



# THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE REVIEW EXPERIENCE

2015 Senior Corps RSVP Review  
Orientation **Session 1**



# ORIENTATION

- ▶ Competition Overview & Criteria
- ▶ Completing the Review
- ▶ Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality



# OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Define the CNCS's mission and grant review processes
- ▶ Describe the Reviewer's role in identifying worthy service programs
- ▶ Explain how rigor and documentation drive the review and selection processes



# CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Created in 1993 and expanded opportunities for Americans to serve their communities

Engages millions of Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service each year

Nation's largest grant maker supporting service and volunteering



# OUR MISSION

To improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.

**The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act**  
*Signed into law on April 21, 2009.*



# CNCS PROGRAMS

Senior  
Corps

AmeriCorps

Social  
Innovation  
Fund

Special  
Initiative  
Grants



# MECHANICS OF GRANT REVIEW

- ▶ External and Staff Reviewers
- ▶ Field Model
- ▶ Time Frame
- ▶ Reviewers do not make funding decisions, but opinions are considered
- ▶ CEO makes funding decisions



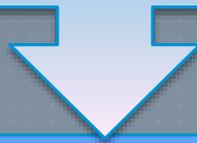
# PURPOSE OF BLENDED REVIEW

- ▶ Determine Quality of Applications
- ▶ Inform Decision Makers
- ▶ Provide Feedback to Applicants

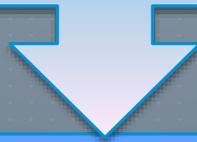


# REVIEWER RESPONSIBILITIES

**Prepare and block time for the review**



**Read, analyze, and rate applications**



**As part of a Review**

Read/evaluate

Discuss

Revise assessment

Submit final forms



# DOCUMENTS THAT GUIDE APPLICATION PREPARATION

Notice of  
Funding  
Opportunity  
(Notice)

Regulations

Application  
Instructions

Frequently  
Asked  
Questions



# COMPETITION PRIORITIES

Healthy  
Futures

Veterans and  
Military  
Families

Environmental  
Stewardship

Economic  
Opportunity

Disaster  
Services

Education

Six Focus Areas



# COMPETITION PRIORITIES (CONT.)

## Programming elements in the Primary Focus Area

- Persuasive evidence of community need(s).
- Highly effective management of RSVP volunteers and volunteer stations.
- Service activities that lead to National Performance Measure outputs or outcomes.



# PARTS OF THE APPLICATION

- ▶ SF 424 Facesheet: Narrative
- ▶ Budget
- ▶ Budget Narrative



# NEXT STEPS

- ▶ Continue Reading 2015 RSVP Review Handbook
- ▶ Participate in Orientation Session RSVP 101