

Date of Response	<p style="text-align: center;">RSVP PNS NOFA Questions and Answers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Updated March 23, 2010, with the most recent questions answered first)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Applicability (All Applicants, New Projects Only, or Augmentations Only)</p>
3/23	<p>1. The NOFA states that applicants “should be prepared to provide documentation of partnerships and other support described in the narrative sections – for example, Memoranda of Understanding, organization annual reports, and evaluations.” Does this mean we have to have a signed MOU with a volunteer station before we submit our grant application?</p> <p>No. For your application you need only identify the organizations you plan to work with as volunteer stations. However, during the pre-award review process, following submission and initial review of applications, you may be asked to provide the documentation cited in the NOFA.</p>	All
3/23	<p>2. For an augmentation proposal, should we assume the reviewers will not see our current grant narratives already entered into e-grants?</p> <p>Yes.</p>	Augmentations
3/23	<p>3. For an augmentation, does the number of volunteers relate in any way to current volunteers in our existing RSVP grant, i.e. if our current numbers go down or up, does that impact the augmentation grant?</p> <p>The purpose of a grant augmentation is to increase the total number of RSVP volunteers serving under your RSVP project. The additional volunteers awarded may not supplant serving volunteers.</p>	Augmentations
3/23	<p>4. We have two different main service activities, both of which will increase the ability of disabled or senior adults to continue to live independently. Can the two Work Plans that contain Performance Measures both have the same desired End Outcome?</p> <p>Yes.</p>	All
3/23	<p>5. How do we submit an attachment as part of our application?</p> <p>We are unable to accept attachments as part of the application. Please include the information from the attachment in one of your application narrative sections.</p>	All
3/16	<p>6. Given that we will have to build up to the total number of new volunteers we are proposing, how many volunteers should be shown in the first year of the grant?</p> <p>Show the total number you expect to build up to. Explain your plans for recruiting these volunteers in your narrative.</p>	All

Date of Response	<p style="text-align: center;">RSVP PNS NOFA Questions and Answers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Updated March 23, 2010, with the most recent questions answered first)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Applicability (All Applicants, New Projects Only, or Augmentations Only)</p>
3/16	<p>7. What are the reporting requirements for RSVP grantees?</p> <p>The RSVP program regulations state that it is the responsibility of the sponsor (i.e., the grantee) to “Establish record keeping and reporting systems in compliance with Corporation requirements that ensure quality of program and fiscal operations, facilitate timely and accurate submission of required reports and cooperate with Corporation evaluation and data collection efforts.”</p> <p>Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grantees must report on fiscal performance using the Federal Financial Report (FFR). Information on the FFR is available at http://www.nationalserviceresources.org/ffr • Programmatic progress is reported on the Project Progress Report (PPR). A facsimile of the eGrants PPR is at http://www.seniorcorps.gov/forms/sc_progress_report.pdf. An overview of how the PPR is completed in eGrants is available at http://www.nationalserviceresources.org/videos/star-progress-report-overview-developed-egrants-coaching-unit 	All
3/16	<p>8. How is RSVP volunteer service documented for the grant?</p> <p>Service of RSVP volunteers is documented in the Project Progress Report, available as a facsimile of the eGrants PPR at http://www.seniorcorps.gov/forms/sc_progress_report.pdf.</p>	All
3/16	<p>9. How will we document the recruitment of community volunteers by RSVP volunteers?</p> <p>Part 2 of the Project Progress Report contains a field for reporting the number of non-RSVP volunteers mobilized to serve with other organizations.</p>	All
3/16	<p>10. What narratives are required for applications to augment a current RSVP grant?</p> <p>The following narratives must be completed for augmentation proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Strengthening Communities”: Complete this section addressing the various aspects <i>as they apply to your proposed PNS-related activities</i>. <i>(Please note: This answer is different from the one provided during the March 11 technical assistance call.)</i> • “Recruitment and Development of Volunteers”: Complete this section <i>as it relates to the additional volunteers you propose</i>. • “Program Management”: As stated in the NOFA, use this section to describe or demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plans for developing and managing existing or new volunteer stations and volunteer assignments to address identified community needs reflected in the augmentation 	Augmentations

Date of Response	<p align="center">RSVP PNS NOFA Questions and Answers</p> <p align="center">(Updated March 23, 2010, with the most recent questions answered first)</p>	<p align="center">Applicability (All Applicants, New Projects Only, or Augmentations Only)</p>
	<p>proposal work plan(s) and for providing meaningful placements for the new volunteers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How you will assess performance against the work plan(s) for the augmentation proposal work plans. ○ Plans for securing any additional resources that may be required to implement the augmentation proposal work plan(s). ○ How, if you receive the award, you will continue to meet the nonfederal share requirement when the proposed augmentation budget is added to the base project budget. This should be demonstrated arithmetically. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Organizational Capacity”: As stated in the NOFA, use this section to describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Your organization’s experience and past results obtained in the proposed programming area or, if initiating a new program area, how you will ensure you will have access to the experience needed to ensure the success of the proposed program. ○ Plans for additional staffing, if any, for the proposed program or for redistributing work among existing staff to be able to handle the additional volunteers. ● “Other”: As stated in the NOFA, use this section to address any aspects of the proposal not discussed in the preceding sections, including any additional explanation of your proposed work plan(s). <p>ADDITIONAL NOTE: In eGrants, there is a narrative field called “PNS Amendment”. This narrative is no longer used. <i>Please enter “NA”</i>.</p>	<p align="center">Augmentations</p>
3/16	<p>11. What is the minimum amount of time a RSVP can volunteer?</p> <p>No minimum has been established. The RSVP program regulations state that “a RSVP volunteer shall serve weekly on a regular basis, or intensively on short-term assignments consistent with the assignment description.” [45 CFR 2553.51]</p>	<p align="center">All</p>
3/16	<p>12. What is the time frame for a work plan?</p> <p>Work plans should reflect the time required to achieve the specified targets and may cover the entire 3-year grant performance period.</p>	<p align="center">All</p>
3/16	<p>13. Must all new RSVP volunteers being proposed for a new project or an augmentation proposal be placed in impact/outcome based work plans?</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p align="center">All</p>
3/16	<p>14. For an augmentation proposal, should the RSVP volunteer services we propose to add be included in one of our current work plans or in a new work plan?</p>	<p align="center">Augmentations</p>

Date of Response	RSVP PNS NOFA Questions and Answers (Updated March 23, 2010, with the most recent questions answered first)	Applicability (All Applicants, New Projects Only, or Augmentations Only)
	For the additional volunteers you propose to add, you should create one or more new work plans. Later, if you receive an award, you will add the new work plan to your current grant.	
3/16	15. How does the requirement in the Senior Corps Grant Application that at least 50% of RSVP volunteers must be placed in impact/outcome based assignments apply to this NOFA? All new RSVP volunteers proposed in response to this NOFA should be placed in outcome-based assignments related to the PNS categories.	All
3/16	16. For our augmentation proposal with more than one work plan, do we need to address in the Program Management narrative how we will assess performance against all the work plans or just the one with the outcome level performance measure? You should address how you will assess performance against all the work plans you propose.	Augmentations
3/16	17. Do we need a work plan for each PNS category? Not necessarily. For example, a mentoring work plan could also focus on individuals with limited English proficiency, thus subsuming two PNS categories.	All
3/16	18. Is there any recommended number of work plans we should include in our application? No.	All
3/16	19. How do we account in work plans for volunteers who are doing multiple assignments that relate to more than one work plan? An individual volunteer may be counted in more than one work plan. <i>(Please note: This answer is different from the answer provided during the March 11 technical assistance call.)</i>	All
3/16	20. Should our volunteers assigned to volunteer recruitment be included in a work plan? Yes. All volunteers should be included in a work plan. This could be a work plan specifically focused on the need of one or more community organizations to involve more volunteers in accomplishing its mission. Or it could be a work plan focused on another identified need, such as low academic achievement, where the RSVP recruiters, along with other RSVP volunteers, are all part of addressing the need, some by recruiting more volunteer tutors and some by providing tutoring services.	All
3/16	21. For volunteer recruiters, is there any minimum amount of time they have to serve in such assignments? No.	All
3/16	22. Can we place volunteers with a college or other organization to	All

Date of Response	RSVP PNS NOFA Questions and Answers (Updated March 23, 2010, with the most recent questions answered first)	Applicability (All Applicants, New Projects Only, or Augmentations Only)
	<p>recruit individuals to serve as volunteers to support our PNS activity, such as mentoring?</p> <p>Yes.</p>	
3/16	<p>23. For an augmentation proposal, can the recruitment volunteers be placed in any of the current volunteer stations the project is working with, or does their placement have to be limited to the stations being added for the new volunteer activities?</p> <p>They can be placed in any stations that are addressing a PNS category, including those you may already be working with.</p>	Augmentations
3/16	<p>24. Is assistance to volunteers with the cost of transportation, such as mileage reimbursement, required?</p> <p>RSVP volunteers “receive assistance with the cost of transportation to and from volunteer assignments and official project activities, including orientation, training, and recognition events.” [45 CFR 2553.43]. The sponsor may establish transportation assistance policies consistent with local circumstances and budgetary constraints.</p>	All
3/16	<p>25. Can we place 50% of our volunteers in activities unrelated to PNS categories?</p> <p>No. To be responsive to this NOFA, all RSVP volunteers must be placed in PNS-related assignments.</p>	All
3/16	<p>26. Can we place volunteers in programmatic activities our own agency?</p> <p>Yes. To quote the RSVP program regulations in 45 CFR 2553.61: “The sponsor may function as a volunteer station, provided that no more than 5% of the total number of volunteers budgeted for the project are assigned to it in administrative or support positions. This limitation does not apply to the assignment of volunteers to other programs administered by the sponsor or special volunteer activities of the project. The RSVP project itself may function as a volunteer station or may initiate special volunteer activities provided the Corporation agrees that these activities are in accord with program objectives and will not hinder overall project operations.”</p>	All
3/16	<p>27. Can we propose volunteers in additional programmatic service areas that we did not mention in our concept paper, as long as they are consistent with the PNS categories?</p> <p>Yes.</p>	All
3/16	<p>28. In our application, can we increase or decrease the number of volunteers from the number we cited in the concept paper?</p> <p>Yes.</p>	All
3/16	<p>29. Can we reduce the geographic area we propose to address from what</p>	All

Date of Response	<p style="text-align: center;">RSVP PNS NOFA Questions and Answers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Updated March 23, 2010, with the most recent questions answered first)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Applicability (All Applicants, New Projects Only, or Augmentations Only)</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">we anticipated in our concept paper?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes.</p>	
3/16	<p>30. Do we need to have a fully formed advisory group before we get an award?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No.</p>	New
3/16	<p>31. When will the funding start for those who receive an award?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We are targeting to make augmentation awards by June 30 so budget period will start July 1, 2010. For new RSVP projects, the budget period will start on or about September 30, 2010.</p>	All
3/16	<p>32. Since we aren't established in the new geographic area we will be working in, how do we prepare a station roster?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Provide a tentative list based on those you plan to sign up.</p>	All
3/16	<p>33. What do we do with attachments, including the volunteer station roster, since these cannot be loaded into eGrants?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The required attachments are listed on p. 14. Applicants should have all the attachments listed in the "New" column available to submit, if requested, during the application clarification phase, following the initial review of applications. Do not send them unless and until they are requested.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please note: To be able to submit your application, at the Documents page you will need to update the drop-down Status field for all the required documents from "Not Sent" to "Not Applicable."</i></p>	All
3/16	<p>34. Are there any character limits for the grant application narratives?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No. The character limits that were formerly included in the Senior Corps Grant Application instructions were eliminated a few months ago.</p>	All
3/16	<p>35. What is the basis for reimbursing a grantee's costs?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Grantees draw funds based on actual cash needs from the Department of Health and Human Services Payment Management System (HHS/PMS). If you receive an award and are not currently drawing funds in this manner, Corporation staff will work with you to get your account set up. Costs must be consistent with the approved grant budget and allowable under the applicable OMB Cost Principles found at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_circulars/</p>	New
3/16	<p>36. Is there a cap on the amount of funding we can request to augment our current grant?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No.</p>	Augmentations
3/16	<p>37. Is there a formula for determining the non-federal share we should</p>	New

Date of Response	<p style="text-align: center;">RSVP PNS NOFA Questions and Answers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Updated March 23, 2010, with the most recent questions answered first)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Applicability (All Applicants, New Projects Only, or Augmentations Only)</p>
	<p>budget?</p> <p>The non-federal share requirement — 10% in Year 1, 20% in Year 2, and 30% in Year 3 and subsequent years — is calculated as a percentage of the total project budget. For example, if your total budget is \$100,000, the required non-federal share for Year one about be \$10,000 and the federal share would be \$90,000.</p>	
3/16	<p>38. What is the relationship between the selection criteria and the Senior Corps Grant Application instructions concerning the content of the various sections of the application?</p> <p>The proposal selection criteria are general criteria applied to assessing the application as a whole. They do not necessarily correspond directly to particular sections of the application.</p>	All
2/16	<p>39. The NOFA requires that all RSVP volunteers must be placed in assignments that fit one or more PNS categories. When can a new RSVP project offer assignments that RSVP volunteers may find meaningful but do not fit a PNS category?</p> <p>New grants will be for a three year grant period, and a new project will be expected to maintain its focus on activities that fit one or more PNS categories for the grant period.</p>	New
2/16	<p>40. If 20% of our RSVP volunteers successfully invite a friend to become a community volunteer or join RSVP within a given year, would that fulfill the minimum requirement that 20% of RSVP volunteers are placed in assignments to recruit other volunteers?</p> <p>No. This type of casual activity is not responsive to the intent of the 20% of RSVP volunteers placed in assignments to recruit other volunteers. By "placed in assignments" we mean that the RSVP volunteers are assigned to a community organization (volunteer station) to help strengthen its capacity through recruitment of volunteers. This would be reflected in the RSVP volunteers' assignment descriptions.</p>	All
2/16	<p>41. Does recruitment need to be a sole function of 20% of our RSVP volunteers?</p> <p>No. A given RSVP volunteer may be placed in more than one assignment.</p>	All
2/16	<p>42. Is it possible to propose a statewide project, when there are counties that are already served?</p> <p>Yes. You could propose to serve counties that are not already served.</p>	New
2/16	<p>43. After reviewing the list of currently served geographic areas posted at the NOFA summary page, http://www.seniorcorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=78, if we still have questions, how can we get</p>	All

Date of Response	<p style="text-align: center;">RSVP PNS NOFA Questions and Answers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Updated March 23, 2010, with the most recent questions answered first)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Applicability (All Applicants, New Projects Only, or Augmentations Only)</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">clarification as to whether a given city within a county, or a county outside a city is served by an existing RSVP project?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">E-mail pns@cns.gov for clarification.</p>	
2/16	<p>44. May a group or association of RSVP projects submit a joint proposal to augment each of their grants?</p> <p>Yes, it is possible to submit an augmentation application involving multiple RSVP projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participating projects would have to be eligible. • One lead organization would submit a concept paper on behalf of the entire group, identifying the other projects and their roles. • If selected to submit a full application, the lead organization would submit the application in eGrants, again identifying all the members of the collaboration and how the volunteers would be distributed among them all. • If the application is selected, the state office would notify each member project that they can submit an amendment request for their respective share of the award. 	Augmentations
2/16	<p>45. May a national organization apply for multiple grants to be used in different locations or if we would be limited to one grant for the entire organization?</p> <p>RSVP is a program focused on local needs, with local community participation. While a national application is not prohibited, normally local affiliates of national organizations submit separate applications.</p>	New
2/16	<p>46. Can an organization apply to serve an unserved county in a bordering state?</p> <p>Yes. The statute and regulations do not prohibit RSVP sponsors from operating projects in a separate state. The applicant would be well served to briefly describe the rationale for and the benefits of geographic arrangement proposed in the Concept Paper and/or Grant Application (if invited to submit a full application).</p>	All
2/16	<p>47. Our grant year is January – December and we are planning to apply for a PNS grant augmentation. If successful, we won’t receive the funds until August. Would we be required to recruit and place the number of additional volunteers we propose by the end of that 5 month period?</p> <p>Not necessarily. For example, if you propose to augment your current volunteer corps with another 50 volunteers, you would indicate in your application by when you anticipate bringing the additional 50 on board.</p>	Augmentations

Date of Response	<p style="text-align: center;">RSVP PNS NOFA Questions and Answers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Updated March 23, 2010, with the most recent questions answered first)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Applicability (All Applicants, New Projects Only, or Augmentations Only)</p>
2/16	<p>48. If our state RSVP association applies for a PNS grant, does this preclude the RSVP projects in that same state from applying individually?</p> <p>No.</p>	All
2/16	<p>49. If our state association of RSVP projects applies for a grant to provide service to an un-served geographic area, does this preclude the projects in that same state from applying individually for PNS augmentation or expansion grants?</p> <p>No.</p>	All
2/16	<p>50. I interpret PNS #11 concerning energy and environment activities to mean that youth must be involved. Am I correct?</p> <p>Yes.</p>	All
2/16	<p>51. Please explain the following PNS category: #16 - “Programs that provide health, education, and welfare services that augment the activities of State and local agencies, to be carried out in a fiscal year for which the aggregate amount of funds available to such agencies is not less than the annual average aggregate amount of funds available to such agencies for the period of 3 fiscal years preceding such fiscal year.”</p> <p>This legislative language means that volunteers may be placed in health education and welfare service programs carried out by State and local agencies, except where funding for such an agency has fallen below the annual average aggregate level of funding for the past three fiscal years. It is designed to avoid RSVP volunteers being assigned to replace staff when agency funding decreases.</p>	All
2/4	<p>52. May a current RSVP sponsor submit an augmentation proposal to expand RSVP volunteer services in a programmatic area that the RSVP volunteers are already addressing, if those services are to be delivered within the project’s existing geographic service area?</p> <p>Yes. For the purposes of this NOFA, expansion of services within a currently served geographic area is considered new programmatic activity.</p>	Augmentations
2/4	<p>53. For the purposes of this NOFA, if any portion of a county or other designated geographic service area is currently being served by RSVP volunteers, is the entire service area considered to be served?</p> <p>Yes.</p>	All
2/4	<p>54. If a current RSVP sponsor has 400 volunteers today and writes an augmentation application for 100 new volunteers, then is the 20% of volunteers assigned to recruiting other volunteers based on the new 100 volunteers?</p>	Augmentations

Date of Response	<p style="text-align: center;">RSVP PNS NOFA Questions and Answers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Updated March 23, 2010, with the most recent questions answered first)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Applicability (All Applicants, New Projects Only, or Augmentations Only)</p>
	Yes.	
2/4	<p>55. May an existing RSVP sponsor define an unserved community within its existing area?</p> <p>No.</p>	All
2/4	<p>56. Who gets priority – augmentations or new projects?</p> <p>We have no preconceived ideas about this. We will look at new project applications separately from augmentation applications.</p>	All
2/4	<p>57. Do the volunteers recruited by the 20% of the RSVP volunteers have to serve in a PNS category?</p> <p>No.</p>	All
2/4	<p>58. For a current grantee, if you are establishing a new freestanding project, how does it relate to your project on an on-going basis and do the funds come through your current project?</p> <p>The funds would not come through your current grant. You would have a new grant with a separate full time project director or a plan for managing the new project with less than a full-time project director. We typically require a full-time director, but there could be a case where a project director splits their time between two projects.</p>	New
2/4	<p>59. What is the difference between community needs and PNS categories?</p> <p>Community needs are uniquely identified needs within your own community. The PNS categories are established by law.</p>	All
2/4	<p>60. How can we work with profit making organizations and labor unions?</p> <p>It's for you to propose. While for profit businesses and labor unions cannot be volunteer stations, they can be organization that you work with to find volunteers, and you can do joint projects with volunteers from those organizations. It is not required to work with either profit making organizations or unions.</p>	All
2/4	<p>61. We have an RSVP project and want to apply for a new project in an unserved area. Does this require separate staff or is this our choice?</p> <p>As this will be a brand new full project, you need to analyze what you need in terms of staff to manage it. A new project director is probably the best option because it is a separate project.</p>	New
2/4	<p>62. If we propose two different types of services, such as mentoring and support of independent living, should these be in one work plan or separate work plans?</p>	All

Date of Response	<p style="text-align: center;">RSVP PNS NOFA Questions and Answers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Updated March 23, 2010, with the most recent questions answered first)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Applicability (All Applicants, New Projects Only, or Augmentations Only)</p>
	<p>It would be preferable to propose separate work plans for each type of service.</p>	
2/4	<p>63. Are elder transportation services classifiable under one of the PNS categories?</p> <p>Yes.</p>	All
2/4	<p>64. How should we regard the statements that augmentations are estimated on average to have 70 RSVP volunteers and new projects are estimated to have 300 RSVP volunteers?</p> <p>These are only estimates. You should propose the number of volunteers appropriate for your community and the objectives of your application.</p>	All
2/4	<p>65. Does the list of geographic areas posted at the NOFA summary page show the areas currently served by existing projects or areas available to be served by a new project or augmentation of a current project?</p> <p>The list shows the geographic areas served by existing projects. All geographic areas not served by an existing project are considered unserved areas.</p>	All
2/4	<p>66. Do the volunteers recruited by RSVP volunteers have to be age 55 or older?</p> <p>No, they may be of any age.</p>	All
2/3	<p>67. May a municipal government establish a new RSVP project for an initiative that services its residents when currently the county government has an RSVP project?</p> <p>The answer depends on whether the geographic service area of the current RSVP project includes the municipality. If the municipality is included, it would not be considered to be an unserved geographic service area for the purposes of this NOFA and therefore not eligible to be served by a new RSVP project.</p>	New
2/3	<p>68. Can the competition funds be used to purchase a wheelchair equipped mini bus to transport shuttles, wounded warriors, etc., to and from community programs?</p> <p>No, this program does not fund equipment, such as a bus for this purpose.</p>	All
2/3	<p>69. Must an existing grantee applying only for the purpose of serving a new geographic area, address at least one of the 16 programmatic categories of funding?</p> <p>Yes. As stated in the Notice of Funding Availability, all of the RSVP volunteers must be placed in assignments that address one or more of the 16 PNS categories.</p>	New

Date of Response	<p style="text-align: center;">RSVP PNS NOFA Questions and Answers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Updated March 23, 2010, with the most recent questions answered first)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Applicability (All Applicants, New Projects Only, or Augmentations Only)</p>
2/3	<p>70. For this competition, the estimated average federal cost per RSVP volunteer is \$300. Should that figure be used even if a current grantee is applying for much fewer than 70 volunteers?</p> <p>The amount of funding applicants request will depend upon the needs of the proposed program. \$300 is only an estimate of the average federal cost per volunteer. It does not include the grantee share.</p>	All
2/3	<p>71. May an applicant who is not receiving any assistance from the Corporation receive individualized assistance from any of the Corporation’s technical assistance providers?</p> <p>No. However, many of the resources at the Corporation’s National Service Resource Center website at http://www.nationalserviceresources.org/ are freely available to the public, and applicants are encouraged to explore and utilize them. For example, the NOFA contained a link to the RSVP Operations Handbook, at http://www.nationalserviceresources.org/sc-rsvp-handbook. The Resource Center also offers online training tools and publications and an Effective Practices Collection. Content housed at the Resource Center is generated by a network of specialized training and technical assistance providers funded by the Corporation to help volunteer and service programs succeed and thrive.</p>	All
2/2	<p>72. How many applications do you typically receive in a single funding cycle? Is this program very competitive?</p> <p>The last time the Corporation received funds to establish new RSVP projects was in Fiscal Year 2002, when Congress appropriated \$1.4 million for new RSVP projects focused exclusively on activities related to increasing homeland security. 23 applications were received. In Fiscal Year 2006, \$385,000 was available to augment current RSVP grants. 168 concept papers were received, 106 were invited to apply, and 95 full applications were received.</p>	All
2/2	<p>73. What counts as “new programmatic activities” for existing RSVP grantees seeking to expand the number of RSVP volunteers who will serve? Do these new activities have to be something the existing RSVP project has never had volunteers engage in before or can it be an expansion of existing services/volunteer activities?</p> <p>"New programmatic activities" may include additional RSVP volunteers serving in any programmatic area that is consistent with one or more of the PNS categories. This may include expansion of existing volunteer services. For example, if a project has volunteers assigned to mentor low income youth, it may propose to increase the number of volunteers engaged in this activity.</p>	Augmentations
2/2	<p>74. Could “profit making organizations” listed under PNS Category 12 include any local business or corporation?</p>	All

Date of Response	RSVP PNS NOFA Questions and Answers (Updated March 23, 2010, with the most recent questions answered first)	Applicability (All Applicants, New Projects Only, or Augmentations Only)
	Yes. But note that profit making organizations, with the exception of proprietary health care organizations, are not eligible to be RSVP volunteer stations.	
2/2	<p>75. In the NOFA, it states that the Corporation is “particularly interested in supporting the following volunteer activities: (1) Providing in-home non-medical independent living support to those in need of extra help, including frail seniors, veterans of recent conflicts, and their caregivers.” What does the Corporation consider a “recent conflict”?</p> <p>Supporting veterans who served in any conflict is a Corporation priority. The phrase “recent conflict” highlights that supporting veterans who served in conflicts within the past 10 years, in particular veterans who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan, is part of that priority.</p>	All
2/2	<p>76. Concerning the funding for areas not currently served by RSVP volunteers, what does the term “area” mean?</p> <p>If an RSVP project is currently serving in a geographic area, such as a county or a city, then another one cannot be established in the same geographic area.</p>	New
2/2	<p>77. When will awards for new projects be made and for what period of time will grant funds be available to spend?</p> <p>We anticipate completing announcement of the results of this competition by August 2010. Grants will be made for a three-year performance period, with funding provided one year at a time, contingent on satisfactory performance. Before the end of the first and second budget years, recipients will receive guidance on submitting a continuation application for the subsequent year of operation.</p>	New
2/2	<p>78. If a current RSVP sponsor wants to establish a new RSVP project in an unserved geographic area, must the new project be managed as a separate, independent grant with its own project director?</p> <p>Yes. Each project must be managed as a separate grant, each of which carries the same fiscal and program responsibilities as any other Corporation funded RSVP grant, including the assignment of a full-time project director, unless you can justify assigning a project director for less than full time in your management narrative when you submit your full application.</p>	New
2/2	<p>79. Does a “new” project have three years to recruit 300 new volunteers at a funding level of \$300 per volunteer?</p> <p>An RSVP project does not have to recruit 300 new volunteers. We only estimate that new RSVP projects will enroll an average of 300 RSVP volunteers in their first year based on historical experience. The</p>	New

Date of Response	<p style="text-align: center;">RSVP PNS NOFA Questions and Answers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Updated March 23, 2010, with the most recent questions answered first)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Applicability (All Applicants, New Projects Only, or Augmentations Only)</p>
	<p>estimated average federal cost per RSVP volunteer is \$300; the actual cost may differ depending upon the particulars of the program.</p> <p>It is the Corporation's expectation that grantees will make every effort to carefully assess their ability to recruit new volunteers and place new volunteers in service projects as soon as possible.</p>	
2/2	<p>80. For an augmentation proposal, are any of the following acceptable? a) a new work plan in an existing service area, b) expansion into new unserved areas using current work plans c) expansion into an unserved area with a new work plan?</p> <p>All are acceptable. An existing RSVP grantee may apply for an augmentation of its current grant for expansion of an existing project within its currently approved geographic service area or into a new unserved geographic area. Applicants invited to submit a full application will submit one or more work plans in the application. If an award is made, the grantee will receive instructions on how to integrate the augmentation work plan(s) into the current grant.</p>	Augmentations
2/2	<p>81. Would a smaller augmentation grant be considered? Say enrolling 25 new volunteers rather than the average of 70 which is suggested in the PNS summary?</p> <p>Yes, a smaller augmentation grant will be considered. There are no minimum or maximum requirements for the augmentation grant proposals.</p>	Augmentations
2/2	<p>82. If an existing RSVP grantee writes a proposal to increase its volunteer base - but due to the normal loss of volunteers in a given year our volunteer base remained similar in number would there be any consequences to the program in terms of the Recompetition in 2013.</p> <p>Applicants should be aware that the Domestic Volunteer Service Act specifies that awards for Programs of National Significance must supplement and not supplant the number of existing federally supported volunteers. Applicants should plan to sustain the increased level of volunteers.</p>	Augmentations
2/1	<p>83. Can an RSVP sponsor applying to receive a PNS grant augmentation partner with another agency that also receives federal funding from another federal agency, including, but not limited to, the Department of Transportation, Department of Education or Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging?</p> <p>An RSVP project may partner with another agency in many ways including asking the partner to serve as a volunteer station. The RSVP sponsor must serve as the applicant for an augmentation under this NOFA. Note that unless the Corporation's statute or the statute</p>	Augmentations

Date of Response	RSVP PNS NOFA Questions and Answers (Updated March 23, 2010, with the most recent questions answered first)	Applicability (All Applicants, New Projects Only, or Augmentations Only)
	authorizing another federal government program provides for the use of that program’s funds to be used to meet the grantee match or cost share requirement, it is not possible to use federal funds for the match or cost share requirement.	
2/1	84. Is there a matching funds requirement for current RSVP programs? Yes. See the NOFA, Section III.B.	Augmentations
2/1	85. Will applicants garner any special consideration for providing matching funds beyond the required minimum percentage? No.	All
2/1	86. Will cash or in-kind contributions be accepted as part of match? Yes. The RSVP Program Regulations in 45 CFR 2553.72(2), state that: “a sponsor is responsible for identifying non-Corporation funds which may include in-kind contributions.”	All
2/1	87. Are there any restrictions regarding the amount that may be requested? No.	All
2/1	88. How many applications do you expect to support in the current funding cycle? The number of grants that will be awarded for this grant competition will be determined by the scope and quality of the applications received.	All
1/27	89. Is a sponsor of a non-Corporation funded RSVP project whose only Corporation funding resulted from a PNS grant augmentation under a previous competition, considered a current RSVP grantee? Yes.	Augmentations
1/27	90. How will the Corporation determine whether an applicant will not be receiving any assistance from the Corporation at the time of the award or is from a location where there will be no RSVP project operating at the time of the award? This information is available in the Corporation’s systems.	New
1/27	91. Can Administration on Aging funding be used to meet the non-federal share requirement? No. Unless the Corporation’s statute, or the statute authorizing another federal government program provides for the use of that program’s funds to be used to meet the grantee match or cost share requirement, it is not possible to use federal funds for the match or cost share requirement. Neither the Corporation’s statutes nor the Older Americans Act, contain such a provision.	All
1/27	92. Is the sponsor of a current non-Corporation funded RSVP project	All

Date of Response	<p style="text-align: center;">RSVP PNS NOFA Questions and Answers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Updated March 23, 2010, with the most recent questions answered first)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Applicability (All Applicants, New Projects Only, or Augmentations Only)</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">considered a "grantee" for this competition?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes.</p>	
1/27	<p>93. The NOFA said that it is expected that augmentations of existing grants will support an average of 70 additional RSVP volunteers. The program we run is not large and we would expect to recruit fewer than 70 volunteers. Will a proposal for fewer volunteers receive equal consideration?</p> <p>Yes. The size of an augmentation proposal will not be a factor in review of either the concept paper or a full application.</p>	Augmentations
1/27	<p>94. Does the reference to an average of 70 volunteers for augmentations of existing grants in the NOFA refer to the number of volunteers recruited over a 3 year period or to the number of volunteers serving in a one year period?</p> <p>It refers to the number of volunteers serving over a one year period.</p>	Augmentations
1/27	<p>95. Does the average federal cost per RSVP volunteer of \$300 cover all costs associated with an RSVP volunteer, both administrative costs as well as the cost of such volunteer benefits as required insurance, mileage reimbursement, and meals where applicable?</p> <p>Yes.</p>	All
1/27	<p>96. Page 3 of the NOFA states that “In the case of augmentation proposals, expansion into unserved geographic areas is a Corporation priority.” Does that mean if we only want “to expand the number of RSVP volunteers serving in existing RSVP projects who will engage in new programmatic activities” as stated on page 1 of the NOFA, we will not be competitive?</p> <p>No. New programmatic activities may include new types of RSVP volunteer services within the existing service area or expansion of either current services or completely new types of activities into unserved areas. See also the response to question 14.</p>	Augmentations
1/27	<p>97. What does it mean, in practical terms, that “expansion into unserved geographic areas is a Corporation priority”?</p> <p>Among equally rated applications, the Corporation will give priority to proposals to expand into unserved geographic areas or establish completely new RSVP projects to serve such areas.</p>	All