



News From
The Office of Inspector General
Corporation For National And Community Service



VISTA Defrauder Gets Prison Time

An identity thief and undocumented alien who defrauded the VISTA program of more \$61,000 has been sentenced to six months in prison and three years' probation by a U.S. District Court judge in El Paso, TX.

An OIG investigation found that Hilaria Gomez, who is in the United States illegally and therefore ineligible to participate in the VISTA program, used another person's identity to enroll and serve multiple VISTA terms, during which she received more than \$51,000 in living allowances and other benefits. Gomez also used stolen identity documents, including data on two children, to illegally receive more than \$10,000 in VISTA childcare benefits.

Gomez, who had previously pled guilty to felony counts of making false statements, theft of public monies and Federal Government program fraud, was sentenced in October 2010.

The case was investigated by OIG Special Agents William Ruley and Jeffrey Morales.