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Executive Summary

New York is a state of contrasts. It is home to one of the largest cities in the world, nearly seven million acres of farmland and the largest state park in the country. While much of New York State's (NYS) strength lies in its diversity, the gap between rich and poor is a concern. NYS has one of the highest ratios of income inequality in the nation, and it is difficult for many New Yorkers to access opportunities to succeed.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has taken significant steps toward promoting equal opportunities for all residents. Since taking office in 2011, the Governor has led efforts to increase the minimum wage, reduce hunger, and make housing more affordable. The NYS Commission on National and Community Service (NY Commission) believes volunteers can play an important role in promoting equal opportunities for all New Yorkers.

The NY Commission is proud to continue the spirit of volunteerism that started with a Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) grant from CNCS in 2010. During the past four years the regional volunteer centers and the NY Commission have exceeded the goal of recruiting over one million volunteers statewide.

The time has come to build on this success to address an urgent issue in our state: promoting equal opportunity. The 2014 VGF program is designed to answer the question: "How can volunteers increase opportunities for all New Yorkers?"

The NY Commission will accept proposals for VGF funding from interested nonprofit organizations that aim to alleviate poverty and increase opportunity for New Yorkers. Successful applicants will act as connector organizations and will commit to recruiting, training, placing and/or managing volunteers within their organizations and within nonprofit organizations in their communities. Applicants must identify an issue area of focus, under the macro goal of alleviating poverty, and will articulate how the volunteers they recruit, train and manage will make a demonstrable impact in their communities.

Program Design

Governor Cuomo has long stressed the importance of combatting poverty, protecting those most in

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need, and in increasing opportunities for all New Yorkers. He has governed New York under this principle, and as recently as January of this year, he reiterated its importance, stating "Building our communities as part of a society rooted in opportunity, fairness and justice has been a crucial goal of the past three years, and the State will continue to build on these achievements." -- (Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, 2014 State of the State address).

In order to achieve Governor Cuomo's goal of "a society rooted in opportunity, fairness and justice" the NY Commission's 2014 Volunteer Generation Fund will increase the number of New Yorkers who volunteer and focus their efforts toward providing increased opportunities for struggling children, families and the elderly throughout the State. Two of the most prominent and practical strategies for doing so are to combat hunger and homelessness. We believe that volunteers can have a significant, quantifiable impact on these issues in two ways: first, by volunteering for opportunities that directly relate to these areas of need, as described and documented in the following paragraphs, and second, by increasing the capacity of nonprofit organizations to better meet their missions.

HEALTHY FUTURES/HUNGER

In New York, nearly 14% of households struggle with hunger, and at least 1 million children live in households that do not have consistent access to food. (Map the Meal Gap: Child Food Insecurity 2012, feedingamerica.org). Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York has taken significant steps to expand food assistance:

*In 2011, the Governor launched FreshConnect, which brings fresh, locally grown food to underserved communities. The program includes youth markets, delivery of products to low-income housing facilities, and new initiatives at traditional farmers' markets.

*In 2013, the Governor announced a 15% funding increase for food banks and other emergency food programs.

*In December of 2013, the Governor created the New York State Anti-Hunger Task Force, bringing together experts, advocates, and government officials to develop and implement recommendations to combat hunger and improve access to locally grown foods.

*The Governor recently announced that nearly \$5 million in funding from the Superstorm Sandy Social Services Block Grant will be used to support continued food relief for Sandy victims.

There is a documented need for volunteers to help reduce hunger in New York State. In the Hunger

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Action Network of NYS's 2012 report, *Hungry in New York*, 51% of Emergency Food Pantries (EFPs) reported a need for volunteers in serving meals, packing bags, accounting, fund-raising, web design and legal assistance or a combination of these needs. Most EFPs (51%) want more assistance in raising funds. Others need help with nutrition education (42%) and client benefit advocacy (33%). These volunteers are more critical than ever. Food pantries have recently seen an 8% increase in people fed on top of significant annual increases since the Great Recession. In 2012, 81% of New York EFPs saw an increase in guests. Half saw an increase in the number of employed individuals. Children represent about a third of the guests.

To address the issue of hunger, the NY Commission will accept applications from organizations seeking to address hunger needs and nutrition education in New York State, utilizing volunteers as the main method. Volunteers may assist with the needs highlighted in the aforementioned Hunger Action Network report or with other needs serving the objectives of this program. 500 volunteers will be recruited and placed with anti-hunger organizations throughout the state.

HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness has social, economic, and health consequences for individuals and families. In addition to experiencing increased hunger, sickness, and higher rates of mental illness, homeless children show lower levels of educational attainment, and homeless adults find it more difficult to find employment.

A 2013 report from the National Alliance to End Homelessness, *The State of Homelessness in America*, estimated that 69,566 New Yorkers experienced homelessness during 2012, making New York the state with the 4th highest rate of homelessness. According to the same report, homelessness in New York State increased 9.6% between 2011 and 2012, and family homelessness increased 9.2% during the same time period. While homelessness is a problem across all of NYS, the problem is especially pronounced in New York City, where the Coalition for the Homeless estimates that there are 54,667 individuals in City homeless shelters on any given night.

While homelessness is an ongoing issue in New York State, severe weather events can exacerbate the problem. Over 300,000 homes were damaged or destroyed during Superstorm Sandy in 2012; according to Enterprise Community Partners, an affordable housing finance firm, 68% of renters and 24% of homeowners who made FEMA claims following Sandy were low-income. Individuals who live

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at or near the poverty level are more likely than middle- and high-income individuals to live in neighborhoods that are susceptible to floods and other disasters, and they are less well-equipped to recover and rebuild their homes when they are damaged or destroyed.

Governor Cuomo's commitment to combatting homelessness and rebuilding damaged homes was clear in his 2014 State of the State address. In that address, he announced a program to provide tax relief for renters facing significant housing burdens; this will provide assistance to over 829,000 low-income renter households that spend more than 50% of their monthly cash income on housing costs. The Governor also announced a \$1.5 billion plan for ongoing post-Sandy housing reconstruction, which will both help families rebuild their homes and help them make their homes more resilient for future disasters.

To ensure that more New Yorkers have access to housing, the NY Commission will accept applications from organizations that identify strategies to use volunteers in one or more of the following ways: (1) to help economically disadvantaged and homeless individuals find appropriate housing; (2) to prevent eviction and/or homelessness; and (3) to assist individuals in accessing the appropriate housing and in finding the resources to do so. Applications will also be accepted from organizations that identify strategies to use volunteers to assist low-income victims of Superstorm Sandy and other disasters with hands-on housing development and repair activities. 500 volunteers will be recruited and placed with housing organizations throughout the state.

Applicants must identify an issue area of focus, under the macro goal of alleviating poverty, and will be expected to articulate how the volunteers they recruit, train, place and manage will make a demonstrable impact in their communities. The applicant's partner organizations will be clearly identified within each application and the applicant shall demonstrate how each partner nonprofit, as those closest to the need and with the most expertise in the focus area, will be instrumental in identifying the use of volunteers in an effective manner and in formulating units of measure to demonstrate success. A partner nonprofit will be dedicated to a focused mission in an area of economic need and agree to collaborate with the applicant for the purposes of capacity building in the areas of volunteer recruitment, training, placement and/or management of volunteers. While not directly funded through the VGF, the partner organizations will reap widespread benefits in terms of organizational, staff, and volunteer capacities.

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While the Commission will invite applications that focus on hunger and homelessness, it will accept and consider for funding well-constructed, -researched, and -documented applications that focus on needs other than hunger and homelessness. Such applications must clearly demonstrate how the proposed subject area and the mission of the proposed project, and those of the applicant's partner organizations will address and ultimately contribute to the alleviation of poverty in New York State. Such applicants must meet all criteria for a high-scoring application as outlined below.

The Commission recognizes the need to build capacity among volunteer organizations throughout New York. According to a study conducted for the NY Commission, (Volunteer Engagement Among Non-Profits 2011-12, The Siena College Research Institute), while many nonprofit organizations in New York see the value of volunteer programs to meet their programmatic goals, few have the staff, financial resources or expertise to run high-quality volunteer programs. In addition, the goals of volunteers are changing; many want personal and professional fulfillment from volunteering or want to volunteer to expand their resumes or to use their professional skills. Therefore, all VGF-funded programs in New York will be expected to build volunteer management capacity within their own communities, with a special emphasis on building the capacity of the nonprofit partners identified in their applications. Funded nonprofits must commit to providing capacity-building support and mentoring to at least three smaller, less resourced partner organizations in the areas of recruiting, managing and retaining volunteers.

Applicants will be required to select a focus area around the principle of alleviating poverty. They should select and design a strategy and clearly articulate how that strategy will combat hunger, homelessness or another identified manifestation of poverty in New York. Applicants must identify their partner organizations, their partners' expertise in the chosen focus area, and provide letters of support or memoranda of understanding from those organizations. They must also demonstrate excellence in development of materials, training sessions, and one-to-one consulting skills. Applicants must explain how they will measure results.

National/State Days of Service: Funded organizations must also commit to leading three National/State Days of Service events each year: Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service; NYS I Love My Park Day (held the first Saturday in May); and September 11 Day of Service and Remembrance.

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The Commission will provide direction for those Service Days on a statewide level. Funded organizations will also work with other national service organizations in their regions to request participation in the 2015 Mayors Day of Recognition of National Service. Funded organizations will be expected to coordinate one additional Day of Service annually which will address needs identified by the applicant and its partner organizations and align with the overall focus area of the program. Applicants should explain in some detail the activities that Day of Service will involve, how it will advance the missions of the partner organizations and the overall goal of alleviating poverty, and how outreach will be conducted to recruit supporters and volunteers not formally placed with partner organizations.

A high-scoring application would include the following:

- 1) Identification of a proposed subject matter focus of combatting hunger, homelessness, or other manifestation of poverty in New York
- 2) A clear and concise needs statement within the applicant's community, with cited research to document need.
- 3) Identification of partner organizations with expertise in the subject matter identified as a focus, accompanied by letters of support and/or MOU's.
- 4) An outline of recruitment strategy or strategies showing how the applicant will identify and place volunteers in partner organizations.
- 5) An outline of the strategy or strategies showing how the applicant will provide assistance and training to its partners in developing capacity in the areas of volunteer recruitment, management, and enrichment, and a clear acknowledgment by the partner organizations that they have agreed to accept such assistance.
- 6) A detailed work plan to develop a Day of Service, working with the applicant's designated partner organizations, which will address needs related to the focus area selected by the applicant.
- 7) Demonstration of the applicant's success in recruiting, training, placing and managing volunteers, accompanied by data (if available) demonstrating excellent retention rates, volunteer satisfaction, placement organization satisfaction, and value of volunteers recruited to the placement organizations.
- 8) Demonstration of staff expertise in the areas of volunteer management, and capacity building in volunteer organizations
- 9) How the development of capacity and program area results will be measured.

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Through these criteria and others, the NY Commission will identify applicants that have clearly demonstrated the ability to provide volunteer services focused on a specific need in alignment with New York State priorities. Priority points will be awarded to applicants that serve children or youth of color, in keeping with the President's "My Brother's Keeper" initiative. In addition, proposals that will enhance the geographic diversity of the New York State volunteer network will be awarded priority points.

All applicants must demonstrate adequate financial systems, comfort with performance measurement and evaluation, staff capacity and supervision, Board involvement and investment, and must pre-qualify under the New York State Grants Gateway system.

Measuring Success

Within this program model, the NY Commission's Volunteer Generation Fund program will seek to meet targets within the following Volunteer Generation Fund National Performance Measures:

Volunteer Generation: Measure G3-3.1 - Number of community volunteers (1000) recruited by CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants and hours of service contributed by community volunteers who were recruited by CNCS-supported organizations.

Capacity Building: Measure G3-3.3 - Number of organizations (30) implementing three or more effective management practices as a result of capacity-building services provided by CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants.

It will also seek to serve the following performance measures:

Healthy Futures: Applicant Determined - Number of meals served (1500) from food banks, food pantries, or other nonprofit organizations.

Measure H11 - Number of individuals (500) receiving support, services, education and/or referrals to alleviate long-term hunger.

Housing: Measure O5 - Number of economically disadvantaged individuals (500), including homeless individuals, receiving housing services.

Note: If an applicant submits a proposal that is focused on an issue area other than hunger or

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homelessness, and if that proposal is selected for funding, the applicant must commit to working with the NY Commission to identify an appropriate performance measure or measures.

Volunteer activity data will be collected, measured and reported by funded organizations to the NY Commission, which will aggregate and report the results to the Corporation for National and Community Service. The data will be gathered online via Hands-on Connect or similar electronic volunteer management system, whereby funded agencies, partners and volunteers will register and track their hours through password protected access. Progress made toward program area performance measures will be tracked by funded programs and their partner organizations, and reported to the Commission twice annually. The Commission will then aggregate results and report to the Corporation.

The NY Commission continues to seek to increase participation by volunteers in our State. 1,326,172 new volunteers to-date have been recruited as a result of activity funded by the first and second Volunteer Generation Grants implemented in New York State. On this solid foundation, our goal is to recruit continuous volunteers, who, while lesser in number, will have a targeted impact, supported by hunger, housing and other anti-poverty organizations. Through the 2014 VGF, the NY Commission expects to see an increase of 500 volunteers recruited to serve Housing needs and an increase of 500 volunteers recruited to serve Healthy Futures each year, for a total increase of 1,000 per year, or 3,000 over the three year grant period.

Timeline for New York's 2014 VGF

October 1: The NY Commission will commence a Request for Proposal process, as required by the NYS Comptroller.

November 15: RFP/Review process is complete. NYS contracting process to begin.

Dec/Jan 1: Contracting process is complete and operations will commence at the funded subgrantees.

January: Two-day training relative to NYS 2014 VGF Objectives, CNCS Prohibitions & Performance Measure Targets, and contract management will be held.

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January: Subgrantees will work with their partners to facilitate and, if possible, coordinate/lead MLK Day of Service Events in their communities.

May: Subgrantees will participate in volunteer recruitment during I Love My Park Day Service Events in their communities.

September 11: Subgrantees will coordinate/lead 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance events in their communities.

December 30: Year-one NYS Contract will be complete. Year-two will begin.

Targets, Beneficiaries

The NY Commission will be working with nonprofits to recruit skilled volunteers to serve the well-documented needs listed above. Each funded local organization will work with at least three local nonprofits that address issues related to a specific subject area under the principle of alleviating poverty. Those nonprofits, located across NYS, will be assisted by the VGF programs to recruit skilled persons to serve in high quality volunteer positions. The nonprofit partners will receive capacity building support from the local organizations to develop and add at least three effective management practices.

The beneficiaries will be people in and organizations working to alleviate economic need in New York State. As described above, the NY Commission seeks organizations that will seek to improve the quality of life for New Yorkers by implementing high quality volunteer programs that are focused on alleviating poverty. Those who serve as volunteers will benefit from the opportunity to help address some of the most pressing needs in their communities, working with experts in the field. They also will benefit from valuable contacts and possible increased employment opportunities that will indirectly contribute to the goal of alleviating poverty. Organizations will benefit from receiving training, technical assistance and other support to utilize volunteers to help meet their programmatic mission and build capacity to run high quality volunteer programs into the future.

Communities across New York State will be stronger; families will be less hungry and more educated about healthy food and housing options; and children, especially those of color, will have a better

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chance to grow and develop due, in part, to the New Yorkers who volunteer and the organizations that help them to do so.

Why the Investment?

CNCS should invest in the NY Commission because the NYS 2014 VGF will increase volunteerism related to equal opportunities by building on the success we demonstrated during the first VGF. The Commission's 2010 VGF grant allowed the NY Commission to create volunteer centers throughout the state. Those centers have common goals, work on individual and statewide service projects, and promote volunteerism throughout the state. The 2013 VGF grant enabled the NY Commission to provide support to disaster volunteer initiatives across the state. We have learned about effective volunteer generation and management practices. This next Volunteer Generation model is based on lessons and feedback from current grantees and stakeholders, and creates a volunteer program for our state that will continue to increase the number of New Yorkers who volunteer, while focusing in on meeting documented needs of our state.

In particular, this model moves away from the regionally based program, which left some of the state's most pressing needs unaddressed, to a programmatically targeted model designed to allow volunteers to work with selected service providers in demonstrated categories of need. This will ensure that units of service can be tracked more effectively and results are more demonstrable.

While the NY Commission's 2014 Request for Proposal (RFP) will maintain the goal of and award priority points to geographic diversity with its subgrants, we will no longer require that volunteer centers be established in each economic region of the State. Some regions include fewer nonprofits that currently have the capacity to serve as volunteer centers. The Commission will encourage the formation of consortia and other partnerships within such regions so as to bring the benefits of the VGF funding to all regions in the State. The NY Commission expects that some current Regional Volunteer Centers (RVCs) will welcome the change and apply for funding under the 2014 RFP, while others may choose to seek funding from other sources. With this change, we hope to attract new applicants in addition to our current network, all of whom have the capacity to meet the performance measures as set forth by the Corporation and the Commission.

Organizational Capability

Staffing & Program Management

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The Commission was established in 1994 and, as an entity within the structure of NYS government, all rules of organizational and fiscal governance apply. All Commission contracts are developed and governed according to the relevant provisions outlined in New York State procurement law and policies and are approved by the Office of the State Comptroller and the NYS Attorney General.

The Commission has provided training, support and monitoring of AmeriCorps and national service programs for 20 years and has done the same with VGF subgrantees for the past four years. Six professional staff represent more than 50 years of experience. The Commission's Executive Director has more than a dozen years of experience managing statewide national service program grants.

In 2005, the Commission was audited by CNCS and participated in the Corporation's Administrative Standards Review in 2007. Both reviews found the Commission's contracting, monitoring and financial systems to be sound. These systems remain in place with the additional requirement that subgrantees must participate in the NYS Contract Prequalification Process. All applicants for NYS Contracts must be pre-qualified to apply for funds.

Roles of Key Staff -- Two full-time Commission staff will each provide oversight equal to 1.25 FTE to manage the Volunteer Generation Grant. The Information Technology unit provides support regarding data collection and reporting systems; staff from the Contracts Unit will provide support regarding contract development, management and payment. Both staff members have worked with local, regional and statewide leadership of public and private agencies and are skilled in the development and management of statewide contracts.

The Commission staff will also seek counsel from other state agencies, as they relate to the program areas identified for volunteer service, in particular, the NYS Division of Homes and Community Renewal, the NYS Department of Health, and the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. These agency staff will provide assistance with the review of applications submitted and guidance regarding implementation of service in NYS.

The Commission program managers will conduct the state RFP process, including a formal review process with one peer and one staff reader of each proposal submitted. They will develop and implement the Commission's training and technical assistance and compliance monitoring, ensuring

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program and fiscal performance targets are met. Staff will coordinate data collection and evaluation efforts, in cooperation with OCFS staff, partner agency staff, and consultants, as necessary.

Fiscal Compliance

The New York State Commission operates within the strict fiscal requirements of the NYS Office of the State Comptroller and our host agency, the NYS Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS). The Commission must request and receive approval to spend any funds prior to making a commitment through a purchase order or contract. Once approval has been provided by the OCFS Budget unit and the NYS Division of Budget (for contracts that exceed a \$50,000 threshold), contracts and/or purchase orders can be initiated, as appropriate. Purchasing and contracting are executed via automated, password protected systems. Contractors also have access to the Contract Management System, which allows them to see the steps of the approval schedule of their contracts and payments.

VGF program staff and OCFS Contracts unit staff each have review/approval authority for reimbursement of contracts. All payments are made by the NYS Office of the State Comptroller, according to the NYS Prompt Payment Law.

OCFS serves as the host agency for the NY Commission and will provide valuable support services in the areas of budget management, financial operations, contract management, legal services, and audit/quality control. The Budget Management office will provide budgetary services for all State and federal funds awarded through the Volunteer Generation grant, including subgrant funding. The Finance office will maintain fiscal records for all Volunteer Generation funds; and will audit and process all fiscal transactions of the State Commission, including the processing of vouchers, encumbrance documents, journal transfers, appropriation refunds and deposits to the Office of the State Comptroller. The Contract Management office will support the contracting and purchasing activities for the Commission and the Division of Legal Affairs will provide legal advice, counsel, and support to Commission staff. The Audit and Quality Control office will assist with monitoring subgrantee performance, including quality control and accountability.

VGF program staff conducts programmatic and financial monitoring of each subgrantee on a regular basis. Programmatic monitoring includes review of documentation and progress reports, regular email and telephone communication, site visits and attendance at training or service events conducted

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by a subgrantee. Financial monitoring occurs with each claim submitted, with corrections required prior to payment, as well as on-site verification of financial systems and documentation.

Requirements for data collection are set out in the beginning of a subgrant cycle. Data collection systems are reviewed during on-site visits.

NYS Commission Budget and Fund Raising History

NYS has demonstrated a strong commitment to increasing volunteer activity by appropriating \$500,000 in State funding in 2009-10, and \$350,000 in each of the 2010-11, 2011-12, 2013-14 and 2014-15 NYS Budgets. The NYS Commission plans to require matching funds totaling \$150,000 from subgrantee organizations within the RFP it will issue. The NY Commission has matched the VGF funds at 50% since year one, and plans to continue doing so.

Over three years, this proposed funding request and State cash match, which meets the required amount, will provide \$3.0 million in federal and state resources to engage 1,000 new volunteers, and develop volunteer management capacity among 30 nonprofits.

This \$1 million Volunteer Generation program will represent 5.2% of the NY Commission's budget. The Commission will utilize all federal, state and local resources at its disposal to ensure success of this Volunteer Generation program, including in-kind administrative support provided by State agencies.

While New York State is prepared to contribute the majority of the required match and administrative support to this initiative, it will not succeed without engaged partner organizations. The minimal match required of subgrantees will ensure there is local commitment and will encourage the development of partnerships in operations. Partner organizations will be fully engaged -- recruiting and managing volunteers, including effective management practices in their daily operations, participating in Days of Service and possibly contributing to local matching responsibilities.

Ensuring Compliance with Federal Requirements

The Commission's policies and procedures provide a detailed blueprint for successful program management supported by excellence in training, monitoring, program support, reporting and compliance. Commission procedures are being updated based upon feedback received during our

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recent CNCS site visit. Staff members are well versed in the rules and regulations of the Corporation as well as relevant state law and policy. The Commission will track and monitor all expenses to ensure that funds are properly allocated and accounted for. Volunteer Generation contracts will include line item budgets reflective of eligible expenses to support this initiative. Each funded organization will submit quarterly program and fiscal reports. The Commission will conduct fiscal monitoring and periodically audit subgrantees to maintain fiscal integrity. The Commission's fiscal compliance tool will be amended to monitor the specific requirements of the Volunteer Generation Fund.

The Commission's history of accurate, timely and professional program management will continue with the successful implementation of the 2014 Volunteer Generation Fund grant.

Volunteer Generation Fund -- Past Performance of the NYS Commission

As has been demonstrated in the Grantee Progress Reports submitted by the NYS Commission during the lifetime of the Volunteer Generation Grant, NYS has exceeded and/or met each of its performance objectives and continues to do so in the current year.

Startup of the original NYS VGF grant was delayed as a result of a decision by our outgoing governor, David Paterson, to refrain from entering into any new contracts so as not to obligate the incoming governor, Andrew Cuomo. This led to an 11-month lag in VGF program startup at the local level, which was fully communicated to CNCS. Once approved by Governor Cuomo, the RFP and subgranting process was completed. Since program startup, on September 1, 2011, the NYS VGF program has been steadily progressing toward meeting and exceeding the following performance targets:

Regional Volunteer Centers (2010-2014)

Performance Measure #1 - Identify the Service Landscape: This Performance Measure was met in 2012, with the completion of two studies by the Siena Research Institute (The Civic Health Index, and the Survey of Nonprofits). This data informed the Commission's Volunteer Management Training Curriculum (ROSES) that was utilized by the Regional volunteer centers for the remainder of the grant.

Performance Measure #2 - Increase Volunteers in New York State: The target of recruiting 1,050,000

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new volunteers was met at the end of year-two of the three year program. Year three is expanding on this success, with more volunteers being recruited each day.

Performance Measure #3 -- Increasing the Capacity of Local Volunteer Organizations: Capacity has been continually enhanced through the development of an infrastructure to facilitate resource sharing and increased communication by regional volunteer centers. New York State's regional volunteer centers and their partner agencies (numbering in the hundreds) utilize HandsOn Connect to recruit and manage volunteers, gather and report data to the Commission.

Performance Measure #4 -- Train for Impact: The Commission developed the ROSES Curriculum (Recruitment, Orientation, Support, Evaluation, Salute) based upon data from the landscape survey and in cooperation with the regional volunteer centers. Each RVC presented the curriculum at least twice each program year to various audiences in their region. The ROSES curriculum is flexible enough to be provided as a whole, or in parts, as appropriate for the audience. Modules are included that enable the RVCs to provide more specific tools for different types of organizations and volunteers. This Performance Measure is continuing in Year 3.

Disaster Volunteer Grant (2013-14)

Performance Measure #1 -- Disaster Volunteers: With the target of recruiting 3500 Disaster Volunteers in a one-year period, the Disaster Volunteer Grant is continuing and on track to meet its target by the end of the year (40.9% at mid-year).

Performance Measure #2 -- Veteran Disaster Volunteers: With the target of recruiting 20 Veteran Disaster Volunteers in a one-year period, the Disaster Volunteer Grant is on track to greatly exceed its target by the end of the year (175% at mid-year).

The NY Commission put in place data collection mechanisms while implementing the two current VGF grants. These mechanisms will be improved in the next funding cycle. The NY Commission will be able to streamline reporting, as it narrows the programmatic objective relative to this new VGF grant. While the NY Commission plans to utilize the HandsOn Connect system for data collection and reporting, the Commission's customized database can also be modified to meet future needs of the program.

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The NY Commission has always complied with the Corporation's programmatic and fiscal requirements, with management of the Commission's grants and with reporting on progress. Deadlines are met and reports reflect the quality of programming in New York State.

Budget/Cost Effectiveness

In order to maximize the impact of the Volunteer Generation Fund, the New York State Commission is requesting an award of \$500,000 from the Corporation. The Commission projects \$80,000 for website/volunteer connection technology maintenance, \$30,250 for marketing and communication initiatives, \$19,572 for National Day of Service materials, and \$50,000 for training expenses. The budget also includes \$155,178 in staff salaries/fringe (1.25 FTE). The remaining \$665,000 of State and Federal funding will be subgranted to volunteer connector organizations to effectively support this new Volunteer Generation initiative.

Matching requirements will be met with \$350,000 in state funds and \$150,000 in local support. The local support will be garnered by requiring a 15% match of subgrantee organizations. Local and state matching funds will include cash and in-kind support. The \$350,000 in state matching funds is included in the adopted NYS 2014-15 Budget. The NYS Office of Children and Family Services will also provide in-kind staff support, as it does with each of the NY Commission's grants.

Local matching support will be reported by subgrantee organizations within quarterly expenditure reports. Subgrantees will be reimbursed only to the extent that their 15% matching obligation has been met.

Clarification Response

Per email from Program Officer Sarah Yue, clarification response is being sent via email. 8/11/14.

Grant Characteristics