

# BRIEFLY...

Highlights of Report Number: 05-04-003-10-001.  
A report to the Assistant Secretary, Occupational  
Safety and Health Administration. March 30,  
2004.

## WHY READ THE REPORT

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provides funding under the Susan Harwood Training Grant Program to train workers and employers to prevent safety and health hazards in their workplaces. OSHA expects grantees to develop training and/or educational programs that address a topic named by OSHA, conduct the training, and follow up with individuals they trained. Followup helps to identify changes in the workplace that resulted from health and safety training.

Nonprofit organizations serving clients nationally or in multi-state areas, and providing safety and health training, education, and related services are eligible for the grants. Funds may not be used to train workers or employers from workplaces not covered by the *Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act)*. Public workers in some states are excluded from *OSH Act* coverage and, by extension, Susan Harwood training grant services.

## WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

The OIG audited the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) to determine the merits of an allegation that it was ineligible to receive a Susan Harwood grant. Specifically, the complaint alleged SWANA was a trade association that represents primarily local governments whose employees are not covered by the OSH Act. Consequently, the complainant alleged that OSHA should not have funded a grant to SWANA.

## 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/2004/05-04-003-10-001.pdf>

MARCH 2004

# SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA (SWANA) WAS ELIGIBLE FOR WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING GRANT

## WHAT OIG FOUND

We concluded that SWANA met all the requirements of eligibility to receive a Susan Harwood grant because it was a nonprofit organization, serving clients in multi-state areas, and providing safety and health training, education, and services to their clients. Further, 4,000 of its 6,900 members were under the regulatory jurisdiction of the OSH Act.

## WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

Because SWANA also represented some members who were outside OSHA's jurisdiction, we recommended that, prior to closing the grant, OSHA determine if ineligible SWANA members were served, and make appropriate adjustment to the grantee's claimed costs if a significant number of ineligible members received benefits from the grant.

We also recommended that OSHA develop procedures to ensure grant recipients serve only individuals who are eligible under the grant.

OSHA agreed with our recommendations.