

Investigative Case Summary

Closed June 23, 2025

For Media Inquiries Contact AmeriCorps OIG at PublicAffairs@AmeriCorpsOIG.gov



AmeriCorps Disallows Over \$110,000 in Education Awards Based Upon Improper Timesheets and Unallowable Changes to Member Service Terms

The AmeriCorps Office of Inspector General (AmeriCorps OIG) initiated this investigation after receiving a referral from OIG's Office of Audits (OA). The referral alleged that, in 2019, Delaware's Governor's Commission on Community & Volunteer Service, an AmeriCorps State and National Program grantee also known as Volunteer Delaware, was not providing adequate oversight of its subrecipient, Delaware's Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR). OA questioned whether DPR was supervising members and member service hours appropriately. The investigation found that DPR had improperly changed AmeriCorps members' (members') terms of service and inappropriately certified members' Segal Education Awards (education awards) in 2015 through 2018.

AmeriCorps OIG referred the matter to AmeriCorps in a Report of Investigation (ROI). Findings summarized in that report included that Volunteer Delaware did not provide adequate monitoring of DPR and that DPR falsely certified AmeriCorps members' education awards even though service hours had not been performed, were outside the scope of the grant, were adjusted after service, or were otherwise questionable such as having duplicate entries or excessive hours in a day. The OIG also found that DPR shortened the terms of service for some members who exited the program before completing their original approved terms of service, which allowed those members to collect education awards to which they otherwise would not have been entitled.

Recommendation 1: Disallow (*i.e.*, claw back) \$106,510 in match funds paid for the salaries for the DPR Program Manager and Program Director/Administrator who were responsible for the certifications of education awards and timesheet oversight and under whose supervision the issues occurred.

- AmeriCorps declined to disallow the match funds paid for salaries of the DPR Program Manager and Program Director/Administrator. AmeriCorps reasoned that while these individuals provided poor oversight and quality control of timekeeping and other allowable service activities, AmeriCorps believed that their time was spent on allowable activities and therefore their salaries were allowable.

Recommendation 2: Disallow \$20,370 in education awards for eight members whom DPR improperly changed member service terms.

- AmeriCorps disallowed seven of the eight education awards for \$17,506. According to AmeriCorps, although member terms of service changes cannot be made solely to provide a member with an education award, DPR was able to show that one of these eight education awards went to a member whose service term was altered after the onset of a medical condition.

Recommendation 3: Disallow \$90,175 in education awards for 27 members who would not have met service hour requirements if not for DPR's improper time and attendance practices.

- AmeriCorps disallowed the education awards for all 27 members.

Recommendation 4: Disallow \$7,302 in education awards for two members whose timesheets were inappropriately and retroactively adjusted and backdated.

- AmeriCorps disallowed the education awards for both members.

Recommendation 5: Disallow \$12,084 in education awards for four members for whom DPR failed to produce adequate timesheets.

- AmeriCorps declined to disallow the education awards for members for whom DPR was unable to produce timesheets, as DPR was later able to produce the timesheets in question. However, during a review of those timesheets, AmeriCorps found that one member had duplicate hours recorded on multiple days and that without the duplicate hours that member would not have earned his education award. AmeriCorps disallowed \$2,200 for that education award, as a result.

Due to overlapping monetary impact between the recommendations, AmeriCorps actions disallowed a total of \$111,369 in education awards.

Case ID 2020-034

Learn More

AmeriCorps OIG is an independent office within AmeriCorps charged with promoting economy and efficiency and preventing and detecting fraud in AmeriCorps programs and operations. OIG carries out this mission through independent and objective audits and investigations.

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, provides opportunities for more than 200,000 Americans to serve their country domestically, address the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement.

Anyone with knowledge of potential fraud, waste, and abuse related to AmeriCorps programs should contact the AmeriCorps OIG hotline at 800-452-8210 or fill out our webform at <http://www.AmeriCorpsOIG.gov/hotline>.

To learn more about AmeriCorps OIG and our ongoing and completed work, please visit our website at www.AmeriCorpsOIG.gov. To get our most recent updates, you can also follow us on social media: @AmeriCorpsOIG ([LinkedIn](#) and [X, formerly Twitter](#)) or [AmeriCorps OIG](#) on Facebook.