



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I06070017

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The Office of Investigations of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint that an NSF contractor² had offered to pay for meals for government employees at a social gathering, and did pay for meals at the gathering for certain non-NSF government personnel associated with the contract,³ in an amount exceeding that permitted by ethics regulations.⁴

OIG concluded that the government employees' acceptance of the meals from the contractor would, if established, violate applicable ethics regulations, and forwarded the allegation to the employees' supervisor for investigation and disciplinary action. The supervisor orally admonished the employees for their actions and arranged ethics training for the organization.

OIG conducted further investigation to determine whether the contractor had a past history of making gifts to government employees and whether the contractor had exhibited other behavior calling into question its suitability for NSF contracts. The investigation uncovered no adverse information as to either issue, and found instead that the contractor is highly regarded by government personnel and had no self-serving motive in making the offer to pay for the meals.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

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⁴ \$75 per meal; applicable regulations would permit receipt of a meal worth \$20 or less.