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Displacement and Improper Service by AmeriCorps Members Leads to Disallowed Costs

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An anonymous hotline complainant alleged AmeriCorps members were not paid their stipends due to timesheets their supervisor lost. The complainant also alleged the program was mismanaged and members were treated poorly by their supervisors.

CNCS-OIG investigators found no evidence to support the allegation members were not paid due to lost timesheets. CNCS-OIG investigators discover that members were assigned duties ordinarily performed by an employee and members were performing activities that were outside the scope of the grant. Members were tasked with assignments such as supervising breakfast and lunch sessions at the schools, cleaning the cafeteria and indirect services outside the scope of the grant. CNCS-OIG investigators discovered six members served from home or spent a significant amount of time on staff responsibilities.

As a result of the CNCS-OIG investigation the grantee made immediate changes to the program. Program staff would no longer allow members to perform service at home, members and site supervisors would receive additional training on staff displacement, and they planned to follow-up with the sites that assigned members to clean the cafeteria and where members had excess hours.

CNCS Management reported that California Volunteers (Commission) disallowed a total of 301.75 service hours for the six members with service activities outside of the grant, which resulted in a prorated Education Award repayment of \$448.90 to the Trust. The Commission added specific questions regarding staff displacement and service from home to their site visit checklist. After review of grantee's service sites, some of the sites were removed, where members were asked to displace staff or perform service outside the scope of the grant. No other members were found to be performing service hours from home, but additional training was provided to members and supervisors that members are prohibited from serving from home.

Case ID: 2015-020

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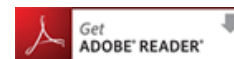


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