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Senior Corps Tribal Grantee Misused Program Funds and Volunteers, Failed to Check Criminal Histories

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Alerted to allegations that Senior Corps grantee Great Lake Inter-Tribal Council, Lac du Flambeau, WI, misused program funds, CNCS-OIG investigators conducted a review in conjunction with an agency grant officer and a program officer. This joint review found that the grantee had abused the funds awarded by CNCS in multiple ways. Most significantly, the grantee incurred more than \$90,000 for recognition items and entertainment, purchasing a variety of clothing, small appliances, housewares and other merchandise for volunteers. "Recognition" refers to items and events to celebrate the contributions of volunteers to the community, such as special ceremonies, teas, breakfasts, luncheons and items of nominal value, such as pins and certificates. Here, the nature of the items and the amounts spent were excessive and unreasonable.

The grantee also failed to conduct complete, timely checks of the National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) for 23 volunteers, allowed certain volunteers to perform service activities outside the scope of the grant and charged the grant for a large quantity of office supplies purchased one day before the grant year ended.

CNCS disallowed at total of \$111,468.15, as a result of the investigation: \$75,387.85 for excessive recognition costs; \$18,820.30 for service that exceeded the scope of the grant; \$14,750 for late or missing NSOPW checks; and \$2,510 for office supplies not properly chargeable to the grant. After providing technical assistance to help the grantee understand and comply with its obligations under the grant, CNCS concluded that the grantee was unable to meet its financial management and other responsibilities and therefore denied continued funding.

Case ID: 2016-005

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