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AmeriCorps Grantee Executive Director Found Guilty and Debarred for Submitting Fraudulent Timesheets

DATE ISSUED 08.29.2017

Closed 2017-08-28

A joint investigation with the Lordsburg New Mexico Police Department found that Ms. Mary Cristina Ortiz, Executive Director, The Wellness Coalition, Lordsburg, NM, defrauded the U.S. Government when she allowed two AmeriCorps members (Ms. Ortiz' children) to submit timesheets that falsely claim they performed AmeriCorps service in Lordsburg, NM, while they attended college in another state. Ms. Ortiz actions resulted in the loss of \$16,500 in Federal funds.

On April, 13, 2017, Ms. Ortiz pled guilty to one count of fraud in violation of Article 16, § 30-16-6 New Mexico Statutes Annotated. On May 16, 2017, the 6th Judicial District, Lordsburg, NM, accepted Ms. Ortiz' plea and ordered she: (1) serve three years of supervised probation; (2) pay \$16,000 in restitution; (3) provide a written public apology to the Lordsburg, NM, community; (4) and remain a law-abiding citizen.

Agency/Administrative Action: On August 14, 2017, as a result of the investigation, CNCS management debarred Ms. Ortiz for a period of three years.

Case ID: 2016-012

REPORT WASTE FRAUD & ABUSE

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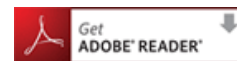
The Office of Special Counsel



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