

BRIEFLY...

Highlights of Report Number: 05-03-004-03-365, a report to the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration. September 8, 2003.

WHY READ THE REPORT

The National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) provides training and employment assistance for migrant and seasonal farm workers. Congress established the NFJP under the Workforce Investment Act to provide employment-related assistance to those workers who primarily depend on jobs in agricultural labor. The Division of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers within the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) administers the program for the Department of Labor (DOL).

In Program Year 2000 (July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001), ETA awarded Rural Missouri, Incorporated (RMI), in Jefferson City, Missouri, a \$1.08 million grant under the NFJP to provide skills training, work experience, on-the-job training and related services to eligible farm workers in the region. In addition, RMI used carryover funds of \$108,014 from program year 1999 to increase the total funding available to \$1,194,556. RMI reported total costs of \$1,107,656 for 532 participants in the state.

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

The OIG conducted a series of performance audits of nine NFJP grants, including RMI. The objectives of our RMI audit were to determine: (1) whether the costs claimed by RMI for the period July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001 were reasonable, allowable and allocable, and properly supported; and (2) if performance reported was accurate and properly supported.

READ THE FULL REPORT

The full report, including the scope, methodology, and agency response, is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2003/05-03-004-03-365.pdf>

September 2003

AUDIT OF NATIONAL FARMWORKER JOBS PROGRAM GRANT TO RURAL MISSOURI INCORPORATED (RMI)

WHAT OIG FOUND

We found that RMI:

- Provided training services to 11 ineligible participants at a cost of \$24,344.
- Allocated costs to the NFJP grant through the Administrative Fund that should have been allocated entirely to another fund. The NFJP grant's share was \$1,772.
- Did not maintain documentation of eligibility determinations.

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

We recommended that ETA:

- Recover \$24,344 for training services provided to ineligible participants.
- Provide RMI with additional guidance on determining eligibility of NFJP participants.
- Recover \$1,772 of Administrative Fund costs improperly allocated to the NFJP grant.
- Confirm that RMI has controls in place for charging only the grant's share of joint costs to the Administrative Fund.
- Determine that costs recorded in the Administrative Fund subsequent to our audit period were proper.

RMI generally agreed with our findings and has taken corrective action on the finding related to documenting eligibility.