



Performance Audit

Report Number:
511-0300-14

Michigan Youth Challenge Academy

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Released:
May 2015

Under Michigan's agreement with the National Guard Bureau, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) establishes, organizes, and administers the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA) program. MYCA provides military-based training, education, and supervised working experience through community service to produce program graduates with the values, skills, education, and self-discipline to succeed as adults.

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective #1: To assess the effectiveness of DMVA's efforts in evaluating the MYCA program.			Not effective
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
MYCA needs to establish a comprehensive process to monitor and evaluate program effectiveness, including assessments of program strengths, weaknesses, and needs. MYCA lacked documentation for 64% of core component tasks and lacked tracking and documentation of individual cadet and total class progress at key intervals (<u>Finding #1</u>).	X		Agrees
MYCA had not safeguarded or properly accounted for cash received from cadets' families and various fund-raising activities, increasing the risk for fraud, waste, and abuse. MYCA lacked documentation for the disposition of \$86,250 (<u>Finding #2</u>).	X		Agrees
MYCA needs to establish minimum expectations to ensure that all cadets uniformly complete each core component task. MYCA could not ensure that all cadets fulfilled the intent and spirit of each task (<u>Finding #3</u>).		X	Agrees
MYCA needs to improve its oversight of food services provided to cadets. Male cadets did not receive the recommended daily calories (<u>Finding #4</u>).		X	Agrees

Findings Related to This Audit Objective (Continued)	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
MYCA did not monitor the activities and responsibilities of its educational services provider. The services provider did not relinquish \$119,000 of excess funds and funded a position not covered under the contract (<u>Finding #5</u>).		X	Agrees

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective #2: To assess MYCA's compliance with the National Youth Challenge agreement.			Did not comply
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
MYCA was not staffed to effectively administer the program, fulfill the mandates of the cooperative agreement, and protect the safety of cadets and staff. MYCA employed staff at only 67% of the minimum required staffing level (<u>Finding #6</u>).	X		Agrees
MYCA did not provide required staff training to help ensure that risks to the program, as well as to the cadets, were minimized. A majority of MYCA employees lacked first year training and all MYCA employees lacked function-specific training (<u>Finding #7</u>).	X		Agrees

A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: <http://audgen.michigan.gov>

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