

## Outline for NEW TTA Call April 9, 2012 @ 1PM EST

### I. Welcome

### II. Audience and Purpose

- Intended audience: Applicants for New Grants in Relinquished geographic service areas.
- Call purpose: Help you ensure that your application is responsive to the NOFA and point you to useful technical assistance resources.
  - Note that we will not be focused on mechanics of submitting an application in eGrants. Technical assistance information concerning use of eGrants will be posted on the website [www.seniorcorps.gov](http://www.seniorcorps.gov) and will be covered on the April 11 call.
  - For technical questions and problems with the eGrants system, call 800-942-2677 or use the following link: <https://questions.nationalservice.gov/app/ask>. Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the *Notice* to which you are applying. National Service Hotline hours are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time Monday through Friday.

### III. Review the NOFA

- Strongly advise you to reread the NOFA before you write your application.
- Strongly advise you to review the RSVP Regulations before you write your application. A link to the regulations can be found on page 8 of the NOFA.
- Programmatic requirements described in the NOFA are very important as application reviewers will be basing their reviews, in part, on how well you addressed these requirements:
  - The funding priorities for **New Grants** in the RSVP program are:
    - Geographic service areas, designated in this *Notice*, where there are no longer projects due to relinquishment. **Please see Appendix A for the list of states and geographic service areas covered by this *Notice*.**
  - The six Focus Areas listed in this *Notice*, as applicable.
- All of the RSVP volunteers must be placed in assignments that address one or more of the 6 CNCS Focus Areas identified in the NOFA. These include:
  - Education
  - Healthy Futures

- Veterans and Military Families
- Environmental Stewardship
- Economic Opportunity
- Disaster Services

**Examples of activities in CNCS's six Focus Areas relevant to this competition follows.**

**Healthy Futures:**

Activities might include:

- Supporting the ability of homebound, older adults and individuals to live independently.
- Assisting individuals with access to food resources.

**Education:**

Activities might include:

- Providing support and/or facilitating access to services and resources that contribute to school readiness.
- Providing support that improves academic performance.
- Providing support that improves academic engagement.

**Veterans and Military Families:**

Activities might include:

- Service that supports veterans, veterans' family members, family members of active-duty military, and military service members.

**Disaster Services:**

Activities might include:

- Assistance in disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and/or mitigation.

**Economic Opportunity:**

Activities might include:

- Housing-related assistance for economically disadvantaged people, including homeless individuals.

**Environmental Stewardship:**

Activities might include:

- Service that improves at-risk acres (land and/or water) in national, state, city or county parks, or other public or tribal lands.

On page 4 is a link to find more information about the Focus Areas at:

[http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/11\\_0203\\_cnsc\\_strategic\\_plan.pdf](http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/11_0203_cnsc_strategic_plan.pdf)

- Full time project director for any new projects. However, if you feel that you can manage with less than a full time director, include your justification in your project management narrative.

- Non-Federal Share Requirement
  - New Grant/New Project: For a proposal to establish a new project, you are subject to the standard share requirements of 10% in Year 1, 20% in Year 2, and 30% in Year 3.

#### IV. Selection process and review criteria

- See P. 14 of the NOFA.
- In evaluating applications, reviewers will assess program design which accounts for 50% of the score,
- organizational capacity, which accounts for 25%
- and cost-effectiveness and budget adequacy, which represents 15% of the score.
- The Detailed Selection Criteria are listed in the NOFA on page 15.

#### **(1) Program Design (50%)**

In assessing Program Design, reviewers will examine the degree to which the application demonstrates the following:

- ***Getting Things Done (30%)***
  - Alignment of programming and work plans with clearly defined community(ies) need:
  - Well-documented compelling community need(s) that are reflected in one or more of the Focus Areas.
    - **New Grants** need only respond to one Focus Area.
    - **Augmentation grants** can only respond to the Veterans and Military Families Focus Area.
  - Well-designed activities with measurable outputs and outcomes reflected in work plans that directly address the identified community need(s).
  - Well-defined roles for volunteers that lead to measurable outcomes and impact on meeting the need(s) described.
- ***Strengthening Communities (10%)***
  - Effective involvement of target community (ies) in planning and implementation.
  - Strong community partnerships, including well-defined roles for community partners.
  - Plans for promoting and integrating senior service in other community service programs.
  - Enhanced capacity of community organizations and institutions.
  - Mobilization of community resources, including volunteers.
  - Bringing together people of diverse backgrounds.
- ***Recruitment and Development of Volunteers (10%)***
  - Effective plans for recruiting, developing, training, supervising, and recognizing volunteers.

- High quality assignments and experience for volunteers, with opportunities such as building new skills, developing leadership potential, reflecting on the meaning of service to the community, and enhancing the quality of their own lives.
  - Well-designed plans for participants to serve together with people of diverse backgrounds.
  - Recruitment of Veterans or Military Family members if appropriate.
  - A broad range of volunteer roles so that volunteers have the opportunity to contribute their skills in the most meaningful ways.
  - A volunteer pool reflective of the demographics of the geographic communities served, including individuals of all races, ethnicities, and degrees of English language proficiency.
- ***Work Plans (Work Plan criteria weight is incorporated into the Program Design 50%)***
    - Alignment of programming and work plans with clearly defined community need:
    - Well-documented compelling community need(s) that are reflected in the above Focus Areas.
    - Well-designed activities with measurable outputs and outcomes reflected in work plans that directly address the identified community need(s).
    - Well-defined roles for volunteers that lead to measurable outcomes and impact on meeting the need(s) described.

## **(2) Organizational Capacity and Management (25%)**

In assessing the organizational capacity, reviewers will assess the extent to which the applicant demonstrating that it has:

- The capability and plans to provide sound programmatic and fiscal oversight and day-to-day operational support.
- Effective plans for developing and managing volunteer placement sites and volunteer assignments.
- Well-defined roles for project staff.
- Plans to effectively manage information and data to demonstrate results.
- A sound track record in the issue areas(s) to be addressed by the project, senior service, and in managing volunteers.
- Well-designed plans and systems for self-assessment of project performance, evaluation, and continuous improvement.

## **(3) Cost Effectiveness / Budget Adequacy (25%)**

In evaluating the cost-effectiveness and budget adequacy of your proposed program, the reviewers will consider:

- Whether the budget is adequate and reasonable to support program design.
- The commitment of applicant organization/host agency to securing resources for program implementation and/or sustainability.
- Whether the budget is cost effective.
- The adequacy and sustainability of the applicant's proposed non-federal financial or in-kind contribution.

- **We recommend that before you submit your application take the following three steps to make sure your application is a complete and responsive as possible:**
  - **Use the detailed selection criteria as a checklist to make sure you've addressed each of them.**
  - **Re-read the instructions in the Senior Corps Grant Application to make sure you have followed them and included the requested content.**

#### V. Applications

- Full applications are due no later than **5:00 PM ET on May 15, 2012**
- Be sure to start your application by selecting the correct eGrants NOFA:
  - If you are a **current RSVP grantee applying to establish a new project**, choose: "RSVP 2012 New Project"
  - If you are **not a current RSVP grantee**, choose: "RSVP 2012 New Project"

#### VI. QUESTIONS?