



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-20-0018-O

Page 1 of 1

We reviewed the circumstances surrounding the early termination of an NSF employee serving under an Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) assignment. The employee was not eligible for the appointment, but NSF did not learn of the grounds for disqualification until the employee was in the second year of his assignment. When NSF discovered the grounds for disqualification, it notified the university and terminated the IPA award. NSF deobligated the funds not yet paid to the university under the IPA agreement, and the university repaid the funds already drawn during the second year. The former IPA told NSF he needed to keep most of his *per diem* second-year payment (an annual amount paid by NSF to the employee for living expenses) for expenses associated with leaving NSF early. NSF permitted him to do so.

We sent NSF an advisory, suggesting it strengthen its guidance for the recovery of *per diem* costs if an IPA award is terminated early. We also sent the university a letter of warning.

This case is **closed** with no further action taken.