

PRESS RELEASE

Former Iowa Nonprofit Program Director Pleads Guilty to Theft from a Federal Funds Recipient

Monday, April 27, 2026

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa – A Colfax woman pleaded guilty on April 23, 2026, to theft from an Iowa nonprofit receiving federal funds.

According to public court documents, Jodi Dyan Spargur-Tate, 55, was employed by Children and Families of Iowa (CFI) between 2015 and 2022. During her time as Program Director, Spargur-Tate submitted false and fraudulent reimbursement requests, including falsified invoices and receipts. Spargur-Tate used these payments for her own benefit and her family member's benefit and not for the benefit of CFI or the program participants.

Spargur-Tate is scheduled to be sentenced on August 25, 2026, and faces a sentence of up to 10 years in prison. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the United States sentencing guidelines and other statutory factors.

"Spargur-Tate stole money meant to help Americans find work. Her guilty plea proves we will relentlessly pursue fraudsters," said U.S. Department of Labor Inspector General Anthony P. D'Esposito. "Game the system, and we will find you and hold you accountable."

United States Attorney David C. Waterman of the Southern District of Iowa made the announcement. The United States Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General and the Des Moines Police Department investigated the case. Assistant United States Attorney Joseph Lubben prosecuted the case.

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