

## **AmeriCorps Member Debarred for Falsification of Timesheets; Grantee Required to Repay Funds for Improper Education Awards**

Closed 12/2/19

CNCS-OIG investigated allegations that a former AmeriCorps member (member) in the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN), Lansing, MI, AmeriCorps Program submitted fraudulent timesheets. The investigation revealed the former member submitted multiple false timesheets totaling over 140 false service hours that were recorded on holidays and days when the service site was closed. The false hours allowed the former member to fraudulently obtain a Segal Education Award. The investigation also discovered questionable AmeriCorps service hours for five additional former members, three of whom received Education Awards based on the questionable hours. CNCS-OIG also discovered MCAN conducted late criminal history checks (CHC) for four employees.

CNCS-OIG recommended CNCS disallow the questionable service hours, recoup the improper Education Awards, assess MCAN's timekeeping procedures, and disallow funds associated with the late CHCs. CNCS-OIG also recommended debarment of the former member who submitted multiple false timesheets.

### **Agency/Administrative Actions**

CNCS management concurred with CNCS-OIG's findings and debarred the former member for two years. In addition, CNCS disallowed the questionable service hours related to days the service site was closed, issued a debt to MCAN for the improper Education Awards and had the Education Awards permanently placed on hold. The Michigan Community Service Commission (Commission), Lansing, MI, reviewed MCAN's timekeeping procedures and found MCAN now provided additional oversight and required additional signatures on member timesheets. The Commission reviewed additional member timesheets and found some unallowable service activities; however, the disallowance of those hours did not affect those members' Education Awards.

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