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Improper National Sex Offender Public Website Checks/Displacement and Improper Use of Members Leads to Disallowed Cost

DATE ISSUED 07.25.2017

A CNCS-OIG investigation found that AmeriCorps members with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS), Virginia Beach, VA, displaced staff and performed activities outside the scope of the grant. The investigation was opened based on a hotline allegation.

The investigation also revealed that the current and former Program Directors (1) improperly disbursed Federal grant funds by assigning three members to perform service outside the scope of the grant; (2) violated 45 CFR § 2540.100(e) and (f) by assigning members to duplicate activity and displace staff positions of service site employees, and (3) violated 45 CFR § 2522.230 when they certified partial Education Awards for three members who did not meet the award requirements. The former director also violated 45 CFR § 2540.204 by failing to conduct timely National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) checks on six members.

During its investigation, CNCS-OIG investigators also discovered the Virginia Office on Volunteerism and Community Service (Commission) failed to identify several instances of noncompliance, because it did not adequately monitor DVS. The Commission also failed to follow the CNCS National Service Criminal History Checks (NSCHC) Interim Disallowance Guide regarding cost disallowance for NSCHCs and expanding the scope of file review.

Agency/Administrative Action: CNCS management reported they concurred with CNCS-OIG’s findings that DVS tasked members to serve outside the scope of the grant and would disallow living allowances and Education Awards for those three members totaling \$24,193.50. DVS also failed to conduct timely and complete NSOPW checks on six members and disallowed \$9,000. CNCS also directed the Commission to review all members’ files for NSCHC compliance and the service for some of DVS’s service sites. CNCS already provided on-site training to the Commission and confirmed the Commission recently revised its monitoring policies and procedures.

Case ID: 2016-023
Closed: 2017-07-25

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