



Office of the Chief Executive Officer  
Jan. 11, 2022

## Cooperating with the Office of Inspector General and Policy 102

Dear colleagues,

You inspire me every day with your work making a difference in communities across the country. Our agency's accomplishments are intertwined with our ability to be effective stewards of federal dollars and maintain accountability and transparency standards. The Office of the Inspector General is critical to our work in this area.

The OIG conducts independent and objective audits, investigations, and reviews of the agency to prevent wrongdoings that could hold us back from success. Each AmeriCorps employee plays an essential role in cooperating with the OIG and providing requested information to support these efforts.

AmeriCorps' Policy Council recently updated AmeriCorps' [Policy 102](#): Reporting Waste, Fraud, and Abuse, Cooperating with Office of Inspector General Inquiries, and Whistleblower Protections.

This policy outlines the duty of AmeriCorps employees to urgently report any reasonable or actual suspicion of – or information or evidence that suggests – waste, fraud, and abuse to the OIG. The updates bring further clarity and specificity to what must be reported and when, as well as to the protections available to contractor, grantee, and employee whistleblowers.

As a reminder:

- Anyone may report allegations to the OIG. Employees have a right to communicate with the OIG directly. You do not need permission from anyone at AmeriCorps in order to communicate or file a complaint with the OIG, nor do you have to tell anyone after the fact.
- Complaints can be made in person, via phone at (800) 452-8210, or [online](#). The OIG will maintain a complainant's confidentiality, to the extent possible and consistent with OIG's legal obligations. A complainant may remain anonymous, but the OIG asks that you provide a way that investigators can reach you in the event that they need additional information in order to proceed.
- AmeriCorps employees and employees of contractors, subcontractors, grantees, and subgrantees are protected by law from retaliation for reporting to the OIG. AmeriCorps does not tolerate any kind of whistleblower retaliation.
- All AmeriCorps employees, as well as employees of contractors, subcontractors, grantees, and subgrantees, are expected to cooperate with OIG inquiries unless the answers would incriminate them. Anyone who fails to cooperate with the OIG may be subject to disciplinary action or, in the case of obstruction, to criminal prosecution.
- By law, the OIG is also entitled to information that may be classified, privileged, confidential, or otherwise exempt from disclosure under the law, including the Freedom of Information Act or the Privacy Act. Please consult with the Office of General Counsel for assistance if you have questions. The OIG will treat the information it obtains in accordance with applicable statutes and regulations. Providing such information to OIG does not waive any privileges that the agency may attach to the information.

The Office of General Counsel and the OIG will host training on this policy in the future. If you have questions, please contact [Blake Fetrow](#) or [Fernando Laguarda](#) in the Office of General Counsel, or [Stephen Ravas](#), Counsel to the Inspector General. An integral piece of AmeriCorps' success is our partnership with the OIG. Thank you for helping uphold our standards of accountability and integrity.

In service,

Michael D. Smith  
Chief Executive Officer



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