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Prohibited Political Activity Leads to Removal of VISTA Site

DATE ISSUED 10.14.2016

Closed 2016-10-14

This investigation was initiated based on a Hotline allegation concerning a VISTA member who may have engaged in political activities as part of his VISTA service.

CNCS-OIG completed its investigation into allegations that a VISTA assigned to Forest Grove VISTA Service to Southeast Oklahoma (SSEO), Idabel, OK, engaged in prohibited political activity and displacement as part of his VISTA service.

The CNCS-OIG investigation found that on at least one occasion the VISTA, serving at the Oklahomans for Responsible Water Policy Association (ORWPA), Broken Bow, OK, site distributed political material (bumper stickers) involving a pending state legislation issue on the 2016 Oklahoma state ballot in violation of 45 CFR § 2556.780 (Prohibited Activities), while serving at a Labor Day event promoting water conservation.

CNCS management reported that ORWPA was terminated as a VISTA service site and the VISTA resigned.

Case ID: 2016-031

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