

## **AmeriCorps Disallows Subgrantee Costs Associated with Living Allowances, Education Awards, and Non-compliant National Service Criminal History Checks**

Closed 11/18/2024

The AmeriCorps Office of Inspector General (AmeriCorps OIG) investigated allegations that surfaced during an AmeriCorps OIG audit regarding the submittal of false documents and unallowable living allowances to non-AmeriCorps members (members) by AmeriCorps State and National subgrantee, Kuumba Academy (Kuumba), located in Wilmington, DE.

The evidence collected through the investigation supported findings that Kuumba received reimbursement from Volunteer Delaware for living allowances for non-members, had at least three members who displaced substitute teachers and one member who displaced a paraprofessional, had four members exited with compelling personal circumstances (CPCs) who lacked supporting documentation, had timesheets indicating time and attendance fraud, had insufficient and/or inaccurate National Service Criminal History Checks (NSCHCs), and failed to properly exit members at the conclusion of its grant term.

AmeriCorps OIG recommended that AmeriCorps disallow \$57,683.00 in costs associated with the improper living allowance payments for non-members, members who displaced staff, and members whose NSCHCs were non-compliant. AmeriCorps OIG also recommended AmeriCorps disallow \$20,643.25 in education awards for the four members exited with insufficient CPC documentation and an additional member who was only eligible for an education award because of overlapping timesheets. AmeriCorps OIG further recommended that AmeriCorps ensure that all Kuumba members are/were properly exited from service and provide training to Volunteer Delaware and review its procedures regarding subgrantee monitoring.

### **Agency/Administrative Actions**

AmeriCorps concurred with the recommendations concerning disallowances and member exits and will pursue \$78,326.25 in disallowances. Further, AmeriCorps coordinated with Volunteer Delaware to ensure that Kuumba's remaining members were successfully exited. In response to the recommendation to review Volunteer Delaware's subgrantee monitoring process and provide training regarding subgrantee monitoring, AmeriCorps' Office of Monitoring provided Volunteer Delaware with its Uniform Monitoring Package and guidance as to which sections would be applicable and prudent for Volunteer Delaware to apply in its subgrantee monitoring practices.

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