

PART I - FACE SHEET

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE		1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION: Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction														
Modified Standard Form 424 (Rev.02/07 to confirm to the Corporation's eGrants System)																
2a. DATE SUBMITTED TO CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (CNCS): 10/17/12	3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE:	STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER:														
2b. APPLICATION ID: 13SR143895	4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY: 10/17/12	FEDERAL IDENTIFIER:														
5. APPLICATION INFORMATION																
LEGAL NAME: Texoma Council of Governments DUNS NUMBER: 879884815	NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PROJECT DIRECTOR OR OTHER PERSON TO BE CONTACTED ON MATTERS INVOLVING THIS APPLICATION (give area codes): NAME: Trish Jennings TELEPHONE NUMBER: (903) 813-3587 FAX NUMBER: (903) 813-3515 INTERNET E-MAIL ADDRESS: tjennings@texoma.cog.tx.us															
ADDRESS (give street address, city, state, zip code and county): 1117 Gallagher, Ste 200 Second Floor Sherman TX 75090 - 3107 County: Grayson																
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): 751292195	7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: 7a. Other 7b. Area Agency on Aging															
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION (Check appropriate box). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEW <input type="checkbox"/> NEW/PREVIOUS GRANTEE <input type="checkbox"/> CONTINUATION <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDMENT If Amendment, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es): <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> A. AUGMENTATION B. BUDGET REVISION C. NO COST EXTENSION D. OTHER (specify below):	9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service															
10a. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER: 94.002 10b. TITLE: Retired and Senior Volunteer Program	11.a. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT: Texoma RSVP 11.b. CNCS PROGRAM INITIATIVE (IF ANY):															
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (List Cities, Counties, States, etc): TEXAS Opportunity #5 - Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson Counties in North Texas. This area is known as Texoma.																
13. PROPOSED PROJECT: START DATE: 07/01/13 END DATE: 06/30/14	14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF: a.Applicant <input type="text" value="TX 004"/> b.Program <input type="text" value="TX 004"/>															
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING: Year #: 1	16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS? <input type="checkbox"/> YES. THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON: DATE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO. PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E.O. 12372															
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <tr><td style="width: 20%;">a. FEDERAL</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 57,479.00</td></tr> <tr><td>b. APPLICANT</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 24,676.00</td></tr> <tr><td>c. STATE</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 20,518.00</td></tr> <tr><td>d. LOCAL</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 4,158.00</td></tr> <tr><td>e. OTHER</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.00</td></tr> <tr><td>f. PROGRAM INCOME</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.00</td></tr> <tr><td>g. TOTAL</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$ 82,155.00</td></tr> </table>	a. FEDERAL	\$ 57,479.00	b. APPLICANT	\$ 24,676.00	c. STATE	\$ 20,518.00	d. LOCAL	\$ 4,158.00	e. OTHER	\$ 0.00	f. PROGRAM INCOME	\$ 0.00	g. TOTAL	\$ 82,155.00	17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES if "Yes," attach an explanation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
a. FEDERAL	\$ 57,479.00															
b. APPLICANT	\$ 24,676.00															
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f. PROGRAM INCOME	\$ 0.00															
g. TOTAL	\$ 82,155.00															
18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT, THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.																
a. TYPED NAME OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: Terrell Culbertson	b. TITLE: Finance Officer	c. TELEPHONE NUMBER: 1-903-813-3516														
d. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:		e. DATE SIGNED: 10/17/12														

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Executive Summary

Texoma RSVP is now in its 24th year of addressing community needs. Sponsored by the Texoma Council of Governments in Sherman, Texas, we are housed within the Department of Area Agency on Aging where we partner with many programs that assist our community.

There are 827 RSVP volunteers tackling critical dilemmas and obstacles, while volunteering at 65 different workstations within the three county area of Cooke, Fannin and Grayson. The senior population is now approaching 21%, and many citizens of our "boomer generation" feel a deep need to assist their community. They do so as they find the right opportunities to volunteer here at Texoma RSVP.

By the end of 2011, Texoma RSVP volunteers had accumulated 127,721 hours. That translates into \$2,798,367 in contribution to our community.

With the fiscal restraints we are now undergoing nationally, Texoma RSVP is currently refocusing its direction. This refocus will be accommodated by employing one staff member, that being the program director. We are implementing short term projects that will attract seniors that are looking for intermittent volunteering, cull out stations no longer needed in a particular area, and we will be continuing our long term projects that provide the stable, everyday routine other volunteers are looking for. Our existing signature projects will continue: Fathers Reading Every Day (F.R.E.D.), Senior Volunteers for Childhood Immunizations (S.V.C.I.) and Blossoms of H.O.P.E., a program that supports the local women's abuse shelter, will all remain in effect.

Our program has now implemented the Senior Medicare Patrol program, a Medicare Fraud and Abuse education project. This project commenced the end of August 2011.

We are beginning our Disaster Assistance Response Team with approximately 50 volunteers, in conjunction with our CERT program. This is a partnership with TCOG's criminal justice department, and will begin in 2013.

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Texoma RSVP is also in the planning stages of the Veterans Navigating Veterans program, a mentor-mentored project that bridges existing community services provided to our service men and women coming home. An established veteran within the community will be available to assist those who have served our country in the basics of returning to regular daily living. Our Texas State Veteran's Home voluntary services, the VA Hospital services, established agencies such as the VFW, AMVETS, American Legion and others, as well as our local college will all be linked by our mentor to assist new veterans in developing new skills and provide housing, medical and other assistance.

These new services will address the existing needs within our Texoma region. Under the leadership of the RSVP director and many volunteers to support the community, tough everyday issues can be resolved, and many needs of our citizens will be addressed.

Strengthening Communities

Texoma RSVP Program, now in its 24th year, is sponsored by the Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG). TCOG is a voluntary association of the local governments primarily comprised of the rural communities of Cooke, Fannin, and the more urban community of Grayson County. Established in 1968, TCOG promotes economy and efficiency in the coordinated planning and development of the tri-county region.

Texoma is a portmanteau of the words Texas and Oklahoma, and is used to describe the area on either side of the border between these two states along the Red River valley, particularly the area around Lake Texoma, a popular recreation area. The total land area for the region is 2,699 square miles with an approximate total population of 193,229 (2010 Census).

Texoma is a predominately white community as the racial/ethnic mix of Grayson County is 83.9% White, 5.9% Black, and 11.3% Hispanic. The 2010 Census reports the racial makeup of Fannin County was 86% White, 6.80% Black, 9.50% of the population were Hispanic. Races in Cooke County follow closely to the same pattern; White 85.7%, Hispanic 15.6%, and Black 2.70%.

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Texoma is home to schools of higher learning which include Austin College. Austin College is a private liberal arts college in Sherman founded in 1849 and is the oldest college in Texas operating under its original charter.

Grayson County Community College founded in 1964 in neighboring Denison, operates a branch campus in Van Alstyne, Texas. North Central Texas College established in 1924 in Cooke County, is the oldest continuously operating public two-year college in Texas.

Top major employers are: Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital - WNJ - 1200 employees; Texoma Medical Center -- 1163 employees; Texas Instruments -1100 employees, and Emerson Process Management -- 400 employees. Construction and agriculture are predominate occupations in the community. Although no longer in existence, Perrin Field Air Force Base at one time was a major employer in this area. A large number of those who settled in this area because of Perrin Field remained here and are now a large part of the senior citizen population.

According to the 2010 US Census Bureau, demographics shown for Fannin County state 17.0% of its population are over 65 years of age. For Grayson County the number is 15.5%, and for Cooke County, 15.9% of residents are over 65 years of age.

Texoma RSVP's relationship with our community is a very successful one. RSVP has been in the community for 24 years and is sponsored by TCOG. This has worked together to make the organization well known in the community as a contributor to other organizations, local and county governments. Support is built for Texoma RSVP by making sure the community is aware of our projects and programs. One of the first things we do is develop strong ties through relationships with volunteers and workstations. We strive to "put a face on" RSVP. Second, we strive to get results from the programs we support. And lastly, by promoting the results we achieve through targeted Programming for Impact.

Building public awareness is three fold: Public Media, Community Projects and Networking.

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Public Media includes Public Service Announcements on local radio, DOC FM 107.3 with which we have a strong community partnership. With over 20 years in the community our program has gained a close relationship with local TV, as well. Television stations KTEN and KXII reach some 4 million viewers. Both stations regularly feature our program as do numerous newspapers and our online newspaper, North Texas e-news. Texoma Senior Corps publishes a quarterly newsletter and is publicized in the free-to-seniors annual Texoma Senior Sourcebook of which 25,600 are distributed to area seniors.

Community Projects that Texoma RSVP staff participates in are the local Senior Wellness Expo and the National Night Out to promote our volunteer programs. We give speeches to community groups such as Kiwanis, Rotary, etc. Site visits to workstations enables RSVP staff to build public awareness of the program and its benefits while at the same time offering training for online reporting of hours on our web site www.texoma.cog.tx.us.

Networking: Texoma RSVP is a long time member with the Grayson County Social Services Association (GCSSA). The mission of the GCSSA is to promote and enhance communication between social services agencies in order to provide better services and support. In 2009 Texoma RSVP was honored to be nominated as a Grayson County Social Services Association Agency of the Year.

Texoma RSVP also networks with the Texoma Foster Grandparents Program to share Senior Corps projects, ideas, and to support one another's program. Developing a strong presence on social networking websites such as facebook and VolunteerMatch helps to integrate senior services into the activities of other service programs within the community. We are also able to capture a larger portion of volunteers who are Baby Boomers by utilizing these social networking websites.

Texoma RSVP brings together people of diverse backgrounds, age, education and work experience through the variety of programs offered to volunteers. The more diverse volunteer opportunities we have available for seniors, the easier it is to recruit and retain volunteers. The volunteers themselves

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come from diverse backgrounds such as housewives, farmers, business leaders, product manufacturers, those with high and low incomes and those who have disabilities. We match this group of volunteers with other groups of diverse people: the child of an incarcerated father, residents of nursing homes or abused children who do not have a voice and need an advocate, those who currently have to make the difficult choice between food and their needed medication, Alzheimer patient caregivers who are in need of respite, homebound who need a nutritious meal, and those who have been affected by hard economic times and need food and clothing.

We mobilize community resources by obtaining donations for our Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) program. Those donations are in the form of new or gently used books that will aid in the much-needed literacy project. FRED enables incarcerated fathers to bond with their children through recorded children's books and audio tapes and promotes reading literacy. The community such as Phi Beta Kappa sorority, retired teachers, book clubs, and various retail stores come together to supply resources for the FRED project, as well.

Another way we mobilize community resources is through the 9-1-1 Memorial Give-A-Way Project. A generous grant enables Senior Corps to donate much needed items such as children's books, children's party items, paper plates, gift bags and wrapping paper. The donations include many of the small things that low income families cannot always afford. The 9-1-1 Memorial project benefits between 40-80 area non-profits each year. Approximately \$150,000 worth of items are given away free at one time to agencies and organizations that serve low-income clients. Then throughout the year we utilize the remainder of Hallmark items for use at volunteer recognitions, meetings, etc. which counts as a large part of our Texoma RSVP's required in-kind.

Community activities in which volunteers may participate include our bi-annual bus trip to Austin Texas for the Senior Day at the Capitol, Living Well-Aging Well Expo & the Children Entertaining Children event to benefit the Early Childhood Intervention (a Texoma Community Center project)

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and the Senior Corps 9-1-1 Memorial Give-A-Way Project.

The Texoma RSVP will enhance the capacity of the organizations and institutions within Grayson, Cooke and Fannin Counties by adding people that are motivated to help with the mission of the program and want to make a difference. In the works is the development of a relationship with a non-profit executive in a mentoring position who can provide additional support and insight for capacity building strategies. Training, technical assistance and networking opportunities to enhance sustainability and collaboration is also planned.

We work to integrate senior service into the activities of other service programs within the community by recruiting members of service groups to champion the cause for RSVP and build capacity. We find those who are in service organizations really do want to make a difference and track the impact they are making. RSVP is one of the few programs in this community that can offer outcomes through programming for impact.

Recruitment and Development

Strengthening the relationships with the Texoma community not-for-profit organizations is a top priority for our program, as well as project branding and program growth. We strive to offer diverse volunteer opportunities through our program with 85 different volunteer jobs at 65 workstations. Developing new programs and strengthening established programs has enabled the Texoma RSVP to provide a high quality experience for volunteers. For example, because Senior Corps has a particular interest in children and youth, Texoma RSVP has expanded a program that targets the strategic initiative: Ensuring a Brighter Future for all of America's Youth through Children of Incarcerated Parents. The program is called the Fathers Reading Every Day Program (FRED). Not only is this program designed to address the bond between children and their fathers who are in prison but at the same time it addresses the literacy needs of children. This program has been very successful and has opened opportunities for recruiting volunteers interested in short term volunteering and Baby

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Boomers who desire to affect social change. Feedback from volunteers with the FRED program report time and again how the experience has enriched the volunteers' lives.

Local area non-profits become workstations (partners) of Texoma RSVP through such avenues as: inquiries from local non-profits calling us directly asking about our program, the director making public speeches at groups such as Rotary and Kiwanis, staff networking at Grayson County Social Service Association meetings and partnering with other nonprofits in the area when they invite us to sit on committee planning and board meetings, as well as serving alongside them when nonprofits have projects that benefit the community. Texoma RSVP staff recently helped with a benefit for an MHMR project. This public partnering helps give RSVP a presence in our community's eye while bringing awareness to the RSVP program.

Recruitment of volunteers includes varied methods such as, at our workstations some 19 volunteer managers and volunteer coordinators who are already RSVP members recruit daily. They help to build capacity at their worksites through advocating for membership with RSVP, by promoting with literature and word of mouth and contacting us when they have a potential volunteer. We make contact to those individuals through a welcome letter that explains our program and includes a membership application. Also, we recruit by outreach and marketing in the community through radio public service announcements, staff attending expos and health fairs, and publishing and distributing the Senior Corps newsletter to some 900 seniors, community leaders and supporters.

Retention of volunteers is being addressed by developing a more extensive volunteer orientation training program. As new members come on board with our RSVP program we feel it is vital that volunteers are aware of how their hours of service provide meaning to the community. The training will not only be for new members but also for those who may desire a refresher course on the Texoma RSVP program. Orientation training is held quarterly for each county and covers program information, award recognitions, time sheets, insurance, etc. Individual training is available with new

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station managers and addresses the importance of community participation.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Texoma RSVP program. All of the time, effort, and dedication RSVP volunteers donate creates a measurable difference in the community. One way we express our gratitude is by providing our annual Volunteer Recognition Awards event. Here our elected officials from each of our three counties, staff, financial contributors, RSVP volunteers and our partnering agencies gather together to highlight the accomplishments and impact of service that RSVP volunteers provide each day. The event includes a luncheon, entertainment and awards for five, ten, fifteen, and twenty years of service as well as our Lifetime achievement award for 4,000 hours served. One volunteer in each county is also highlighted for their extraordinary contributions to the community with the Spirit of Service Award. One highlight of the events is a special presentation from Representative Ralph Hall's office. They honor our Lifetime Achievement award winners with an American Flag and certificate presentation. We validate each guest and volunteer with a small gift for attending. The many door prizes donated from local sponsors help to add to the day's festivities. We continue the recognition of volunteers with lots of media coverage of all three events. The ceremony and award winners are mentioned in our Senior Corps Newsletter, as well as several local newspapers, TV, and online on the North Texas e-News.

Texoma RSVP staff desires to develop and maintain strong supportive relationships with its volunteers and workstations by making regular site visits. Personal contact with each of our 65 worksites is done on a rotating visit each quarter to assess the quality of the volunteer's experience, understanding the needs of the site and improve communication. These visits enable Texoma RSVP to be visible among the community and offer the volunteers and workstation managers a familiarity with staff. Regular onsite visit surveys are taken to evaluate performance of each station. Texoma RSVP also has a grant from Hallmark, Inc. that we share among our workstations, and other local not-for-profits, that is used to enhance agency projects and to recruit new volunteers.

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We use technology in a variety of ways. As an essential recruiting tool for recruitment and development of our program, we are members of the national online database VolunteerMatch. It allows exposure of all our worksites to those who are computer savvy, especially potential Baby Boomer volunteers, on a national level. According to their website, "VolunteerMatch strengthens communities by making it easier for good people and good causes to connect." The VolunteerMatch staff also works closely with Senior Corps programs in training and maintenance in order to constantly improve and grow its service. Social networking websites such as facebook are currently being developed to enhance our RSVP program and make a vital community exposure.

By utilizing technology on a local level, Texoma RSVP has developed the Senior Corps website: www.texoma.cog.tx.us/departments/aging-services/rsvp/. Our website provides information about the Texoma RSVP program, as well as our sister program, the Texoma Foster Grandparents Program. There our workstations report volunteer hours via the web assistant; applications can be downloaded and there is also a current newsroom feed from the National Senior Corps.

Program Management

Our goal at Texoma RSVP is to develop workstations and volunteer assignments that meet community needs and also provide meaningful placements for volunteers. To ensure that program management remains high-quality, including that the workstations and volunteers are benefiting from their relationship, it is necessary to annually assess the quality of each activity such as developing job descriptions, recruiting, training, and community needs. This assessment is done by surveys, on-site visit evaluations, advisory council participation, performance measurements and work plan development. Assessing through outcomes evaluation is the way we demonstrate the actual measurable changes that our volunteer program has brought to the community and the clients we serve.

Our sponsor, Texoma Council of Governments, is currently in the process of conducting a strategic

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plan and a 2011-2015 Community Needs Assessment. Those objectives include: 1) Identify possible gaps in services, 2) Provide information and data as a resource for area agencies, and 3) Outline of community needs and satisfaction with current services and procedures. Texoma RSVP goals clearly align with the mission of TCOG and the outcomes will be integrated into our existing program.

Furthermore, the RSVP program will come under review by our local community volunteers during the annual agency review.

Texoma RSVP has a well-defined and communicated volunteer management plan that includes having a Memorandum of Understanding in place with each workstation that states the needs of the community in reference to that station and a description of all volunteer jobs. Management of programs includes a volunteer application process that contains a Volunteer Handbook. The handbook includes volunteer personnel policy and procedures. It is a priority to communicate RSVP membership benefits to the volunteer, as well as the workstation managers. To that end Texoma RSVP has now implemented an enrollment and exit interview process to further enhance our program. The enrollment interview ensures that the new members understand how RSVP tracks senior volunteer hours and programs for community impact and the benefits of being an RSVP member. This also gives us an opportunity to mention other available volunteer positions and determine if a volunteer is interested in short-term and/or disaster relief projects. Completing the exit interview allows staff to gather information as to why the volunteer is no longer serving, if they might be interested in other volunteer opportunities and how they have benefited from their involvement with RSVP. We also ask for suggestions the volunteer may have for improvements or changes in our program during the exit interview. These interviews assist Texoma RSVP to form an open line of communication with our volunteers and allow us to reassure them of their significance to our program.

Managing information and data for the program is organized through both hard copies and a software program to ensure accuracy and organization. All programs, data, and file information are

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maintained utilizing Volunteer Reporter Software. Volunteer Reporter is reliable and provides valuable technical support. All reports and statistics generated with Volunteer Reporter coincide with the needed documentation for reporting in eGrants, FFR's, etc. We are given regular upgrades, so the program is constantly improving itself. Workstation managers can enter their own hours via our website using the Web Assistant feature in Volunteer Reporter.

In regard to managing project resources and to ensure accountability, Texoma RSVP has available through its local sponsor Texoma Council of Governments, the chief financial officer, Terrell Culbertson and the Texoma Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities program manager, Karen Bray. Through their support of budget development, financial reports, and Statements of Revenues/Expenditures, an efficient and effective use of resources is ensured.

In order to sustain and expand the Texoma RSVP program a variety of resources are secured. Local cash donations have come from groups such as Delta Kappa Gamma International, Denison Service League, and community partners such as Wal-Mart and Sam's Club. Grants were generated from participation in the DTV: Keep Seniors Campaign sponsored by the n4a (National Association of Area Agencies on Aging). A Grant for approximately \$10,000 from the University of North Texas was awarded to fund the Seniors/Volunteers for Childhood Immunization Program which is sponsored by the Texoma RSVP program.

Texoma RSVP currently receives in-kind of well over \$350,000 which includes a generous charity grant from Hallmark, Inc. that helps build community relationships and awareness. Contributions from Hallmark, Inc. make up a large portion of in-kind contributions which is in turn distributed to local not-for-profits and member workstations. Moreover, other in-kind donations come from three area hospitals that donate meals and flu shots to those volunteers who serve there.

Organizational Capability

Texoma RSVP is a Senior Corps program that serves as the bridge between the community needs and

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experience of people 55+, in the Texoma region of North Texas. For 24 years the Texoma Council of Governments has been the local sponsor for the Texoma RSVP program. Texoma Council of Governments and Texoma RSVP complement each other's missions to impact lives through volunteerism and service.

Texoma RSVP currently manages the recruitment, retention, and recognition of senior volunteers in Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson counties and is part of the Texoma Council of Governments. The program has seen a steady growth while keeping recruitment numbers consistent. For the first quarter of 2012 there have been 15 new members enrolled versus only 7 that were terminated due to health or inactivity. These numbers are increasing as we develop and implement programs with a new focus for Texoma RSVP. Volunteer members serve at 65 partnering agencies and non-profit organizations, known as workstations, throughout the three county area. Last year 792 Texoma RSVP members contributed to our community some 127,721 hours of volunteer service equivalent to \$2,798,367. (According to the Independent Sector the estimated dollar value of a volunteer's time in Texas is worth \$21.91 per hour).

The Texoma RSVP Program Director, Trish Jennings, oversees the Texoma RSVP program. The director works cooperatively with other Texoma Area on Aging staff, members of three Community Advisory Councils, volunteer workstation staff, and officials of the Corporation for National and Community Service to program, plan, and implement the Texoma RSVP program. The Program Director is also responsible for preparing the annual budget of approximately \$80,000, developing and implementing policies, and generating required reports. Other duties of the program director include providing administrative oversight of the Texoma RSVP program by ensuring compliance with terms and conditions of the federal grant and applicable federal regulations. The current RSVP director attended Senior Corps state conferences, served on local non-profit boards and is a member of Grayson County Social Service Association. The project director, Trish Jennings,

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reports directly to the Senior Corps Program Manager, Linda Burleson, who reports to the Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities Director. Currently the AAA Director position is occupied by Karen Bray.

Texoma RSVP currently has three separate county advisory councils with approximately 12 members on each council. Each county advisory council contributes to the program to provide reasonable opportunity for community and volunteer involvement and support development, operation and appraisal of the RSVP project. Council provides advice and support to the RSVP project director in the formulation of local policy, and the planning and development of operation procedures and practices, consistent with program policies.

Texoma RSVP program adheres to the rules that govern employees and to the policy and procedures of the Texoma Council of Governments including all personnel evaluations. All internal policies such as travel expenses, check requests and payroll are managed through the administrative offices of the Texoma Council of Governments. The Texoma RSVP program director reports directly to the Senior Corps Program Manager.

Fiscal oversight is provided by Texoma Council of Governments in several ways: The financial officer, Terrell Culbertson, has some 30 years of experience and oversight of all TCOG programs on a daily basis. There is an annual audit by an independent Certified Public Accountant; Finance Committee review of the budget process, audit, financial position, and investments; segregated accounting of all RSVP funds, including federal grant funds; and monthly review of financial statements by the Board of Directors.

Texoma RSVP affiliation and sponsorship with the Texoma Council of Governments ensures that RSVP will have adequate facilities, equipment, supplies, purchasing procedures, and personnel management support as required. Job descriptions are in place which delegate duties and responsibilities, and monthly staff meetings are held. Annual staff performance reviews are conducted.

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Other

Texoma RSVP is redirecting its focus. In order to adhere to the national fiscal restraints, the program will have to accomplish more with less. Tackling tough community issues will not be negotiated, it will remain the heart and soul of RSVP. RSVP will bridge additional services offered within the community and provide the volunteers information to help them in meeting our community's needs. Senior Medicare Patrol, an education program fighting Medicare fraud and abuse, Veterans Navigating Veterans, a mentor-mentored program for our sons and daughters returning home and a Disaster Assistance Program, are all in the process of being implemented. These community needs will be the immediate focus for Texoma RSVP.

Building relationships with area organizations that supports Disaster Preparedness and Response is a top priority for Texoma RSVP. Currently we are in the planning stages of a revitalizing our partnership with the county of Grayson organizers and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) . CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. In keeping with its mission of "providing public safety, promoting positive changes in offender behavior, and assisting offenders in their transition to the community", the Texas Department of Criminal Justice recognizes the importance of maintaining familial ties, particularly that of offenders and their children. To that end, the TDCJ is committed to incorporating programs which, in respect to maintaining public safety, include children of offenders or impact the children of offenders.

TEXOMA RSVP Program partners with Buster Cole State Jail in Bonham, Texas to make the Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) Program available at their unit to offenders with children. The FRED Program allows incarcerated fathers to engage in the reading development of their children and provides an opportunity for meaningful contact through the reading and audio recording of children's

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books made in the jail setting.

Harnessing Baby Boomers' Experience (with a focus on supporting older adults who require assistance to live independently) is a priority of Texoma RSVP. Health and nutrition needs are met for these older adults when RSVP volunteers provide congregate meals through Meals on Wheels at thirteen area senior centers and outreach missions. This initiative is addressed and home-bound adults add years to their lives by receiving proper nutrition and by remaining independent in their own homes longer.

We are very proud of our workstation VISTO (Volunteers in Service to Others). RSVP Volunteers address engaging youth in at-risk and disadvantaged environments in meaningful service experiences through the Back Pack Buddy Program. VISTO (Volunteers in Service to Others) knew that childhood hunger was epidemic in Texas, but when the 2000 census numbers were released, it showed 1 in 3 children to be living in poverty in the City of Gainesville, Texas (twice the national average). The goal of the program is to deliver the amount equal to two days of nutritional snacks to children who have been identified by school officials for being "at risk" of hunger. The first year VISTO partnered with Tarrant Area Food Bank, Edison Elementary and St. Mary's eighth grade to bring the Backpack Buddy program to 85 children, half of whom were classified as homeless by their school.

At the end of the 09-10 school year, VISTO served 755 children in 14 schools. The program costs \$5 per child per weekend or \$160 per school year per child. The program is paid for by local donations, fundraisers and grants. The 10-11' school year marked the seventh year of the program.

PNS Amendment (if applicable)

N/A