

**Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) Volunteer Center Funding
Volunteer Center & Local Infrastructure Support Grants for Volunteer
Management**

11/29/17 @ 11AM

Technical Assistance Call Questions & Answers (Q&A)

Staff 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 Questions & Answers (Q&A) link under the VGF section. The call was opened for questions:

Q1: Is there a way to print the on-line application?

A1: For your convenience, we downloaded a pdf of the application, and you can find it on the grants page of www.volunteerwv.org or click [here](#).

Q2: While applying for the grant on-line, can you partially fill it out and save it then go back to it later?

A2: It will only save a completed page. The application is divided into 5 pages. We recommend that you write your answers in WORD or some other format and then cut and paste into the text box. Also, you must be working from the same computer for it to remember you, because it is based on your IP address.

Q3: What items will the VGF grant pay for?

A3: Personnel, Admin, Contractual Services, Travel, etc. See full list of allowed expenses in the VGF Instructions on pages 6-7. VGF grant funds will be used to develop and/or support community-based entities to recruit, manage, and support volunteers. Volunteer West Virginia seeks to fund effective approaches that expand volunteering, strengthen the capacity of volunteer connector organizations to recruit and retain skill-based volunteers, and develop strategies to use volunteers effectively to solve problems.

Q3b: What items will the VGF grant NOT pay for?

A3b: The VGF grant is intended to develop NEW solutions for Volunteer Management in locations throughout West Virginia. You may not apply for funding solely for an existing service. Although we believe it is a worthwhile effort, you may not apply for funding for one organization to increase its own Volunteer Management programs.

Q4: Can you count current volunteers for the VGF grant project?

A4: No. It must be NEWLY recruited volunteers. Only individuals who have not volunteered for the organization where they are placed within the last year can be counted as NEW. Volunteers

who have served within the last year and volunteer for a new assignment will be counted as episodic (or reoccurring) volunteers and that number will also be reported during the grant period. 500 is a target for the first year. The goal for following years has not been decided. Applicants will be considered even if they cannot meet the goal of recruiting 500 new volunteers, inability to meet this target should not prevent an applicant from submitting a proposal.

Q5: Where will/can the volunteers come from?

A5: This is up to discretion of the VGF grant recipient/organization. Be creative!

Q6: If we partner with another organization to recruit volunteers, such as utilizing volunteers from a faith-based group, can we count those as newly recruited volunteers?

A6: If the volunteers from the faith-based group are matched with an organization that needs volunteers, they would be counted. (They are volunteering at a community site that needs volunteers, and in a position where they have not volunteered before.)

On the other hand, volunteers cannot be counted as new if they SOLELY continue to volunteer at the same organization in which they are already serving.

Q7: How will the VGF grant applications be reviewed?

A7: Via an external peer review panel process.

Q8: How to estimate cost for travel to the Focus Group meetings? Where will they be held?

A8: Focus Group meetings will likely be held near VGF grant recipients.

Q9: Describe purpose of the Volunteer Focus Group Meetings?

A9: Purpose is to provide facilitated regional forums for locals to discuss challenges, barriers and best practices of volunteer recruitment, retention and management. Focus groups are the first step in building two things 1) A Volunteer management training curriculum and 2) a network of volunteer management professionals in the state. The focus group requirement for these grants is applicable to the first year only, but the opportunity for continued engagement will be ongoing.

Q10: When will the Volunteer Focus Group Meetings occur?

A10: During the grant period of the first year. Dates will be set in the Spring.

Q11: Will a Request for Proposal (RFP) go out to hire the consultant who will facilitate the Volunteer Focus Group Forums?

A11: Volunteer West Virginia is working within the guidelines of the State Purchasing Department. Since this is a new project, we haven't finalized the details of this process at this time.

Q12: If a volunteer provides community service over a long period of time, will they be eligible to receive an Education Award?

A12: No. This is not an AmeriCorps Grant, even though its federal source is the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Q13: Can one Volunteer Center (at 1 location) cover multiple areas/counties?

A13: Yes.

Q14: Must an organization who applies and receives VGF funding for 1 year, request the same amount each application year? This is a three part question- each part is listed below.

Q14a: Does the amount you apply for and receive in Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3 need to be equal?

A14a: No

Q14b: Can the amount applied for in Year 2 or Year 3 be Equal or Less than the amount in Year 1?

A14b: Yes.

Q14c: Can the amount applied for in Year 2 or Year 3 be Greater than the amount in Year 1?

A14c: Yes, however, the increase would need to be sufficiently justified in the continuing application in order to be considered, would be subject to availability of funding, AND the applicant would need to demonstrate the ability to meet the match requirement at the Higher (Year 2/Year 3) amount for the total amount of the request.

Next Technical Assistance Call will be on December 12 @ 11AM

Dial In – 1-866-453-5550

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