Welcome to Module 3 for SCP: Volunteer and Station Management. If you have not reviewed the NPDO Overview presentation, Modules 1 and 2, and NPDO Syllabus, please do so before you start this presentation.
Prior to starting this presentation:

- Review your Memorandum of Understanding template
- Review the Recruitment and the Strengthening Communities sections of your current grant.
- Review the NPDO Syllabus for other Module 3 Preparation Activities

The red arrow will indicate that there is more information on the topic in the Syllabus.

The New Project Directors’ Orientation Syllabus provides the information you will need to complete the NPDO curriculum. Please complete the activities before starting this presentation.
Module 3 Objectives

By the end of Module 3, you should be able to:

- Understand the how Performance Measures affect project management
- Determine the quality of your MOUs and Volunteer Enrollment forms
- Identify appropriate volunteer stations and volunteer assignments
- Determine the quality of your Volunteer Assignment plans
- Understand the benefits available to your Volunteers
- Understand the value of Community Partners and Collaborations with other National Service projects
Working with Volunteers and Volunteer Stations is a central focus of SCP Project Directors' responsibilities. In Module 3 we will not cover every aspect of volunteer and station management but will focus on important requirements, common compliance findings, and resources for effective practices. The Senior Corps peer-to-peer networks, including, your state networks are valuable resources for sharing best practices.
Performance Measures
CNCS Performance Measures: CNCS Focus Areas

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has identified agency wide performance measures that support the ongoing measurement and assessment of our work within six focus areas. These performance measures align with the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act’s focus on impact, innovation and effectiveness. Performance measures are applied within the six focus areas listed below:

- Disaster Services
- Economic Opportunity
- Education
- Environmental Stewardship
- Healthy Futures
- Veterans and Military Families

CNCS has adopted Agency-Wide Performance Measures that are implemented in all Corporation for National & Community Service funded programs. CNCS' Performance Measurement framework provides a common focal point for CNCS' work across all programs and initiatives. Every CNCS program will contribute to the Priority Measures. You can find links to more information about Performance Measures and how to implement them in the NPDO Syllabus. In Module 3 we will talk about the Performance Measure in relation to managing stations and volunteers.

Managing volunteers and volunteer stations is central to successfully meeting your performance measures. It is importance to address your project’s approved performance measures when working with volunteers and volunteer stations.
Module 3: SCP Volunteer & Station Management

SCP Performance Measures Requirements

- Primary Focus Area - The Senior Companion Program Primary Focus Area is Healthy Futures - Independent Living Outcome. The number or percentage of unduplicated volunteers required in Education will be outlined in the grant application materials.

- All remaining SCP Volunteers may be placed in work plans that address the Other older Adult and Individuals with Disabilities Output Measure or other community priorities. Other Community Priorities work plans are created by the grantee to address community activities not captured by performance measures.

- Outcome: A specified number of unduplicated SCP volunteers must be placed in work plans that result in outcome. This number will be outlined in the grant application materials.

The grant application instructions reflect the Performance Measures Requirements established for the SCP program by CNCS. The SCP measures are comprised of designated Agency-Wide Priority Measures, Complementary Program Measures, or Other Community Priorities.
As volunteer stations are created and new volunteers are enrolled, it is important to keep in mind the community needs specific to healthy futures outcomes and to create volunteer activities that provide supportive, individualized services to help older adults with special needs maintain their independence consistent with your performance measures as approved in your grant.
Volunteer Stations
Volunteer Stations

A volunteer station is a public agency, secular or faith-based private non profit organization, or proprietary health care organization that accepts the responsibility for assignment and supervision of RSVP Volunteers. Each volunteer station must be licensed or otherwise certified, when required, by the appropriate state or local government. Informal groups do not qualify as volunteer stations.

45 CFR 2551.12

A wide variety of community organizations are eligible to be volunteer stations. Stations should be selected that support the performance measurements agreed upon in the project’s grant application. Work with the station to be sure they can help support your volunteer service activities and data collection plans that will lead to reaching your outputs and outcomes.
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Volunteer Station Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The Memorandum of Understanding, which must be negotiated prior to placing volunteers, describes program requirements, working relationships, and mutual responsibilities. It includes general conditions applicable to all projects and volunteer stations and special conditions applicable to the local volunteer station. The basic requirements for the Memorandum of Understanding are found in the regulations at 45 CFR 2551.23.

Prior to signing an MOU, project directors should discuss the responsibilities of volunteer stations with the station’s volunteer supervisor and with the station administrator who signs the MOU. 45 CFR 2551.23 of the regulations outline responsibilities that should be discussed with volunteer stations, and included in the signed MOU.

Occasionally SCP projects may find it necessary to responsibly graduate volunteer stations to meet changing community needs. Effort should be made to minimize disruptions to current volunteers where possible. In some cases, it may be possible to reassign volunteers to a priority area or a capacity building service activity rather than close a station completely.
SCP Project Sponsor Serving as a SCP Station

- A Senior Companion Program sponsor may serve as a volunteer station, provided this is part of the application work plan approved by the Corporation.

45 CFR 2551.61

- Sponsors must adhere to all responsibilities of a volunteer station as well as an SCP sponsor.
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Responsibilities of Volunteer Stations

- Volunteer Assignment Plans
- Selecting Eligible Clients for Assigned Volunteers
- Volunteer Training and Orientation
- Reasonable Accommodation for SCP volunteers with disabilities
- Supervision of Volunteers
- Provide for Volunteer Safety
- Recordkeeping

- Volunteer Assignment Plans: Stations must develop volunteer assignments that meet the requirements specified in 45 CFR 2551.71 through 2551.72, and regularly assess those assignments for continued appropriateness. Further, the Volunteer Assignment Plan for each client should identify the role and activities of the Senior Companion and expected outcomes for the client served. The assignment plans are approved and kept on file by the sponsor.
- Selecting Eligible Clients: Senior Companions serve only adults, primarily older adults, who have one or more physical, emotional, or mental health limitations and are in need of assistance to achieve and maintain their highest level of independent living.
- Training and Orientation: The station must play a role in the on-site orientation for the Companion and ensure that they have the training needed for them to perform their roles. Station staff may be asked to occasionally provide training at monthly in-services meetings.
- Reasonable accommodation: Stations must comply with and ensure that all volunteer stations comply with all applicable civil rights laws and regulations, including providing reasonable accommodation to qualified individuals with disabilities.
- Supervision: The supervisor must be identified on the MOU and their roles clearly outlined. The supervisor is key in developing the assignment plans and in evaluating the annual performance of the Companion.
- Safety: Senior Companions should not be placed in a role or assignment that infringes on the well-being of the Companion or places them in danger.
- Recordkeeping: Stations should be in agreement to provide data you will need to complete required reports.
Responsibilities of a SCP Sponsor

- Focus SCP resources in the healthy futures focus area
- Ensure station and volunteer eligibility
- Ensure that each placement is governed by an MOU
- Review volunteer placements regularly to ensure that clients are eligible to be served
- Establish written policies governing program operations such as annual leave, termination procedures and criminal history background checks

A sponsor must employ a full-time project director to accomplish program objectives and manage the functions and activities delegated to project staff for Senior Companion program within its control. A full-time project director shall not serve concurrently in another capacity, paid or unpaid, during established working hours. The project director may participate in activities to coordinate program resources with those of related local agencies, boards or organizations. A sponsor may negotiate the employment of a part-time project director with CNCS when it can be demonstrated that such an arrangement will not adversely affect the size, scope, and quality of project operations.
Volunteer Stations: Common Compliance Findings

- Out of date MOU
- MOU not in the station files
- MOU does not contain the required non-discrimination commitment
- No verification of stations non-profit status
- Volunteers are not attached to a station with a current MOU, with a designated volunteer supervisor
- Volunteers providing services such as those performed by medical personnel, providing services to large numbers of clients, custodial services or administrative support services

It is important that there is a current MOU (signed within the past 3 years) that meet the requirements for volunteer stations.

The Senior Corps Regulations and the Compliance Monitoring Guide lists the policy requirements regarding non-discrimination. Check the NPDO syllabus for a sample MOU that illustrates how these requirements may be included in the stations agreement.

Projects should verify that each volunteer station is a public agency, a non-profit organization, or proprietary health care organization. There should be a statement declaring the station’s organization type in the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Well known public agencies, such as public schools, can be verified by the signed statement in the MOU. In the case of non-profit organizations and proprietary health care organizations the project director should verify status. An organization’s tax-exempt status can be verified by asking to see their IRS letter recognizing it as tax-exempt. You may also confirm an organization’s non-profit status by contacting the IRS. Other documentation maybe acceptable.
Module 3: SCP Volunteer & Station Management

Volunteer Assignments
Senior Companion Volunteer Activities

The Senior Companion Program provides grants to qualified agencies and organizations for the dual purpose of engaging persons 55 and older, particularly those with limited incomes, in volunteer service to meet critical community needs; and to provide a high quality experience that will enrich the lives of the volunteers. Program funds are used to support Senior Companions in providing supportive, individualized services to help older adults with special needs maintain their dignity and independence.

45 CFR 2551.11

The SCP Regulations are clear about the purpose of Senior Companion activities, and the clients they can serve. It is the responsibility of the SCP sponsor to be sure that the volunteer activities are appropriate and properly documented.
Senior Companion Assignments

Requirements that govern the assignment of Senior Companions

- Senior Companion assignments shall provide for the Companions to give direct services to one or more eligible adults.
- Senior Companions may serve as volunteer leaders, and in this capacity may provide indirect services. Senior Companions with special skills or demonstrated leadership ability may assist newer Senior Companion volunteers in performing their assignments and in coordinating activities of such volunteers.
- Senior Companions shall not provide services such as those performed by medical personnel, services to large numbers of clients, custodial services, administrative support services, or other services that would detract from their assignment.

45 CFR 2551.71

The Federal Regulations explain the assignment requirements for Senior Companion volunteers.
Senior Companion Assignments

Is a written volunteer assignment plan required for each volunteer?

- All Senior Companions performing direct services to individual clients in home settings and individual clients in community-based settings, shall receive a written volunteer assignment plan developed by the volunteer station.
- If there is an existing plan that incorporates paragraphs (a)(2), (3), and (4) of this section, that plan shall meet the requirement.
- All Senior Companions serving as volunteer leaders shall receive a written volunteer assignment plan developed by the volunteer station.

45 CFR 2551.72

Each Senior Companion should have a copy of their current assignment plan.

Assignment plans should:

- Be approved by the sponsor and accepted by the Senior Companion;
- Identifies the client(s) to be served;
- Identify the role and activities of the Senior Companion and expected outcomes for the client(s);
- Address the period of time each client is expected to receive such services; and
- Is used to review the status of the Senior Companion's services in working with the assigned client(s), as well as the impact of the assignment on the client(s).

During a compliance monitoring review CNCS staff will ask to see the volunteer assignment plans for each volunteer. Volunteers should be given a copy of their volunteer assignment plan that is signed by the station representative, volunteer, and SCP Staff.
Examples of Appropriate Senior Companion Volunteer Activities

- Assisting homebound clients served by caregivers
- Accompanying a person to a doctor or nurse for treatment
- Planning meals, doing light grocery shopping, labeling, and organizing food
- Providing companionship, talking, listening, cheering up, and playing games
- Writing letters, reading, and filling out forms
- Bringing unmet needs to the attention of volunteer station staff, and other care providers
Volunteer Assignment: Common Compliance Findings

- Activities usually performed medical professionals
- Custodial services normally provided by paid staff
- Deposit cash in banks
- Snow shoveling, lawn mowing
- Major house cleaning
- Extensive shopping
- Food preparation for persons other than adult served
- Leading group recreational or social activities

SCP volunteers should not be given any assignment that places the volunteer at risk of personal harm. Also, consistent with 45 CFR 2551.71 (b), “A Senior Companion shall not perform any service or duty or engage in any activity which would otherwise be performed by an employed worker or which would supplant the hiring of or result in the displacement of employed workers, or impair existing contracts for service.”
SCP Volunteers
SCP Volunteer Eligibility to be Enrolled

Senior Companions must be 55 years of age or older; determined by a physical examination to be capable of serving without detriment to either themselves or the clients served; willing to serve 15-40 hours per week; and willing to abide by the program requirements. Additionally, Senior Companions must meet income eligibility requirements to receive a stipend and receive criminal background check clearance.

Eligibility to be a Senior Companion may not be restricted on the basis of formal education; experience; race; religion; color; national origin, including limited English proficiency; sex; age; handicap; or political affiliation.

Eligibility information should be documented in volunteer file.

Any individual who is registered, or who is required to be registered, on a State sex offender registry, or who has been convicted of murder, as defined under Federal law in section 1111 of title 18, United States Code, is deemed unsuitable for, and may not serve in, a position as a Senior Companion or as a Senior Companion grant-funded employee.
Senior Companions: Criminal Background Checks

Under the Serve America Act, all CNCS grantees must conduct National Service Criminal History checks on participants and program employees in Senior Corps programs and any other programs funded by CNCS under National Service laws. All employees, participants, and others who receive a salary, national service education award, living allowance, or stipend under CNCS grants, even if the activities don’t involve service with vulnerable populations, must receive the checks prior to beginning employment or service.

To implement the Serve America Act, CNCS proposed amendments to its National Service Criminal History Check regulation on July 6, 2011. The final rule was published on October 5, 2012. CNCS grantees must conduct and document a check that includes a fingerprint-based FBI criminal history check on individuals in covered positions who begin work, or who start service, on or after April 21, 2011, and who have recurring access to children 17 years of age or younger, to persons age 60 and older, or to individuals with disabilities. Individuals in covered positions include Senior Companions (SCP), all national service volunteer programs and other participants, volunteers, or staff funded under a CNCS grant. The effective date of the October 5, 2012, rule is January 1, 2013.
Orientation and Training of Senior Companions

The sponsor provides not less than 40 hours of orientation to volunteers—of which 20 hours must be pre-service orientation—and an average of four hours monthly of in-service training.

Pre-service orientation and in-service training are an integral part of project operation. They should be designed to build on and enhance existing skills and to provide the volunteers with new information relative to their assignments and personal welfare.

Project staff should develop orientation programs with help from sponsor and volunteer station staff, as well as child development and other relevant professionals. Daily group training over a one- to two-week period provides efficient use of community resources and promotes team building among volunteers. Projects have found that a combination of formal orientation and hands-on experience with volunteer stations works well. This gives greater meaning to the orientation and enhances adjustment to assignments.
Goals of Pre-Service Orientation

- Introduce the volunteers to CNCS, the Strategic Plan, the CNCS programs in general, to SCP in particular, the sponsor, and the local SCP project.
- Provide information on project policies, appeal procedures, timesheets, insurance, and other administrative details.
- Acquaint the volunteers with project sponsor staff, station staff, and with other volunteers.
- Give volunteers the opportunity for on-site visits to volunteer stations served by the project prior to assignment, enabling them to make informed choices about the types of volunteer stations and assignments for which they are best suited.
Module 3: SCP Volunteer & Station Management

SCP Cost Reimbursement and Volunteer Benefits

Sponsors should establish written cost reimbursement policies and procedures and share with each volunteer when they enroll. Policies should be developed that include:

- Assignment-Related Expenses
- Volunteer Expenses Ratio
- Income Disregard
- Non-Reimbursed Volunteer Expenses
- Non-Corporation Funded Senior Companions

a. Assignment-Related Expenses
- Project funds may be used to reimburse volunteers for expenses, including transportation costs, incurred while performing their volunteer assignments, provided that these expenses are described in the Memorandum of Understanding with the volunteer station and there are sufficient funds available to cover these expenses and meet all other requirements identified in the Notice of Grant Award. 45 CFR 2551.46 Otherwise, such expenses are the responsibility of the volunteer station.

b. Volunteer Expenses Ratio
- The total of cost reimbursements including stipends, insurance, transportation, meals, physical examinations, uniforms if appropriate, and recognition must be equal to at least 80 percent of the CNCS Federal share of the grant. Federal and non-Federal resources, including excess non-Corporation resources, can be used to make up this sum. 45 CFR 2551.92

c. Income Disregard
- Cost reimbursements are not subject to any tax or charge. Cost reimbursements may not be treated as wages or compensation for the purposes of unemployment insurance, temporary disability, retirement, public assistance, workers' compensation, or similar benefit payments or minimum wage laws. 45 CFR 2551.47

d. Non-Reimbursed Volunteer Expenses
- Volunteer Expense items, including transportation to and from their assignments, meals taken during assignments, recognition activities, and recognition items, which are purchased at the volunteers’ own expense and not reimbursed by the project to the volunteer, are not allowable as contributions to the non-Federal share of the budget. 45 CFR 2551.93
e. **Non-Corporation Funded Senior Companion**

- SCP whose stipends are funded with non-Corporation resources are entitled to all benefits to which Corporation-funded volunteers are entitled. 45 CFR 2551.102
SCP Volunteer Recognition
At least annually the project sponsor plans and arranges for formal public recognition of Senior Corps volunteers for their service to the community. Sponsors are also authorized to recognize local individuals and agencies or organizations for significant activities that support project goals.
Examples of recognition events include:
- Special ceremonies
- Breakfasts or luncheons
- Recreational outings

• Informal recognition ought to be ongoing, such as listening to and acting upon recommendations by volunteers, offering honest praise, and providing assignments that are increasingly satisfying.
• Recognition events may consist of special ceremonies, teas, breakfasts, luncheons, and recreational outings at which pins and certificates for stipulated terms of service are awarded.
• The Community Advisory Group and volunteer stations are expected to participate in recognition activities. Community contributions in support of recognition activities can enhance the quality of the events. Contributions need not be monetary. Donated space, food, decorations, and transportation should be encouraged.
• To emphasize the importance of the occasion, CNCS staff, as well as city and county officials and officers of local organizations may be invited to recognition events.
• CNCS does not supply volunteer recognition materials nor does it require specific recognition materials.
Volunteer Retention

Retention is key to achieving building rapport with the clients served and anticipated performance measure outcomes. Senior Corps sponsors must ensure the project has a plan and infrastructure to:

- Create high quality volunteer assignments with opportunities such as sharing their experiences, abilities, and skills to improve their communities and themselves through service in their communities.
- Ensure SCP volunteers receive training needed to be highly effective in understanding the identified community need(s).
- Recognize SCP volunteers’ accomplishments.

One way to address volunteer retention is to periodically assess the quality of the SCP program through surveys, questionnaires and ongoing training for volunteers. Utilizing information from volunteers and the community to inform your program can assist in building a strong program and increase volunteer retention.
Senior Companions: Volunteer Separation
A sponsor may separate a volunteer for cause, including but not limited to, extensive or:
- Unauthorized absences
- Misconduct
- Inability to perform assignments
- Having income in excess of the eligibility level.

The sponsor shall establish appropriate policies on service termination as well as procedures for appeal from such adverse action.

Policies covering volunteer separation and appeals should answer the questions:
- What reasons could cause separation? (examples: Unauthorized absences, misconduct, inability to perform assignment)
- Can the volunteer be reassigned?
- What is the procedure for terminating a volunteer and documenting actions?
- What is the procedure for appeal?

It is important to maintain volunteer records to insure that only active volunteers are included in reporting of volunteer data to CNCS reports.
Senior Companions: Common Compliance Findings

- Over-income volunteers
- No documentation of pre-service and/or in-service training
- No evidence of annual physical on file
- No annual performance evaluation on file
- No evidence of required criminal background check on file

CNCS staff check Volunteer Station and Volunteer Files for information relevant to these common findings when conducting a compliance monitoring review.

Documentation and Recordkeeping are discussed more in Module 4.
Community Partners and Collaboration
Projects should seek out partnerships with other National Service projects, and community partners, to coordinate common volunteer activities and share resources when all are working to alleviate the similar community needs. Volunteers, volunteer stations, and Advisory Councils are key partners in the success of an SCP project.

Check with your CNCS Program Officer to find other National Service programs in your area.
Senior Corps Week is a week-long initiative designed to create awareness and to recognize and thank volunteers for the impact they make in their communities. Marketing Strategy includes radio and TV PSAs, Satellite/Radio media tour to run during Senior Week (featuring celebrity spokesperson), advertising on bus/metro, window sticker for distribution to programs.

For Senior Corps Week projects are encouraged to:
- Outreach to local radio and television stations to encourage PSA air time
- Work with other national service programs to recognize senior service
- Have local and state proclamations issued
- Host recognition events
- Encourage community partners to recognize senior service
- Share your activities with your CNCS State Office
Summary
Module 3 Summary

Now that you have completed Module 3, you should:

- Have a better understanding of what should be in your written policies and procedures and forms concerning station and volunteer management.
- Check to be sure all of your MOUs are current.
- Review current MOU, assignment descriptions, enrollment forms, and cost reimbursement policies used by your program.
- Confirm your project has appropriate policies in place for volunteer terms of service and service separation.
- Review the narratives in your approved grant application and used them as a guide for working with stations and volunteers to reach your performance measure and to recruit and retain volunteers.

If you have not completed the Preparation Assignment, please take some time to complete it. Once you have completed the Preparation Assignment and Presentation 3 you are ready to conclude the 3rd Module by consulting with your program officer regarding any question you may have about the information covered in Module 3.
Preparation for Module 4: Budget, Reports and Fiscal Management

Prior to Presentation 4 please complete the following Preparation Activities:

- Review the Budget Narrative of your current grant.

- Refer to Module 4 Preparation Activities in the New Project Directors’ Orientation Syllabus for the complete list of activities.

Please complete the Preparation Activities listed in the NPDO Syllabus for Module 4 before you view Module 4.
Congratulations! You’ve successfully completed Module 3 Presentation of the New Project Director’s Orientation! Thank you for your participation.