



MARCH 24, 1999

OIG REPORT 99-11(H)

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. TOM PETERS, DIRECTOR, ANDERSON OCONEE
PICKENS HUB, CLEMSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

SUBJECT: Memorandum Survey Report--Review of Science and Math to Go
Project, SC-12415-96

PURPOSE

The purposes of our review were (1) to determine the allowability of the costs claimed under the ARC grants, (2) to determine if the grant objectives were met, and (3) to determine the current status of the project.

SCOPE

Our survey included procedures to review costs incurred and claimed for reimbursement under the grant, as well as costs claimed as matching funds. The initial period of performance for the grant was September 1, 1996, through August 31, 1997, but it was subsequently extended through February 28, 1998. We reviewed the grantee's reports, examined records, and held discussions with grantee officials in Clemson, South Carolina, February 1-2, 1999. As a basis for determining allowable costs and compliance requirements, we used the provisions of the grant agreement, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars A-21 and A-110, and the ARC Code.

BACKGROUND

ARC Grant SC-12415-96 was awarded to the Clemson University, Office of Sponsored Programs, Clemson, South Carolina to establish a regional Materials Resource Support Center which would enable teachers to provide students with frequent hands-on learning opportunities in science and math. The Center was to house and maintain materials and equipment for teachers and 23,000 elementary students in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties. ARC funds were to be used for personnel costs for the Center and kits of exemplary science and mathematics teaching materials.

According to the grant agreement, the following specific tasks were to be completed:

- 1) Hire the following staff who will perform the work listed:

A. Instructional Support Specialist:

- lead in the design of professional development strategies focused on “kits” of exemplary science and mathematics teaching materials;
- assist in the design and development of the Regional Materials Resource Support Center;
- purchase 300 “kits” of exemplary science and mathematics teaching materials for grades 1-6 (each kit consists of an inquiry-centered curriculum guide and all the required teacher and student materials for 8 weeks of science or mathematics studies) and refurbishment materials (replacements for materials consumed by students and teachers while performing investigations);
- lead in the implementation of professional development opportunities focused on “kits” of exemplary science and mathematics teaching materials for up to 150 teachers of grades 1-6 and preservice teachers representing the seven school districts in the project area;
- lead in organizing and preparing volunteers to assist in classroom support;
- assist in community outreach efforts to develop sustaining support for the project;
- assist in gathering classroom data regarding the role of the Materials Resource Support Center’s impact on teachers’ implementation of strategies identified in the SC Science and Mathematics Frameworks; and
- assist in gathering classroom data regarding the role of the Materials Resource Support Center’s impact on equitable access to materials;

B. Materials Support Specialist:

- lead in the design and development of the Regional Materials Resource Support Center;
- maintain 300 “kits” and refurbishment materials as they are used for professional development and classroom use;
- lead in organizing and preparing volunteers to assist in materials management;
- assist in community outreach efforts to develop sustaining support for the project; and

2. Grantee's Anderson-Oconee-Pickens HUB staff and Grantee's volunteer partners will assist in the above tasks and in project evaluation.

The initial grant was for the lesser of \$156,000 or 48 percent of the actual, reasonable and eligible costs of the project. The grantee was to pay or cause to be paid the non-federal share of \$172,090 (52%) in cash, contributed services, or in-kind contribution, as approved by ARC. At the time of our review, the grantee had claimed total project costs of \$376,624.62, including grant costs of \$155,978.88 (41 percent) and matching costs of \$220,645.74 (59 percent). ARC deobligated \$21.12 and closed the grant account May 6, 1998.

RESULTS

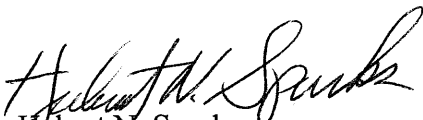
Financial Review

During our visit, we reviewed the grantee's accounting records, including invoices and supporting documentation for a sample of grant and matching costs charged to the project. No deficiencies were noted as to the allowability of the expenses or the adequacy of the documentation for the expenditures we reviewed.

Program Review

The grantee established the Regional Materials Resource Support Center to house the *Science & Math to Go! (SMTG!)* materials and equipment used by teachers and elementary students in seven participating school districts in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties. An Instructional Support Specialist and a Materials Support Specialist were hired, as planned, and the work specified in the grant agreement was completed, including purchasing and maintaining "kits" of exemplary science and mathematics teaching materials, and implementing professional development opportunities for teachers planning to use the science and math kits in their classrooms.

The grantee's project director reported that anticipated funding from schools and corporate sponsors will allow them to continue the *SMTG!* project.


Hubert N. Sparks
Inspector General



March 24, 1999

Dr. Tom Peters, Director
Anderson Oconee Pickens HUB
Sears House at Clemson University
#3 Highway 93
Clemson, SC 29634-1910

re: OIG Report 99-11(H), Grant SC-12415-96

Dear Dr. Peters:

Enclosed is a copy of our memorandum report. The review disclosed no deficiencies, and a response is not requested.

A copy of the report is being provided to the Federal Co-Chairman, ARC Executive Director, and South Carolina State Alternate.

The courtesies and cooperation afforded the auditor were appreciated.

Sincerely,


Hubert N. Sparks
Inspector General

Enclosure



March 24, 1999


Mr. Dan Ruff, ARC Program Manager
Office of Community Grant Programs
1122 Lady Street, Suite 700
P. O. Box 927
Columbia, SC 29201

re: OIG Reports 99-11(H), 99-12(H), 99-13(H), and 99-14(H); Grants
SC-12415-96, SC-12417-96, SC-12303-96, and SC-11834-96

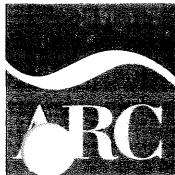
Dear Mr. Ruff:

Enclosed are copies of our memorandum reports dealing with the subject grants.

Sincerely,


Hubert N. Sparks
Inspector General

Enclosures



April 5, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR The Federal Co-Chairman
ARC Executive Director


SUBJECT: OIG Reports and Request for Information on Unresolved Reports

Enclosed is a copy of our periodic update on expired grants [OIG Report 99-15(H)]. As noted, positive ARC actions have resulted in a continued reduction of open grants and actions to reallocate available funding. The report notes some grants for which additional action appears appropriate.

Also enclosed are the eight reports identified below. In seven cases, no deficiencies needing attention were noted. Report 99-5(H), Mississippi Consolidated Technical Assistance, contains a repeat recommendation pertaining to the timely closing of grants and deobligation of unused funds.

- 99-1(H)—ARC Grant TN-12829-98, Tri-Cities Appalachian International Trading Network
- 99-2(H)—ARC Grant NC-12320-96, Appalachian International Business Center
- 99-4(H)—ARC Grants MS-12324-96/97, Leadership and Civic Infrastructure Initiative Project
- 99-5(H)—ARC Grants MS-7763-95/96/97, Consolidated Technical Assistance
- 99-11(H), ARC Grant SC-12415-96, Science and Math To Go
- 99-12(H), ARC Grant SC-12417-96, Internet Training Facilities
- 99-13(H), ARC Grant SC-12303-96, Adding Rural Counties to AppNet
- 99-14(H), ARC Grant SC-11834-96, Economic Development Information System

Information is requested on the status of recommendations contained in reports 98-24(H), Georgia Revolving Loan Fund, and 98-36(H), Sawmill Center for the Arts.


Hubert N. Sparks
Inspector General

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Judy Rae