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10/10/96

The Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps

MEMORANDUM

To: Joel Berg
From: Janice Johnson Tillman
Date: October 10, 1996
Subject: Member Hours

Attached is the list of corpsmembers that you sent to me to put in different categories. The reasons for the CP by some members' names are as follows:

1. Kenneth Sellers — Left after receiving GED.
2. Cassandra Wingo — Moved out of the state for a family emergency.
3. Shamika (Lindsey) Gardner — Left because of trouble with pregnancy.
4. Debra Ray — Moved out of the area.
5. Kimbalah McLaurin — Left because of family problems.
6. Michael Harris — Moved out of the state.

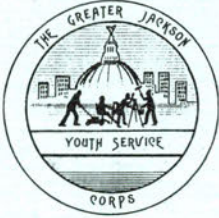
The remaining CP's finished with the program.

The reason for the NOT CP by some names are as follows:

1. Detrick D. Harris — Arrested.
2. Damon Jones — Arrested.
3. Reginald Jones — Arrested.

The remaining NOT CP's were "No Shows" or were terminated because of poor attendance.

If you have further questions, please call me at 601-353-1311.



THE GREATER JACKSON YOUTH SERVICE CORPS

May 13, 1994

Mr. Joel Berg
Us. Department of Agriculture
Office of Public Affair Administration
14th Street & Independence Ave. S.W.
Room 402A
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Berg:

This letter is in reference to the endorsement letter from the Department of Human Services local county food stamp offices. We have contacted some county food stamp offices and asked them to provide us with an endorsement letter. Due to the present Mississippi political crisis state wide with the Department of Human Services (see attachment), we were not successful. As soon as this political crisis is resolved by July 1, 1994, we will communicate with each of the 10 local county food stamp directors. In a personal meeting, we will negotiate the necessary local cooperation of the county food stamp offices as well as other agencies public and private.

We hope you understand our crisis and see the need to fund such a project in the State of Mississippi. Should you need additional information, please call Janice Johnson Tillman or me at (601) 353-1311. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to working with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Alfred L. Martin
Executive Director

The Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps

ALM:jjt

Content-Type: text
Content-Length: 00000000146

RON, HERE IS THE ORIGINAL LETTER THAT WENT IN. NOT SURE I HAVE SOME
OF THE BACK INFO BUT I CAN LOOK AND SEE IF YOU THINK IT MIGHT HELP.
RICHARD

Content-Type: text
Content-Length: 00000005751

United States	Forest	National Forests	100 W. Capitol Street
Department of	Service	in Mississippi	Suite 1141
Agriculture			Jackson, MS 39269
			601-965-4391

File Code: 1800
Route To: 6500

Date: August 25, 1995

Subject: Americorps Program - Greater Jackson Youth Service Corp

To: Regional Forester, R-8

Attached is a memo from my Forest Administrative Officer detailing concerns he has pertaining to the closure of the Americorps Camp administered by the Greater Jackson Youth Service Corp. I share his concerns and would like to do everything possible to ensure these 9 members are able to complete the hours to earn their full educational award.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

/s/ Kenneth R. Johnson
KENNETH R. JOHNSON
Forest Supervisor

Attachment

cc:
HRP:RO
FA:RO

Jim Ebbett
AS Assistant Inspector General
Oil & other Audit

Content-Type: text
 Content-Length: 00000000028

RON, HERE IS THE FIRST MEMO

Content-Type: text
 Content-Length: 00000002893

STATUS---GREATER JACKSON YOUTH SERVICE CORPS--AMERICORPS

This is a heads up of possible concerns, problems and political involvement with a contracted Americorps, Enviromental Camp situation here on the National Forest in Mississippi.

-Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps was awarded the Americorps Camp on the Beinville Ranger District in August of 1994. Mr. Al Martin was the Director of the GJYSC. The 1994 funds equaled \$54,100, to get the program started and running effective September 12, 1994, the Presidents kick off date.

-The FY-95 program carried a price tag of \$280,000 which was to provide 20 members with a mimimun of 1700 hours of work time which qualified them for \$4725 of educational benefit from the Corporation.

-Problems were identified early on with the way the program was being administered, and to our knowledge some changes were made.

-About the second week of August (95), the Forest was made aware of the fact that the Americorps camp had been closed down effective 31 July 1995.

-When checking with the GJYSC, concerning the final "End of Term" forms they said they would send them to us. We were also informed that Mr. Martin had decided to close the camp down, and further he had left the position of Director to go into private business.

-When we received the "End of Term" forms it was apparent the of the 11 members forms submitted, only 2 had completed the necessary 1700 hours. The remaining were anywhere from 33-753 hours from qualifying for the full educational benefit. When contact was made with the GJYSC we were told that Mr. Martin had told the members that they would get a pro-rated share of the educational award.

-We called the GJYSC to see if they had plans to restart the program due to their contract which required them to run the program until 30 September 1995, have 20 members to complete the 1700 hrs., and give us 30 advance if they wanted to terminate the agreement. We requested them to contact the 9 members who had less than 1700 Hrs. and see if they would be interested in comming back to finish the 1700 Hrs. It was explained at this time that 6 weeks of work would accoplish having 8 of the 9 members qualify for the full educational benefit.

-Our intention was that if GJYSC did not want to restart the camp, the Forest Service would take it over and run it for the time necessary to at least get 8 of the 9 qualified. GJYSC did contact all 9 of the members and they were either in school or working and did not desire to come back.

-There are some serious legal contractual problems with what GJYSC has done and these will be dealt with a we get into it.

-Our main concern is the Members being able to accomplishthe 1700 hours necessary to qualifv for a full educatiional benefit. and that will not be able

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

National Forests
in Mississippi

100 W. Capitol Street
Suite 1141
Jackson, MS 39269
601-965-4391

File Code: 1800/6500
Route To:

Date: August 25, 1995

Subject: Americorps Program - Greater Jackson Youth Service Corp

To: Forest Supervisor

Several weeks ago I was made aware of the fact that the Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps director, Mr. Al Martin, had made the decision to close down the Americorps Program effective July 31, 1995. The Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps had contracted with the Forest Service to run the 20 person program for part of FY-94 and FY-95. At that time, I requested information as to the "National Service Trust End of Term of Service Form" for each member so that we could complete our records on the Forest. I called back and talked to Ms. Janice Tillman concerning the forms August 23, 1995. Ms. Tillman sent over the forms to the office, as well as picked up some Corporation forms that needed completion and returned to me. After I had reviewed the Member forms, it became apparent that of the 11 forms submitted, only two had completed the 1700 hour requirement. The other 9 were anywhere from 33 to 753 hours short of qualifying for full educational benefits. I then called Ms. Tillman and asked her why the program had been terminated, and she replied that Mr. Martin had made the decision to do so, and that the members would get a prorated share of their earned educational benefits. She was also surprised to learn that Mr. Martin had not coordinated with the Forest Service concerning his decision to close down the Americorps Camp. My concerns are as follows:

- This was a contract that has been breached. The Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps was to complete the program to allow the members to earn the required hours necessary to qualify for the full educational award. There was a full year established in order to accomplish this 1700 hour requirement. Several months ago there were questions raised concerning work hours, volunteer hours, lunch period, holidays being given, and total amount of money that was being paid to the members versus what the Corporation identifies as the limits. The feeling then was as long as it is not our dollars in the extra hours, ect., and they completed the 1700 hours, they have the contract. That was not done.
- At the present time there are 9 members that will not qualify for full educational benefits due to this closure of the camp, and even if we get approval to award them a prorated share of the award, they expected to be able to earn the full award. The Forest Service also expected the members to be able to attain the full award benefits within the specifics of the contract.

Forest Supervisor

2

-- In nine months the Grater Jackson Youth Service Corps has drawn out 93% of the FY-95 contract dollars (\$280,025), and 100% of the FY-94 contract dollars (\$54,100), and state that they have approximately \$30,000 on hand. There is currently \$19,142 left in the FY-95 contract account, and there is a requirement of from 1 to 19+ weeks to get the members the full educational award, as full-time members versus part-time.

The overriding concern is that the Americorps members were not given the opportunity to earn a full educational benefit due to the Greater Jackson Youth Service Corp's decision to close down the camp. This decision was made without consultation of the Forest Service. The Corporation makes the final decision as to the award of prorated shares of education benefits. Previous contact with the Corporation has indicated that they use compelling reasons for the award of the educational awards. We may find ourselves in a catch 22 on this one due to the camp being closed down, and that is not the fault of the Americorps members.

Currently, I am working with the Greater Jackson Youth Service Corp concerning the possibility of starting back up the camp in order to give the members a chance to earn the full benefits. We will need to see how far the remaining dollars will go toward this end.

At this point. I have concerns as to the use of the funds that were drawn by the Greater Jackson Youth Service Corp to carry out this contract. I believe there is cause to ask for an audit of the operation.

/s/ Richard W. Heaslip

Richard W. Heaslip
Administrative Officer

JUNE 2, 1994

*Greater Jackson
Youth Service
Corps
(Make new file)*

TO: JOEL BERG
FR: ALFRED MARTIN/Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps
RE: ADJUSTMENT TO USDA/AMERICORPS

Based upon the anticipated changes to the original program, the corps has reduced the program size to 15 corpsmembers. The corpsmembers will be teamed into 7 and 8 corpsmembers respectively for two counties.

The desired outcomes and goals are:

1. FOOD STAMP OUTREACH GOALS:

- To increase food stamp recipients by 33% based on poverty level.

	# IN POVERTY	# ON FOOD STAMPS	DIFF.	PROJECTED # INCREASE
SUNFLOWER	12,302	11,720	582	192
HUMPHREYS	5,479	4,253	1,226	405

2. SENIOR CITIZEN OUTREACH GOALS:

- To increase the awareness of nutritional programs available to seniors by 25%
- To increase the number of seniors receiving meals by at least 25% the first year. (Food provided by meals on Wheels, Food Pantries, and other emergency feeding programs)

3. SUMMER FEEDING SITES OUTCOMES:

- Increase the number of sites by 35%. OR 3 SITES (see below Chart A)
- Currently, the average site feeds approximately 154 children per day...(based on state daily average)
- Increase the number of children fed by 40 children per site. (see below Chart B)

CHART A.

	# OF FEEDING SITES IN COUNTY	# OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN POVERTY	PROJECTED # OF NEW SITES (94-95)
SUNFLOWER	7	5,549	1
HUMPHREYS	1	2,513	2
	-----		-----
	8		3

The total number of sites will increase to 11.

CHART B.

	# OF FEEDING SITES IN COUNTY	# OF CHILDREN FED DAILY BASED ON AVG.	PROJECTED # OF CHILDREN FED DAILY
SUNFLOWER	8	1,078	1,398
HUMPHREYS	3	154	274

			1,672 PER DAY

4. NUTRITION OUTREACH GOALS:

- Provide Nutrition Counseling to at least 50% of school aged children
- Host two Nutrition/Health Workshops in each county for parents

5. FOOD SAFETY OUTREACH:

- Reach at least 50 people per county that are in risk of being hospitalized for illness related sicknesses such as food poisoning, severe diarrhea, Salmonella poison, colic etc.
- Circulate 5,000 pamphlets on ways to improve food safety
- Conduct at least 1 workshop in each county on Food Safety

6. EITC OUTREACH:

- Increase the number of those claiming EITC by 25% in each county.

7. EDUCATIONAL NEEDS:

- 50% of those participants enrolled without G.E.D. will receive them.

8. HUNGER HOTLINE (1-800-2FEEDUS):

- Set up 24 hour hotline to offer hunger information and assistance for counties for all Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana Delta counties.
(information will be taken from callers and corpsmembers)

will forward to appropriate agency i.e. Community Action Agencies, Food Pantries

- Respond to an average of 25 calls per day
- Generate media campaign (radio & television commercials and billboards) via public service announcements promoting the 1-800 number



THE GREATER JACKSON YOUTH SERVICE CORPS

May 13, 1994

Mr. Joel Berg
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of Public Affair Administration
14th Street & Independence Ave. S.W.
Room 402A
Washington, D.C. 20250

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Dear Mr. Berg:

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We hope you understand our crisis and see the need to fund such a project in the State of Mississippi. Should you need additional information, please call Janice Johnson Tillman or me at (601) 353-1311. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to working with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Alfred L. Martin
Executive Director
The Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps

ALM:jjt

September 20, 1995

TO: Terry Russell

FROM: Hank Oltmann
Steve Selby

RE: USDA Site: Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVED

AmeriCorps National Service



CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE

After an extensive conversation with Joel Berg, we know much more about the apparent problems with the USDA site in Jackson, MS, and USDA's response.

The Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps (GJYSC) serves as a USDA Anti-Hunger site sponsor as well as a USDA/Forest Service site sponsor. Joel visited this program last February or March (he is checking his records for the exact dates). At that time, both sites were operating adequately, although not without minor concerns, and corrective actions were agreed upon by Joel and the GJYSC site director. Within the past three weeks, however, Joel learned of potential problems with both sites:

Anti-Hunger site. Apparently, health care was not provided to Members (or at least never paid for), although there is not, at this point, indication of any problems that occurred as a result of lack of coverage. Additionally, the project may not have met its non-federal match, and the site is financial report raised additional concerns. The site is draw-down authority was immediately halted, and a request was made for the USDA/OIG (Atlanta Region) to conduct a close-out audit of the Anti-Hunger project site. Michael Arthur was informed of this request. Joel confirmed that every Member had the opportunity to complete the 1700 hour commitment, and the project ended operations on time.

Forest Service site. Of 20 Members at the site, there were only 10 confirmed -- likely late July or August), and only 2 of those 10 Members completed their required hours. It is still not clear why the project ended early, and the site has already drawn down 93% of its funds (all USDA \$). A request was made for USDA/OIG (Atlanta Region) to review the situation. Joel is ascertaining whether any Members were adversely affected by this situation, and will inform us as soon as he has further information.

1201 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
Telephone 202-686-6000

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps National Service
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National Service Corps

There does not yet appear to be any public attention to these concerns about potential mismanagement, and the funds which may be at risk are primarily, if not totally, USDA is. The USDA Inspector General is now involved, funds have been cut off, and it is not yet clear whether any AmeriCorps Members were affected by these problems. Finally, USDA does not intend to include this site for second year funding as part of their national AmeriCorps program. Our sense is that USDA is on top of the situation, and they will keep us updated as further information is developed. Please let us know if you need additional information.

cc: Rick Allen
Peter Heinaru
Susan Stroud

PHOTOCOPY
PROHIBITION

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cc: Rick Allen
Peter Heinaru
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