

VGF TA Call

1/12/18 @ 11AM

Attendees:

Lisa Tignor, Volunteer WV staff

Kelly Stadelman

Erin Reid

Kandi Workman

Joshua Donohew

Lisa Tignor moderated call, Krista Bradshaw took notes. Lisa provided an overview and purpose of the VGF Grant, highlighting specific goals of the grant. Technical Assistance conference call questions and answers, as well as those conducted via e-mail, will be posted on www.volunteerwv.org website under the Grants Tab in the FAQ link under the VGF section. The call was opened for questions:

Q1: Can large volunteer groups, (for example: college students on an alternative spring break) be counted in the 500 volunteer count?

A1: Yes, if they are new volunteers, or are volunteering for an organization they haven't volunteered with before.

Q2: Can AmeriCorps members performing direct service serve under the VGF grant?

A2: The short answer is no.

The longer explanation: No AmeriCorps member expenses can be charged to VGF. No AmeriCorps match can come from VGF. No match can be double counted (such as supervising both AmeriCorps and VGF.) The tasks would have to be in the AmeriCorps approved service description.

Also, this was taken from the Corporation for National & Community Service's FAQ on a similar question about VISTAs.

Can VGF funding be used to pay for supervision, support, living allowances, or required cost share of AmeriCorps VISTA members? AmeriCorps VISTA cost share cannot be paid for with other funding from CNCS, such as VGF funds. Similarly, if a VISTA sponsor is receiving a VISTA grant for program implementation (e.g., administering VISTA payroll), VGF funds cannot be used for "match" or to cover other grant-related expenses. As for whether VGF funds can be used to cover VISTA supervision expenses or other project support expenses, these expenses could be permissible within a VGF program design. Applicants should clearly set forth expenses intended to be covered by the grant in the application so they may be reviewed

Q3: Please give an example of a high-quality volunteer assignment.

A3: If the volunteer is engaged, has an enjoyable experience, and returns, it would be considered a high-quality assignment.

Q4: Will there be a clarification period once the grants are submitted?

A4: Yes, if needed.

Q5: Will Volunteer West Virginia supply a list of available evaluators?

A5: If asked, Volunteer West Virginia can supply a list of evaluators.

Q6: Would it be allowable for the volunteer center to create an app that mimicked a dating app where one could swipe to find a volunteer opportunity to recruit volunteers?

A6: Yes.

****** Questions that were emailed pre- and post- call. ******

Q7: I have some questions about what staff salary is allowed under the indirect cost method for determining organizational match:

If an information coordinator will be spending say 1 hour per day on Volunteer Center activities, can that be included as a match and should it be classified as indirect?

If the director of finance will necessarily be tracking the expenses, reimbursements, and any other necessary financial tracking of this grant, can a portion of that salary be included and would that be considered an indirect cost under the de minimus rate of 10%? (assuming no previously negotiated indirect cost rate and less than \$35 million in federal funding)

A7: Both of the suggested expenses are allowable as match. Include them in the personnel section. Do not include them as indirect since they are both directly contributing to the management of the funds.

Grant Applications are due on 1/16/18 by 5pm.