



Ex-VISTA Member Pleads Guilty to Theft

A former VISTA member has found out the hard way that a paperwork lapse is no excuse for theft of Federal funds.

An Office of Inspector General investigation found that Jannette Maughan, a former Utah VISTA member, knowingly pocketed more than \$8,000 in subsistence allowance payments after she resigned from the program. Maughan left VISTA on November 16, 2002, but her departure was not immediately reported, as required, to the Corporation by local program officials.

Maughan kept receiving allowance payments until August 23, 2003. Despite her program's administrative error, she was required to report the erroneous payments to program officials and return any funds to which she was not entitled.

Maughan pled guilty to misdemeanor theft on July 27, 2006, in Utah District Court and was sentenced to 12 months in prison (which was suspended), 25 months of probation, fined \$250 (plus \$25 in court costs) and required to make full restitution to the Corporation.