



# Summary of Investigation

## Investigation Into Allegations of Conflicts of Interest by a Census Official

Case No. 22-0567

Date Posted: July 11, 2025

► **What We Investigated** | We received a complaint alleging that a senior employee at the U.S. Census Bureau had improperly awarded sole-source contracts to a bureau contractor. We assessed allegations that the bureau official had conflicts of interest resulting from their personal relationships with the contractor and a network of related companies and individuals, including an affiliated company that employed the official's child. Our investigation also focused on whether such conflicts compromised the fairness or integrity of the contract award process.

► **What We Found** | We confirmed that the official was responsible for negotiating and awarding contracts to the contractor in this case. Further, we established that the official's child worked for a company closely affiliated with the contractor. We found that this created an improper relationship between the official and the contractor, resulting in the appearance of a conflict of interest that affected over \$90 million in contracts the bureau had awarded to the contractor and a network of closely affiliated companies. We also found that the official had improper pre-award communications with the contractor, which conferred an unfair advantage to that company during the awarding process. Lastly, we uncovered evidence indicating that the subjects in this case may have engaged in a scheme to defraud the Small Business Administration's 8(a) Business Development Program.

This case was declined for criminal prosecution. We referred our findings to the Census Bureau and the Small Business Administration OIG for appropriate action.