# California Department of Food and Agriculture

CDFA Audit Process - CAC Agreements

### **Presentation Topics**

- Overview
- 2. Objectives
  - a) CDFA Programs oversight objectives
  - b) Audit Office objectives
- 3. Applicable cost principles
- 4. Field audit process
- 5. General allowability of invoiced costs
- 6. Recurring audit findings
- 7. Best practices
- 8. Examples
- 9. Questions from the audience

#### **Overview**

- 1. The CDFA, as an agency, is responsible for the oversight and monitoring of all federal and state funds awarded through grants and cooperative awards.
- 2. The CDFA Audit Office performs field audits and other assurance services of the federal and state funds that are sub-awarded (passed-through) to local agencies.
- 3. The field audits are conducted in accordance with the professional standards that requires testing of selected accounting records and related supporting data.
- 4. The Audit Office provides a written report with opinions and recommendations based on the invoices, accounting records and related data tested.

# CDFA Programs (ie, Pest Detection, PDCP) Oversight Objectives

- 1. Monitor the established Agreement workplan to ensure related objectives and goals are being accomplished.
- 2. Ensure the integrity and reliability of expenses presented on invoices for cost reimbursement.
- 3. Promote the efficient and effective use of federal and state resources to accomplish approved Agreement workplan.

### The Audit Office's Objectives

- Determine that the costs claimed for reimbursement are actual, reasonable, allowable, and in compliance with the applicable federal cost principles.
- 2. Determine that the CAC is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement and related state and federal requirements and guidelines.
- Our audit is based upon a sampled testing of accounting records and related data. Since all transactions will not be examined, we may not detect all errors and irregularities.
- 4. Ensure assets purchased (vehicles, IT equipment, etc.) with federal funds are safeguarded appropriately used.

# **Applicable Cost Principles Effective** for 2012 – 2014 Agreements

- We perform our audit to test for compliance with federal cost principles applicable to state and local governments, Title 2 in the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 225 (2 CFR 225).
- The Sub-Award recipient (CAC) is also required to comply with the Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations 7 CFR 3016.

### **Field Audit Process**

- Initial phone contact is made to coordinate "tentative" audit fieldwork dates.
- 2. Engagement letter and internal control questionnaire (ICQ) is sent a minimum three weeks before fieldwork to:
  - Confirm the date and length of field work and identify the number of auditors that will need to be accommodated.
  - Identify which specific Agreements have been selected to test.
  - Specify the accounting records needed to facilitate the audit.
  - ICQ needs to be completed and returned prior to the start of fieldwork.
- Planning the audit the auditor performs an initial analysis of invoiced costs, analytical procedures, and reviews the ICQ prior to field work.

### Field Audit Process (cont.)

- 4. Performance of field work gathering documents and testing invoiced costs to source documents at the CAC's Office.
- 5. A preliminary exit conference and/or follow-up tele-conference is made once the field work is completed.
- 6. A preliminary draft report is sent to the CAC for response and related CDFA Programs for review.
- 7. The CAC's response to the preliminary draft report is due within 30 days.
- 8. The CAC's audit response is evaluated and included in the final audit report that is distributed. Although the report is intended for internal use, it is considered a public document.
- 9. Audit resolutions may be followed up by the related CDFA Programs and CDFA's County Liaison.

### **General Allowability of Costs**

- An allowable cost is one that meets both the criteria for authorized expenditures specified in the 2 CFR 225 and/or the related Agreement between the CAC and the CDFA Program.
- The individual Agreements between CDFA Programs and the CAC's can restrict claimed costs further than CFR's.

# General Allowability of Costs (cont.)

- Costs invoiced to an award (Agreement) must be:
  - Actual, necessary, consistent, and reasonable
  - Treated consistently as a direct vs. indirect cost
  - Adequately supported and/or documented
  - In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP)
  - In compliance with the related individual Agreement

# General Allowability of Costs (cont.)

- Documented at the time of invoice preparation
- Costs passed along by the CAC should be uniform in their treatment with other County departments
- Reasonable in the performance of the award

### **Recurring Audit Findings**

#### 1. Lack of Support for Personnel Services Costs

- a) Budgeted rather than actual salary and wage amounts are invoiced.
- b) Hours invoiced did not match functional employee time records.
- c) Productive hours claimed were not actual, were excessive and/or inconsistent with other County Departments.
- d) Employee Daily Activity Reports for those who worked on multiple activities did not:
  - Reflect all actual after the fact activities of the employee (Budget estimates or distribution percentages determined before services are performed do not qualify.)
  - Did not account for the total activity the employee was compensated for.
  - Were not prepared monthly or did not coincide with pay periods
  - Were not signed by the employee

## Recurring Audit Findings (cont.)

#### 2. Errors in the Billing of Managerial Employees, Admin Help

- \* Manager (Exempt Employee) did not maintain a personnel activity report to fully account <u>for all monthly activities</u>.
- \* Administrative staff are directly billed and also fully categorized as an indirect cost by the CAC.
- \* The billing on invoices is the highest step of the employee classification rather than what was actually paid via payroll records.

#### 3. Errors in the Billing of Staff/Fringe Benefits

- \* Amounts billed are budget estimates that can't be supported.
- \* Amounts billed are not periodically adjusted to actual costs.

### Recurring Audit Findings (cont.)

#### 4. Issues with Invoicing Vehicles and Mileage Costs

- \* Invoiced mileage is not supported by activity reports and/or vehicle mileage logs.
- \* The federal mileage rate is exceeded.
- \* The classification of fleet vehicles used is incorrectly labeled as a "vehicle lease" on invoices.
- \* A "vehicle replacement fee" is passed along for reimbursement.

#### 5. Issues with the Invoicing of Direct Costs

- \* Billing of operating expenses that are not supported with a receipt or comparable source document.
- \* Improperly billing of indirect costs that exceed the contract limit as direct costs.

#### **Best Practices**

- 1. CAC's are familiar with applicable CFR's, along with CA regulations, laws, and contracting requirements pertaining to federal and state funds.
  - a) Maintain awareness of the changes and updates to the Code of Federal Regulations.
  - b) Follow updates to the State Controller's Office's cost plan handbook for program for California counties
- Efficient accounting and recordkeeping practices are emphasized and maintained.
  - a) Adequate accounting records supporting the costs claimed on each monthly invoice is kept in a separate folder.
  - b) Accounting records clearly identify and segregate costs invoiced to the related CDFA Agreement.

### **Best Practices (cont.)**

- Good Internal Controls are Maintained.
  - a) Work with the County Auditor-Controller.
  - b) Written procedures over all business practices, accounting systems, and related processes are updated regularly.
  - c) County-wide policies and procedures are retained for central services costs passed down to the CAC and passed along on invoices to CDFA Programs.
  - In the event of employee turnover, back-up employees have been trained on the specific Agreement's administrative requirements.
  - e) A supervisory review is performed by the CAC of prepared invoices prior to forwarding them to CDFA.

### **Best Practices (cont.)**

- 4. All costs invoiced to the Agreement awards are:
  - a) Associated with the project's workplan.
  - b) Supported and traceable to the specific and itemized accounting records maintained by the CAC.
  - c) Labeled and classified correctly on the invoice to facilitate the CDFA's Programs review, approval and reimbursement.
  - d) Reviewed for mathematical accuracy prior to being sent to CDFA.

# **Example - Compliant Source Document - Payroll Register Report**

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### **Example- Compliant Employee** Timecard 1 of 2

CONCORD, CA 94520

#### **Employee Time Cards** with Notes

02/01/2015

Employee Number Name		Name			Default Divi	ision			
Date	Day	Action	Start	Start Note	Supervisor	Stop	Stop Note	To	tal Unpaid
					Name				Onpaid
2/03/2015	Tue	Work	9:30 AM	review from class on 1/29, planning for next series to begin on 2/11		5.30 PM	review from class on 1/29, planning for next series to begin on 2/11	8.00	
2/04/2015	Wed	Work	10:30 AM	planning and prep for series beginning 2/11, pick up partner vouchers		5:15 PM	planning and prep for series beginning 2/11, pick up partner vouchers	6.75	**
2/05/2015	Thu	Work	9:30 AM	Focus group report review, review 1 year follow-up data.		4:30 PM	Focus group report review, review 1 year follow-up data.	7.00	
2/06/2015	Fri	Work	11:30 AM	additional evaluation planning, class handout work		3:00 PM	additional evaluation planning, class handout work	3.50	
02/09/2015	Mon	Work	11:45 AM	class prep for week		6:30 PM	class prep for week	6.75	
2/10/2015	Tue	Work	8:45 AM	Class prep for week, follow-up data review		4:45 PM	Class prep for week, follow-up data review	8.00	
2/11/2015	Wed	Work	10:00 AM	La Clinica class 1 prep and class.		11:00 AM	La Clinica class 1 prep and class.	1.00	
		Lunch	11:00 AM	La Clinica class 1 prep and class.		11:45 AM	La Clinica class 1 prep and class.		0.75
		Work	11:45 AM	La Clinica class 1 prep and class.		6:45 PM	La Clinica class 1 prep and class.	7.00	
2/12/2015	Thu	Work	11:00 AM	NAHC class 2 prep and class		7:00 PM	NAHC class 2 prep and class	8.00	
2/13/2015	Fri	Work	12:15 PM	data entry and class follow-up from week		5:15 PM	data entry and class follow-up from week	5.00	
2/16/2015	Mon	Work	4:15 PM	follow-up data collection		4:45 PM	follow-up data collection	0.50	
2/17/2015	Tue	Work	9:45 AM	finalizing materials and class lists for round 5 programming		2.00 PM	finalizing materials and class lists for round 5 programming	4.25	
2/18/2015	Wed	Work	9:00 AM	evaluation data planning and multiple conversations with evaluation consultant		5:00 PM	evaluation data planning and multiple conversations with evaluation consultant	8.00	
2/19/2015	Thu	Work	9:30 AM	follow-up deta review and		2:00 PM	follow-up data review and organization, voucher	4.50	

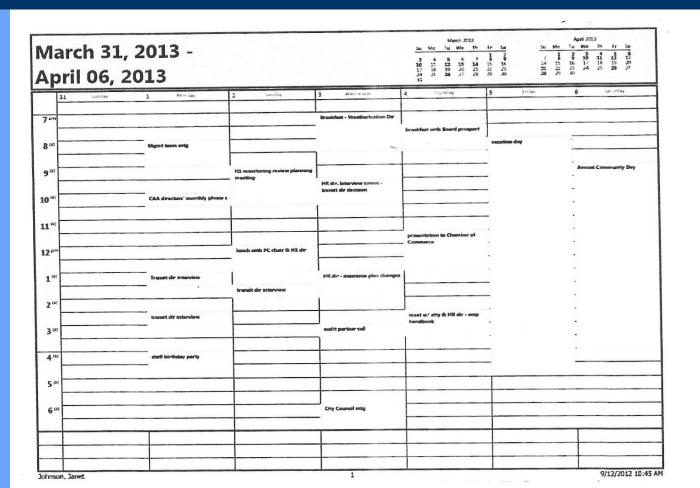
# **Example – Compliant Employee Timecard 2 of 2**

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						Day Time Summan		0.00	0.00	104.00	0.75
						Totals	104.00	0.00	0.00	104.00	
					group	Totals	Reg	OT1	ОТ2	Paid	Unpaid
02/27/2015	Fri	Work		1:15 PM	follow-up data collection from Richmond 2013 group	6:30 PM	follow-up d from group	ata collec		5.25	
02/26/2015	Thu	Work		1:45 PM	class and follow-up prep, NAHC class 3	6:15 PM	class and f NAHC clas		prep,	4.50	
02/25/2015	Wed	Work		1:00 PM	Class prep for week, La Clinica class 2	7:15 PM	Class prep Clinica clas		, La	6.25	
02/24/2015	Tue	Work		11:15 AM	class prep for this week	5:45 PM	class prep	for this w	reek	6.50	
02/23/2015	Mon	Work		2:45 PM	class prep for week	5:15 PM	class prep	for week		2.50	
02/20/2015	Fri	Work		9,00 AM	planning for VeggieRx classes next week	9:45 AM	planning for classes ne		Rx	0.75	
					organization, voucher printing		printing				

# **Example – Rank and File Employee Compliant Daily Activity Report**

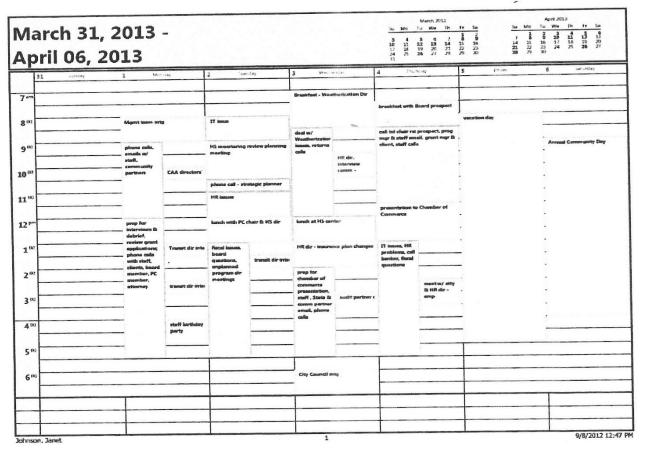
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# **Example – Exempt Employee Non-Compliant Activity Report**



Note:
Does Not
Account
for 100%
of all
Activities.

# **Example – Exempt Employee Compliant Activity Report**



Note: Accounts for 100% of Activity

# **Example – Exempt Employee Compliant Activity Report**

Example: Finance Dire	ctor Personn	el Activit	y Report											
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Note: Accounts for 100% of Activity.

# **Example – Compliant Vehicle Mileage Log**

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## **Example-Vehicle Mileage Log-Blank**

#### COUNTY DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE / WEIGHTS & MEASURES

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DATE	START	ENDING	TOTAL DAY MILES	LOCATION / PREMISES VISITED	PROGRAM	MILES	PROGRAM	MILES	DRIVER NAME

### **Additional Information**

- Federal 2 CFR 225
  - https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/2/part-225
- Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Grants (7 CFR 3016)
  - http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/CFR-2012-title7-vol15/CFR-2012-title7-vol15-part3016/content-detail.html
- Federal Mileage Rate
  - http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/103969
- Handbook of Cost Plan Procedures for California Counties
  - State Controllers Office Updated October 2012
- CDFA Audit Office
  - Main: (916) 900-5026

### **Questions from the Audience**

