



Bureau of Workers'  
Compensation

30 W. Spring St.  
Columbus, OH 43215-2256

Governor John R. Kasich  
Administrator/CEO Sarah D. Morrison

www.bwc.ohio.gov  
1-800-644-6292

February 14, 2018

Via electronic and hand delivery

Inspector General Randall J. Meyer  
Office of the Inspector General  
30 East Broad Street, Suite 2940  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: File ID No. 2016-CA00048  
Response to the Office of the Inspector General's Report of Investigation  
State Fire Marshal Grant

Dear Inspector General Meyer:

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) has completed its review of your office's recommendations contained in the above-referenced report. I respectfully submit this response to you regarding the recommendations outlined in the report.

Recommendation #1: OBWC and ODOC should work together to determine whether the actual participant's cost was reflected on the final participant roster and resolve any discrepancies identified in this report and those that arise during this review.

**Response:** BWC and the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFM) have reviewed the disbursement records and identified discrepancies in amounts paid in two instances. An overpayment in the amount of \$3,900 has been repaid by a technical center, while the SFM has issued a \$3,750 check to a technical center in which an underpayment occurred.

Recommendation #2: OBWC and ODOC should consider the benefits of conducting on-site reviews of courses or other activities being funded with grant funds to verify the funds were being used by the recipient as intended.

**Response:** The BWC supplied grant funds were used to supplement an existing fire fighter training program administered by the SFM. These training classes are primarily conducted by various community colleges, career centers, and technical schools. It was BWC's understanding that the SFM had procedures in place to appropriately verify that grant funds were being used for the intended training.

Recommendation #3: OBWC should consider amending future agreements to incorporate requirements that the recipient of grant funds are required to submit to OBWC periodic reports documenting how funds were expended. Also, OBWC should consider submitting supporting documentation demonstrating the recipient's compliance with the requirements identified in the agreement.

**Response:** BWC will consider including the items in this recommendation in future grant agreements.

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Recommendation #4: Upon receipt of the periodic reports, OBWC should consider implementing an internal review process which examines the documentation provided in conjunction with the agreement requirements to ensure the recipient is compliant with the applicable requirements. It is further recommended that instances of non-compliance be addressed at the time they are identified, and not at the end of the grant, to ensure issues can be resolved prior to the end of the grant.

**Response:** BWC will consider including the items in this recommendation in future grant agreements.

Recommendation #5: When awarding funds based on eligibility, OBWC should consider the benefit of implementing a process to reconcile eligible participants or expenses to those reported by the recipient as being funded or paid to ensure the funds were only used for allowable activities.

**Response:** BWC will consider including the items in this recommendation in future grant agreements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah D. Morrison", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah D. Morrison  
Administrator/CEO