

Summary: Alleged Criminal Conflict of Interest by Tribal Official

Report Date: May 12, 2022

Report Number: 20-0346

The OIG investigated criminal conflict of interest allegations that a tribal official engaged in unlawful practices.

We found that from October 26, 2016, to October 1, 2020, a tribal official awarded numerous contracts to perform work for a Tribe with the understanding that the contractor the tribal official selected would subcontract the projects to a company the tribal official owned. In total, in his capacity as the owner of the company, the tribal official received more than \$800,000 in tribal funds pursuant to contracts that he awarded in his capacity as a tribal official.

The tribal official admitted that he profited personally from the contracts that he awarded. He agreed it would have been wrong for him to hire his own company as the contractor, but he stated that he did not see any conflict with having his company being hired as the subcontractor. We found no evidence that the policies and procedures of the Tribe explicitly prohibited engaging in this type of activity, and the relevant Federal Acquisition Regulation did not apply to these tribal contracts.

This is a summary of an investigative report we issued to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Director.

