VWV Competitive Grants Process FAQs

November 21, 2018- December 4, 2018

When we are entering information on the eGrants MSYs/Member Tab can we list our program-wide focus areas / objectives, with all our MSY allocated, but then only list performance measure for one part of it?

- Yes, you can. You will allocate 100% of MSYs to focus areas and objectives, but you will not need to assign 100% of MSYs to performance measures. Please see further guidance under Application Instructions, Attachment A: Performance Measure Instructions, MSYs/Members Tab, p. 17.

How do I delete our previous performance measures in the eGrants MSYs/Member Tab section?

- To edit a performance measure click the 'Edit' button. To delete a measure, click 'Delete' To create a new performance measure, click the 'Add New Performance Measure' button. Please see further guidance under Application Instructions, Attachment A: Performance Measure Instructions, Home Page, p 16.

I'm reading over the questions on the website from October 15, 2018-Nov. 5, 2018. I'm not sure what Question 7 is referring to. Are they applying for an education award program only?

- That answer was for an Education Award Program Fixed Amount Grant. The Maximum Cost per MSY table for different grant types is on page 10 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Are we able to edit the program title by deleting recovery from Energy Express AmeriCorps-Recovery?

- This is not a recovery application. Please do not select that title.

Do we need to have a secondary focus area?

- No, it is not required to have a secondary focus area
- Please see Objectives Tab pg. 16-17 of the Application Instructions for further guidance

Under Performance Measures- We have entered data on all tabs with the exception of the summary tab? Does this indicate an error on our part?

- The performance measure tab has 5 sections. Make sure to answer every box until screen is green and frequently save your work. eGrants does not autosave. Look for the scroll bars to allow the screen to move to the right.
- The summary is used to validate performance measures and is not a box to fill with text.
- Please see the eGrants tutorial documents, which are located on our website and have been sent to you via email.

On the eGrants application section of the grant "new" is checked and we need to change it to "new/previous grantee" How do we do that?

- You do not need to change that information on your application. It will not affect your application.
- However, if you want to change the category from "new" to "continuation/renewal" you can do that by starting a fresh application which will provide you with previously submitted grant text.

In the Cost Efficiency/Budget Adequacy section the application directions say to enter "see budget". On page 8 of the application directions, where page numbers are discussed, it states what is included in narrative pages and lists the Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy section as a narrative page. This is referring to where we are to enter "see budget" correct?*)*

- That is correct

If we are applying for a new three-year grant, are we a continuation or a new/previous program?

- If you are recompeting (in the final year of a competitive funding cycle and applying for a new grant cycle), select Continuation/Renewal or New/Previous grantee. Please see further guidance under Applicant Info, p. 5 of the Application Instructions.

Since we are not doing anything with labor unions I need to select N/A on the eGrants application?

- Correct

For our evidence base we self-assign an evidence tier and then CNCS reviews and assigns their own evidence tier?

- Correct

We just have one performance measure. Should we have more than one?

- We do not encourage more than one performance measure. The requirement is one aligned performance measure which can be applicant determined or a national performance measure. You can include additional data in your narrative.

Do you know why we haven't been able to qualify for alternative match? Can we request feedback from CNCS?

- We will ask our CNCS program officer and see if they can supply feedback

Can we see a copy of previous program letters for alternative match that were successful?

- You will need to contact that specific program to get permission to view the letter

Can we modify our evaluation plan for this grant cycle?

- You can revise your evaluation plan from the past three years.

Additional Guidance:

- First, you want to look at the evaluation plan checklist to make sure you are meeting the minimum requirements for your plan
- Also, this year *funded* applicants are *receiving clarification requests* on their evaluation plan to have the plans approved by CNCS. This means that you will be required to make updates to your plan while working with your evaluator. This may occur in a short time frame after you have been notified that your application is being considered for an award. Please make sure that you are aware of who your evaluator will be and that the money for evaluation services is in the budget.
- The evaluation plan is up to the program to implement. The evaluation report is generated after you implement the plan. The report is used to provide evidence in the narrative of your next renewal application. The report helps document evidence for your intervention which will give you additional points in the evidence section.

Can we send a draft to Volunteer West Virginia for our alternative match request letter?

- Yes, we can review that. Please submit and we will give our response during the feedback period.

Additional

CNCS has new outcome studies with either moderate or positive impact for national service interventions. You can find those studies on the CNCS Evidence Exchange.