



Vol. 1 (Nov. 2023)

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

ANTI-FRAUD ADVISORY

WWW.AMERICORPSOIG.GOV



Combatting Fraud as a Strategic Priority

AmeriCorps' March 2022 Strategic Plan identified "strengthen agency and program integrity by protecting AmeriCorps resources from fraud and mismanagement" as a sub-objective to Strategic Goal 4: Effectively Steward Federal Resources. To communicate the importance of combatting fraud as a strategic priority, programs using AmeriCorps funds should:

- Message how fraud negatively impacts communities served and takes resources away from those in need;
- Reinforce through training that fraud includes falsifying timesheets and other records; and
- Provide recipients with steps to take if they suspect fraud, including contacting the Office of Inspector General.

AmeriCorps Office of Inspector General is pleased to announce a series of anti-fraud advisories to advise AmeriCorps and its grantees of leading practices and strategies to mitigate the risk of fraud, waste, and abuse. We will highlight low cost, high impact actions that AmeriCorps and its grantees can take to better protect AmeriCorps funds.

Our office's work consistently finds examples of fraud occurring at AmeriCorps grantees and subgrantees. Fraud negatively impacts AmeriCorps' ability to carry out its important mission. Grant fraud not only deprives deserving beneficiaries, recipients, and organizations of essential funding but also erodes trust in national service programs.

We will cover topics that are of high interest to AmeriCorps, grantees, and subgrantees. To suggest a topic for a future advisory, [contact our office](#).

EFFECT OF EMPLOYEE AND MANAGER FRAUD AWARENESS TRAINING ON HOTLINES AND REPORTING

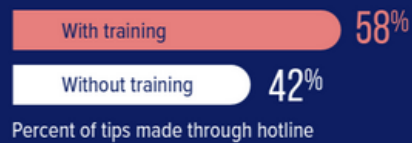
TRAINING INCREASES
the likelihood of detection by tip

45% of cases detected
by tip with training

37% of cases detected
by tip without training



Reports of fraud are
**MORE LIKELY TO
BE SUBMITTED**
through hotlines
with training



Source: Occupational Fraud 2022: A Report to the Nations. Copyright 2022 by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Inc.

Fraud Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility

Employee Training

AmeriCorps employees are the first line of defense and are in the best position to prevent and detect fraud. Employees should be counseled that if they "see something, say something." We applaud AmeriCorps' efforts on developing its recent Anti-Fraud training for employees. For this training to be effective however, it must be mandatory for employees and contractors, annually retaken, and tracked for completion.

Grantee and Subgrantee Training

A leading practice is to require grantee and subgrantee personnel to complete pre-award anti-fraud training. Pre-award anti-fraud training is important because it informs grantees and subgrantees of their requirements related to fraud detection and prevention before funds are spent. AmeriCorps should mandate pre-award anti-fraud training for grantees and subgrantees, ensure the training has been completed prior to awarding funds, and establish annual anti-fraud training requirements.

Keep in Touch



Report suspected instances of fraud, waste, and abuse to the Office of Inspector General's hotline by [clicking here](#).

Did you know whistleblowers are protected under federal law? To find out more about your rights as a whistleblower, [click here](#).



International Fraud Awareness Week is November 12-18. You can [find out more here](#).