

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
INVESTIGATIONS



INVESTIGATIVE CASE SUMMARIES



May 2018

In May 2018, [a former Department program manager pleaded guilty](#) to stealing Federal funds intended for a foreign exchange program. OIG and Federal Bureau of Investigation special agents determined that, from February 2011 through March 2016, the former employee conspired with others to steal portions of Federal money allocated to the foreign exchange program by falsifying vendor-related invoices and creating fraudulent checks. Over the 5-year span, the former employee stole approximately \$17,335. Sentencing is scheduled for August 2018. A co-conspirator was recently [sentenced to 14 months in prison](#).

In May 2018, the director of a former Department sub-grantee was debarred for embezzling approximately \$19,000 in Department funds. The grant, which was valued at \$29,000, was awarded in 2014 for the purpose of publishing a news website providing independent local, national, and international news inside Russia. OIG special agents determined the organization's director withdrew approximately \$19,000 of the grant funds and fled to the United States, where he sought asylum. Before his debarment in April 2018, the director was suspended from conducting business with the U.S. Government, and his application for asylum was denied. In addition, the Department of Homeland Security placed him in removal proceedings.