

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: 13VG153836	4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY: 08/09/13	FEDERAL IDENTIFIER: 13VGHTX001

5. APPLICATION INFORMATION

LEGAL NAME: OneStar Foundation DUNS NUMBER: 133792882 ADDRESS (give street address, city, state, zip code and county): 9011 Mountain Ridge Dr Ste 100 Austin TX 78759 - 7381 County: Travis	NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PROJECT DIRECTOR OR OTHER PERSON TO BE CONTACTED ON MATTERS INVOLVING THIS APPLICATION (give area codes): NAME: Emily Steinberg TELEPHONE NUMBER: (512) 287-2008 FAX NUMBER: INTERNET E-MAIL ADDRESS: emily@onestarfoundation.org
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6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): 200445492	7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: 7a. State Commission 7b. State Commission/Alternative Administrative Entity
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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):	
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	9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service
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10a. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER: 94.021 10b. TITLE: Volunteer Generation Fund	11.a. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT: Texas Disaster Volunteer Generation
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12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (List Cities, Counties, States, etc): Texas	11.b. CNCS PROGRAM INITIATIVE (IF ANY):
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13. PROPOSED PROJECT: START DATE: 01/01/14 END DATE: 12/31/14	14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF: a.Applicant <input type="text" value="TX 010"/> b.Program <input type="text" value="TX 010"/>
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15. ESTIMATED FUNDING: Year #: <input type="text" value="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
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a. FEDERAL		\$	199,886.00
b. APPLICANT		\$	199,886.00
c. STATE		\$	0.00
d. LOCAL		\$	0.00
e. OTHER		\$	0.00
f. PROGRAM INCOME		\$	0.00
g. TOTAL		\$	399,772.00

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/PREAAPPLICATION 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: Elizabeth Darling	b. TITLE:	c. TELEPHONE NUMBER: (512) 287-2062
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d. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:	e. DATE SIGNED: 09/03/13
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Executive Summary

The Texas Disaster Volunteer Generation project, administered by OneStar Foundation, will strengthen the State of Texas' infrastructure and ability to harness the potential of unaffiliated, spontaneous and other community volunteers generated in times of disaster through increasing the capacity of volunteer connector organizations and their partners. The project, which will focus on the CNCS Focus Area of Disaster Services, will benefit from OneStar's strategic, cross-sector partnerships with the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (TX VOAD), the Texas Association of Volunteer Centers (TAVC), and the University of Texas at Austin's RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service. OneStar will build upon its previous Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) initiatives in 2013-2014 by conducting a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process to award a total of \$150,000 in subgrants with 8-month project periods for eligible organizations to implement best practices related to volunteer recruitment and management in times of disaster, build strategic partnerships with local governments and emergency management officials, and develop high-quality disaster volunteers and volunteer assignments that will help Texas generate and retain an unprecedented number of volunteers available in times of disaster. By the end of the one year project period, OneStar and its subgrantees and partners will have recruited 2,000 disaster volunteers who will contribute at least 1,000 hours of service to Texas communities.

Program Design

Texans contribute 571 million hours of volunteer service annually to their communities (Volunteering in America, 2012). Despite this, Texas ranks 42 of 50 states in overall volunteer rates, with only 24.7% of residents reporting that they formally "volunteered." In fact, Texas has historically been at or below the national average in volunteer rate, volunteer hours, and volunteer retention for years. While metropolitan areas such as Austin, Dallas and Houston boast higher rates of volunteerism, Texas as a state continues to struggle with engaging citizens in formal service and volunteer roles. As OneStar identified in a 2011 multi-phase study ("Analysis of the Texas Nonprofit Infrastructure and Capacity-Building Resources"), this is likely the result of a lack of volunteer coordination and nonprofit infrastructure across the state. The study, conducted by Texas A&M University's Bush School of Government & Public Service, identified a resounding need for "formal networks and alliances to increase coordination and communication across the sector" and "expanding nonprofit infrastructure provision in underserved areas." Texans, as a whole, lack access to meaningful, coordinated volunteer

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opportunities and volunteer connector organizations.

At the same time, over the past decade, Texas has experienced a significant number of high-profile natural and manmade disasters. These disasters, ranging from floods to wildfires, hurricanes to drought, and the recent West fertilizer plant explosion, have led to both economic devastation in under-resourced regions of the state as well as a growing number of concerned citizens who wish to help but lack coordination, training, and supervision. Since 2005, when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita made landfall on the American Gulf Coast and left the region devastated within the course of a single month under the lens of national media exposure, the American public has become keenly and increasingly aware of the vital role volunteers can play in times of disaster. As researchers Brennan, Barnett, and Flint noted in their 2005 article "Community Volunteers: The Front Line of Disaster Response": "The dramatic and tragic events of Hurricane Katrina have highlighted the need for coordinated, community-based volunteer efforts to prepare for, and respond to, natural and other disasters. The recent hurricanes in the Gulf States underscore the problems and shortcomings associated with coordinating outside logistics and show a clear need for local volunteers to serve as the first line of response to such catastrophes." (Journal of Volunteer Administration)

Indeed, the role of volunteers in times of disaster has gained such notable attention in recent years that, in January 2008, the FEMA National Response Framework was updated to include coordination of spontaneous volunteer resources (in addition to donations) as a dedicated emergency response function and government responsibility for the first time in history; new language was also added openly encouraging public-private partnerships to meet emergency response needs.

Since then, Points of Light, HandsOn Network, the Corporation for National and Community Service and state service commissions such as Volunteer Florida have published several best practices manuals and resource guides for disaster volunteer management. In 2009, HandsOn released "Ready to Respond: Disaster Preparedness and Response for HandsOn Action Center," the most comprehensive resource on this subject matter to date, written and reviewed by 21 experts in the field of disaster volunteer management from around the country to promote continuous improvement of this difficult work. In it, they write: "HandsOn Action Centers can point proudly to their growing importance in the disaster volunteer arena over the last decade. HandsOn Action Centers and other volunteer connector organizations have become critical players in the field of emergency

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management and are designated as lead agencies for disaster volunteer coordination in many local communities and states."

During the course of this project, OneStar Foundation will leverage Volunteer Generation Funds to continue this important legacy by strengthening the State of Texas' infrastructure and ability to harness the potential of unaffiliated, spontaneous and other community volunteers generated in times of disaster through increasing the capacity of volunteer connector organizations and their partners. The project, which will focus on the CNCS Focus Area of Disaster Services, will benefit from OneStar's strategic, cross-sector partnerships with the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (TX VOAD), the Texas Association of Volunteer Centers (TAVC), and the University of Texas at Austin's RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service. OneStar will build upon its previous VGF initiatives in 2013-2014 by providing the opportunity for eligible applicant organizations to apply for subgrants to implement best practices related to volunteer recruitment and management in times of disaster, build strategic partnerships with local governments and emergency management officials, and develop high-quality disaster volunteers and volunteer assignments that will help Texas generate and retain an unprecedented number of volunteers available in times of disaster.

By the end of the one year project period, OneStar and its subgrantees and partners will have recruited 2,000 disaster volunteers who will contribute at least 1,000 hours of service. OneStar will achieve this by conducting a competitive RFP process to award a total of \$150,000 in subgrants with 8-month project periods to implement evidence-based best practices in managing community volunteers in times of disaster, with an emphasis on pre-registering, screening, and training unaffiliated and/or previously unregistered volunteers. OneStar expects to award approximately 2 large grants at \$50,000 each and 2 small grants at \$25,000 each with a subgrant project period of March 1 - November 1, 2014. Successful applicants will have a demonstrated track record of successfully recruiting, managing and mobilizing large groups of volunteers in times of disaster and will identify evidence-based strategies for training and leveraging unaffiliated volunteers. Priority will be given to applicants that are existing volunteer connector organizations, members of the state or local VOADs, and entities that propose to partner with national service programs in their area (AmeriCorps or Senior Corps).

In addition to reporting on CNCS National Performance Measures (number of volunteers recruited

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and number of volunteer hours contributed), subgrantees will be required to meet and report on several additional deliverables designed to build long-term organizational capacity and achieve OneStar's Texas-specific goals. As a condition of funding, subgrantees will be required to: 1) appoint a disaster response coordinator within their organization; 2) submit a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) to ensure their organization's ability to sustain itself and continue operations in the event of a disaster; 3) design and launch a disaster volunteer recruitment campaign in their local community that results in measurable volunteer registrations and volunteer data tracking; 4) plan and host at least one Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) simulation in their local community to train and prepare staff, volunteers and partners for coordinating large groups of volunteers in a disaster; and 5) consult with local emergency management and government officials on the most appropriate role of their organization in the local emergency management plan with relation to spontaneous volunteer management as an emergency support function. Each subgrantee will be required to submit a mid-year and year-end Progress Report on their progress toward meeting CNCS National Performance Measures as well as these Texas-specific deliverables.

OneStar has developed this evidence-informed approach and these related deliverables through a combination of observed organizational capacity needs from its prior three years administering the Texas Association of Volunteer Centers under the VGF grant, as well as evidence from the field on what works. In addition to HandsOn's "Ready to Respond" guide, Volunteers of America-Greater New Orleans' earlier report on "Disaster Related Volunteerism: Best Practices Manual Based on Lessons Learned from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita" (funded in part by Points of Light Institute) outlines a number of best practices for roles and responsibilities of effective volunteer coordinating agencies. These best practices (which include appointing a disaster response coordinator, educating local coalitions, building a community network, developing a volunteer referral plan, arranging to transport volunteers, and developing a public information plan) have been integrated into OneStar's subgrant deliverables based on what is reasonable and necessary for this abbreviated subgrant project period.

The proposed timeline for implementing the Texas Disaster Volunteer Generation project is as follows:

- January 1, 2014 -- OneStar grant start date; launch competitive RFP process
- January 30 -- Subgrant applications due to OneStar
- February -- Subgrant review, clarification, and negotiation
- March 1 -- Subgrant project periods begin; VGF subgrantee kick-off meeting

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July -- Midyear Progress Reports due (subgrants)

October 31 -- Subgrant project periods end

November -- Final Progress and Expenditure Reports due; Subgrant closeout

December 31, 2014 -- OneStar project period ends

OneStar will use this fourth year VGF project to integrate rigorous data collection procedures into the project through the further refinement of our current VolunteerTX statewide portal and online volunteer tracking systems. OneStar embodies a strong commitment to evaluative learning and continuous improvement, and we seek to learn from any data collection challenges that arise.

Organizational Capability

OneStar is well positioned to administer this project from an operational, programmatic, and strategic standpoint. With a current operating budget of \$2.1 million, OneStar not only manages the AmeriCorps*State program (\$12.3 million in pass through funds in FY13), but has also demonstrated a successful track record of administering a VGF project for the past three years. OneStar, previously known as the TX Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, has provided TTA to federal subgrantees since 1994. Since 2004, OneStar has hosted 9 statewide conferences on nonprofit capacity building known as the TX Nonprofit Summit (formerly the Governor's Nonprofit Leadership Conference); partnered with the White House to host 2 conferences in TX on capacity building; managed a Compassion Capital Fund intermediary grant which involved capacity building sub awards to 25 organizations; managed the \$2 million Renewing our Communities Account (ROCA) set up by the State of Texas, including awarding 46 subgrants to nonprofit and local governments; and partnered with the Texas Workforce Commission and the Governor's Criminal Justice Division to administer 9 grant programs focused on nonprofit capacity building. Nationally, OneStar is a member of Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, Independent Sector, and the National Grants Management Association to stay current on best practices in philanthropy, effective grant management practices, and high impact grant making.

OneStar also continues to play a critical role in convening statewide nonprofit and volunteer networks, developing a coordinated approach to building the strongest, most impactful nonprofit sector. In 2011, through support from VGF, OneStar fostered the creation of the Texas Association of Volunteer Centers (TAVC), a network of Volunteer Centers and partners through which members provide mutual support, education, and advocacy for the benefit of statewide volunteerism. Since its

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creation, TAVC members have benefited from annual in-person meetings to discuss emerging issues in volunteerism, problem solve and share best practices; participation in leadership development training; opportunities to take the TCC Group's Core Capacity Assessment Tool (CCAT); and capacity building consulting, training and technical assistance.

In 2010, OneStar, with financial support from the Meadows Foundation, formed an advisory group with representation from foundations, university research departments, nonprofit resource centers and other experts from the nonprofit sector to guide the formation of the Nonprofit Management Alliance of Texas (NMAT) to ensure that all nonprofits in the state have access to high quality affordable management and governance strengthening services. OneStar was also named in legislation (H.B. 1965, 82nd legislature, Regular session) as the chair of an Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) of 25 state agencies to facilitate the relationship between nonprofits and state government.

Most recently, OneStar has made strides in improving access to statewide civic engagement and disaster data through Texas Connector, the most comprehensive interactive geo-mapping system of the nonprofit sector in the country. The tool, which was developed by OneStar and highlighted in CNCS' section of the President's FY 2013 budget request, was recently enhanced by the addition of new civic engagement and volunteerism data layers provided by the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) as well as disaster district coordinator data from TDEM; these advancements were made possible by OneStar's Year 3 VGF grant. Texas Connector is designed to empower communities, state and local governments, funders, and nonprofit leaders to more effectively meet Texas' growing needs by providing data and reports to analyze community needs and resources to more effectively address gaps in service. The project has attracted foundation, private sector, and state government support.

Through the years, OneStar has proven the effectiveness and long-term impact of investment in nonprofit capacity building, leadership development and volunteer engagement. OneStar is well-positioned to maintain and sustain this project. The proposed program under this grant builds on the experience and accomplishments of OneStar's capacity building efforts. OneStar's 2013 budget currently totals \$2.1 million (\$14.4 million including AmeriCorps grants) of which this grant would represent 9.5% of total revenue, if awarded. OneStar's senior leadership team, which consists of the

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President/CEO, Chief Operating Officer, Controller, Associate Director of AmeriCorps*Texas, and Associate Director of Research and Texas Connector, possesses decades of experience and expertise in nonprofit management and leadership.

Implementation of the proposed project will fall under the Associate Director of AmeriCorps*Texas (Emily Steinberg) and OneStar's AmeriCorps grants team. As project director, Emily will provide overall management and leadership for the project to ensure that all project goals and objectives are met on a timely basis. Management of the project will include providing overall direction and vision, development of strategic partnerships, ensuring effective coordination of activities with fidelity to the proposed VGF model, oversight of a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process to award high-impact subgrants, serving as the primary program contact to OneStar VGF subgrantees, and ensuring compliance with all applicable federal grant requirements. She has over 9 years of experience in leading nonprofit capacity-building efforts and 7 years managing federal grants and subgrants. Emily currently directs OneStar's AmeriCorps*State grant program, overseeing a team of six (5 Grants Officers and 1 Grants Management Specialist) and a portfolio of 23 subgrantees representing \$12.3 million and over 2,100 AmeriCorps members. Emily also has responsibility for coordinating OneStar's national service disaster response activities as outlined in the Texas State Emergency Management Plan, which includes serving as the Single Point of Contact for national service resource requests and deployments. In collaboration with the COO, Emily also supports OneStar's role in the State Emergency Management Plan as the coordinator of unaffiliated volunteers and assists with OneStar's VolunteerTX disaster portal administration. Emily plays a key role in building and sustaining partnerships and relationships with Texas VOAD members and emergency management stakeholders from across the state, and is a regular presenter at TDEM's G288 class on "Volunteer and Donations Management" course for emergency managers. In 2013, Emily completed her L-489 FEMA certification in "Management of Spontaneous Volunteers in Disaster" at CNCS' and Points of Light's state commission and volunteer center training at FEMA EMI in Emmitsburg, MD. As a result, Emily replicated this learning by implementing Texas' first-ever disaster Volunteer Reception Center simulation and training for Texas Volunteer Centers under OneStar's Year 3 VGF grant, working in close partnership with a newly formed Disaster Advisory Council comprised of representatives from TDEM, Team Rubicon (a veteran volunteer organization and VOAD member), the Texas Conservation Corps' AmeriCorps Emergency Response Team, and the Volunteer Center of North Texas. In partnership with the CEO, Emily provides strategic direction for OneStar's duties and

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responsibilities as the State Service Commission and also serves on the Public Policy Committee of America's Service Commissions (ASC). With OneStar since 2011, her past experience includes personal AmeriCorps service experience as well as serving as Austin Executive Director of College Forward, a 501(c)(3) AmeriCorps*State education program with a successful track record in fundraising, program development and evaluation, and federal grant management.

[STAFF BIOS HAVE BEEN TRUNCATED TO ALLOW FOR CLARIFICATION SUMMARY SUBMISSION]

OneStar has demonstrated its capacity to compliantly manage a Volunteer Generation Fund grant for the past three years and is on track to meet year 3 goals under the grant. In order to ensure 100% of current VGF funds are spent, OneStar has requested a No Cost Extension for f its current Year 3 grant until December 31, 2013 and therefore requests a Year 4 VGF grant with a start date of January 1, 2014.

Budget/Cost Effectiveness

To ensure cost effectiveness and a positive return on investment, OneStar has developed a program design informed by evidence-based practices and extensive experience in the fields of volunteer management and disaster response, while building on observations from the previous three years of managing VGF activities in Texas. OneStar's proposal, while only one year in length, will support a larger scale change effort to build the capacity of VCOs to effectively recruit, manage and retain volunteers not just in "times of peace" but also during the most critical moments in times of disaster. Conversely, the project also has the potential to build the capacity of disaster response organizations to utilize volunteers more effectively and in more meaningful roles to accomplish their missions and meet Texas' growing needs.

Evidence shows that organizations and communities that most effectively leverage volunteers in disaster situations have been able to do so because of significant advance planning. Therefore, OneStar will invest a significant portion of funds during this grant year in providing subgrants to Texas VCOs that are committed to doing advance planning for their role in recruiting and managing spontaneous volunteers before disaster strikes. Subgrantees may allocate funds for staff time and travel related to building relationships and developing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) that define what disaster-related expenses might be eligible for future reimbursement by local or state government;

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hosting training exercises and Volunteer Reception Center simulations and drills; and developing materials and technology to effectively recruit, train and manage volunteers to serve in disasters. Subgrantees will also be encouraged to use funds for staff time to pre-designate operating locations and communications systems that will be used for managing volunteers in a disaster, finalize plans for volunteer training and safety, improve risk management procedures relating to volunteers, and develop uniform volunteer data tracking tools. All subgrantees will be required to provide at least 50% match from cash or allowable in-kind sources in accordance with the CNCS required matching schedule; OneStar's Senior Grants Officer will provide fiscal monitoring and oversight of VGF subgrantees to ensure match is adequate, allowable, and documented correctly.

In addition to providing subgrants, OneStar will contract with consultants to provide training and technical assistance in volunteer management and disaster services, assistance with volunteer data collection and analysis, marketing and branding, and technological support for the VolunteerTX online portal. Proposed consultants for this project include: Dr. Sarah Jane Rehnborg, Associate Director of the UT RGK Center, Texas' preeminent research expert on public sector volunteerism and volunteer engagement best practices); Anna Tangredi, State Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL) with the Texas Division of Emergency Management; Causality Marketing, which offers "brand grants" to nonprofits at a significantly reduced cost; and HandsOn Connect, a Points of Light volunteer management service with an advanced disaster volunteer component. Each of these contractors and consultants have worked extensively with OneStar to support previous capacity building projects. As a result of these contractual services, OneStar will ensure the project is cohesive, meets grant deliverables and performance outcomes, and raises awareness of volunteer needs and opportunities throughout Texas.

A portion of grant funds will also be used for OneStar staff travel to lead trainings in Managing Spontaneous Volunteers in Disaster for subgrantees and relevant Texas communities in collaboration with TDEM, as well as for monitoring visits to subgrantee sites to ensure grant compliance and accountability. OneStar will also host a two-day VGF subgrantee kick-off meeting to provide in-depth training and technical assistance up front, as well as to create a community of practice and encourage peer resource and idea sharing. Training space will be provided in-kind by UT's RGK Center.

OneStar is efficient in managing funds and allocating resources. OneStar always seeks competitive

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rates and high-quality services. With years of experience in administering federal subgrants, capacity building programs, and training and technical assistance, OneStar is aware of the costs necessary to support a project of this scope. To make the most of the financial resources available to support the activities under this grant, OneStar will leverage in-kind support from skilled volunteers to serve as consultants, advisors, and trainers whenever possible. OneStar has already secured a commitment from the UT RGK Center for subgrantee training facilities and volunteer management/data collection consultation as well as Causality for a 50% in-kind brand grant to ensure visibility and high quality brand messaging for the initiative. These in-kind services will increase quality of activities and maximize the amount of funds available for subgrants, expanding the depth and breadth of this project. State general revenue funds from the Texas Workforce Commission will also be utilized as match for this project. All other costs budgeted for this project are administrative or will be allocated to the grant in accordance with OneStar policies and within federal guidelines.

Annually, OneStar has successfully secured private and public grants to support its mission. OneStar carefully reviewed its FY13 and FY14 revenue plan in developing the budget for this project and has taken a conservative approach in its match share and has scaled the proposed project accordingly. In its history, OneStar has always met its commitments for all grant programs requiring match.

Continuation Narrative Updates

Y4 CLARIFICATION SUMMARY

1) ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Yes, OneStar would like to be considered for any opportunity for further VGF funding. If awarded, the additional year of funding would be used to provide additional subgrants to eligible TX organizations. This funding strategy would allow us to provide the 50% match rate required.

2) PREVIOUS OBJECTIVES

OneStar is currently still completing its Year 3 VGF grant and was recently granted a No Cost Extension to finish all grant objectives and expend all funds by December 31, 2013. However, we have already made significant progress and have many activities and expenditures that will take place September-December of this year.

Below are progress updates on each of our Year 3 grant objectives:

OBJECTIVE #1: 8 organizations (VCOs and members of TAVC) will receive capacity building services. 1 TAVC sustainability/funding plan will be developed to ensure future sustainability. 85% of

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organizations that receive support will demonstrate an increase in organizational sustainability.

PROGRESS: The TX Association of Volunteer Centers (TAVC) has worked extensively with Dr. Sarah Jane Rehnborg of UT-Austin to identify areas of impact and community needs that will heighten visibility of TAVC, the volunteer centers and volunteerism in general. TAVC participated in a volunteer reception center simulation in June 2013 and used that as a platform to discuss a prominent role for volunteer centers in disaster response. TAVC meets again on September 11, 2013 to finalize its next steps toward achievement of the goals of the grant.

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OBJECTIVE #2: 85% of organizations will agree/strongly agree that participation in the Statewide Association helped strengthen partnerships with association members or other volunteer networks. 85% of organizations will agree/strongly agree that participation in the association allowed them to share best practices.

PROGRESS: TAVC members will be surveyed at the September meeting.

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OBJECTIVE #3: OneStar will launch the final versions of 2 Statewide Volunteer Portals: one for unaffiliated volunteers that can be activated in times of disaster, and one for volunteer recruitment efforts year-round.

PROGRESS: OneStar continues to administer the VolunteerTX.org website for the use of communicating with unaffiliated volunteers during times of disaster. We are in the process of working with a design firm to redesign the website to expand our focus to year-round volunteering. The site will include resources on volunteerism as well as links to our Volunteer Center network. We are working closely with TX Division of Emergency Management and modeling the site after other state volunteerism sites, such as the Volunteer Louisiana website. The rebranded web portal will be available for public roll-out in October/November 2013. We are also working with HandsOn Connect to reconfigure the disaster volunteer functionality of our site by 12/31/13. They are uniquely qualified to meet our needs because their system will complement our use of the Salesforce database technology.

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OBJECTIVE #4: 30 organizations across 3 regions will participate in at least 1 regional volunteer symposium to learn best practices in volunteer engagement, retention and management. 750 community volunteers will be managed by CNCS-supported organizations that have attended and benefited from a regional symposium (30 organizations x 25 volunteers).

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PROGRESS: 6 regional symposiums have been conducted and 2 additional are planned for September. All volunteer centers must report results at the September meeting.

3) USING DATA

OneStar will use data collected from Years 1-3 to improve our strategies and services for Year 4. In particular, our Year 4 strategy stems from two recent data trends. First, TAVC member organization data collected by Dr. Sarah Jane Rehnborg and shared with TAVC at its June 2013 meeting showed that TX VCOs are reaching only a small fraction of potential or actual volunteers in TX and must expand upon their current volunteer recruitment/engagement strategies to have a greater impact on TX' volunteerism rates. Second, data collected from TAVC member surveys after OneStar's Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) Simulation also held in June 2013 revealed that 100% of volunteer centers responding felt that they had gained new knowledge applicable to their work. As a whole, the association's members commented in their responses that there was a great need for volunteer centers to continue learning how to best leverage volunteers in times of disaster. As a result, our Year 4 VGF project will use both of these data points to create a meaningful opportunity for TX volunteer centers to recruit and engage thousands more volunteers while also building the centers' capacity to leverage exponentially more volunteers in times of disaster in the future.

4) CONFIRM HOURS

Yes, this is correct. By the end of the one year project period, OneStar and its subgrantees and partners will have recruited 2,000 disaster volunteers who will contribute at least 1,000 hours of service. This amounts to roughly 50% of recruited volunteers being able to complete and document at least 1 hour of service during the one year project period. This relatively small number of volunteer hours completed is due to two factors: 1) it is difficult to predict when or if disasters will occur in our state this year that will require the assistance of the disaster volunteers recruited under this project; and 2) the project period for this grant will be extremely abbreviated due to the funding timeline.

As outlined in the submitted application, OneStar and its VGF subgrantees will be working on a tight timeline to implement project activities and meet deliverables. Once subgranted, the funds will support projects that are merely 8 months in length (approximately March -- October 2013); these projects will also require some time up front for initial training, capacity building activities, and start-up before subgrantees can actually begin recruiting and training new disaster volunteers to serve. It is our intention to ensure that the project results in high quality volunteer opportunities and service; therefore, we have set what we believe is a realistic and meaningful target for Year 4.

However, we believe that the project will result in substantially larger numbers of volunteers recruited

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and leveraged in the following years due to our investment in building capacity of subgrantees. If awarded additional funding in the future to continue this project design, OneStar will adjust these targets accordingly to expand upon the number of volunteers and volunteer hours generated.

5) CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS

As per CNCS guidance given to VGF applicants on the July 17, 2013 TTA call, OneStar understands that VGF grantees must budget for staff working on the grant to receive the required National Service Criminal History Checks. The checks budgeted are for the three commission staff at OneStar whose time will be allocated in part to the Year 4 project: Emily Steinberg (project director), Elisa Gleeson (grant manager), and Jerry Bertrand (grant officer). Because the nature of the Year 4 grant entails working with volunteers and constituents in times of disaster and because disaster deployment to affected areas may become necessary at some point during the project period, OneStar budgeted for these 3 staff to receive the three-part check required for those with access to vulnerable populations (NSOPW, state check, and FBI fingerprint check). Although the NSOPW check is free, in TX the state and FBI checks are conducted by TX Department of Public Safety as a bundled package that costs approximately \$50 per person. OneStar will also ensure that its VGF subgrantees budget for their staff to receive the required National Service Criminal History Checks in accordance with their proposed program design.

6) HIRING NEW STAFF

No, we do not anticipate hiring new staff for this project. The project will be managed by three of OneStar's experienced grants staff: Emily Steinberg (Associate Director, AmeriCorps*TX), Elisa Gleeson (Senior Grants Management Specialist), and Jerry Bertrand (Grants Officer) with additional indirect support and oversight from our CEO, COO and accounting department.

7) DATA COLLECTION

Yes, OneStar will have the necessary data collection and management tools and processes to report on these required VGF performance measures. As discussed above in the Progress Report on Objective #3 of OneStar's current VGF grant, we are partnering with HandsOn Connect to reconfigure the disaster volunteer management functionality of our VolunteerTX volunteer registration site by utilizing their online system and disaster module. HandsOn Connect is uniquely qualified to meet our needs because their system will complement and integrate with our existing Salesforce database technology. The HandsOn Connect system will be configured and ready for OneStar's VGF subgrantees to begin use for volunteer data tracking by 12/31/2013 (the end of our current project period under our No Cost Extension).

Narratives

8) CHANGE IN PROGRAM DESIGN

The proposed Year 4 project is a substantial departure from OneStar's Year 1-3 projects. While our previous efforts focused on capacity building efforts and performance measures that are now considered "complementary" under the Year 4 VGF application instructions, the proposed project will shift OneStar's model to focus directly on generating volunteers and hours of service, with a new emphasis on disaster volunteerism. As outlined in our current grant objectives above, none of our current VGF measures directly produce volunteers or volunteer hours. Therefore, this new approach to directly preparing subgrantees to recruit and manage disaster volunteers will generate significantly more direct results. By the end of the one year project period, OneStar and its subgrantees and partners will have recruited at least 2,000 disaster volunteers who will contribute at least 1,000 hours of service to TX communities. Although it is significantly different in design, Year 4 will build upon OneStar's previous VGF initiatives by allowing us to continue our work convening and connecting nonprofits to build TX' statewide capacity to recruit and manage volunteers effectively; to continue building strategic partnerships between voluntary organization, government and other stakeholders; and to implement and disseminate best practices among volunteer connector organizations in TX.

9) eGRANTS

OneStar acknowledges this special condition and will be equipped to enter its VGF performance measures in eGrants at a later date, if awarded a Year 4 VGF grant.

10) MANAGING FUNDS EFFICIENTLY

a) UNEXPENDED FUNDS

As of 8/30/2013, we have \$93,406 federal share remaining.

b) TIMELINE FOR EXPENDING FUNDS

Several projects which have been in the planning stages for several months will start to result in significant expenditures in the last four months of 2013. This includes the overhaul of the disaster web portal, a statewide "Service Jam" presented in partnership with the University of TX, and the completion of adding the civic engagement data to the TX Connector online geo-mapping tool. Project related salary, fringe, and allocated expenses for the last five months of 2013 (Aug-Dec) will also increase the expenditure of remaining funds.

c) AMOUNT REMAINING

We do not anticipate having any funds remaining at the end of the project period (12/31/2013).

Required Documents

Document Name

Status