

Office of Inspector General Cooperation and Policy 102

Dear colleagues,

Each and every day, we are inspired by your commitment to AmeriCorps' mission and the impact AmeriCorps makes in communities across the nation. The agency's success depends on its ability to be effective stewards of federal dollars, in alignment with goal four in our [strategic plan](#), and maintain accountability and transparency. The Office of Inspector General plays a critical role in fulfilling AmeriCorps' mission by preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse within the agency's programs and operations.

As a reminder, the OIG provides an independent oversight role through its audits, investigations, and reviews to help identify ways to improve the agency's work and prevent wrongdoings that could undermine AmeriCorps' success and public trust. The OIG's independent, yet complementary, functions help ensure the integrity of AmeriCorps' work.

Under the [Inspector General Act of 1978](#), as amended, the agency and its employees must cooperate with the OIG. One important aspect of cooperation is providing information and assistance in a timely manner. Among other provisions, the IG Act authorizes the Inspector General to have timely access to all records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers, recommendations, or other material available to the agency relating to its programs and operations, including those that may be classified, privileged, confidential, or otherwise exempt from disclosure under the law, including the Freedom of Information Act or the Privacy Act. More broadly, the IG Act authorizes the OIG to request any information or assistance necessary to perform its duties, which may include access to employees, facilities, systems, and equipment. The OIG treats the information it obtains in accordance with applicable statutes and regulations. Providing such information to the OIG does not waive any privileges that the agency may attach to the information.

[AmeriCorps' Policy 102](#): Reporting Waste, Fraud, and Abuse, Cooperating with Office of Inspector General Inquiries, and Whistleblower Protections outlines the duty of AmeriCorps employees to report any reasonable or actual suspicion of – or information or evidence that suggests – waste, fraud, or abuse to the OIG without delay.

As a reminder, under Policy 102:

- Anyone may report allegations to the OIG and you have a right to communicate with the OIG directly. You do not need permission from anyone at AmeriCorps to communicate or file a complaint with the OIG, nor do you need to tell anyone before or after the fact.

- Complaints can be made in person, via phone at 800-452-8210, or through the [OIG's Web Portal](#). In conducting its work, the OIG will maintain employee confidentiality when requested to the extent possible and consistent with the OIG's legal obligations. The OIG will also make best efforts to coordinate with managers and supervisors to avoid disruption, respect segregated sensitive materials, and comport with all other responsibilities under applicable law and agency policies. A complainant may also remain anonymous, but the OIG asks that you provide a way that investigators can reach you if they need additional information to proceed.
- In addition to AmeriCorps employees, employees of contractors, subcontractors, grantees, and subgrantees must cooperate with the 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.
- It is against the law and agency policy to retaliate against AmeriCorps employees and employees of contractors, subcontractors, grantees, and subgrantees who provide information, cooperate with the OIG, or report allegations of waste, fraud, and abuse to the OIG. AmeriCorps does not tolerate any kind of whistleblower retaliation.

The OIG is integral to AmeriCorps' success, and we thank you for helping uphold our standards of accountability, transparency, and integrity. If you have questions about the OIG's work, please contact [Blake Fetrow](#) in the Office of General Counsel or [Elisabeth Christensen](#) in the OIG's Office of Counsel.

In service,

Michael D. Smith
Chief Executive Officer

Stephen Ravas
Acting Inspector General



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We sent this email to s.ravas@americorpsoig.gov on behalf of AmeriCorps.