

AmeriCorps Grantee Failed to Conduct a Compliant National Service Criminal History Check

Closed 12/17/18

CNCS-OIG investigated allegations that AmeriCorps members serving in the St. Bernard Project (SBP), New York, NY, AmeriCorps program displaced the work of paid staff, served outside the scope of the grant, and were not reimbursed for travel expenses.

The investigation found no evidence to support the allegations but did find that SBP failed to conduct a compliant National Service Criminal History Check (CHC) on one former member, a violation of 45 C.F.R. § 2540.203. The check was noncompliant because the search of the National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) misspelled the former member's first name.

Agency/Administrative Actions

CNCS management concurred with CNCS-OIG's finding that SBP failed to conduct a compliant CHC on the former member; however, CNCS initially determined not to impose a financial consequence, asserting that, as long as the last name is correct, and the first name is similar to the actual name, the search is generally sufficient to ascertain whether the person is a registered sex offender.

On January 11, 2019, CNCS revised its decision and elected to impose a financial consequence on SBP for the noncompliant CHC.

Case ID 2018-012