

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL OF SUFFOLK, INC. (EOC)
CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Employees have an obligation to conduct business within guidelines that prohibit actual or potential conflicts of interest. This policy establishes only the framework within which EOC wishes the business to operate. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide general direction so that employees can seek further clarification on issues related to the subject of acceptable standards of operation. Contact the Executive Office for more information or questions about conflicts of interest.

An actual or potential conflict of interest occurs when an employee is in a position to influence a decision that may result in a personal gain for that employee or for a relative because of EOC's business dealings. Personal gain may result not only in cases where an employee or relative has a significant ownership in a firm with which EOC does business, but also when an employee or relative receives any kickback, bribe, substantial gift, or special consideration as a result of any transaction or business dealings involving EOC. For the purposes of this policy, a relative is any person who is related by blood or marriage, or whose relationship with the employee is similar to that of persons who are related by blood or marriage.

Transactions with outside firms must be conducted within a framework established and controlled by the executive level of EOC. Business dealings with outside firms should not result in unusual gains for those firms. Unusual gain refers to bribes, product bonuses, special fringe benefits, unusual price breaks, and other windfalls designed to ultimately benefit the outside firm, the employee or both. Promotional plans that could be interpreted to involve unusual gain require specific executive-level approval.

No "presumption of guilt" is created by the mere existence of a relationship with outside firms. However, if employees have any influence on transactions involving purchases, contracts or leases, it is imperative that they disclose to the CEO or CFO as soon as possible the existence of any actual or potential conflict of interest so that safeguards can be established to protect all parties.