

**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**Inspection Report - ARC's J-1 Waiver Program**



**September 19, 2016**

**OIG Report No. 16-31**

## **Summary**

Our visit to two medical offices in West Virginia disclosed that the two approved J-1 Waiver Program physicians were providing services in accordance with program requirements.

## **Background**

ARC implemented a J-1 Visa Waiver program that recommends, under certain conditions, a waiver of the Foreign Residence requirement on behalf of physicians holding J-1 visas. ARC utilizes its member state governmental apparatus to gather information and documentation from prospective J-1 visa physicians. Upon ARC approval of a J-1 visa request from a state ARC submits a request to the Department of State (DOS) to request the DOS request the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) to waive the physicians foreign residency requirement based on at least three years of service at the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), as designated by the U.S. Public Health Services (USPHS). ARC issues policies with respect to sponsor and physician requirements and is responsible for program oversight.

## **Purpose, Scope and Results**

We visited the West Virginia offices of two physicians participating in the program. The purpose of the visits was to assess program results and compliance with established policies. The unannounced visits were conducted on September 1, 2016 at medical facilities in Scarbro and Romney, West Virginia.

Although the two physicians were not available for valid reasons at the time of our visit contacts with clinic and hospital staff concluded that program provisions were being implemented and the program was successfully meeting objectives to provide primary medical care to residents in Health Professional Shortage areas in Appalachia.

In one case the required J-1 placement verification form was not received by ARC. The form was provided to the supervisor for completion and forwarding to ARC.