

PRESS RELEASE

State Contractor, Core Associates, LLC, Pays \$2,500 Civil Penalty for Alleged Ethics Violation

June 3, 2009

CORE Associates, LLC of Ellington, CT, paid a \$2,500 civil penalty for allegedly violating the Code of Ethics by using its status as a state contractor to receive a financial gain.

According to a consent order signed yesterday with the Office of State Ethics (OSE), CORE Associates entered into a contract with the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) in August 2005 to perform an assessment of gender-specific services at three state-funded programs, including NAFI Connecticut, Inc. (NAFI). This contract (“phase one”) specified a termination date of June 30, 2006. On June 8, 2006, CORE Associates entered into a contract with NAFI to provide consulting services. While still under contract with NAFI, CORE Associates entered into two additional contracts with DCF (“phases two and three”) to review gender-specific programs, including NAFI.

Connecticut law prohibits state consultants and contractors from using the authority provided under a state contract, or any confidential information acquired in the performance of the contract, to obtain a financial gain. By entering into and maintaining a contract with NAFI at the same time that the organization had a contract with the state, CORE Associates allegedly violated the Code of Ethics.

In the consent order, CORE Associates denies any violation of the Code of Ethics.

“The Code of Ethics provisions regarding contractor conflicts of interest are fundamental to maintaining the integrity of the government procurement process,” said OSE Executive Director, Carol Carson. “State contractors will be held to the same standards of accountability that we expect from public officials and state employees.”

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