

## Inspector General Stresses Prevention; ; Asks Grantee Directors to be Her “Early Warning System.”

WASHINGTON, DC – Deborah Jeffrey, newly confirmed Inspector General for the Corporation for National and Community Service, this week told an audience of AmeriCorps State and National grantee directors that at a time of looming budget cuts to federal programs, it was critically important they remain aware of their duty to the taxpayers, and to future grantees, to be good stewards of the federal money with which they have been entrusted.

“The taxpayers are trusting you with their money, to be used in specific ways, and for specific purposes. This is what we mean by stewardship. . . ., a word that we use all the time without thinking about what it really means. Don't let them down.” You also owe it to future grantees. If today's grantees aren't careful, there will be less money available in the future.”

Jeffrey warned the audience that in the current federal budget climate of tensions and trade-offs, Congress is looking to fund only the most deserving and efficient of programs. “Good stewardship is especially important when money is scarce. Our elected representatives have the difficult job of deciding what to cut. It's always easy to cut programs that are perceived as careless or wasteful.”

Jeffrey, a former Washington lawyer with expertise in loss prevention and risk management, urged the audience to “be [her] partners in preventing waste or fraud.” “The good news,” she said, “is that these problems are avoidable” with careful grant management and good record-keeping. She urged them to “be an early warning system” and to “speak up if you see something that looks wrong or dishonest.”

Jeffrey addressed the annual AmeriCorps State and National grantee meeting, this year titled “Building on Excellence” and held from September 18 – 20, 2012, at the Washington Hilton in Washington D.C. The meeting is the Corporation’s annual conference with AmeriCorps grantee executive directors where CNCS presents information regarding new grant requirements and policies, and information on compliance, oversight and grants management. Workshops provided this year covered such topics as “Prohibited Activities” “Criminal History Checks” and “Programmatic and Fiscal Monitoring of Subgrantees.”

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through its AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs. The Inspector General of the Corporation is charged with oversight of the proper use of Corporation grant funds and is the agency leader in preventing fraud, waste, through education, audits and evaluations, and investigations. For more information, go to <http://www.cnscsoig.gov>.