

Investigative Case Summary

Closed September 30, 2025

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AmeriCorps Agreed to Issue Regular Fraud Alerts Related to Advance Fee Schemes

AmeriCorps Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigated allegations that individuals posing as AmeriCorps employees on social media sites offered grant funds in exchange for a fee, such as gift cards or cell phones, as part of a scheme known as “advance fee fraud.”

The evidence collected through the investigation support the finding that the fraud suspects executed the schemes by utilizing fake social media profiles, Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone numbers, fake email addresses, and Virtual Private Networks (VPNs). The social media profiles of the fraud suspects investigated were associated with Nigerian phone numbers and the registered emails associated with the Facebook profiles had registrations and login activity linked to Internet Protocol (IP) addresses located in Nigeria and/or VPN services. AmeriCorps OIG attempted to gain investigative interest in the fraudulent schemes by briefing them to other state and federal law enforcement agencies, but all declined to join the investigation.

At the conclusion of the investigation, AmeriCorps OIG made six recommendations. AmeriCorps concurred with five of the six recommendations.

Recommendation 1: Issue regular fraud alerts on its website and social media accounts to continually keep the public aware of fraudulent schemes that use AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service’ name and brand;

- AmeriCorps concurred and noted it would begin providing fraud alerts at least quarterly on both AmeriCorps.gov and its social media accounts and will add an alert on the AmeriCorps.gov fraud page to explicitly warn against advance fee fraud schemes. Additionally, AmeriCorps continues to work with Meta to remove the accounts falsely claiming to be associated with the agency.

Recommendation 2: Create a more prominent link at the top of the AmeriCorps website where fraud alerts may be more readily seen and available;

- AmeriCorps concurred and will include the link to the AmeriCorps.gov fraud page on its landing page.

Recommendation 3: Incorporate a banner on the top of the AmeriCorps website that verifies the web address is the official site;

- AmeriCorps did not concur and believed it satisfied the recommendation with the banner at the top of the AmeriCorps.gov site that identifies it as an official website of the United States Government.

Recommendation 4: Update the fraud alerts to include a link to the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3); the Department of Justice, Office of Victim Crimes, Elder Fraud Hotline; and other victim resources such as information on obtaining credit reports;

- AmeriCorps concurred and will include a link to IC3; the Department of Justice, Office of Victim Crimes, Elder Fraud hotline; and other victim resources in its fraud alerts.

Recommendation 5: Continue to work with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Scams Against Older Adults Advisory Group; and

- AmeriCorps concurred and will continue to work with the FTC Scams Against Older Adults Advisory Group.

Recommendation 6: Continue to utilize AmeriCorps Seniors to help inform seniors of potential scams and resources available to them.

- AmeriCorps concurred and will continue to inform seniors of scams.

Case ID 2023-055

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. The 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>.

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