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Service Outside the Scope of Grant Leads to Disallowance of Grant Funds

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Closed 9/19/16

A compliance review discovered that grantee Mid-Delta Community Consortium (MDCC), West Helena, AR, assigned AmeriCorps members a variety of tasks that were beyond the scope of its grant from the Arkansas Service Commission. The grant was intended to assist economically disadvantaged residents in the Mid-Delta region in completing applications for prescription drug assistance. Instead, members were assigned to serve in youth programs, a battered women's shelter, food banks, farmers market/community gardens and a women's prison. Members also performed a variety of administrative functions, and one member displaced an employee by regularly substituting for a teacher during the lunch hour at a local center for disabled adults. Another member who served vulnerable populations – school-age children and senior citizens – was allowed to serve for nine months with an incomplete National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) check.

As a result of the investigation, the Commission disallowed \$89,589 in living allowances for members who served outside the scope of the grant. CNCS management established a separate debt of \$47,793 against MDCC to recoup improperly certified education awards and levied a penalty of \$500 for allowing a member to serve vulnerable populations for nine months without a completed NSOPW check.

Case ID: 2015-027

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