



July 19, 2011

Ms. Judy Lapping, Program Manager  
George B. Thomas Sr. Learning Academy  
7210 Hidden Creek  
Bethesda MD, 20817-4632

Dear Ms. Lapping:

The Office of Inspector General (OIG), Corporation for National and Community Service (Corporation), performed an *Evaluation of Corporation Grants Awarded to George B. Thomas Sr. Learning Academy (GBTLA)*. We conducted our evaluation in accordance with the Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation issued by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. This letter (OIG Report 11-19) provides the results of our evaluation.

**Results:** We interviewed a judgmental sample of former and current AmeriCorps members and reviewed their member files. We found no exceptions or instances of noncompliance with applicable laws, regulations, and grant provisions. We also interviewed GBTLA's Project Director and Project Accountant and policies and procedures. We did not note exceptions in the administration of the grant. Overall results from our interviews and review of internal control policies demonstrate that GBTLA's financial, grant, and program management were compliant with the applicable laws, regulations, and grant provisions.

**Objectives, Methodology, and Scope:** The objectives of our review were to determine whether: (1) GBTLA's financial, grant, and program management are compliant with the applicable laws, regulations and grant provisions; and (2) internal controls are effective.

We conducted our field work at the GBTLA site at Silver Spring, MD, as well as various placement sites within Maryland, during March 22-24, 2011. Our methodology included interviewing AmeriCorps members, assessing the documentation of AmeriCorps member compliance standards, written policies and procedures, and internal controls. The scope of the review focused on Grant No. 09ACHMD0010001 and of AmeriCorps members enrolled from September 1, 2009, to January 25, 2011.

**Background:** The Corporation awarded GBTLA an AmeriCorps grant through the Maryland Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism. The award sponsored 32 AmeriCorps volunteers involved in parent outreach and communication. The members were placed with non-profit organizations (placement sites) that served children, youth and disabled persons, and those struggling economically. The members helped develop volunteer program infrastructure within these placement sites. In return for their service, AmeriCorps members receive a monthly living stipend, health care coverage, education award, and training. The grant awarded by the Corporation for Fiscal Year 2010 was \$674,163, of which \$377,590 was funded by the Corporation and the remaining \$296,573 was GBTLA's cost share.

We appreciate the time and assistance you and your staff provided during the review. If you have questions or wish to discuss this letter, please contact me at (202) 606-9360 or [s.axenfeld@cncsoig.gov](mailto:s.axenfeld@cncsoig.gov); Thomas Chin, Audit Manager, at (202) 606-9362 or [t.chin@cncsoig.gov](mailto:t.chin@cncsoig.gov); or Sheyi Idowu, Auditor, at (202) 606-9361 or [o.idowu@cncsoig.gov](mailto:o.idowu@cncsoig.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Stuart G. Axenfeld  
Assistant Inspector General for Audit

cc: Kim Mansaray, Acting Chief Operating Officer  
William Anderson, Chief Financial Officer  
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Rocco Gaudio, Deputy CFO for Grant and Field Financial Management Center  
Michael Berning, Director of Office of Field Liaison  
Margaret Rosenberry, Director, Office of Grants Management  
Claire Moreno, Audit Liaison, Office of Grants Management  
Jack Goldberg, Audit Resolution Specialist, Office of Grants Management  
Barbara Reynolds, Director of Maryland Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism