

BRIEFLY...

Highlights of Report Number: 05-04-001-03-365, a report to the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration. March 17, 2004.

WHY READ THE REPORT

The National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) provides training and employment assistance for migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Congress established the NFJP under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to provide employment-related assistance to workers who 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.

In Program Year 2000 (July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001), ETA awarded the Illinois Migrant Council (IMC) a \$1,425,743 grant under NFJP to provide training and services to eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the State of Illinois. IMC reported it provided services to 693 participants during the audit period.

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

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

READ THE FULL REPORT

To view the report, including the scope, methodology, and full agency response, go to:

<http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2004/05-04-001-03-365.pdf>

MARCH 2004

AUDIT FINDS TRAINING INCENTIVES NEEDED IN GRANT FOR ILLINOIS FARMWORKERS

WHAT OIG FOUND

Our audit found that:

- ❑ IMC allocated costs totaling \$17,378 to the NFJP grant as program costs that instead should have been allocated to the indirect cost pool. In response to our draft report, IMC reallocated the \$17,378 from the program cost category to the indirect cost pool.
- ❑ IMC allocated \$17,559 as administrative costs instead of program costs. In response to our draft report, IMC transferred the \$17,559 from administrative to program costs.
- ❑ IMC was unsuccessful in meeting the program goals outlined in the grant. While IMC planned to place 76 participants in unsubsidized jobs, it actually placed only 26—just 34 percent of its goal.

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

We recommended that the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training direct IMC to:

- ❑ Reassess its operations and outreach program, and implement changes that will allow IMC to meet its program goals.
- ❑ Provide additional incentives within the framework of WIA that will encourage participants to accept available training services under NFJP, which will lead to unsubsidized employment or recognized credentials.

IMC'S response stated that it would explore incentives for attracting customers to training. ETA needs to confirm that IMC has implemented incentives or other changes to meet its program goals.