

2014 RSVP Competition

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - Updated August 30, 2013

This document supplements the 2014 RSVP Competition Senior Corps Notice of Funding Opportunity and Application Instructions. These FAQs will be updated periodically. New or updated questions will be clearly indicated within each section.

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1. AWARD INFORMATION

1.1. What period of time will grant funds be available to be spent?

Grants will be made for a three-year project period, with funding provided one year at a time, contingent on satisfactory performance and demonstrated capacity to manage the grant. Before the end of the first and second budget years, recipients will receive guidance on submitting a continuation application for the subsequent years of funding.

1.2. Is a separate application needed for each service area listed in Appendix A?

Yes.

1.3. Can I apply for a 1-year project?

No. All grants are for 3 years.

1.4. My organization is the current sponsor for an RSVP grant. If I apply for and win the award for a new RSVP grant, can I combine the newly awarded RSVP grant with my current RSVP grant so there is only one RSVP grant operated by my sponsor?

Yes, but only if your current RSVP grant has already been awarded through competition. If the intent of your new RSVP application is to combine a newly awarded RSVP grant with your existing RSVP grant, your application and budget should reflect this. Initially the newest grant will be awarded a three year project period. When the older grant is due for continuation, it will be closed and the newer grant will be augmented by the \$ amount and unduplicated volunteers of the older grant. Combining the grants would be addressed with your state office during the first year of project operations.

Added June 21, 2013

1.5. Can an organization that wins this competition sub contract to another organization to run RSVP?

No.

Added August 28, 2013

1.6. Please provide further clarification to question 1.4 of the FAQ's. The answer states, "If the intent of your new RSVP application is to combine a newly awarded RSVP grant with your existing RSVP grant, your application and budget should reflect this." Does this mean that the narrative AND the budget should be reflective of the COMBINED grants? Should the work plans, narratives, and budget for BOTH grants be added together in this application?

No. The application submitted for the 2014 Competition should include total CNCS funding amount and at least the minimum volunteers for only the 2014 Competition opportunity. However, narrative information entered should clearly state the intent to combine the grants after award. If staff will be shared, the application submitted should clearly reflect the percentage of staff time for the 2014 Competition proposal.

2. ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

2.1. We previously relinquished an RSVP grant. May we apply for a new grant in this competition?

Yes.

2.2. Can two organizations jointly apply for one grant?

No. One organization must be identified as the sponsor organization. The second organization could become a volunteer station, but would not be considered the grantee.

2.3. We are a new non-profit and do not yet have an EIN, IRS non-profit status document, or a 990. Can we still apply?

No. All required financial documents must be received by the grant application deadline. If an EIN, IRS non-profit status document, or 990 are not complete and submitted by the grant application deadline, you are not submitting a complete application.

Updated June 14, 2013

2.4. If the geographic area I wish to serve is not listed in Appendix A, are we eligible to apply?

No. However, the geographic service areas will vary during each year of this competition. Please check back next year to see if the geographic service area you would like to serve is up for competition.

Added August 2, 2013

2.5. We intend to separate from our fiscal agent and file for an independent federal tax exempt status later this calendar year, but after the grant application is due. Should we apply under the DUNS Number and EIN of our fiscal agent, or just apply under our own EIN and DUNS which other than through our fiscal agent agreement is not yet a 501(c)(3)?

An EIN, non-profit status verification, and 990 are required for non-profit applicants in order to be eligible to apply for this competition. Therefore, the new organization being formed would not be eligible because they are not yet a non-profit. Once a grant is awarded in the RSVP Competition, it must stay with the legal applicant and cannot be redirected through a transfer.

Added August 9, 2013

2.6. My organization would like to apply for an opportunity listed in Appendix A, but we are located outside of the geographic service area. Can we still apply?

Yes. However, if awarded, the project must serve the geographic service area exactly as it is described in Appendix A. Additional counties or cities cannot be added.

Added August 23, 2013

2.7. My organization has an EIN and a 990, but we have not yet received certification from the IRS as a 501(c)3. Can we submit a copy of our IRS application verification letter to meet document requirement #14 (IRS certification of non-profit status), or would this make my organization ineligible to apply in this competition?

The organization would be ineligible to apply in this competition. The organization must be an established non-profit at the time the application is submitted. If the organization is already a non-profit, but not a 501(c)3, non-profit designation issued by the Secretary of State (or similar organization in your state) would be sufficient documentation for documentation requirement #14.

3. SELECTION CRITERIA AND REVIEW

3.1. How should applicants address the selection criteria described in the Notice for cost effectiveness/budget adequacy?

Selection criteria Q21, Q22, and Q23 should be addressed through the limited text that can be entered in the eGrants budget section and should align with the other narrative responses.

3.2. For a proposal from a current Senior Corps grantee, should we assume the reviewers will not see our current grant application already entered into eGrants?

Yes.

3.3. How do I answer Q7 in the Notice about receiving credit for unduplicated volunteers above the minimum 10%?

Q7 is part of the selection criteria that reviewers will use when assessing applications. It is not a question that requires a narrative response. Reviewers will assess Q7 based on the work plans.

3.4 How is the DUNS number used during the review?

The DUNS number is one of the items considered during the financial review. A DUNS number establishes an organization's credit score and so should be established as soon as possible prior to submitting an application.

Added July 12, 2013

3.5 Selection Criteria Q18 asks about staff positions. Is a full time RSVP Director required for this competition or can there be a part time RSVP Director?

According to RSVP Federal Regulation 45 CFR Part 2553.23 (c): A sponsor may negotiate the employment of a part-time project director with the Corporation when it can be demonstrated that such an arrangement will not adversely affect the size, scope and quality of project operations.

4. EGRANTS

4.1. When starting my application in eGrants, do I select 'new' or 'renewal'?

ALL APPLICANTS should select 'new.' This includes incumbent RSVPs.

If you selected 'new' the application type on the left side of the screen will say 'new.' Your application will not include any information from previous grant applications.

If you selected 'renewal' the application type on the left side of the screen will say 'new grant/previous grantee.' Information from previously awarded grants will already be populated in the application.

If you selected 'renewal,' please delete the application and begin again with a 'new' application.

4.2. How do I enter my authorized representative name in my application?

The authorized representative for your organization must login to eGrants with their own user account, click on the assurances and conditions, and submit the grant application. This will allow their name to show up as the authorized representative for the grant application.

4.3. I cannot complete the **validate** function for the performance measures. When I go to validate, it says that you have to have a performance measure for all objectives. What am I doing wrong?

It is likely that you have checked an objective on the first Performance Measure screen and have not entered a work plan for that objective. Contact the National Service Hotline if further assistance is needed.

4.4. What should be entered in the "Other" narrative section?

The "Other" narrative section does not apply at this time during the competition. Enter 'N/A.'

Added July 26, 2013

4.5. In the Healthy Futures Focus Area, I would like to use both the H8 output and H9 outcome for the food delivery service activity, but only the H8 output for the transportation service activity (with no outcome selected). How do I do this in eGrants?

In the Performance Measure Module, first complete a PM selecting both H8 and H9 and checking the food delivery service activity. Once that PM has been added, add another PM, selecting H8 and no outcome, and selecting transportation as the service activity.

Added August 2, 2013

4.6. In order to estimate the length of my narratives, I am trying to set up my word document to correspond exactly with the spacing and font size that eGrants uses for the printable version of an application. What spacing and font does eGrants use?

eGrants uses Georgia font, 11 point. The line spacing is 1.8, multiple. The header is 0.81" from the top, the footer is 0.24" from the bottom, the left indentation is 0.08", the right indentation is 0.12".

Added August 28, 2013

4.7. How do I change my project address in eGrants?

The project address should be updated in two places:

1. Under 'My Account' from your eGrants homepage.
2. In the 'Applicant Info' section of the application you are submitting. Click on 'View/Edit' under 'Select a Project' to update the address in this section.

5. BUDGET

5.1. There are two sections to enter the Source of Matching Funds, one in Budget Section I and another in Budget Section II. Do I have to complete both?

It depends on which sections have your non-federal funds. If you include non-federal funds (grantee share) in the budget for both Budget Section I and Budget Section II, then you would complete the Source of Matching Funds in both Budget Section I and Budget Section II. If you only have non-federal funds in one of the budget sections, then you would only complete the Source of Matching Funds for the particular section where you budget your grantee share.

5.2. In the indirect cost budget section, if we enter our indirect costs in the grantee share column rather than the CNCS share column, do we still have to submit our indirect cost rate agreement?

Yes. Your indirect cost rate agreement must be submitted regardless of whether the indirect costs are in the CNCS share or the grantee share.

5.3. How do I know what volunteer insurance to include in the budget?

For information about required volunteer insurance and other reimbursable expenses, please review the cost reimbursement section of the Federal Regulations, § 2553.43. A link to the Federal Regulations is found on page 18 of the *Notice*.

5.4. Is there a formula for determining the non-federal share we should budget?

Yes. The RSVP non-federal share requirement — 10% in Year 1, 20% in Year 2, and 30% in Year 3 and subsequent years — is calculated as a percentage of the total project budget. For

example, if your total budget is \$100,000, the required non-federal share for Year One would be \$10,000 and the federal share would be \$90,000. The amount listed in the Grant Opportunity Summaries is the federal share.

5.5. Will cash or in-kind contributions be accepted as part of the required non-federal share?

Yes. The RSVP Program Regulations in 45 CFR 2553.72(2), state that: “a grantee is responsible for identifying non-Corporation funds which may include in-kind contributions.”

5.6. Is there a mandatory requirement to reimburse volunteers for transportation and meals or is this at the discretion of each program?

This is at the discretion of each RSVP but the applicant’s plan for doing so will be taken into account when rating Q21 according to the selection criteria.

5.7. Should 5% of the RSVP project director’s salary and benefits be included in the Excess column of the budget to account for time spent fund raising?

If the RSVP project director engages in fundraising activities, time spent on these activities cannot be paid for through CNCS funds or through non-federal funds that are part of the required non-federal share. If time is spent on fundraising, the Excess column should reflect the amount of time that is spent on fundraising.

5.8. Please clarify how the “Excess Amount” category is to be used in calculating the budget.

The Excess column of the budget can be used to reflect the amount of non-federal cash and in-kind contributions generated by a sponsor in excess of the required percentage. If time is spent on fundraising, the Excess column should reflect the amount of time spent on fundraising.

5.9. We do not yet have an approved negotiated indirect cost rate agreement but we hope to have one in the next few months. How should we handle this?

At the time the application is submitted, if an indirect cost rate agreement is not yet approved, the costs would have to be budgeted as direct costs. If the application is awarded and the indirect cost rate agreement is approved, an amendment could be done at a later time to adjust the budget for the new indirect cost rate agreement.

Added August 2, 2013

5.10. Can Community Service Block Grant Funds be used as part of the non-federal share?

Yes.

Added August 9, 2013

5.11. Can time that a volunteer (RSVP volunteer or community volunteer) spends driving RSVP members to RSVP related activities be used as in-kind as long as the hours are not counted toward RSVP volunteer hours if they are a RSVP member?

No. Time donated by non-RSVP volunteers can only be used as in-kind for necessary project operational functions. Driving volunteers is not considered a necessary project operational function. Time donated by RSVP volunteers in this capacity cannot be used as in-kind.

5.12. Can volunteer time completing office duties for the RSVP Director or Coordinator benefiting the RSVP program be counted as in-kind as long as the hours are not counted toward RSVP volunteer hours if the person is an RSVP volunteer?

No. RSVP volunteers can perform non-budgeted staff functions as part of their service activities. Because this is an allowable RSVP service activity, it cannot be counted as in-kind.

5.13. Can space donated for the Tri-ad meetings for citizens 55 years or older (not all are RSVP members but all are over 55) be used as in-kind?

No. If this space were used only for RSVP, it could be counted as in-kind. However, the proposed use of space is not for an RSVP event.

5.14. If current RSVP project staff spend time preparing the grant application for RSVP Competition (including listening to T/TA sessions, writing the application, etc.), is this time to be counted as fundraising in our current project budget?

Yes. If time is spent working on a new or renewal grant application, it is considered fundraising. When time is spent on continuation applications for RSVP, this is not considered fundraising as it is a requirement of an awarded grant. For clarification, please contact your CNCS State Office.

5.15. Can federal funds from other sources be used towards the non-federal match?

No. The exception to this is if the funds are specifically designated from the federal agency to be used as match on a federal grant. Or, if the funds pass through another entity, as is the case with Community Service Block Grant Funds. All RSVP grants must operate in accordance with the OMB Cost Principles, which can be found in links on page 18 of the RSVP NOFO.

Added August 16, 2013

5.16. Can you provide any additional information about how to budget for and obtain the required volunteer insurance as described in 45 CFR § 2553.43? If my organization only recruits volunteers who already have health insurance and automobile insurance, does this meet the requirement? Are we only required to provide the same coverage that we provide our employees?

An organization cannot limit volunteer recruitment to only volunteers with health insurance and automobile insurance. The coverage provided to employees is not likely to meet all of the requirements for RSVP volunteer insurance.

For more information about required insurance, see pages 80-83 of the RSVP Handbook: http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/rsvp_handbook.pdf Please note portions of this handbook have not been updated. However, the insurance information on pages 80-83 is accurate. Volunteer insurance could be obtained through an organization such as CIMA: <http://www.cimaworld.com/nonprofits/protecting-volunteers/> or another volunteer insurance provider.

Added August 23, 2013

5.17. Can the insurance be in the form of gift cards for a flat amount of hours for volunteers?

No. The required insurance coverage (accident, liability and excess automobile for volunteers driving their personal cars to volunteer assignments) is group coverage, not individual policies. Insurance is paid for by the sponsor organization through an agency that provides volunteer insurance, such as CIMA. The insurance is a supplemental volunteer insurance, as described in the RSVP Handbook, linked in question 5.16. Insurance is required for all RSVP projects and must cover all RSVP volunteers serving.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

6.1. Page 1, Question 3 of the Financial Management Survey asks if you have received CNCS funding previously and if so specify grant numbers. We have had CNCS funding for many years. What grant numbers should be listed?

You only need to list your current or most recent CNCS grant numbers.

6.2. We are an incumbent RSVP and plan to graduate volunteer stations and bring on new stations. Should the station roster include all current stations or should it include only those that we plan to have as part of our RSVP after we graduate stations?

The station roster should include only those volunteer stations with which you currently have a Memorandum of Understanding. Later in process, depending on the outcome of the competition, you will be instructed to revise and submit a current roster, reflecting the changes you have made from the old grant to the new grant application.

6.3. The "Attachments" listed at the end of the Financial Management Survey includes: "Schedule of Federal Funds" What is the Schedule of Federal Funds"?

The Aggregate Dollar Amount of Funding Form will be a sufficient document for the Schedule of Federal Funds.

6.4. If our audit is not done for this year, can we submit last year's audit?

Yes. The instructions say to submit your most recent audit. If this year's audit is not finished, then the previous year's audit is the most recent audit.

6.5. When sending the attachments to 2014RSVPAttachments@cns.gov, should I send each one separately or combine all the documents into one document?

When sending the required documents for your application, please ensure that each document is submitted as a separate attachment. If necessary, you can submit more than one email but all required documents for your application should be submitted as separate documents attached to the email. Please do not scan all documents into one PDF and send as one attachment.

Added July 26, 2013

6.6 On the Financial Management Survey, can you explain 'Delegations of Authority' as found in Section C: Organizational Policies and Procedures?

Delegation of authority is the formal written conveyance from one person to another of authority to bind the organization to a legally enforceable obligation. Delegation is usually restricted to full-time organization employees.

The organization executive management empowers, authorizes, and grants responsibility to specific organizational positions through the organization's policies and procedures.

Delegations of authority that may be considered are:

- 1) Short Term – Each level of management should establish protocols for delegation when they anticipate being absent due to illness, vacation, leave, or extended business trips. Delegations should be documented and distributed to the appropriate departments within the business area.
- 2) Long term – Any delegation of a long term nature should be approved by the executive management.

6.7 On the Financial Management Survey, can you explain 'Standards for Use of Federal Funds Policy' as found in Section C: Organizational Policies and Procedures?

This one is more interpretative, one way to define it is ensuring that compliance and accounting staff that are responsible for the allocation of Federal grant costs based on their allowability and their conformity with Federal cost principles to determine the allowability of costs.

A second way to determine this is to have policies and procedures in place to adhere to the terms of acceptance of the grant. By accepting funds under the grant, the grantee agrees to comply with all terms and conditions of the grant and all assurances and certifications made in the grant application, and all applicable federal statutes, regulations and guidelines. The grantee agrees to administer the funded program in accordance with the approved grant

application and budget(s), supporting documents, and other representations made in support of the approved grant application.

6.8 In question 16 of the Financial Management Survey, my organization answers “yes” our organization performs cost center accounting. Is there something additional that is needed?

No additional information is required at this time.

Added August 2, 2013

6.9. Where can I find a form for the Negotiated Indirect Cost Agreement?

Forms are not provided for the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement as part of this competition. If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement already in place, then you should have a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement from your cognizant federal agency. In that case, you would send a copy of that document as part of your application.

Added August 30, 2013

6.10. What is a statement of audit status and who is responsible for submitting an audit to the Audit Clearinghouse?

The statement of audit status is simply a short written statement from your organization that includes all of the information requested in item 12 of the document table on page 17 of the Grant Application Instructions. If your organization is subject to an A-133 audit, your organization is responsible for submitting it the Audit Clearinghouse. Review the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133 links on page 18 of the RSVP Notice for more information about how to submit the audit to the Audit Clearinghouse.

7. VOLUNTEERS AND VOLUNTEER STATIONS

7.1. Is the number of volunteers listed in Appendix A the number of volunteers per year or the total over three years?

The number of volunteers in Appendix A is the total minimum number of volunteers that should be reflected in the application narratives, work plans, and budget. You would have three years to recruit this number of volunteers. For example, if Appendix A lists 100 volunteers, it is expected that by the time you report on your project at the end of the third year, there would be at least 100 volunteers currently serving with your RSVP. Your application may propose to have more than 100 volunteers, but could not propose less than 100 volunteers.

7.2. We are applying for an available grant opportunity and proposing a new program with new volunteer stations. Could the volunteers already engaged in the current RSVP program enroll in our new RSVP program or must we recruit volunteers that are new to RSVP?

New grantees should manage the current program distribution attributed to the grant being applied for, in order to minimize disruptions to the current volunteer stations where possible. If you are partnering with new volunteer stations your proposal should consider assessment of current volunteers' alignment with the proposed volunteer stations, and a plan for recruitment of new volunteers as appropriate. Should you propose not to partner with some current volunteer stations associated with the grant opportunity for which you are applying, your proposal should demonstrate a coordinated alignment of existing volunteers with the remaining volunteer stations.

7.3. What types of organizations can be volunteer stations?

A volunteer station can be a public agency, secular or faith-based 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.

7.4. My RSVP receives funding from other sources that may not approve of us graduating volunteer stations or changing our activities to fit the new Performance Measures. Can my RSVP continue our current RSVP activities above the allowable 30% maximum for community priorities using support from other funding streams?

No. These activities outside of the Performance Measure requirements could not be considered part of your RSVP.

7.5. What constitutes a volunteer "serving intensively on short term assignments?" For example, are there a minimum number of short term assignments required to justify counting a volunteer experience? Is there a benchmark for the number of hours per day or total assignment hours that is considered reasonable?

There is no minimum number of hours or assignments. This will vary based on each particular volunteer assignment developed by the RSVP.

7.6. Do all applicant organizations have three years to recruit the target number of volunteers proposed in the application and meet the Performance Measure requirements?

Yes.

7.7. Do I have to maintain the same programming and service activities as the current RSVP project?

The application asks applicants to describe their plans and infrastructure to responsibly graduate volunteer stations to meet changing community needs and do so in a way that

minimizes disruption to current volunteers where possible. All applications should describe how they plan to minimize the disruption of volunteers if they propose graduating volunteer stations that are included in an incumbent grant. Please see Appendix C of the Notice for additional guidance.

7.8. What if the community needs shift during the three year period and the focus area volunteer numbers become a different percentage?

CNCS is still working on issues pertaining to the implications of failing to meet Performance Measure requirements by the end of the three-year grant period or failing to meet Performance Measures as described in your grant application as it was originally awarded. These decisions are CNCS Agency-wide rather than solely the decision of Senior Corps. These issues will be addressed at a later time.

Added July 26, 2013

7.9. My organization has a current partnership with a senior mentoring organization (in this case, OASIS), how do I know if this organization and the service activities associated with it would result in an allowable volunteer station and allowable volunteer service activities for this competition?

If the service activities align with those described in Appendix B and if both the volunteers and organization as volunteer station can adhere to the requirements as described in the RSVP Federal Regulations, linked to on page 18 of the 2014 RSVP NOFO, then you may propose that this organization be a volunteer station in your application and you may include the service activities in your work plans.

Added August 2, 2013

7.10. For this grant, is an organization required to recruit and place volunteers in multiple agencies? Or is it acceptable for an agency to recruit and place volunteers solely within our own agency?

This question is addressed in RSVP Program Regulation CFR 45 § 2553.61

When may a sponsor serve as a volunteer station?

The sponsor may function as a volunteer station, provided that no more than 5% of the total number of volunteers budgeted for the project are assigned to it in administrative or support positions. This limitation does not apply to the assignment of volunteers to other programs administered by the sponsor or special volunteer activities of the project. The RSVP project itself may function as a volunteer station or may initiate special volunteer activities provided the Corporation agrees that these activities are in accord with program objectives and will not hinder overall project operations.

As long as an organization meets all RSVP Program Regulations and Performance Measure requirements, it is up to the organization to determine how volunteers will be placed in service activities and at volunteer stations.

Added August 16, 2013

7.11. What does it mean to be a licensed or certified RSVP volunteer station? Can I find a list of the stations in my area?

If a volunteer station is a non-profit organization, they must be able to verify their non-profit status. If a volunteer station is a proprietary health care facility, they must be able to verify their status as a health care facility. If a volunteer station is a public agency, they must be able to verify their status as a public agency. The license or verification refers to the type of organization and does not refer to an RSVP certification.

If the station provides services, such as health care, that require licenses from the state or another entity to operate and provide the services, the station must have proof of the appropriate licenses.

Lists of volunteer stations will not be made public as part of this competition.

Added August 23, 2013

7.12. My organization is applying for a vacant service area. Can we receive a list of volunteer stations for the previous project?

This type of information will not be released as part of this competition. Keep in mind FAQ 7.7, which addresses previous service activities and programming. You are welcome to contact the previous sponsor and request this information or submit a FOIA request.

Added August 30, 2013

7.13. If RSVP volunteers are placed in Head Start centers for service activities, can that Head Start center count that volunteer for their non-federal share? The concern is that since the volunteer is RSVP then the center wouldn't be able to count their time as well.

RSVP volunteers placed at Head Start cannot be counted towards the non-federal share for Head Start.

8. APPENDIX A

8.1. The geographic service areas as described in Appendix A vary. Some include counties, some include cities, and some include both cities and counties. Are we required to have a volunteer station in each city or county listed?

Yes. You should plan to have volunteer stations in the geographic service area as it is listed with the service opportunity, including all cities or counties listed.

8.2 If I apply and am awarded two adjacent opportunities, can they be combined into one grant?

Yes. This could be implemented during the first year of the three-year project period.

8.3 What does the 'X' mean in Appendix A? For example, CA-3X?

Any opportunity with an 'X' is a previously relinquished or closed service area. This means that there is not currently an RSVP operating in that location and there are no current volunteers.

8.4 My organization is the incumbent for an RSVP opportunity. Can the number of volunteers for the opportunity in Appendix A be updated?

No.

Added June 14, 2013

8.5 How do I know the opportunity number for the geographic service area?

All opportunity numbers are listed in Appendix A, which is found on the Notice website.

Added July 12, 2013

8.6 My service area is not listed in Appendix A. How are service areas for Appendix A selected and can mine be added?

Appendix A is formed based on the previous RSVP grant cycle and any RSVP relinquishments that have not been awarded through competition. Additional service areas cannot be added to Appendix A because the available opportunities for RSVP Competition are defined by the Serve America Act. A list of service areas for the 2015 RSVP Competition can be found at: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/site-policy-and-notice/foia-and-privacy-act/electronic-reading-room-and-library>

9.0 PERFORMANCE MEASURE

Please review the RSVP Performance Measure FAQs found on the Knowledge Network: <https://www.nationalserviceresources.org/npm/rsvp>. The RSVP Performance Measure FAQs include Performance Measure questions answered during the 2013 RSVP Competition.

RSVP Performance Measure FAQs received during the 2014 RSVP Competition will be added below as they are received. Generally, questions that ask for guidance on which Performance Measure to select for a specific activity will not be answered. Please review Appendix B to assist you in determining which Performance Measures to select for a specific service activity.

Added July 26, 2013

9.0.1 Are we allowed to have more than one work plan for the same service activity in one focus area, or do we combine all service activities? For example, volunteers drive for an out-of-

county transport program that maintains separate records. Different volunteers drive seniors in-county for other stations and are not related to the out-of-county program. Both are transportation with the goal to allow seniors to live independently and have increased social support.

Yes, you may have more than one work plan with the same service activity if you would like to differentiate between the work plans in some way. However, if the community need, outputs, and outcomes align, you may include identical service activities in one work plan. You can choose whether to use one work plan or separate them.

Added August 9, 2013

9.0.2 Can I add additional work plans in year 2 or 3 of my project?

When a continuation application is submitted for year 2 and year 3, it is anticipated that very few changes will be needed to the work plans because the work plans are the goals to be achieved in the third year of the project.

Added August 16, 2013

9.0.3. Can you have 0 unduplicated volunteers in a work plan if they are all serving as unduplicated in some other work plan? In this case you would only have total number of volunteers for this work plan.

eGrants will not allow a zero in an unduplicated volunteer field. You must have at least 1 unduplicated volunteer in each work plan.

Added August 28, 2013

9.0.4. If we are unable to track an outcome for a work plan, should we place the volunteers and the service activity in Other Community Priorities instead? For example, our school system does not track job placement for GED students, so we cannot report on O10.

Possibly. If you cannot find a way to measure the outcome, you can use the activity under Other Community Priorities. However, you may want to consider looking at the Education Focus Area, which has outcomes that measure the number of students acquiring a GED rather than the number placed in jobs. You could also consider using the output only and not using the outcome.

9.1 PERFORMANCE MEASURE: EDUCATION

Added June 14, 2013

9.1.1 If an RSVP volunteer is serving many children in a classroom, do all of the children have to meet the definition of “Economically Disadvantaged?”

No. According to Appendix B, “Grantees must demonstrate that the children in the program come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and/or have special or exceptional needs,

or explain an outreach strategy to increase the proportions of economically disadvantaged children and/or children with special or exceptional needs in the program.”

Added June 21, 2013

9.1.2 Could you please provide a brief description of previous/current RSVP education programs?

For information about RSVP and education, please review the education section of Appendix B. Further details, such as sample work plans, will not be shared.

Added August 16, 2013

9.1.3. Appendix B describes the limits of the use of state standardized tests for Education Performance Measures. How would an applicant go about requesting an exception (as described in Appendix B) for the use of a state standardized test?

In the work plan instrument description, the applicant would need to include appropriate justification for the use of a state standardized test. If that application were selected for funding, the funding selection is considered an approval for the use of the state standardized test.

Added August 28, 2013

9.1.4. Page 14 of Appendix B states, "Obtaining test scores from school systems: For programs not themselves administering the test, the program will need to have some form of agreement, such as an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with the school to ensure that data for the needed children can be secured. Data are needed on the group of children you are serving, but not on individual children. Requesting data in this way is not likely to violate FERPA (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)."

Is this being told as what is expected or do you want us to have this written in the grant what we have done to ensure this? If so, where do you want it to be in the work plan or narrative?

Appendix B should be used as instructions and requirements for using each performance measure. The Notice and Grant Application Instructions are the requirements for the application submitted. If you find that part of the Notice Selection Criteria or the Grant Application Instructions would be a good fit for addressing the information you have highlighted from Appendix B, you may provide relevant information in either the narrative or the work plans.

9.1.5. Please clarify the following from Page 12 of Appendix B:

"Education program: A program in which CNCS-supported activities help students maintain enrollment in and succeed in school (except mentoring programs). The help that grantees provide does not need to be in direct service to the students. However, the CNCS-supported activities must provide direct support that makes the program possible." The last two sentences seem to contradict.

These instructions are specific to ED 21 and ED 2 only. RSVP volunteers in these measures can do service activities that lead to the output or outcome even if the RSVP volunteers are not directly interacting with the beneficiaries. The service activity description would need to include a complete explanation of the activity.

9.2 PERFORMANCE MEASURE: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Added June 28, 2013

9.2.1 I am working on a work plan for tax preparation services for the low income and elderly. For the service activity options, can you please explain the difference between “Income Tax Tutoring” and “Assisting VITA”?

VITA is an official IRS program that uses IRS-certified volunteers to assist in tax preparation for individuals that fall within certain income guidelines. If your tax assistance activities do not fall into an official VITA Program, then the activities most likely should be counted as “Income Tax Tutoring” instead of “Assisting VITA.”

9.3 PERFORMANCE MEASURE: HEALTHY FUTURES

Added June 28, 2013

9.3.1 If I am using the Senior Companion survey tool for independent living, can I modify the tool?

For RSVP, the survey tools are sample tools and are not required. If you choose to use the tool, you can modify the tool as needed to fit your project needs.

Added August 16, 2013

9.3.2. Can a service activity count under H13 or H14 if the activity is education to respite providers and the RSVP volunteers do not actually spend any time with the homebound older adults or individuals with disabilities? For example, does a six-week evidenced based educational program designed to teach family caregivers how to take better care of themselves fit in H13 or H14?

In order for an activity to count in H13 or H14, actual respite must be provided. The education activity described would fit better in H4.

Added August 23, 2013

9.3.3. In the Healthy Futures Performance Measure H11: Number of individuals receiving support, services, education and/or referrals to alleviate long-term hunger. There is a note listed which says "Other Notes: Programs may not focus their services solely on providing referrals to Federal assistance programs."

We are hoping to have RSVP volunteers educate and assist eligible individuals complete applications for SNAP - ideally while they were helping at local farmers markets and potentially

doing this in conjunction with some nutrition education sessions. Does this mean that it could not be counted under this performance measure?

If the volunteers are doing more than just enrolling clients into SNAP, like performing the nutrition education sessions, then they can be counted under H11. As long as providing referrals to Federal assistance programs is not the *only* service provided, and the activity meets all other requirements for H11, the service activity could be part of H11.

9.4 PERFORMANCE MEASURE: CAPACITY BUILDING

Added July 12, 2013

9.4.1 Where can I find the pre/post assessment tool referenced on pages 46 and 47 of Appendix B for Capacity Building?

A sample pre/post assessment tool has not been developed for Capacity Building. You may create your own pre/post assessment tool as long as it meets the requirements described in Appendix B.

10. OTHER

Added June 14, 2013

10.1 Are the three webinars entitled “eGrants” the same or do they cover different areas of the process?

They are the same.

10.2 Where can I find a list of grantees from the 2013 RSVP Competition?

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2013/rsvp-awards-chart-2013>

Added June 28, 2013

10.3 Where can I find a list of the current sponsor for an RSVP in my area?

Lists of incumbent sponsors and their service areas for the 2014 and 2015 RSVP Competitions can be found on the CNCS FOIA page: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/site-policy-and-notice/foia-and-privacy-act/electronic-reading-room-and-library>

Added July 12, 2013

10.4 Where can I find other information about the 2013 RSVP Competition?

You will find the external review form used in the 2013 RSVP Competition at: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/open-government-initiative/transparency/results-grants-competition> In following with the CNCS Grant Competition Posting Policy, all other

information will be posted no later than 90 business days after July 1, 2013, which is the date all final awards were made.

Added July 26, 2013

10.5 If my organization is awarded a grant for a vacant service area or if we receive an RSVP award and we are not the incumbent organization, what information will we receive about the previous RSVP that was serving the geographic area?

Depending on the information that was submitted from the previous grantee, you may receive lists of previous volunteer stations, volunteers, and advisory council members.

10.6 How do I know if my Letter of Intent to Apply was received?

You should have received an automatic reply if your Letter of Intent to Apply was successfully submitted. A Letter of Intent to Apply is highly encouraged but is not required.

Added August 23, 2013

10.7. In the Executive Summary, should the service activities and sample outcomes listed be only from the Primary Focus Area?

The majority of service activities and outcomes listed should be from the Primary Focus Area, but other significant service activities and outcomes could be included from other Focus Areas.