected number
- Winning bidder appears to rotate between a small group of companies over time
- Same group of companies continually win contracts in a specific geographic location
- Bids for same or like services gradually increase across all bidders without explanation
- Losing bids do not comply with proposal specifications or are poorly written
- Companies have a history of complaints dealing with threats, coercion, and manipulation of subcontractors
- Established and unexplained connections between bidders, including: addresses, personnel, phone numbers, equipment, etc.
- Bid prices drop when a new bidder enters the competition and disrupts previous agreements among companies



For more information or to report suspected fraud, please visit:

<https://www.oig.doc.gov>.