



Ex-Director Must Repay More Than \$99,000

ABERDEEN, MS. – A former AmeriCorps program director who misused Corporation grant funds and AmeriCorps members at her day care center was sentenced April 15, 2010, to two years' probation and ordered to repay \$99,057 in embezzled grant funds.

Florestine Gladney, of Tupelo, MS, had earlier pled guilty to theft of Federal funds in a case investigated by OIG Special Agent William Ruley. His investigation found that Gladney misused AmeriCorps members, who were to have tutored children at her day care center. They were instead illegally used as day care employees and AmeriCorps grant funds were diverted to pay their salaries. Gladney also filed false reports to the Corporation in an attempt to cover up her fraud.

U.S. District Judge Sharion Aycock also sentenced Gladney to complete 200 hours of non-compensated community service.

Based on her earlier guilty plea and information supplied by the OIG, the Corporation in March debarred Gladney from any participation in Federal grants and contracts for a period of three years.