

BRIEFLY...

Highlights of Report Number: 21-04-003-03-365, a report to the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration. March 10, 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 Telamon Corporation-West Virginia (TCWV) a \$217,725 grant under NFJP to provide core, intensive and training services to eligible farmworkers, including literacy and cognitive development programs in both Spanish and English for the farmworkers and their families. TCWV reported providing training and services to 56 participants in the State of West Virginia. Of this number, TCWV reported that 15 participants obtained unsubsidized employment.

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

The OIG conducted a series of performance audits on nine NFJP grantees, including TCWV. The audit objectives were to determine: (1) whether the costs claimed by TCWV 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/2004/21-04-003-03-365.pdf>

MARCH 2004

AUDIT QUESTIONS \$5,347 CHARGED TO GRANT FOR FARMWORKERS IN WEST VIRGINIA

WHAT OIG FOUND

Our audit found that TCWV:

- ❑ Provided insufficient documentation to verify eligibility of 13 participants.
- ❑ Charged \$4,660 in supply costs entirely to the NFJP grant even though the costs benefited other programs operated by TCWV.
- ❑ Allowed participants to verify farmwork of other participants when they were not employed by the same employer and at the same time.
- ❑ Reported accurate and supported performance data.

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

We recommended that the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training:

- ❑ Recover \$1,566 in questioned costs related to insufficient documentation of participant eligibility. (Finding 1)
- ❑ Recover \$3,781 in questioned costs and require TCWV to ensure that expenditures benefiting more than one grant are distributed equitably. (Finding 2)
- ❑ Require TCWV to ensure that the individual certifying prior employment of a participant has knowledge of that employment. (Finding 3)

TCWV disagreed with Finding 1, agreed with Finding 2, and did not respond to Finding 3. TCWV stated that it is requiring the allocation procedure to use the "assignment methodology," unless otherwise justified. However, no changes in our position were made as a result of the auditee's response.