

IF I REPORT FRAUD, WILL I BE PROTECTED?

- Fraud Hotline callers need not give their names.
- If you identify yourself in bringing a complaint or concern, your confidentiality will be protected if requested.
- In most cases, investigators are not obligated to notify management of ongoing probes.
- Federal law prohibits retaliation against persons who cooperate with investigations. Allegations of retaliation should be reported to the Office of Inspector General.

ABOUT THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Office of Inspector General and the Corporation for National and Community Service were both established by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

Like all Federal OIG operations, our office is independent of the agency it oversees. Led by an appointee of the President, the OIG's team of professional investigators, auditors, and evaluators conducts and supervises objective audits and investigations of the Corporation's programs, including AmeriCorps, VISTA, the National Civilian Community Corps, Learn and Serve America, and the Senior Corps. The OIG's mission is to prevent and detect fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars, and to recommend policies that promote economy and efficiency.



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We Want You!



To Help Prevent

FRAUD

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Corporation for National and Community Service
1201 New York Avenue NW., Suite 830
Washington, D.C. 20525

Toll-free Fraud Hotline: (800) 452-8210

WHAT IS

FRAUD ?

Plain and simple, fraud is usually any theft of taxpayer dollars or taxpayer-funded program resources for personal gain. Some common examples of fraud include:

- Filing falsified time sheets that claim pay or benefits for hours that were not worked.
- Misapplying funds, including using grant money for unapproved purposes.
- Embezzling, including outright theft or temporary “borrowing” of grant and program funds for personal use.
- Making false statements or falsifying documents to conceal illegal activities.
- Overcharging a grant for goods that were never delivered or services that were never performed.

WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?

Every American, especially those who are involved in or benefit from the Corporation’s service programs, has a duty to help prevent fraud and abuse. Fraud reduces the resources available for programs, and can lead to the cancellation of a worthwhile program that meets community needs. Fraud also generates bad publicity that can quickly poison the public’s perception of even the most commendable community improvement programs.

As a Federal, State or local grant recipient or employee working for the taxpayer-funded programs of the Corporation for National and Community Service, or as an AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, or VISTA member, you have an obligation to ensure that the government is not being defrauded by individuals who violate the law. You are expected to report information that you believe indicates instances of fraud, abuse, or waste. Your cooperation is essential to the success and fairness of investigations conducted by the Office of Inspector General.

Fraud victimizes all taxpayers, as well as communities that are seeking to improve their quality of life. Worst of all, fraud exacts its heaviest toll on your neighbors who depend on the Corporation’s programs and volunteers for assistance.



WHAT “RED FLAGS” MIGHT INDICATE FRAUD?

- ❗ Records are missing or altered.
- ❗ Receipts and bills are generic and lack specific information.
- ❗ Grant funds are drawn down in excess of actual needs.
- ❗ Grant funds are drawn down well before the end of the year.
- ❗ Multiple suppliers with the same billing address provide goods to a program.
- ❗ Checks are cashed at taverns, off-track betting parlors or other suspicious locales.
- ❗ Fellow employee has a close or personal relationship with a supplier.
- ❗ Fellow employee is hesitant to allow co-workers to examine records.
- ❗ Fellow employee has a dramatic change in lifestyle, or is living beyond his or her means.
- ❗ Fellow employee is under severe personal or professional pressures.
- ❗ Fellow employee exhibits a pattern of incomplete, inaccurate, or late filing of records.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SUSPECT FRAUD?

Call our Fraud Hotline at (800) 452-8210 or send an e-mail message to the Office of Inspector General at hotline@cncsoig.gov. Our investigators will ask you to provide complete, accurate, and truthful information. You may also be asked to supply investigators with documents and other materials pertaining to possible fraud. All callers may remain anonymous.