

Proactive Review of Unemployment Insurance Benefits Identified Nine Instances of Identity Theft

Closed 07/26/2024

The AmeriCorps Office of Inspector General (AmeriCorps OIG) conducted a proactive review of AmeriCorps employees who may have improperly applied for and received unemployment insurance (UI) payments while actively employed.

AmeriCorps OIG developed a list of potential matches of AmeriCorps employees and individuals who had applied for UI benefits. AmeriCorps OIG identified ten potential matches for further investigation.

Subpoenas were issued to nine state employment agencies to request UI application and payment documentation. The subpoenaed records included evidence indicating that nine out of ten individuals reviewed were victims of identity theft and that unrelated parties had applied for UI benefits using the victims' personal identifiable information.

AmeriCorps OIG notified the identity theft victims, state employment agencies, and Department of Labor OIG of its findings and provided the victims with an unemployment insurance fraud consumer protection guide. AmeriCorps OIG opened a separate case to further investigate the AmeriCorps employee whose UI benefits documentation did not have indications of identity theft; additional evidence was found suggesting that the employee may have engaged in separate improper activity. Separately, evidence that a larger identity theft scheme was conducted involving Paycheck Protection Program loans at an address in Texas was referred to the Small Business Administration OIG for consideration.

Case ID 2023-102