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**To:** [Leonard, Charndrea](#); [Graham, Jill](#); [Hyde, Mary](#); [Maser, Jana](#)  
**Cc:** [Stephen Ravas](#)  
**Subject:** Joint Cooperation Message - AmeriCorps and the Office of the Inspector General  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 23, 2025 4:17:38 PM

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Dear Colleagues,

AmeriCorps' impactful work in communities nationwide stems directly from your dedication to our mission. The agency's success, however, also relies on the responsible management of federal resources, effective stewardship of federal dollars, and unwavering accountability across all AmeriCorps programs. This is where the Office of Inspector General (OIG) plays a crucial role. The OIG strengthens AmeriCorps' ability to achieve its mission by preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse, and by promoting efficiency and effectiveness throughout our programs and operations.

The OIG is an independent unit within AmeriCorps that provides vital oversight through audits, investigations, and reviews. Its work identifies opportunities to improve our agency's processes and helps prevent and detect violations of law, policy, rules, and regulations that could undermine AmeriCorps' success and public trust. The OIG's independent, yet complementary, functions are essential for ensuring the integrity and effectiveness of all AmeriCorps' work.

Agency and employee cooperation is required by the [Inspector General Act of 1978](#). A critical aspect of this 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, documents, data, 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, further outlines your responsibility. It clearly states AmeriCorps employees' duty to report any reasonable or actual suspicion of—or information or evidence that suggests—waste, fraud, or abuse to the OIG without delay.

You have the right to communicate directly with the OIG. You don't need permission from

anyone at AmeriCorps to communicate with or file a complaint with the OIG, nor do you need to inform anyone before or after the fact.

Complaints can be made in person (HQ Suite 4100), via the OIG's Web Portal, or by phone at 800-452-8210. The OIG will maintain employee confidentiality when requested, to the extent possible and consistent with its legal obligations. The OIG also makes best efforts to coordinate with managers and supervisors to avoid disruption, respect segregated sensitive materials, and comply with all other responsibilities under applicable law and agency policies. You can remain anonymous, though the OIG encourages you to consider providing a way for investigators to reach you if they need additional information.

Employees of grantees, subgrantees, contractors, and subcontractors must also cooperate with OIG inquiries, unless their answers incriminate them. Failing to cooperate with the OIG can lead to disciplinary action or, in cases of obstruction, criminal prosecution.

Retaliation is strictly prohibited. It is against the law and agency policy to retaliate against AmeriCorps employees, or employees of contractors, subcontractors, grantees, and subgrantees, who provide information, cooperate with the OIG, or report allegations of waste, fraud, and abuse. AmeriCorps has zero tolerance for any form of whistleblower retaliation.

The OIG is truly integral to AmeriCorps' continued success. We deeply appreciate your commitment to helping us uphold our high standards of accountability, transparency, and integrity.

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 [Rebecca Blaskey](#) in the OIG's Office of Counsel.

Jennifer Bastress Tahmasebi  
Interim Agency Head

Stephen Ravas  
Acting Inspector General