

WV State AmeriCorps Competitive Grant

Technical Assistance Call FAQ

November 9, 2017

Q: We are a currently funded formula program in a continuation year. Does it make sense for us to apply under competitive this year or should we wait until the end of our current formula cycle?

A: Volunteer West Virginia believes that additional feedback is always beneficial to programs; therefore, we recommend that interested formula programs submit a competitive application. Please keep in mind that the Commission will use the originally submitted application (the application submitted before peer and staff reviews) as the program's formula application.

Q: If we want to create our own applicant determined performance measure, what should we keep in mind?

A: All performance measures must be aligned. To learn more about this requirement, please review the information on page 3 of the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#). Also, any applicant determined performance measure must demonstrate that it is significantly different than any CNCS national performance measure. When creating an applicant determined performance measure, please review your measure against the Performance Measure Checklist - Appendix B in the [Performance Measure Instructions](#).

Q: What score does my application need to receive in order to be recommended to the national competition?

A: Volunteer West Virginia will not recommend applicants who have an average score of 79 or lower on BOTH the peer review and staff review

Q: When is the deadline for my full competitive application?

A: The deadline for the full competitive application to be submitted via eGrants for new and re-competing applicants is 5 pm on December 13, 2017. The deadline for the full competitive application to be submitted via eGrants for continuation applicants is 5 pm on January 2, 2018.

Q: Do the 20 required members all need to be full-time members or can we have a variety of member slots?

A: Applicants can have a variety of member slot types as long as they meet the minimum number of 20 total slots.

Q: We are a newly funded formula applicant in the first year of funding. Should we consider applying to the national competition?

A: No. Volunteer West Virginia requires all new programs to complete a full three-year formula cycle before applying to the national competition.

Q: Will successful applicants be notified on Monday, May 14th or Tuesday, May 15th? The release states Monday, May 15th.

A: Applicants will be notified of their grants status on Tuesday, May 15th.

Q: If we are interested in applying for the alternative match waiver, do we submit our original budget at our required match level or at the level we are requesting with the alternative match waiver?

A: Applicants must submit the original application with the required level of match. If the applicant's grant is funded and the alternative match waiver is approved, an amendment to the grant will be opened so the applicant can adjust the budget accordingly.

Q: We are a new organization interested in applying for AmeriCorps funding. Are we eligible to apply under the national competition?

A: No. The national competition is only open to currently funded competitive or formula programs. New organizations are encouraged to apply to the formula grants process which will kick-off in late January or early February.

Q: Will the technical assistance call be on Friday the 10th or Thursday the 9th?

A: The first technical assistance call will be on Thursday, November 9th.

Q: How do I know if our evaluation meets CNCS Requirements?

A: Applicants can review the evaluation section of the [NOFO](#) (page 18), the [Mandatory Supplemental Guidance](#), the [Evidence Checklist](#), and the [CNCS Evaluation Resources](#) webpage for additional information.

Q: On November 1, 2017, I tried to open a renewal application in eGrants, but received a message that no applications were in a continuable state. What do I do?

A: The program year 2018 grant was not open to sub-applications until approximately 10 am on 11/1/2017. If applicants logged into eGrants prior to this date and time then they most likely received an error message; however, now that the application is open, applicants should have no trouble beginning their applications. If you do encounter any eGrants issues, please e-mail Cassandra.L.Argo@wv.gov for assistance.

Q: What is the difference between competitive and formula?

A: The main differences are: 1) competitive applicants compete against all national applications while formula applicants only compete against West Virginia applications and 2) CNCS makes the funding determinations for competitive while Volunteer West Virginia makes the funding determinations for formula. All other requirements, timelines, and reports are the same.

Q: Can our new application have a start date prior to our current program's end date? We would like to better align our program with the school calendar.

A: Program enrollment periods cannot overlap; however, programs may change their current grant's enrollment end date to allow an earlier enrollment start date for the new grant application.

Q: If we are currently funded formula program and decide not to apply competitively, what do we need to do?

A: Formula programs can simply e-mail Cassandra.L.Argo@wv.gov to let the Commission know that you will not be applying competitively this year.

Q: Do we need to enter narrative in Section D like in years past?

A: This year, applicants only need to enter the words "See Budget" in this section. The information included should be used by applicants to check the accuracy of their Budget Narrative before submission in eGrants.

Q: In the past, we have placed our narrative sources at the end of the document, so the important narrative pieces stay within the page limit. Is this still acceptable?

A: Programs need to make this decision for themselves; however, they should keep in mind that sources are required for all evidence included in the application. Evidence without sources within the page limit may not be reviewed or scored.

Q: Our Healthy Futures focus does not align with the PY 2018 Funding Priorities. What does this mean?

A: Healthy Futures is still a focus area for the Corporation; however, the Healthy Future Funding Priority has been narrowed to the reduction and prevention of prescription drug and opioid abuse. Your program may move forward with your current program design. You would, however, not be able to select Healthy Futures as a Funding Priority in your application since your current design does not meet the new definition.

Q: Does changing the Enrollment Period affect our currently enrolled members?

A: No. It only changes the timeframe the program can enroll members.

Q: Where do I look for my continuation application?

A: Select Continuation/Renewal under the Creating an Application heading on your organization's eGrants homepage (see image below).



If you are unable to find the application from this link, please select View All under View My Grants/Applications on your organization's eGrants home page, search for your grant number, and select the correct application to edit (see image below).



If still can't find the correct application, please contact the help desk by submitting a help ticket from the eGrants website or call 1-800-942-2677 for assistance.

Q: We are a currently funded formula applicant who is applying under the competitive grants process for the first time. Do we use the same eGrants site, account, and log-in information?

A: Yes. You will use the same eGrants site, account, and log-in information to submit a competitive grant application.

Q: We are a currently funded formula applicant who is applying under the competitive grants process for the first time, so do we select New or Continuation?

A: As a first time competitive grant applicant, you will select New; however, your match level will remain on the same schedule. For instance, if you were a 3rd year formula applicant, your match level for your new competitive application will advance to the year 4 level of 26%.

Q: Am I correct in believing that the evidence only needs to address a single aspect of our program's intervention and not each intervention?

A: You are correct. Applicants are only required to provide evidence for a single intervention outlined in the application.

Q: What is the CNCS definition of a federally approved indirect cost rate?

A: A negotiated indirect cost rate received from the Nonfederal entity's cognizant agency for indirect costs. CNCS has provided this [Indirect Cost Rate FAQ](#) as well as details on how to budget using a federally approved indirect cost rate on pages 31-32 of the [Application Instructions](#).

Q: If we cannot submit the application by the deadline, how do we request an extension?

A: Applicants who need to request an extension must submit an e-mail to Cassandra.L.Argo@wv.gov no later than the day before the deadline. The e-mail must include a detailed description of the extenuating circumstances that are preventing the delayed submission.

Q: Where do I find the funding priorities?

A: The funding priorities can be found on page 3 of the [NOFO](#) as well as in the [Mandatory Supplemental Guidance](#).

Q: Can we continue to submit questions to Cassandra.L.Argo@wv.gov throughout this week?

A: Yes. Questions will continue to be accepted via e-mail through the application deadline. All questions will be addressed in written form, distributed to all applicants, and posted at www.volunteerwv.org.

Q: As a first-time competitive applicant who is currently funded in the formula portfolio, will our match level reset to 24%?

A: No, your match level will remain on the same schedule. For instance, if you were a 3rd year formula applicant, your match level for your new competitive application will advance to the year 4 level of 26%.

Q: If we are approved for the alternative match waiver, is it a permanent approval or will we have to reapply every year?

A: Programs will have to reapply for the alternative match waiver each year.

Q: Is it possible to request an alternative match waiver level higher than 35%?

A: Yes. Programs may request an alternative match waiver level higher than 35%.