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Learning Systems International
FY 2021RSVP Competition Training and Technical Assistance Series, Session 1

Monday, July 13, 2020

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>> This meeting is being recorded.

>> Good afternoon everyone and thank you for joining us today. I was going to complain about our pleasant 85°F weather in the nation's capital but it looks like Bart and Carol you have us beat with 104 105° respectively if anyone is experiencing something warmer, please let us know in the chat. Before we get started, let's go through some housekeeping notes. I just saw 111° in Vegas. Couple housekeeping notes, all lines are on mute and we will keep them on mute throughout the course of the call which means if you have questions at any time, please let us know in the Q&A pod. If you are experiencing any technical issues, drop us a note in the chatbox like you're doing now, and our lovely webinar facilitators will help you out, make sure when you use the chatbox to send it to all panelists and attendees. If you are having issues with audio, we recommend having the system call you. If you're having visual problems, leave and come back and that should fix it. Lastly, we are recording this call and if you do not wish to be recorded, you can disconnect at any time. Just note that the recording and the slides will be made available on the competition website which is nationalservice.gov/rsvpcompetition. Welcome again to everybody here and it's absolutely a privilege and an honor to be able to welcome you to this section which is the starting point of our fiscal year 21 grantmaking year for those of you who don't know me or my voice, my name is Anne Otih and I'm senior program officer for training and knowledge management for the SeniorCorps team. Again, it's a privilege to introduce you to our 2021 RSVP competition which just kicked off at the beginning of this month. It is a wonderful time because we get to introduce ourselves to potential new organizations across our country and give them the opportunity to join the National Service family and also we get to welcome and reaffirm and thanks so many of the wonderful organizations that have made the National Service community what it is. Organizations that have been carrying the banner of CNCS, Corporation for National and Community

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Service, and SeniorCorps and RSVP for many years. If you don't know what those terms mean, don't worry, you're in the right place and we will talk about that today. First using the chatbox, making sure to send to all panelists and attendees if you haven't already, let us know the state you are joining from today. It is great to see all the different places people are calling in from. Earlier. I saw Williamsburg, Virginia which has a special place in my heart. I am a William and Mary alum. Thank you all so much. As we continue today session to send your chat comments to all panelists and attendees. If you have questions at any time, please use the Q&A pod. One more thing about questions, there are going to be a handful of questions that I will not be able to answer today. The first kind of question are those that I don't have information on hand or if it's too specific to your situation or your particular context. We have what looks like over 200 people on the call today. I want to make sure we get everyone the information that they need so if you have a question that falls into that category, you could send them to the email address on the screen, 2021 RSVP@cns.gov, and that's where you could get additional information and assistance. We also do have a frequently asked question document that is on the RSVP competition website. That is created and maintained with questions that we get at the 2021 RSVP mailbox. There's another category of questions that I will not be able to answer and that is because this is a competition. Competitive opportunity so what that means is that we need to make sure that we are treating everybody fairly so the kinds of questions I cannot answer and no one will be at the 2021 RSVP box as well are things like should I put this in my application? Or that, feedback on specific things that may give your application an advantage over others. We will not be able to answer. Instead, we're going to focus on providing the same information to everybody and that is what I will do here today. A few more preliminaries to get out of the way before we dive into the meat of things, this is the first in a series of webinars, it's a series of five sessions that will be repeated twice for a total of 10 webinars. Kicking off today and continuing for the rest of the month, we will be posting the recordings in the same place where you went to register for this

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webinar so you can't join one or you want to listen again, you could come back and get that information. First, we want to learn a little bit about you. I'm going to ask for our colleagues with the first poll, who has received a federal grant before including one from the CNCS? Fill out the poll that you see on the screen and we will get a sense of your familiarity with the federal government. Okay, looks like a little under half have a grant from the federal government. And some do not. Welcome! Our next question that we have -- how well do you know SeniorCorps? That is a grant program of the Corporation for National and Community Service that I work for and for which RSVP is a part. Let us know your answers to that. I will give you a couple seconds to answer this question. All right, looks like a good chunk of you are new to SeniorCorps, welcome! Our next question, how would you describe the primary field of your organization? So SeniorCorps and CNCS and the National Service community are very diverse. Our organizations have different focuses. You probably consider yourself to belong to more than one of these categories and that's okay. Just pick the one that best describes your organization. All right. Looks like it's a little bit of everything, which makes sense. Our final question for right now, how did you hear about us? This is good for us to know to get a sense of how we all came together here to learn alongside each other. All right. Looks like a little bit of everything. No matter who you are or where you come from, you are welcome here today. One thing I forgot to do when I was introducing you to a couple my colleagues on the line. I'm joined today by Courtney Sutton and Debra Truchon by the team and you may see them in the chat or enhancing -- or answering questions in the Q&A box. Let's take a look at our agenda. A lot of what we will do today is explain some of the terms you have heard me mention. What is the Corporation for National and Community Service, what is SeniorCorps and RSVP, the specific program for which the grant opportunity is now open? I know many of you this is familiar. Some of you said you were grantees but hopefully you will learn a little bit coming through this process as well. We will start by establishing some basic facts about the competition so that everybody is working

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from the same basic information. We are accepting applications now for the RSVP program in specific geographic areas. If you don't know what that means, don't worry. Applications are due by 5 PM, Eastern time, on September 1. To view available geographic service areas, you will look at a document called Appendix A. Appendix A is one of the most important documents related to this competition and it lists out specific geographic service areas that are open. The way this program works is that certain geographic service areas are open for competition and they are tied to a specific amount of funding, maximum amount of funding you can request and a minimum number of unduplicated volunteers that goes with that. Volunteer being unduplicated means its unique individual. That individual could serve with one program in multiple different ways but you will only count that one person, once. If you look at Appendix A, and it's the appendix to the notice of an opportunity document, look at Appendix A of that document and it will list out all the current available geographic service areas. It will look like this. This is the first listing on the Appendix A, which you will see is an opportunity number, total funding amount number of unduplicated volunteers and you will see what is called the areas affected and that is computed as a package. When you apply, you apply for that package of things. Apply for specific geographic service area no more than specific amount of funding and to recruit and maintain no fewer than specified number of unduplicated volunteers. It's a package deal tying those three things together. We often get asked don't see a particular geographic service area that I'm interested in, there are over 900 opportunities in almost all the 50 states on that list so there will be a lot but if you don't see your particular area that you're interested in, it may be because we go through a three year competition cycle and this is year number three so it's possible the geographic service area you're interested in has been competed previously and we will talk about ways you could get involved if that's the case. Let's talk about the resources that you will use. Many of your first questions are likely along the line of what you see on the screen right now, how long is the award? What is the review process? Are any matching funds required? What

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kinds of projects is CNCS hoping to fund? Vast majority of answer to these questions are included in the document that I mentioned earlier, the Notice of Funding Opportunity. This is your gateway to the competition. It's your map to the competition and that means that all the information you will need will be available in this document or linked in the document, the NOFO. I just saw question in the chat,, quick reminder, make sure to add your questions to the Q&A pod but you do not need to be looking at the application during this webinar. To get to the NOFO, you need to go to nationalservice.gov website and you will find a link to the NOFO. This is where you should start, you should read it, you should know the document upside down and backwards and it's a critical document. You may have noticed the second webinar in our series which is on Wednesday is a guided tour of that document so please come back as we go through it and remember this is a critical document. In addition to the NOFO, there are a couple of the resources that will be important to you. These are the grant application instructions which are step-by-step guide to navigating our electronic grant management system, eGrants, Appendix A which I refer to and that's the list of available opportunities. We have Appendix B which you plan -- which explains the measures in-depth and that's another topic will be spent another webinar, July 21 I believe going in-depth on that specific document and the national performance measure requirements which are your requirements for measuring performance. We have the work plan development worksheets, which will be helpful to you in trying to think about how you plan your activities and how you can communicate your plans with us. And then finally we have the list of frequently asked questions that I mentioned that we do update throughout the process based on what is coming into the 2021_rsvp@cncs.gov box. All these resources are available on the 2021 RSVP competition page. If after reviewing that information you are not finding an answer to your question, you can email 2021_rsvp@cncs.gov. So that covers our competition overview and now for the fun stuff. Introduction to CNCS and SeniorCorps. If you are familiar with this, I hope you will think of it as a refresher. The Corporation for National and

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Community Service is a federal agency responsible for civic engagement that leads service volunteering and grantmaking efforts in the US. We help millions of Americans improve their lives and lives of their fellow citizens through service. We do that by working hand-in-hand with local partners to tap the ingenuity and can-do spirit of the American people to tackle our pressing challenges despite the name, Corporation for National and Community Service, is a federal agency. We are a small independent agency and civic engagement and volunteerism is at the part when one is at the heart of what we do. We leads service volunteering and related grantmaking efforts in the US. Our mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. What is National Service? You could read along. On the slide with me, National Service is an opportunity to volunteer your time and talent to make a difference in people's lives and get things done for America. Through AmeriCorps and SeniorCorps, individuals of any age can serve the country and community by putting their valuable skills to use. CNCS oversees this through two major programs and a handful of smaller program so you may be familiar with AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps engages people in service often for a set period of time where they often pick up and leave and go somewhere else to serve that time. People of all ages can serve in different AmeriCorps programs but they tend to skew long -- skewed younger than our program. SeniorCorps is towards volunteers 55 and older. CNCS has a number of smaller programs. Martin Luther King Day of service, and the September 11 day of service and remembrance that you may have come across. They are all united under the banner of CNCS, Corporation for National and Community Service. If you want to learn more about CNCS, visit the website nationalservice.gov. Check out the stats on National Service in your state and regional office and social media. Today is about SeniorCorps, nation's largest network of older American volunteers with more than 200,000 volunteers in every state in the country plus DC and Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands serving a 23,000 locations. When you add all that up, it's a diverse [indiscernible] and powerful community. Here are some of our favorite

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stats. More than 200,000 volunteers all across the country serving 50 million hours each year. They do things like helping older Americans live independently, mentoring students with exceptional needs, combating elder abuse and opioid addiction and responding to COVID-19 pandemic relief efforts. Also has effects on volunteers themselves in the top right corner UC 84% of our volunteers report stable or improving health as a result of their SeniorCorps service. We have two other programs that are not RSVP but I would be remiss if I didn't mention them. The first is Foster grandparent program, FGP, this program engages older Americans as role models and mentors to help children with special and exceptional needs. Eligible volunteers in the program may receive small stipend to defray the cost of service. We also have senior companion program which is similar, except for volunteers in this program provide assistance and friendship to adults who have difficulty with daily living tasks such as shopping or paying bills, helping them remain independent in their homes. Eligible volunteers and when we say eligible in that framework, we talk about specific income threshold, they may receive a small stipend for the service so these two programs, FGP and SCP, they are a bit different than the RSVP program and couple different ways and have specific focuses, they have authority for volunteers who are eligible to receive small stipend at something that it shares with RSVP, all of our programs engage individuals 55 and older in service. That is the core of RSVP program established in 1971 and it engages people 55 and over again and wide variety of volunteer activities, essentially if you could think of a volunteer doing it, there's probably an RSVP volunteer or five that are doing it right now. It was built to meet community needs. It's built to be flexible. Among other things, RSVP volunteers tutor children, renovate homes, assist victims of natural disasters and I could go on and on. Before we get into how the program works, I will pause to see, Courtney, have any questions come in that you think should be repeated out loud for the good of the group about the CNCS or SeniorCorps outside of the RSVP program before we dive into RSVP?

>> No, I think you are ready to jump into RSVP.

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>> Thank you. We already mentioned that SeniorCorps is engaging individuals 55 and older in-service in a lot of ways it's a program about connection, connecting those volunteers to community needs and leveraging them to meet the needs. If your organization were to be awarded the grant for this competition, your organization would be responsible for implementing RSVP project in the awarded service area. You would likely use the grant funds to support salary of RSVP director to run RSVP at your organization, which would now be the sponsor or grantee. In your application -- you will have explained needs in your community and how you would recruit in place RSVP volunteers in the community to make an impact on meeting those community needs. The organization where you would place RSVP volunteers to serve become known as volunteer stations and this could include your organization, the sponsor itself. If you want to learn more about what being a SeniorCorps volunteer means or how the program works in practice, we have an awesome resource on nationalservice.gov called SeniorCorps stories. I wanted to share a couple of them. The first one is RSVP coffeehouse. We have project sponsor names Valley Council for community action, community action agency in eastern Connecticut. They opened first veterans coffeehouse in Killingly, Connecticut in 2015. Coffeehouse offers a venue for veterans to socialize while providing information on benefits available to veterans and their families, speakers represent variety of organizations serving veterans such as soldiers sailors and Marines funds, veteran service office of Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs and through the connections made it coffeehouse, veterans have access to additional services and benefits for which they were eligible including housing, energy, medical and food assistance post-op original coffeehouse is now self-sustaining and operates independently of RSVP with the support of 14 RSVP volunteers. Sponsoring organization was able to open for additional coffee houses and between April 2016 and January 2018, total of 535 veterans have attended the RSVP veterans coffee houses throughout Eastern Connecticut. We have another volunteer, when asked about his time volunteering in community, SeniorCorps

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volunteer some did it best there's no better place to meet people caring, happy people who lift me up. Jim is a retired professor and biological and agricultural engineering at Kansas State University. During his time as RSVP volunteer, he has organize and manage parking lot in line of cars for the harvesters mobile food pantry each month. He spent time working with the VITA tax program and state and national organizations related to his work in agriculture and engineering. These are a handful of examples. As you can see from previous screenshot, there are many stories. I recommend taking time to explore these resources because it's the best way to get to know RSVP. We will add these links in the chat but to learn more, you have the stories that we just shared and linked to those will be in the chatbox we have impact videos these are great because you get to see programs and volunteers telling their story in their own words. You get to see them in action. I mentioned the National Service in your state earlier but for the question of other ways to get involved if you don't see your specific geographic service area on Appendix A, it's a great starting place. Finally, we post results of the competition online at the website that you will see in the chat, transparency postings or transparency results. You could go and be successful and unsuccessful applications from the past on that site. It's another great resource to get to know RSVP. Now that we've got a picture in our mind, let's get more technical. We will now spend time working with specific terms. To the question I see if I don't see my [indiscernible] on the appendix, what to do? Check out National Service in your state to see what programs are close by. There are two key terms that you need to know to understand how RSVP works. The first is sponsor, which we use synonymous to a grantee. That is an organization that receives RSVP funding and is legally responsible for the grant funds. If you submit application to this competition, you will need someone to sign that says I officially accept responsibility for everything I am seeing in the organization that has that authority and that is the sponsor, they are legally responsible. There's another set of organization called the station and that's community partner where RSVP partner serves -- volunteer service. Volunteer

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stations is where RSVP volunteers serve and they could be nonprofit organization, proprietary healthcare facilities or public agencies. Some organizations may choose to operate like volunteer matchmaker recruiting diverse group of volunteers and placing them at a wide variety of stations. Others may choose to focus on couple of specific stations for example, organization that provides educational programs may choose to focus its efforts and volunteers on education within specific schools that serve as stations. Sponsor organization can serve as RSVP volunteers so you could have volunteers serving your own program. If the organization applies for funds. Relationship between sponsors and stations is formalized in memoranda of understanding. RSVP's volunteers sponsors work with volunteer stations undersigned MOU in your RSVP project would assign RSVP volunteers to that particular volunteer station. What that means is you have the grantee or the sponsor that is receiving the funds, you have stations in the community, grantee provides management of the grant in the volunteers and station provide on-site supervision and management of the volunteers. Also performance data will be given back to the grantee so they could enter it back to us at CNCS and all of that is formalized in the memorandum of understanding. To help us think through how this looks in practice, we will share couple models of what RSVP could look like. This is example of what RSVP program that focuses on multiple issues with multiple partners. As you can see, SeniorCorps makes the grant to the sponsor which then recruits volunteers and places them at external stations other organizations. They could also be conducting a wide variety of activities so one could be a food bank and another could be a school. Here is another example of another type of model. SeniorCorps would make the grant to the sponsor and the sponsor runs its own programs. They may be focused working only in area of education. The sponsor could then recruit volunteers to work on its own programs. At CNCS and SeniorCorps we provide funds to the sponsoring organization, the grantee becomes legally responsible for managing the grant. They recruit volunteers in their community and they placed them at community stations. Now that you know

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more about RSVP, you probably are starting to realize the benefits that RSVP could bring to your organization if you are awarded the grant through this competition. RSVP volunteers can be used to build capacity at your organization through their service. Organization would become part of the larger SeniorCorps and National Service network. RSVP project would strengthen other organizations in your community and throughout the service area and finally your award would demonstrate that your application was strong enough to be awarded through competitive process. Alongside with the benefits to this sponsor, the benefits to the volunteer aren't hard to find. They get to make tangible impact on their community's -- community, enjoy flexible schedule and make friends and flexible opportunities and there's a growing body of research that indicates being involved in something like RSVP can increase seniors health and happiness as they age. You can reimburse them for some costs of their service also. So we've got another poll that I will ask webinar facilitators to post. The first which of these reasons are you applying or are interested in applying for RSVP grant, which is more important to you? Furthering your organization's mission, helping older Americans in community staying active and engaged, leveraging the power of volunteers to meet -- to meet critical community needs, building capacity, and the rest. I will give you some time to choose one. All right, looks like it's a little bit of everything. That makes sense because it's all about what is right in your community. The next question -- if I receive RSVP grant, I am likely to blank, please select an answer. Couple more seconds to let everyone choose an option. All right, thank you for participating in our poll. Let's move on to the next subject. All RSVP grants will measure the performance and reported back to us and we have a system that we use to do it. This is probably one of the most complicated parts of applying or applying for RSVP grant and that's why we will talk about it today. But I will also note that we have a whole webinar on the performance measures planned for later in the cycle. Volunteers can be allocated to two kinds of work plans. National performance measure work plans which we also call outcome-based work plans because they result in

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specific outputs and outcomes. Specific measurable things. That is one option and then we have the other community priority workplan and that's more of a catch all for other activities that don't fit into the specific measures. There is a requirement that applicants must place -- must place at least one volunteer in work plans for every \$1000 in federal funding that they receive. What does that mean? How does this connect to the other amount of unduplicated volunteers that you have seen on Appendix A? We will spend some time on this. We have an example Appendix A, you see information that looks like this, the state, opportunity number, total annual funding available, number of unduplicated volunteers and then this area affected, geographic service area. So you could apply no more than this amount of funding. This example -- someone who is in Verona could apply for no more than \$75,000 and if you apply for this particular service area, you need to have at least 100 unduplicated volunteers. Then you look at our requirements. We have a requirement that you must program at least one unduplicated volunteer in national performance measure work plans for every \$1000 in federal funding that you receive. So we need to do a little bit of math to reconcile this. First you divide the total annual funding amount by 1000 so $75,000 \div 1000$ and that gives us 75. That means if you were an organization that was in this service area, if you apply for this particular service area, you would need to program at least 75 unduplicated volunteers in the national performance measure work plans and work plans that resulted in an outcome. You need to program your other volunteers in this case at least 25 with no less than 100 total volunteers so this could be 75 or 77 or any number all the way up to 100, but that first number, total annual funding divided by \$1000, that amount of unduplicated volunteers needs to be placed in an outcome based workplan and then the remaining number of volunteers could be placed in another community priority workplan or additional outcome based work plans. It is minimum amount that you need to program in a specific way. That is described in depth in these documents, Appendix B, national performance measure instructions and the workplan development worksheets. CNCS performance

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measures fall into six focus areas, disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, veterans and military families and then capacity building. Here's a screenshot from our performance measure instructions and you will see each output has a corresponding outcome or outcomes to choose from for a certain objective. Here's another screenshot from the performance measure instructions that shows definitions of these measures. On the screen now you will see the components of performance measure work plans. We are going to barely scratch the surface of this today and we will be talking about them in-depth for an hour later on in this cycle of webinars. That is when we dive into the question about perform -- about performance measures. Just know for now that this is how we at CNCS measure performance. They are important and focus on requirements that you see in these key documents that I shared, Appendix B and the workplan development worksheets. So we have a couple of poll questions. Read along on the screen -- Townsville Council on Aging plans to apply for an area affected that includes North, South, East and West counties and Appendix A is listed \$85,000 of funding available and minimum number of unduplicated volunteers of 115. How many unduplicated volunteers must it include in national performance measure work plans? I will give you a couple seconds to answer that. Remember there is a cost per unduplicated threshold. That is my hint. [laughing].

All right. The correct answer is 85 because we will take \$85,000 and divide by \$1000. And we get minimum number of unduplicated volunteers that need to be placed in a national performance measure workplan and outcome based workplan is 85. But assuming it only includes a minimum number of volunteers required in the national performance measure work plans which is 85, how many unduplicated volunteers must include in other community priorities? Looks like everyone is selecting the correct one. The answer is 30. 30 remaining volunteers don't need to be placed in other community priorities if there is outcome-based workplan that you have community need for. You could program volunteers there, but that is also an option for you. The last question we have, true or false,

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it must include all of its national performance measure volunteers in one single workplan. I will give you a couple more seconds for this one. The correct answer is false. You could have as many work plans as you need to meet your community needs. Great! Couple more things to highlight before we take questions. The first one is important piece of how RSVP works. Because we are federal program paid for with taxpayer dollars, we have to follow certain rules when we run these programs. They are collected in what is called the Code of Federal Regulations. Specifically the code of trachulae -- the Code of Federal Regulations 45, part 2553 is a source of requirements for the RSVP program. If you're considering applying for RSVP grants, please read the CFR for RSVP. If you want to look at it, you could go to ecfr.gov and then 45, part 2553. There's another important part of Code of Federal Regulations called the CFR 200 is called uniform guidance and that governs how you could use financial side of your grant so if you have another federal grant, somebody said you had another federal grant in our first poll, probably familiar with CFR 200 and if some of the same rules that are used to govern will be applied to the RSVP grant as well. One spotlight, the regulations right now, first there are service activities that you cannot engage in so RSVP volunteers cannot replace paid staff, cannot have volunteer activities that are political in nature including influencing elections for voter registration activities. RSVP volunteers cannot give religious instruction or conduct worship services. As part of their duties. The sponsor cannot use grant funds directly or indirectly to finance labor or anti-labor organizations or related activity. We also have specific requirements on the kinds of criminal history checks that your staff goes through. Highlighting importance of reading to the notice of funding opportunity so I will say it again, Notice of Funding Opportunity is a very, very important document to make sure that you read it through. These are some common types of costs that we see in the grant application. These are just common things and not meant to be an exclusive list. Another thing I wanted to mention is match and I saw a question about match. It is a requirement of our grants, the way match requirements work in your first year of getting the award,

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you are required to match 10% of the total project budget and then for each of the first three years that increases by 10% until it gets to 30%. If you are an incumbent so that means that you already are in RSVP grantee applying for the same service area that you currently serve, then you will be starting at this 30% level because you are already there. New applicants, you look at the sliding scale but incumbent you enter at 30% total project if given the award. The project period for grants for this competition is three years. CNCS generally funds one year of the three year award at first. Grantees are eligible for continuation funding for years number two and three as long as they demonstrate satisfactory performance that indicates the grant is on track to achieve post-performance measures at the end of the three year period that they demonstrate the capacity to manage the grant in compliance with grant requirements and that includes terms and conditions of the grant, requirement for biannual reporting of performance measures and securing required match of the budget. And then availability of congressional appropriations. After three years, the grant may be renewed which is a noncompetitive process pending appropriation on satisfactory performance. If you are renewed after the three years, competition begins again, three years later so six years from the initial award and I know that sounds confusing so here's a graphic that shows it. If given the initial award, you start in 2021, pending appropriations and satisfactory performance, you could be awarded continuation for the second and third year and then you are able to renew your grant and after six years, you go through competition again. That concludes our prepared content for the afternoon. While we get ready to transition into questions, I wanted to share this calendar of our series and hope that you will join us as we delve specifically into the NOFO, performance measures and more. With that, I will invite Courtney on the line to share any questions that should be repeated out loud for the greater good.

>> Thank you. We have a lot of questions about Appendix A. Do you mind repeating what you said about Appendix A and the surface area available on Appendix A?

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>> Sure, we have a three year cycle and this is year number three so if you don't see your geographic service area on Appendix A now, it's likely that your area was competed in the past two years but that doesn't mean you can't get involved with SeniorCorps. I would recommend going to the link that we shared earlier about National Service in your state and that will show the organizations who have the grant in your service area, and you could contact them to perhaps become a station and have volunteers serve at your organization and thank you, Jeff, just added that to the chatbox.

>> Next question is if you can explain more about the maximum dollar amount and the minimum number of unduplicated volunteers.

>> Sure, on Appendix A, you will see a package of three things that we compete. Geographic service area, number of unduplicated volunteers and total amount of funding. When you are applying to an opportunity, you are applying for that total amount of funding and that number of unduplicated volunteers. You could always have more than what is written in terms of the volunteers. Let's say there are 100 unduplicated volunteers in that area and you may program more but you cannot program less.

>> As follow-up question to that is does it mean that the grantee or the applicant would have to recruit manage and allocate all the volunteers listed in Appendix A for the geographic service area?

>> Yes.

>> One more follow-up -- or are applicants allowed to apply for a small amount of the full number that is on Appendix A?

>> You have to apply for the full amount on Appendix A.

>> We also have questions about COVID-19. The stations for COVID-19 and volunteering opportunities given COVID-19. So one in particular is are we required to [indiscernible] COVID-19 stations and volunteer opportunities?

>> I can't tell you what you can propose on your application but there is Appendix B and the work plan development worksheets which have the

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allowable output and outcome pairings. You can determine a station that can serve to meet the outcome pairings.

>> Question is I see a funding opportunity for 75,000 starting April 1 in my area, does this mean the opportunity for funding has passed?

>> So the awards that are made through this competition which start in 2021 so April 1, 2021 or July 1, 2021.

>> Another question -- does this mean that any station of volunteers placed that some its outcome based work plans that the stations count as evidence-based?

>> Not necessarily. Evidence-based work plans or evidence-based programs are programs that I hate to use evidence-based to define it but that are evidence-based. So you can have a work plan that's evidence-based using our outputs and outcomes. You could have a program that is not evidence-based with our outputs and outcomes. But I would recommend in the NOFO, there's more information about evidence-based programming and I believe there's a link to an evidence-based registry where you could see different things that have been done before.

>> Another question is what is the smallest size organization that has received one of these grants in terms of numbers of employees of the organization?

>> Not sure that I know the answer to that. I know we have a diverse array of organizations from small nonprofit, mom-and-pop, to bigger national organization so really we have sponsors that fall anywhere in between.

>> Just a reminder if you have questions, enter them in the Q&A box and we will try to get them answered before the end of the call but questions in the chat are hard to manage so please enter them into Q&A pod.

>> Thank you so much Amy, there are sponsored projects and I know of one in her state that is just the RSVP director and assistant. I saw another question that asked about multiple applications. So if you are in service area or [indiscernible] service areas and you want to apply for both, applicants -- applicants may apply to as many opportunities as they wish provided they are able to demonstrate sufficient local knowledge and presence but you need to submit separate

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applications for each opportunity. So you can't just tie everything into one application. It's a separate application for each opportunity on Appendix A.

>> Another question is -- what the SeniorCorps provide by way of support?

>> Other than funds, if you're given the award, you will have a portfolio manager in one of our local regional offices who will be supporting you and from the SeniorCorps headquarters office, we provide trainings and guidance.

>> Another one about criminal history check, question is, RSVP volunteers do not need to pass criminal history background check, only paid staff of the RSVP program?

>> Yes, that's correct so RSVP volunteers do not need to go through CNCS National Service criminal history check so it's just a paid staff that needs to go through that. I have seen -- sorry, Courtney, go ahead.

>> Can you go over service areas again and I have a question that says how do you choose our service area if we serve the entire county or the entire [indiscernible] but are based in specific city, is the service area city of headquarters?

>> No, your service area would be where you would be expected to serve all the counties that were a part of the geographic service area. You would be expected by SeniorCorps to serve all of the areas under areas affected regardless of where or what county your headquarters would be. I will add the same applies if you are an organization that wants to apply to an opportunity, but your headquarters may be is located outside of the geographic service area, you can still apply but just know that if awarded the project must serve the geographic service area exactly as it's described in Appendix A.

>> One last question is can our current volunteers sign up for RSVP and still be considered as a volunteer?

>> Say it again, sorry.

>> Can our current volunteers sign up for RSVP and still be considered as a volunteer?

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>> If your organization is awarded the grant and you decide to make your organization also the station, you can decide to program whoever you want as long as they are 55 and older into those work plans. I see a match question. Organizations say are new to a geographic service area, organizations if awarded would be expected to have 10% match in the first year? If you are incumbent of geographic service area so you currently serve a geographic service area and you are awarded the grant again, you would be expected to have a 30% match. If you are incumbent grantee and you apply to a new geographic service area and that new geographic service area, you would go back down to the 10% match.

>> Another question on Appendix A, why are some of the opportunities highlighted in yellow?

>> Good question -- opportunities highlighted in yellow are opportunities that were added or updated after the initial posting on July 1.

>> Is the initial award the amount listed on the RSVP or is it split by three, due to three years? So I can answer this one. The initial award is the amount listed on Appendix A that is the amount that you receive every year. So if the area is listed at \$50,000, you would receive 50,000 based on appropriation every year for those, for the three year cycle.

>> I want to respect everyone's time this afternoon. As there may be one or two more questions that we can answer before we log off today, Courtney? Are there a couple more questions we can answer, Courtney?

>> Can we go over Appendix A one more time? There's a couple more questions about Appendix A and the service area..

>> Sure, let me go back to the beginning of the slides. Sorry, that took a long time. Can you repeat the questions, Courtney?

>> Just clarifying what the listing and how applications should be submitted for the service area and the volunteer number?

>> Let's say you are interested in this opportunity. When you apply, you apply for the \$141,000. That number of unduplicated volunteers and they will serve in

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the areas affected listed on Appendix A. To make it more complicated, we have performance measure requirements and the cost per unduplicated volunteers says that for every \$1000 in federal funding that you received, you must program and unduplicated, single volunteer in a work plan that results in national performance measure outcomes. Of the number of unduplicated volunteers on Appendix A, your annual federal funding divided by \$1000 must be programmed into national performance measure, into a work plan that results into a work plan outcome and remaining volunteers may be programmed into other community priorities work plan. We will go into more detail between national performance measures and other community priorities I think next week, July 21 during our national performance measure session. But when you apply, you up -- you are applying to the package of these three things. I saw a question that asked if you need to currently have this number of volunteers at your organization. You don't have to currently have that number volunteers but when you are applying, your planning or showing us that you will recruit to have that total number of volunteers. All right. Any other questions, Courtney? One more for the good of the group? I know we are little over.

>> I don't think so.

>> All right, thank you everyone for joining us today. I hope you learned a little bit of something about CNCS, SeniorCorps and the RSVP program. We are excited to welcome you into the National Service family and look forward to spending the next few weeks with you going through this cycle of webinars. I will see you on Wednesday. Have a great afternoon!

[End of session]

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