

PART I - FACE SHEET

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Modified Standard Form 424 (Rev.02/07 to confirm to the Corporation's eGrants System)

1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION:

Application Non-Construction

2a. DATE SUBMITTED TO CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (CNCS):

08/09/13

3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE:

STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER:

2b. APPLICATION ID:

13VG153810

4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY:

08/09/13

FEDERAL IDENTIFIER:

13VGHRI001

5. APPLICATION INFORMATION

LEGAL NAME: Serve Rhode Island

DUNS NUMBER: 040924495

ADDRESS (give street address, city, state, zip code and county):

P.O. Box 72822
655 Broad Street, 2nd floor
Providence RI 02907 - 1444
County: Providence

NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PROJECT DIRECTOR OR OTHER PERSON TO BE CONTACTED ON MATTERS INVOLVING THIS APPLICATION (give area codes):

NAME: Bernard Beaudreau
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (401) 331-2298 102
FAX NUMBER: (401) 331-2273
INTERNET E-MAIL ADDRESS: bbeaudreau@serverhodeisland.org

6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN):

050479705

7. TYPE OF APPLICANT:

7a. Non-Profit
7b. State Commission/Alternative Administrative Entity

8. TYPE OF APPLICATION (Check appropriate box).

NEW NEW/PREVIOUS GRANTEE
 CONTINUATION AMENDMENT

If Amendment, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es):

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: 94.021

10b. TITLE: Volunteer Generation Fund

11.a. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT:

Serve Rhode Island

12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (List Cities, Counties, States, etc):

Rhode Island

11.b. CNCS PROGRAM INITIATIVE (IF ANY):

13. PROPOSED PROJECT: START DATE: 11/01/13 END DATE: 10/31/14

14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF: a.Applicant b.Program

15. ESTIMATED FUNDING: Year #:

a. FEDERAL	\$ 73,933.00
b. APPLICANT	\$ 73,933.00
c. STATE	\$ 0.00
d. LOCAL	\$ 0.00
e. OTHER	\$ 0.00
f. PROGRAM INCOME	\$ 0.00
g. TOTAL	\$ 147,866.00

16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?

YES. THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON:

DATE:

NO. PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E.O. 12372

17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT?

YES if "Yes," attach an explanation. NO

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:

Bernard Beaudreau

b. TITLE:

Executive Director

c. TELEPHONE NUMBER:

(401) 331-2298 102

d. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:

e. DATE SIGNED:

09/14/13

Narratives

Executive Summary

In 2013-2014 Serve Rhode Island will dramatically increase the contribution of volunteerism and service to address the most pressing community needs by building and strengthening the structures and systems that impact both the supply and the demand for volunteers to work in community agencies and with community projects. With a \$73,933 grant (\$147,866 total program), SRI will: 1) enlist 1,900 new volunteers who will perform 9,500 hours of service, tracked in our HandsOn Connect database system; 2) provide targeted placements for youth, unemployed workers and seniors in 25 leadership nonprofits; 3) conduct 3 webinar and 1 half-day capacity-building training for nonprofits; 4) recruit and place 12 high-level professional volunteers and another 25 high-skilled volunteers to assist AmeriCorps subgrantees; 5) create a community service support and certification system for youth seeking to complete required service hours; 6) partner with 15 larger volunteer dependent nonprofits to create volunteer recruitment and management plans and place 60 highly skilled volunteers into ongoing skilled volunteer positions; 7) engage 65 parents, community and faith leaders as volunteers in each of two urban middle schools (130 volunteers total); 8) maintain our disaster volunteer mobilization capacity; 9) implement 25 large-scale service projects in schools, nonprofits and the community; and, 10) implement a news-generating marketing strategy without the costs of paid advertising and media to promote volunteerism and service with the Rhode Island public.

Program Design

A. COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In October 2012 SRI conducted surveys of 693 volunteers, non-profits and employers and 9 community focus group discussions about how to improve and expand volunteerism and service in Rhode Island. The needs assessment and community input process included: consultation with state agencies and leaders including the Governors office; surveys of non-profits, businesses, volunteers and AmeriCorps members and alumni; focus group discussions; and, SRI Board of Commissioners. Survey respondents and conversations with stakeholders indicated the relative importance of key issues to be addressed with voluntary resources. Highest priority issues identified were: public education - reading & math skills in elementary and middle school, high school dropouts, and hunger/poverty issues. Other issues considered as important but not highest priority were: access to health care; access to higher education, needs of the elderly and needs of veterans.

Narratives

1. NON-PROFIT VOLUNTEER NEEDS: The 160 non-profit survey respondents project a growth in need for volunteers in 2013 of 24 percent, 6,600 more than in 2012. Volunteers needed by skill level/job category for 2013 totaled 26,196: 2,007 high-level professional skills volunteers: board members, professional, managerial, fundraising, communications, professional social services; 4,464 professional and skilled volunteers: teachers, trainers, technical office workers, computer, website, clerical, client support services; and, 19,725 manual labor volunteers: physical work, event workers, disaster response.

2. STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING VOLUNTEERISM IN RI: Survey and focus group participants generated a range of helpful suggestions: a) Marketing, PR and outreach to major TV & Radio, newspapers; b) Hold community meetings to educate potential volunteers about opportunities; advertise in schools and churches; c) Utilize social media and in-person opportunities including volunteer fairs or a conference; d) Make it easier to volunteer with more evening and weekend projects; improve website navigability and finding up-to-date opportunities; e) Provide a range of opportunities & short-term, long-term, micro volunteering; more specific, time-limited projects; provide incentives, rewards, scholarships and school credit; provide local/neighborhood-based opportunities; f) Tailor more opportunities for teens, unemployed workers and seniors; g) Reach out to unemployed and underemployed workers to promote skill building through volunteer service; h) Work with business and government to encourage volunteerism during and after business hours; i) Link volunteerism to workforce development through internships; j) Organize volunteer ambassadors to help recruit volunteers; k) Communicate broad definition of volunteering to include civic engagement: direct and indirect service, public service (i.e. serving on town council, school; committee, etc.) community outreach, skill-based volunteering, serving on a nonprofit board of directors; define volunteerism as citizenship; encourage more youth service and pursue service-learning models; including cross-generational projects; and, l) Promote and support best practices in volunteer management.

B. SERVE RHODE ISLAND PLAN AND OUTCOMES FOR 2013-2014

During the coming year, SRI will dramatically increase the contribution of volunteerism and service to address some of the states most pressing needs. SRI will build and strengthen the structures and systems that impact both the supply and the demand for volunteers to work in community agencies

Narratives

and with community projects. On the supply side, SRI will creatively leverage philanthropic and cause-marketing business community resources to promote volunteerism and service and to recruit many more unengaged Rhode Islanders into service. On the demand side, SRI will work collaboratively with the non-profit and government sectors to create and expand meaningful and productive volunteer work opportunities that are well designed and supported by the host agency management teams and organization.

Over the 2013-2014 program year, SRI will implement the following activities:

1. **EXPAND USE OF SRI ONLINE VOLUNTEER CONNECTING PLATFORM:** SRI has implemented HandsOn Connect, an on-line volunteer opportunities and connecting system that has become one of the most adopted volunteer center database interfaces employed nationally. **OUTCOMES:** Enlist 1,900 new volunteers who will perform 9,500 hours of service, tracked in our HandsOn Connect database system.
2. **TARGETED OUTREACH TO BEST-FIT NON-PROFITS:** SRI will reach out to 160 nonprofits that identified appropriateness of their volunteer opportunities for targeted demographic groups: youth, unemployed workers, 55+ and seniors, veterans and people with disabilities. **OUTCOMES:** 25 nonprofits will commit to receiving specific target volunteers populations in 2014.
3. **NONPROFIT VOLUNTEER CAPACITY BUILDING:** SRI will improve nonprofit customer service to address specific agency volunteer needs; develop a non-profit training and technical assistance capacity to work with non-profits to improve their utilization and management of volunteers to further their missions; develop a schedule of training and technical assistance interventions to support improved capacity of non-profit to recruit, train, manage and retain effective volunteer help. **OUTCOMES:** SRI will maintain staffing and VISTA volunteer customer service team, conduct 3 volunteer management Webinars and 1 half-day workshop on volunteer management.
4. **ADDRESS SPECIFIC VOLUNTEER NEEDS OF AMERICORPS PROGRAMS:** SRI 13 AmeriCorps program agencies (subgrantees) have identified their need for 92 high-level volunteers (board members, professional managers, finance, development & communications) and 461 high-

Narratives

skilled professional (office computer, clerical, website, technology, training and teaching, and community outreach). SRI will work directly with each AmeriCorps sub-grantees to assist in developing strategies and plans for volunteer recruitment, training and management for their agency needs, complimenting the AmeriCorps teams. SRI will train AmeriCorps agencies in the use of SRI website resources including HandsOn Connect on-line portal for volunteer recruitment and placement. OUTCOMES: SRI will recruit and place 12 high-level professional volunteers and another 25 high-skilled volunteers to assist AmeriCorps subgrantees.

5. CREATE COMMUNITY SERVICE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR YOUTH MEETING SCHOOL SERVICE REQUIREMENTS: Utilizing SRI HandsOn Connect portal and SRI website promotional guidelines and resource center (including generationOn), SRI will provide a system for high school seniors and other youth requiring service hours for school and/or faith organizations to develop self-made service projects or sign up for other community service opportunities, have their hours of service and achievement of objectives documented and verified and certification of service provided. OUTCOMES: A youth service certification service will be established and operational by spring 2014.

6. PROFESSIONAL & SKILLED VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT & PLACEMENT: SRI October Survey identified the Level 1 volunteers needs of 160 non-profits in Rhode Island. These agencies reported needing 2,007 Level 1 volunteers--board members, professional, managerial, fundraising, communications, professional social services, etc. The survey comments and focus group discussions identified the need for non-profits to further define their professional volunteer needs and to create strategies for reaching out to the business and higher education communities to recruit professions to serve in their organizations. SRI will work with the business community to recruit volunteers in managerial and professional positions and develop the matching mechanism for calibrating the needs and expectations of both the agencies and prospective volunteers to fulfill voluntary service opportunities. SRI will work with the Rhode Island Foundations Initiative for Non-Profit Excellence to recruit and train prospective board members for non-profits that have identified their specific needs for board member volunteers. OUTCOMES: Partner with 12 larger volunteer dependent nonprofits to create volunteer recruitment and management plans and place 60 highly skilled volunteers into ongoing skilled volunteer positions.

Narratives

7. VOLUNTEERS & COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS: SRI will continue to recruit and place volunteers in underperforming urban core public schools with a renewed focus the participation of parents, community leaders, local businesses and faith organizations. SRI will continue to support in-school volunteer coordination at Roger Williams Middle School in Providence and the Samuel Slater Junior High School in Pawtucket. Volunteers will be recruited and placed supported by in-school VISTA volunteer coordinators to provide: Individual teacher/staff/administrator support, student service learning opportunities and clubs and physical improvement projects for the school. SRI will secure in-kind and financial support from the business and philanthropic community for these activities. OUTCOMES: 65 parents, community leaders, and member of the business and faith communities will be recruited to provide ongoing volunteer support in each of two urban middle schools in RI (130 volunteers total).

8. VOLUNTEER MOBILIZATION DURING NATURAL DISASTERS: In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy SRI recruited and deployed 1,100 volunteers to assist with disaster victim information through phone answering and United Way 2.1.1. and debris clean-up in the most impacted areas. SRI will continue to provide spontaneous volunteer recruitment, training and placement in times of natural disasters. These mobilizations provide SRI with the logistical experience, training and capacity for disaster response preparedness, such as was demonstrated with the Hurricane Sandy disaster response in October-November 2012. They also build a ready base of service project volunteers who can be mobilized for disaster response. OUTCOMES: Disaster response volunteer network, recruiting and training system will be put in place and maintained.

9. DEVELOP SERVICE PROJECTS WITH BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS: SRI will continue to provide supportive services to other non-profits and businesses for designing and implementing service projects. SRI will continue to work with United Way to engage their donor community in meaning community service projects in non-profits and schools. SRI will seek to expand its consultative role with RI businesses seeking to engage their employees in service, building upon the successful experience with Fidelity Investments, Hasbro Inc., Swarovski, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island and others. OUTCOMES: SRI will implement 25 large group (25 to 250) volunteer service projects during 2013-2014 program year.

10. MARKETING AND PROMOTION OF VOLUNTEERISM & SERVICE IN RI: Utilize pro-bono

Narratives

PSA placements in major commercial & public TV & radio (English and Spanish speaking stations), newspapers and television. Create newsletter, e-news, patch, social media/networking, SRI website, YouTube, GoLocal Prov, and telephone outreach to activate past volunteers and recruit new volunteers into service. Hold volunteer fairs and community meetings to educate potential volunteers about opportunities. Promote opportunities in schools and neighborhood places of worship. Engage Governor Chafee and local mayors to promote volunteerism in local communities. OUTCOMES: SRI will implement a news-generated and donated PSA marketing strategy in 2013-2014 to include RI major media outlets, website and social networking and on-site promotional materials.

C. SERVE RHODE ISLAND VGF NATIONAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR 2013-2014

The performance measures that SRI has selected for this grant are:

1. The number of community volunteers recruited by CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants and hours of service contributed by community volunteers who were recruited by CNCS-supported organizations. (SRI will utilize HandsOn Connect to track volunteers and hours.)
2. Number of organizations implementing three or more effective volunteer management practices as a result of capacity-building services provided by CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants. (SRI will identify key partner agencies targeted for training and skilled-volunteer recruitment and placement; effective management practices will be assessed at the beginning, middle and end of the program year.)

D. RHODE ISLAND VGF INVESTMENT RESULTS 2010-2013

Serve Rhode Island has effectively utilized our CNCS VGF grant to advance volunteerism in Rhode Island. Prior years effort (2010 to 2011) have resulted in an overall improvement in the national ranking of Rhode Island in volunteerism: According to Volunteering and Civic Life in America report released in December 2012, the number of volunteers in Rhode Island grew over the past five years by 11,404 to a total of 213,126 in 2011. Rhode Islands 5.7% increase in volunteers was ahead of the national growth rate of 5% and best among New England states, all of which saw declines in their numbers, according to the report. One in four (25.1%) Rhode Islanders volunteer, contributing 21.4 million hours of service annually, having a labor value of \$533.6 million. While Rhode Island ranks

Narratives

fortieth (40) in the country in our overall volunteer rate, the state ranks tenth (10) for volunteer retention, meaning those who do volunteer stay committed to service. The other good news is that all Rhode Islanders can be inspired by our engaged teenagers who are outpacing adults in volunteerism, ranking of fourteenth (14) in the nation at a rate of 33%.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT FOR HUNDREDS OF NONPROFIT OPPORTUNITIES: From January through July 2013 SRI has engaged 4,012 volunteers on its new online Volunteer Management System called HandsOn Connect. In the first six months of 2013, 1,498 active connections were made between volunteers and the 490 volunteer opportunities posted by the 156 organizations that partner with SRI. We have assisted many others who call or walk into our offices in South Providence. SRI connects volunteer groups from corporations, colleges the faith community to service projects working in the schools and cleaning up the environment.

VOLUNTEERS IN SCHOOLS: During the spring of 2012 SRI launched a pilot volunteer recruitment and placement effort at Roger Williams Middle School in Providence. A total of 24 volunteers were placed. In the current 2012-2013 school year SRI has expanded the program at Roger Williams Middle School and launching an in-school program at the Slater Junior High School in Pawtucket. Partial funding support for these initiatives has been provided by the Feinstein Foundation and the Hasbro Childrens Fund. Teams from Fidelity Investments help with Classroom Makeovers and school Transformation Days. On June 28, 2013, 265 Fidelity Investments volunteers painted and landscaped at the 99-year-old Slater Junior High School; on July 25 another 55 Fidelity volunteers continued work on Slater.

SERVICE PROJECTS FOR VOLUNTEER TEAMS: The SRI Getting Things Done 2013 initiative launched in January 2013 has paired interested volunteer teams from dozens of RI corporations and faith-based and other community groups to complete 42 projects engaging 1,204 volunteers who contributed 5,826 hours of service. These projects have ranged from cleaning, painting and repairing buildings and facilities of nonprofit organizations and schools to landscaping and environmental stewardship work. Volunteer teams contribute to the costs of supplies and materials for these projects.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT: On April 20, 2013 SRI hosted the 6th annual community cleanup of the Roger Williams Park pond system from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. This

Narratives

cleanup project involved 247 volunteers who worked together to clean the ponds of trash deposited over the year. Last year, 294 volunteers removed an estimated 7,000 pounds of trash from the entire pond system. Over the past five years a total of 1,143 volunteers have contributed 3,429 hours of service cleaning up the pond.

VOLUNTEERS IN TIMES OF DISASTER: SRI provided over 1,200 volunteers to help clean up debris in RI coastal areas left by Super Storm Sandy. After the Blizzard of 2013 in February, SRI mobilized 50 volunteers to remove snow for 119 elderly and disabled Rhode Island residents.

BUILDING NON-PROFIT CAPACITY FOR VOLUNTEERISM: SRI provides support and technical assistance to non-profits to build volunteer management capacity for expanding successful and purposeful volunteer opportunities. SRI partners with United Way of RI for connecting donors with volunteer service opportunities and projects.

Organizational Capability

Serve Rhode Island is the state center for volunteerism and national service. The mission of SRI is to transform the lives of Rhode Islanders by increasing the number of people engaged in volunteer and service activities in their communities. SRI is both the states center for volunteerism and the RI commission for national and community service, established in 1994 by the RI Legislature to administer the federally funded AmeriCorps program. Since 1994, SRI has secured 46 million dollars in federal funds to RI nonprofits and government agencies, providing 4,044 AmeriCorps volunteers who gave 4.7 million hours of service for hundreds of non-profit educational and community development programs.

SRI volunteer services center connects thousands of volunteers with opportunities to serve in hundreds of nonprofits and schools annually. Since January 2013, SRI has engaged 4,012 volunteers on its new online Volunteer Management System called HandsOn Connect. Through June, 1,498 active connections were made between volunteers and the 490 volunteer opportunities posted by the 156 organizations that partner with SRI.

SRI currently has 6 full-time staff plus 4 VISTA volunteers working out of our office in South Providence. SRI Board of Directors is appointed by the Governor and includes 18 members representing business, education, government and the community. The two management leaders on

Narratives

this project are SRI executive director (Bernie Beaudreau) and director of operations (Marisa Petreccia) who have a combined 45 years of nonprofit management experience, including volunteer management. Bernie has been with SRI for 5 years and Marisa (an AmeriCorps alum) has 19 years in national service, including the past 3 years as a director at SRI.

SERVE RHODE ISLAND 2013 - 2014 TOTAL BUDGET: The SRI fiscal year is the calendar year. In 2013 the SRI operating budget is \$852,087. One third (32 percent) of the SRI operating budget consists of CNCS grant funds. Projecting for 2014, including a VGF grant of \$100,000, the SRI budget will be approximately \$877,000. The VGF grant would represent 11 percent of the total operating budget. With 100 percent matching funds, the VGF program would represent 22 percent of SRI budget in 2014.

SERVE RHODE ISLAND COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS: SRI attends annual CNCS grantee conferences, Grants management trainings and conferences, conducts mandatory annual AmeriCorps Grantee Program Directors two-day intensive training on AmeriCorps regulations and program administrative requirements, participates in periodic teleconferences of CNCS and otherwise reviews federal regulations on a semi-annual basis as a matter of practice. SRI monitors all subgrantees annually, including fiscal, administrative and programmatic components of all programs.

Budget/Cost Effectiveness

SRI requests a grant of \$100,000 from the CNCS VGF to be matched with \$100,000 from local sources to create a total program budget of \$200,000. Local sources of matching funds that have been secured over the past two years and are expected to continue through 2014 are: United Way of Rhode Island - \$69,000, Fidelity Investments - \$25,000 and the June Rockwell Levy Fund - \$6,000. Three of SRI six staff will be involved with the implementation of the program: Executive Director (45%), Director of Operations (30%) and the Volunteer Services Manager (95%). SRI's staffing for the VGF program represents 1.7 FTEs or 28% of the total paid staffing effort. Staff resources are augmented dramatically by the placement of four AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers at Serve Rhode Island, all of whom are fully committed to the VGF program at SRI and the operation of the volunteer center.

Critical to the success of this VGF initiative in 2013-2014 is the investment in marketing resources

Narratives

which account for 25% (\$50,558) of the total program budget. The VGF grant portion of this investment, \$21,980, will leverage another \$28,578 in cash and in-kind contributions (including discounts). Advertising and promotion will assuring that the SRI volunteer recruitment campaigns will become well known to the general public, especially youth, unemployed workers, high-skilled volunteers, veterans and seniors. Targeted ad campaigns are needed to raise awareness and elevate the importance of volunteer service. In the Rhode Island economy media outlets are financially strapped and do not have the same level of public service announcement and production resources as they did prior to the great recession. Donated media resources in Rhode Island increasingly require leveraging with funds.

Continuation Narrative Updates

Clarification question/comment: Please describe the changes in program activities, performance measures, and performance targets that result from the reduced funding recommendation level.

RESPONSE:

a. Program activities in the area of marketing and advertising will be one-quarter of original plan. SRI will rely on low-cost advertising and marketing using social media and Internet and generate news-related media hits to reach RI public.

b. Performance measures and outcome targets: 1. Original target of 2,000 new volunteers will be reduced to 1,900; 2. Targeted outreach to best-fit non-profits: Original target of 30 nonprofits will be reduced to 25; 3. Nonprofit capacity building: 6 planned webinars will be reduced to 3, and 2 half-day workshops will be reduced to 1; 4. Addressing specific volunteer needs of AmeriCorps program: SRI will place 12 (down from 25) high-level professional volunteers in AC program agencies; 5. Community Service Certification: outcome goals will remain the same; 6. Professional & Skilled Volunteer Placement: SRI will partner will 15 (down from 25) larger volunteer-dependent nonprofits to create 60 highly skilled volunteer positions (down from 125); 7. Volunteer in Schools: 200 volunteers target is reduced to 130; 8.) Volunteer mobilization in disasters: no change; 9.) Large group service projects: no change. 10.) Marketing and Promotion: SRI will implement a news-generating marketing strategy without the costs of paid advertising and media.

Clarification question/comment: Please identify performance measurement targets for the selected national performance measures and complementary measures.

Narratives

RESPONSE:

- a. The number of community volunteers recruited by CNCS-supported activities will be 1,800.
- b. The number of organizations implementing three or more effective volunteer management practices will be 25.

Clarification question/comment: Please clarify the role of VISTA staff and AmeriCorps members in support of outcomes identified in this application. The application indicates that volunteers in schools will be recruited and placed by VISTA volunteer coordinators. Please clarify whether volunteers recruited and placed by VISTA volunteer coordinators are being reported to CNCS through current reporting mechanisms. If so, please confirm that these volunteers will not be counted toward VGF performance measures.

RESPONSE:

Volunteers recruited and placed recorded through current reporting mechanisms will not be counted in the VGF performance measures.

Clarification question/comment: Please describe in more detail the consultative role SRI fills with RI businesses.

RESPONSE:

SRI provides technical assistance and guidance to RI businesses seeking to implement company volunteer programs and projects. SRI also facilitates placement of employee volunteers in community volunteer service opportunities, including group service projects.

Clarification question: The application states that the plan includes working with the business community to recruit volunteers in managerial and professional positions and develop the matching mechanism for calibrating the needs and expectations of both agencies and prospective volunteers. Please provide the proposed plan for doing this.

RESPONSE:

Narratives

The plan is as follows:

SRI will identify prominent RI businesses that have been involved in volunteerism and philanthropy to address community education and social problems. RI top 10 corporations that are members of the RI Grantmakers Council will be identified and contacted.

SRI will conduct individual interviews with HR departments at the top 10 RI companies to assess professional and managerial volunteer interests. Specific descriptions of volunteer services will be developed for ongoing and project-based (time limited) volunteer tasks.

SRI will identify 15 larger volunteer friendly nonprofits and interview them to identify areas of managerial and professional organizational need and opportunity for assistance. Available prospective corporate volunteer services/positions will be reviewed with nonprofits to identify matching interests.

Corporate volunteer candidates will be offered several nonprofit placement options. Once an option is selected, SRI will arrange for an informational interview to ascertain the level of mutual interest on the part of the volunteer and the nonprofit manager.

SRI will check in with nonprofit manager and volunteer after one week/session of volunteering to assess the benefits to both parties and to identify any issues that may need to be resolved in order to continue the volunteer relationship.

At the end of the volunteer assignment, SRI will interview both the nonprofit manager and the skilled/professional volunteer to identify factors of a successful volunteer placement experience.

SRI will promote successful volunteer experiences to other nonprofits and RI businesses to create more volunteer service requests and recruit more managerial/professional high-skill volunteers from business.

Clarification question: Please provide more detail related to the plan to continue providing spontaneous volunteer recruitment, training, and placement.

Narratives

RESPONSE:

SRI will continue to position itself as a disaster response organization by promoting disaster preparedness, response and recovery with the news media during disaster events. With the help of news media, SRI will engage volunteers to sign up to be on call for disaster response. Throughout the phases of a disaster response SRI will provide notices and JIT training for volunteers who take assignments. SRI will place volunteers and provide official acknowledgement through letters and appreciation events hosted by the Governor of Rhode Island.

Clarification question: Is the proposed program similar or different from your current program design e.g. any changes in number of volunteers, hours, activities? If it builds upon your current program design please discuss how. If applicable, please explain any significant differences between the proposed required performance measure targets as compared to the number of volunteers and hours reflected in recent progress reports.

RESPONSE:

The proposed program builds upon the experience of SRI over the past three years of its VGF funding. There is greater emphasis on targeting sources of volunteers from larger civically-engaged corporations and retired skilled professions who want to volunteer in order to develop high-impact skilled volunteer support of nonprofits with the capacity to engage high-skilled volunteers. Therefore, our projected numbers of volunteers to be recruited will be lower than in past years.

Clarification questions:

- 1) Have you expended all of your funds at this time and if not how much is remaining?
- 2) If you have not expended all of your funds, how do you plan to expend the remaining funds and what is your timeline?
- 3) Approximately how much will you have remaining that will not be expended for this program by the end of your project period?

RESPONSE:

- 1 & 2. All FY2012 VGF funds will be expended by September 30, 2013.
3. No funds will be remaining.

Narratives

SRI Volunteer Tracking Capability:

Serve Rhode Island has HandsOn Connect which allows the capability of tracking volunteer hours and assignments. SRI will reinforce the importance of volunteer reporting to volunteers and sponsoring nonprofits and agencies through volunteer recognition strategies and frequent email notifications of hours of service.

Required Documents

Document Name

Status