

VWV Competitive Grants Process FAQs

October 15, 2018- November 5, 2018

1.) Do you have a time frame on the 15th?

And can people going to this who are on staff (and paid through our current AmeriCorps grant) count hours for this from that grant or does the time also need to be charged to nonfederal sources?

- The time is tentative, but we are thinking of a start at 9:00am. It will be a full day of training.
- You cannot bill time for future application development to the current AmeriCorps grant.

2.) Are there any planning grant opportunities?

- Planning grant opportunities are part of the formula process which is in the Spring

3.) Is there a way that I could participate in the November 15 training remotely? We have webinar software and I could send someone with a web camera to use if needed.

- Yes, you can attend remotely. Please keep in mind that you will need to bring your own software and/or web camera and be responsible for set up and recording of the training. Also, we are planning to include more small group activities and work sessions this year, so if you attend remotely you won't be able to participate in that portion of the training.

4.) I understand that we need to have a draft completed before the training.

- The national applications are not due at the time of our training. They will be due in eGrants by 12/14/18 by 5pm and our training will be on 11/15/2018 from 9:00am- 5:00pm.

5.) We should submit this form if we intend to apply for competitive funding, not formula, correct?

- Yes, that is correct.

6.) Since we are state formula in our first year, I am assuming we can stay in formula funding next year and not apply for competitive funding?

- Correct

7.) For our intent, would our federal budget request be \$800 per member if we are doing the education award program again? Also, do I use the number of members or the MSY for the total budget requested?

- Amount of money per member is determined by member type. A FT member equals \$800.
- Total budget = # of MSY x Cost per MSY

8.) Since this is a competitive grant that we are applying for this time, would our match still be 50% since we have had formula grants?

- There is a chance of going back to 24% if the project is considered a new project by CNCS, but if they are continuing the same project, even an adaptation of the same project, they would remain at 50%.

Please see the CNCS guidance below:

“If an applicant is applying for a different program model (a new project), select New. Current and previous grantees need to get approval from their Program Officer to be considered a new project. CNCS will consider a project to be new if there is a meaningful difference between it and previous projects in a comparison of the following characteristics, among others: the objectives and priorities of the projects; the nature of the services provided; the program staff, participants, and volunteers involved; the geographic locations in which the services are provided; the populations served; and the proposed community partnerships. (§ 2522.340). Requests to be considered a new project should include information about how the new project differs from the previous project in the characteristics noted above. The request should also include the proposed name of the new project. CNCS staff will review the request to determine if the proposed project does represent a meaningful difference from the previous project or if the proposed project is an example of natural program evolution over time. If it is determined that the project is new, the Program Officer will create a new project in eGrants.”

9.) Would we be eligible to request an alternative match schedule given that the majority of our sites are in rural or severely economically distressed communities?

- You can apply. CNCS awards alternative match

10.) When should a program apply for competitive funding?

- The final decision to apply for competitive funding is made by the program.

11.) Who pays for the \$56.00 that goes towards the background check?

- The program pays for that. You can put it under federal share or cost share. Basically, it needs to be in your program budget.

12.) Do we have to pay the state provider one fee for the state and FBI check? Is it possible to separate the state and FBI fees? What about members that are continuing and do not need to the background check again? *Pending answer, will update soon.*

13.) Would the total be \$87.55 for the NSOPW, State and FBI Check? Does this include site supervisors?

- Yes, that is correct. Yes, it does include site supervisors.

14.) I noticed that Capacity Building removed the performance measure Volunteer Management. Does this mean that we must change our strategies for data collection?

- This performance measure, formally called Volunteer Management, has been broadened but is still represented within the output and outcome designated for Capacity Building. You should not have to change implementation or data collection.

15.) To confirm, for the focus area Capacity Building, the program cannot create applicant determined outputs and outcomes?

- Yes, that is correct.

16.) Will changes in this NOFO be carried forward into the next years?

- Our best guess is that the change will remain in place and possibly additional changes will be added next year. The CNCS Transition Plan may also inform the grants process.

17.) Do we count time on conference calls and in-person training as AmeriCorps time?

- Yes. Both are allowable AmeriCorps activities and can be logged in the training category. However, writing a grant for future federal funding is not an allowable activity under AmeriCorps time.