

AmeriCorps Grantee Failed to Conduct a Compliant National Service Criminal History Check

Closed 1/14/19

CNCS-OIG investigated allegations that AmeriCorps members (members) serving in the Impact America (IA), Birmingham, AL, AmeriCorps program were instructed to alter their service activities on their timesheets, received additional salary payments from IA, and acted as supervisors of other members. The investigation found no evidence to support these allegations. However, investigators determined IA failed to conduct a compliant National Service Criminal History Check (CHC) on one member because the member's name was misspelled in the National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) search. This violated 45 C.F.R. § 2540.203.

Additional allegations were raised that members were sexually harassed by an IA executive. Consistent with CNCS policy, after an initial site visit, CNCS-OIG referred the sexual harassment allegations to CNCS AmeriCorps State and National (ASN) for resolution.

Agency/Administrative Actions

CNCS management concurred with CNCS-OIG's findings that IA's search of the NSOPW was noncompliant due to the misspelling of the member's name and ultimately disallowed nominal costs pursuant to the sanctions matrix.

Regarding the sexual harassment allegations, CNCS related to us that the individual accused of harassment was no longer employed by IA, a new Human Resources Director was hired, and new policies were implemented. In addition, ASN informed the alleged victim of sexual harassment of their rights to file a case with the CNCS EEO Office or with their state. Therefore, CNCS considers the matter closed.

Case ID 2018-029