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Native Nations: AmeriCorps Seniors in Action English Captions

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[Live Captioner Standing By]

>>: Good afternoon and thank you for joining us. Before starting let's review the Zoom features we are using for this event. The audio for this event is broadcasting by phone and online. This event is lecture only; the microphones are muted to reduce background noise. To adjust the audio go to the bottom left of the screen and click the small arrow next to audio settings and select the speaker. Some viewers get better audio while streaming and some others get better audio by phone.

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>> JOHN LEVERSTON: Welcome to the Native Nations and Indigenous Elders SDP. Today I'm joined by my colleagues Ariel Brown and Christine Mulvin, also with AmeriCorps Seniors. I want to take this opportunity on behalf of AmeriCorps Seniors to walk you through today's webinar. AmeriCorps Seniors provides several training and technical assistance webinars to assist you with this opportunity. Today we have the AmeriCorps Seniors in action training. These sessions are designed to give you information to increase your knowledge of our programs, best practices, and how to successfully submit an application.

The registration links and recordings for all trainings and technical assistance calls will be available on the AmeriCorps Senior's Native Nations and Indigenous Elders SDP funding opportunity. We'll be dropping the links to the funding opportunity as well as the links to the upcoming technical assistance calls in the chat. Please note that the notice for this opportunity is currently open and will close on April 5th, 2023, at 5:00 Eastern time. You can find additional information and technical assistance on the application process and following recordings and trainings. The following -- the first submitting your application in eGrants, Number 2, AmeriCorps due diligence review and compliance training and lastly, the AmeriCorps national performance measurement core curriculum. The link to these trainings are also available on the funding opportunity page. We encourage you to review all of these resources and they will strengthen your understanding of AmeriCorps policies. Today's webinar will provide a quick review of AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors, a brief review of the Notice of Funding or NOFO,

followed by review of some program ideas you can consider. And we will close with a quick recap and time for you to ask us any additional questions you may have.

Now let's take a moment to briefly overview AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors. AmeriCorps, formally known as the Corporation for National and Community Service, is the federal agency responsible for [inaudible] that means we lead civic engagement through service and volunteerism, grantmaking efforts, and national dates of service in the United States. This slide shows the structure of AmeriCorps Seniors formally known as Senior Corps. Our structure includes the America Seniors headquarters office, which is the office providing you with today's training and technical assistance. Rules to established policies and procedures, provide guidance, develop resources in providing national scale [inaudible] applicants and grantees.

Our awarded grants the original office serves as the primary point of contact for administrative grant managers and provides more detailed training and technical assistance on a day-to-day basis. Then we have the program mentees who are awarded funding for these opportunities to volunteer opportunities in the committees they had proposed to serve. The volunteer station, which is a public agency [inaudible] partner healthcare organization and accepts responsibility for assignment and supervision of AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers. Volunteer stations can be operated by the grantee or its partners. And the AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers who are recruited in a role by project and serve in volunteer stations.

Our overall framework is based on community programs and partnerships and we are excited to see her funding opportunities to continue positive impact community spirit if you want to learn more about AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors please check out the technical assistance recording titled introducing AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps Seniors and its programs on the funding opportunity website. We have a short video of our some of our AmeriCorps senior volunteer sorting -- starting with Native Nations volunteers.

[Video playing]

>>: AmeriCorps and its programs can serve our elders and our elders have been so impacted by the pandemic.

>>: [inaudible] I tell her to do it for me and she does all of that for me.

>>: We talk a light like encouraging each other.

>>: They do not call us by our names. They call us grandma.

>>: It is just grandma [inaudible] to be there for them, to teach them as much as I can.

>>: I talked to them and they need help with cleaning, doing the dishes.

>>: I like being with the kids and they make you feel good.

>>: [Speaking Native language]

>> JOHN LEVERSTON: In this next session we will do a quick review of the Native Nations and Indigenous Elders seen a demonstration program competition. We have included some helpful resources to assist you with submitting your AmeriCorps Seniors Native nation and Indigenous Elders SDP application. The following resources are available to you. First is the funding opportunity page our one-stop shop for all documents and guidance. The second is the frequently asked questions or FAQs. This document provides answers to the most common questions regarding the notice as well as application instructions. Please take some time to review the Notice of Funding opportunity and export additional resources. If you have questions that do not get answer today please email AmeriCorpsSeniors@cns.gov again, the website above has all of the information you need to apply soap please fill free to bookmark them if you have not done so already. We are currently accepting evocations for the Native natures and Indigenous Elders SDP.

Applications are due Wednesday, April 5, 2023, by 5:00 PM Eastern time. AmeriCorps recommends that the applicant's create an eGrants account and begin the evocation at least three weeks before the deadline. Applicant should draft the application as a works document and copy and paste the text into the appropriate eGrants field no later than 10 days before the deadline. AmeriCorps will not consider the applications except in circumstances noted in Section D or C of the notice but please note that there are additional documents that are also due by the application submission deadline. Now we will highlight some key areas of the Notice of Funding opportunity or NOFO beginning with Section A1, purpose. AmeriCorps Seniors publishing this Notice of Funding for the purpose of creating the America seniors Native Nations and Indigenous Elders SDP program. The goal of this opportunity for AmeriCorps seniors is to invest in projects focused on underserved indigenous into Native communities advancing averages for older adults to make an impact through their time and experience. To the Native natures and Indigenous Elders SDP opportunity applicants must insert how they will engage adults aged 55 and older to address one or more Native Nations and Indigenous Elders SDP priorities.

Additionally, projects must meet eligibility criteria to apply. Now in Section A2 the funding priorities of the notice. The 2023 AmeriCorps Seniors Native Nations and Indigenous Elders sing a demonstration program notice focuses grantmaking on tribal and Native/indigenous serving organizations in the United States and its territories. Section A2 of the notice of the prior teat Native Nations seen a Dem special program. AmeriCorps Seniors is open to proposals that are reflective of the needs of indigenous and Native communities served by the evidence proposed program. Some examples of programs selected as a part of the subject might include programs permitting the preservation and teaching of Native and indigenous negative -- languages and cultural practices. Programming focused on helping Native and indigenous communities

respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Programs that provide social economic and/or educational services to Native and indigenous people both on and off reservation land. Applicants of proposed programs that make sense for the committees they into serve. We have flexible priorities to allow for innovative projects. Applicants must identify primary focus area and the work plan must include service activities in the selected program primary focus area.

These are NOFO related focus areas and programs being prioritized. Applicants will propose to serve proposed national service opportunities that lead to meeting the needs of Native and indigenous communities. The first, capacity building. Supporting indirect services that enable AmeriCorps supported organizations to provide more, better, and sustained direct services. Capacity boating activities cannot be solely intended to support the administration or operation of an organization. Next, disaster services, helping communities prepare for respond to and recover from and mitigate the effects of disasters and increased community resiliency. Economic opportunity, improving the economic well-being and security of underserved individuals. Education, special intergenerational program improving educational outcomes for underserved people, especially children.

And AmeriCorps' particular interest in a program designed to support youth engagement and [inaudible] strategies to achieve high educational outcomes. Environmental stewardship, supporting communities to become more resorting to measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve land and water, increase renewable energy use and improve at risk ecosystems. Especially in underserved households and communities. Healthy futures, supporting for needs within communities including mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 and other public health crises, access to care, aging in place, and addressing childhood obesity especially in underserved communities. And finally, veterans and military families, improving the quality of life of a veterans and improving military family strength. Next I will hand it over to my colleague Ariel Brown who will continue the presentation.

>> ARIEL BROWN: In this section we will review program ideas you can consider. AmeriCorps Seniors is open to proposals that are reflective of the needs of indigenous and Native community served by the applicant's proposed program. The following are only examples of programs and not meant to direct and applicants proposals. Example number one, an applicant could propose to leverage senior volunteers to engage or reengage community elders providing companionship and support in home or at senior centers. Programs like these are similar to our senior companion programs which increase food security, increase social supports for seniors, and improve capacity for independence. This example can be tailored to the needs of the proposed communities. However, it is very similar to our traditional models of seniors hoping seniors. Example number two, an organization could propose to leverage senior volunteers to teach and preserve Native languages and customs for younger generations. This example is similar to our foster grandparents model that

engages volunteers in an educational capacity for younger generations. In this case for the preservation of native-language's and practices.

Example number three, an applicant could propose a new partnership with our local health officials to establish a health education outreach project. AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers, who are often seen as trusted community leaders, will be able to bring health education tools and resources to high-risk populations. Example number four, an organization could be interested in partnering with a local job-training's program to bring skilled volunteers who can mentor job seekers. The organization could mobilize senior volunteers to support the proposed service area while building strong community partnerships. These are just some examples to get your thoughts flowing about program models or types of things you can propose. And now we will move to the key resources portion. As I have mentioned in addition to the NOFO or they Notice of Funding opportunity as we call it there are other resources that will be helpful for you as you apply for this opportunity. Again, those resources can all be found on the FY20 three Native Nations and Indigenous Elders SDP funding page.

You will see on the screen the Notice of Funding opportunity or NOFO which should be the first document you review as it establishes the funding opportunity, application requirements, evaluation criteria, funding priorities, and more. Grant application instructions. This provides a step-by-step guide to navigating our electronic grant system called eGrants. Appendix B performance measures. This summarizes performance measure requirements, provides a complete list of performance measures, and specifies allowable output/outcome pairings. So please do consult this. Appendix C, terms and definitions. This explains and defines the relevant terminology that you will encounter during the grant opportunity. And finally, appendix F, cost per volunteer calculator. This out lengthy process for determining the cost per volunteer and -- for the budget.

Additionally, we also have the AmeriCorps national performance measurement core curriculum, this is a self-paced curriculum and it is highly recommended for all AmeriCorps applicants and grantees. It focuses on comprehensive performance measurement strategies that rely on both performance and evaluation data. Indirect cost rate agreement instructions. This provides step-by-step instructions for entering your indirect cost rate agreement including for the demand must rate into eGrants. Frequently asked questions or facts, this document is updated periodically and provides more information on the specific question we have received regarding the notice and application instructions. Technical assistant calls and recordings. This lists the upcoming technical assistance webinars and provides a link to the recordings of previous webinars. Finally, the National Service hotline.

This offers help with applying for AmeriCorps program and supports for eGrants which is the AmeriCorps' electronic grants management system, as you know. And now we will move on to the question-and-answer portion. Please remember to post in the -- posted question the Q&A box. We have a few missed for questions. If you have

a question as I have said to the Q&A box to submit your question. It helps us track the questions. We will do our best to answer as many questions as we can. If your question is not answered today please do email [AmeriCorps Seniors@CNS.gov](mailto:AmeriCorpsSeniors@CNS.gov). For more information and to review resources visit americorps.gov/partner/funding -- opportunities. Before we end we want to provide one more reminder that all applications for this grant opportunity must be submitted by April 1st, 2023, at 5:00 PM Eastern time. Thank you again for your interest in AmeriCorps Seniors and we look forward to exploring this partnership with you. Opening up for questions.

>> JOHN LEVERSTON: There are a few questions that have already been answered but just for other reference one of the questions is related to this grant application is compared to other opportunities that are open as well. There are two grant opportunities that are open currently. One is through the state and national or ASM grant opportunity and that is a separate and distinct grant opportunity for Indian tribes. This opportunity is open also to state recognized tribal organizations with nonprofit status as well as no other nonprofit organizations that have a tribal or indigenous Native focus in their service. Another question are we allowed to have members that live both on and off reservation to provide services to and-on-and off reservation tribal members? And yes, this is correct.

This opportunity is open to organizations serving Native and indigenous people no matter where they live. The main focus of program must be the priorities of Native and Indigenous Peoples and communities and can serve them no matter where they are. Please note you can also ask questions, not just about the material we have covered in the presentation, but also questions regarding your program design, your application, or anything that you are facing as it relates to developing your proposal for submitting your application. Can you clarify what costs per volunteer means? And if that includes any type of stipend for participating elders? The cost per volunteer is related to overall cost of the program and how many volunteers you will be engaging. In the appendixes of the notice as well as linked on the funding opportunity page you will find that there is a document that is actually a calculator developed by our colic Christine Mulvin which will help you determine what the overall cost of the program is broken down by volunteer. And that will help you determine the cost effectiveness of your program.

We have not established any guidelines around what the most cost-effective program is for this opportunity. However, we will work with whoever applies to in order to determine if the cost is affected. And related to the stipend itself the stipend would be included in the overall federal ask for the application. So the cost per volunteer is tangentially related to the stipend. The stipend can be included for any program proposal. And the guidelines are on that stipend are also flexible. So if you currently are familiar with AmeriCorps Seniors or have an AmeriCorps Seniors program you are likely aware that there are income guidelines around who can receive a stipend. While all of the other policies related to volunteers such as them needing to pass a

background check, be 55 and older, and other mandated policies, while those will still remain the income guidelines, for example, are not established for this opportunity which means you can determine what the best possible stipend to rate us and we will work with whoever applies in order to make sure that the costs are reasonable and justifiable for the execution of the program. Additionally, on the topic of cost there is no match requirement for this opportunity which is unlike our traditional models if you are familiar with those. They do require a match.

So without that match it is possible that the entire program could be covered by your federal request. However, depending on the size, scope of your program as well as the total available funds for this opportunity it is possible that you may need a match just to be able to cover any additional costs that this grant might not cover. So however that is something that can be discussed during the application process and once we determine what the overall ask is for this opportunity. Another question that we have received often is what type of program can we propose and in addition to the programs, program designs that we mentioned earlier in the presentation which you should be able to review at your leisure from the funding opportunity page or the recording as well as the slides themselves our main focus and the priority of this notice is to fund programs that make sense for the community's proposed so if there's a need in your community that you can leverage senior volunteers to be able to meet that is what we encourage you to apply and design a program around.

So it does not need to meet the traditional model that we have gone with which would be our foster grandparents senior companions, and RSVP style programs. However, you can also still submit a proposal that meets a similar program design answer those but we encourage you to take advantage of the possibility of this opportunity to include things that you would like to see as part of those types of programs.

>>: I will ask a question, does everyone know what to do if you're having technical issues with eGrants? You can put your response in the chat box. Contact the National Service hotline.

>> JOHN LEVERSTON: That is right. And you also find in Section D4 of the funding opportunity if you have trouble submitting your application it is going to be very important that you contact the hotline as soon as you can. Because if you have trouble they will be able to verify that if that difficulty precedes beyond the deadline. And that is really one of the only ways that we will accept applications beyond the deadline and that is if they are verifiable. Difficulty with the application. Submission. Another question, is there a place or site where we can see previously funded programs through this grant? This is actually the first time that we are putting forth a solicitation or opportunity like this. So there is no where you can see a previously funded organization. This is the first time that we have been doing this.

All of the former grants that are focused on Native communities that have been through AmeriCorps Seniors specifically follow our traditional model so they are foster grandparents, senior companions, and RSVP style programs. And there's another training that goes into depth. There's a recording on the funding opportunity page that you can watch and talks specifically about each of those different types of programs. The senior companion program being seniors helping seniors. So seniors helping other seniors age in place, get to their medical visits, to keep company, to prevent social isolation while the foster grandparent's would be similar to what you would witness in the video that was played earlier in the presentation where elders are actually placed with students in mentorship and tutoring roles and help guide students to learn more about culture and language or even academic -- academically with language acquisition or reading, math, etc. And the RSVP style program which is just our catchall were volunteers are less ecstatic where you can have many volunteers that will come in on a one-off basis or less -- what is the word? Consistent.

So our traditional model is what all of our previous competitions were like into this one is more so meant for us to find out what needs our grants condition help address. So that is kind if the point of this is for you all to tell us what program she would like to see us fund through this program. I see a question the chat, is there a time assuming a point of contact for budget questions? That is going to be our budget office and I will really encourage you to come to the next training, which is on the 15th and that is linked on the funding opportunity page and I believe also in the chat and that is going to be from the budget office, they are going to be live in a very similar format to this. However, you'll be able to ask questions to them directly and you'll be able to get to live answers about your budget. Because I imagine the -- there are very specific questions if you want answered. If, in the meantime, you want us to take a look at to those questions you can feel free to email them darkly to AmeriCorpsSeniors@cns.gov and we will make sure we route them to the right people. And get back to you with answers. Also as it relates to that budget training that is the only budget training that is available as part of this opportunity. So please take advantage if you are able. That is all of the questions will have to likely be routed to our email system. Christine, Ariel, are there any other questions you think we should highlight here? That we might have missed?

>>: I know one question that we get frequently is around to the performance measures and can people choose to work in both, for example, education and economic opportunity or healthy futures and education. And the answer is yes. You will pick one primary focus area that the majority of your work will be in but then you can also choose objectives from other focus areas to best meet your community needs.

>> JOHN LEVERSTON: Thank you, Christine. So we will leave the Q&A open for another minute or so. And then we will wrap up the presentation. So if you have any other questions please feel free to enter them now. Christine, do you mind taking this one?

>>: I sure can. The recording process for AmeriCorps Seniors grants is we have one annual report that is due basically covers each year of your performance. So you will do that through eGrants and again, that is once a year. There is also a progress report supplement that is due once a year and that covers the federal fiscal year and allows AmeriCorps to capture high-level data across all of our programs for also as part of this opportunity we will be convening grantees about six or seven months into the grant period to find out how things are going.

To answer questions people have, to find out if there are startup challenges we can help with, and to provide technical assistance. So that will happen a little less frequently like maybe once or twice during the first year of operations. We have not quite figured out that full plan yet. But you can expect to have an in-person meeting at about six or seven months in and then annual reports to after that. There also fiscal reports that are due every six months and those are also submitted through eGrants.

>> JOHN LEVERSTON: Thank you. You just reminded me as it relates to the convening, those selected as a part of this opportunity will also be invited to attend a trouble convening being hosted by our committee on Native American affairs which will be shortly after the announcement of the awardees for this opportunity and the cost for that would be I believe it is reimbursed via AmeriCorps so that would not be something that would come from -- would be something that you would [inaudible] or it is covered or we will provide more updates as we have them throughout the opportunity and for the application process.

So for those of -- for those that apply we will send an email or a message that has all of the details about that convening. It will come directly from the Community on Native American Affairs. Seeing no other questions I believe that is a good place for us to wrap up the session. I want to thank you all again for attending. We hope that you do consider applying for this opportunity and if you have any other questions or need any support that you reach out to us directly at AmeriCorpsSeniors@cns.gov. We will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you, again, and I hope to see your application soon.

[End of meeting]