



March 29, 2002

OIG REPORT 02-23(H)

**MEMORANDUM FOR: RICKEY HUFFSTUTLER
PROJECT DIRECTOR
J. F. INGRAM STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

SUBJECT: Memorandum Survey Report
Review of Computer Assessment and Curricular
Materials for Job Skills Training Project
AL-13450

PURPOSE

The purposes of our review were to determine; (1) the allowability of the costs claimed under the ARC grant, (2) if the grant objectives were met and (3) the current status of the project.

SCOPE

Our survey included procedures to review costs incurred and claimed for reimbursement under the grant, as well as costs claimed as matching funds. The period of performance for the grant was September 1, 1999 to June 30, 2001.

We reviewed the grantee's reports, examined records, and held discussions with grantee officials in Deatsville, Alabama on February 28, 2002. As a basis for determining allowable costs and compliance requirements, we used the provisions of the grant agreement, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars A-87 and A-102, and the ARC Code. Audit work was performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards.

BACKGROUND

ARC Grant AL-13450 was awarded to the Ingram State Technical College to provide funds for job skills training designed to prepare incarcerated students in Elmore County in Appalachian Alabama for the work force after release from prison. Grantee will purchase Pentium II computers, a file server and network equipment to outfit labs at the three sites of the college.

The total project costs was estimated at \$115,284. The ARC grant was for \$57,642 (50%) and the grantee was to pay or cause to be paid the non-federal matching contribution of \$57,642 (50%).

RESULTS

Financial Review

During our visit, we reviewed the grantee's accounting records, including invoices and supporting documentation for the grant costs charged to the project. Claimed costs were supported by the grantee's accounting records and no deficiencies were noted as to the allowability of the expenses or the adequacy of the documentation for the expenditures we reviewed. The grantee appears to have met their requirements for matching funds.

There have been no reimbursement requests for this grant. Grantee's records indicate that \$35,178 had been spent on computers in February 2000. 75% of the 40 computers bought had to be rebuilt after the warranty expired, requiring additional technical assistance from the grantee's IS staff. The grantee is in the process of preparing their final reimbursement request and stated that it will be submitted within 30 days.

Program Review

The goals of the grant have been completed and include a video conferencing network set up at all three sites encompassing the main college, the Draper-Staton Correctional Center and the Tutwiler Prison for Women. The computers are used for test assessments and curriculum instruction in vocational courses. The courses have been well received by the students and the grantee states that less than 6% of Ingram's graduates return to prison.

The grantee received a court compliance order to accommodate special education students, thus requiring them to reconfigure their network, and the grantee took the opportunity to upgrade to fiber optics. This contributed to the delay in completion of the grant.


The grant agreement requires progress reports be filed with ARC every 120 days. The grantee has not been submitting their progress reports. The grantee stated that they will be submitting their final report within 30 days.

RECOMMENDATION

For future grants, we recommend that the grantee submit progress reports timely as required by the grant agreement.

OTHER

While on-site we verified that equipment purchases in accordance with Grant No. AL-11873, OIG Report No. 01-21(H), had been transferred to J. F. Ingram State Technical College and was being used as intended.



Hubert N. Sparks
Inspector General



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Office of the Inspector General

April 1, 2002

Ms. Bonnie F. Durham
ARC Program Manager
Alabama Appalachian Regional Office
P. O. Box 681093
Ft Payne, AL 35968-1093

re: OIG Report 02-23(H), ARC Grant AL-13450

Dear Ms. Durham:

Enclosed is a copy of the subject report.

It has been a pleasure working with you during the past years, and best wishes in your future endeavors. I expect to do little for 6 months or so and then will probably have to figure out what to do through the winter since my wife is still working.

Sincerely,

Hubert N. Sparks
Inspector General

Enclosure