

Ex-VISTA Supervisor Gets Probation

A former Puerto Rico VISTA supervisor who enrolled 11 ineligible full-time college students in the program and then advised the members to lie about their status has been sentenced to 18 months of probation.

An OIG investigation found that Rosa Luz Molina, an employee of the Municipality of Caguas, Puerto Rico, enrolled the members while knowing that full-time college students are ineligible for VISTA, which requires a full-time service commitment from participants. Molina, who pled guilty to one count of False Statements and was sentenced in Federal Court on July, 19, 2011, also admitted that she told the VISTA members to lie about their student status if they were questioned by Corporation officials.

The loss to the Government, in the form of benefits for the ineligible members, is estimated at more than \$140,000. The OIG is pursuing a civil action to recover those funds.