

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

Public Corruption.

Public corruption involves providing something of value to a government official in an effort to influence the actions or performance of their official position. Public corruption includes bribery, kickbacks, and other general conflicts of interest. Public corruption destroys competition in the marketplace and degrades public trust. Contractors engage in public corruption in the procurement process to persuade government personnel to award contracts to undeserving companies or to provide sensitive acquisition data, which allows companies to gain an unfair competitive advantage.

Indicators of **public corruption** include the following:

- Unexplained increase in the wealth of a government official
- Unnecessary “middleman” involved in the contracting process
- Government official continually accepts high-priced, low-quality, or late goods
- Contract requirements set in such a way that it limits proposals to a single bidder
- Contractor bid proposals are unexplainably similar to a government estimate and statement of work
- Inadequate documentation in contract file, especially if the contractor performance is subpar
- Government official requests a sole-source procurement when there is a pool of available vendors
- Government official frequently socializes with contractors outside of work and/or accepts gifts or entertainment
- Contractor price exponentially increases or government official accepts an unexplained high price without justification



For more information or to report suspected fraud, please visit:
<https://www.oig.doc.gov>.