

project administration, staff and training and technical assistance. The average federal cost per Volunteer Service Year (VSY) is approximately \$4,000 for standard volunteers and \$4,600 for volunteer leaders.

Grant applicants should demonstrate their commitment to cost-sharing by offsetting part of the costs. This support can be achieved through cash or in-kind contributions.

Publication of this announcement does not obligate the Corporation to award any specific number of grants or to obligate the entire amount of funds available, or any part thereof, for grants under the FGP.

F. Period of Awards

Grants cover twelve months and may be renewed for up to twenty-four additional months contingent upon the continuing need for the projects, performance and the availability of appropriations.

G. Submission Requirements

To be considered for funding applicants must submit five copies of the following (with original signatures on items 1 and 2):

(1) An Application for Federal Assistance, Corporation Form 424–NSSC (OMB 3045–0035), Parts I through III;

(2) Signed Assurances (Corporation Form 424-B) and Certifications (Corporation Form 424E-G);

(3) Verification of status as a non-profit organization as described in Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;

(4) Most recent audit report.

H. General Selection Criteria

The Corporation will initially determine whether the organization is eligible and whether the application contains the information required in the application materials. All activities within a proposal should be coordinated through a well-developed national strategy and unified programmatically by a common theme and program elements, including training and technical assistance.

To ensure fairness to all applicants, the Corporation reserves the right to take action up to and including disqualification, in the event that a proposal fails to comply with any requirements specified in the application instructions. After this initial screening, the Corporation will assess applications based on the following criteria that will be further specified in the application instructions:

(1) The capacity of the applicant to effectively implement the FGP

according to law, regulations and current Corporation policy, procedures, and priorities;

(2) The cost-effectiveness of the proposal; the applicant's ability to leverage significant additional resources from non-federal sources to support and sustain the project; and the extent to which the national organization can demonstrate the capacity of the local affiliates to continue the projects at the local level in subsequent years.

The Corporation will take into consideration the following factors after the proposals are assessed:

Geographic Location: The Corporation will assure that local projects include a mix of urban and rural sites.

Diversity: The Corporation will select organizations whose local projects have the capacity to recruit ethnic and racial minorities, males, and persons with disabilities.

I. Applicable Regulations

Regulations governing the Foster Grandparent Program are located in 45 CFR part 1208 (1997).

J. Program Authority

The Corporation's authority to make these grants is codified in 42 U.S.C. 5011.

Dated: April 10, 1998.

Thomas L. Bryant,

Associate General Counsel.

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BILLING CODE 6050–28–P

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Availability of Funds for New Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Projects—Nationwide

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Funds.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National and Community Service (hereinafter the "Corporation") announces the availability of up to \$625,000 to support approximately 1,200 RSVP volunteers in new RSVP projects in geographic areas that do not fall within approved service areas of current RSVP program sponsors. Approximately \$300,000 will be made available to support each of two national organizations and three of their local affiliates. Each national organization will be expected to provide coordination, networking and training and technical assistance to its three local affiliates. The local affiliates will be expected to support a total of approximately 600 RSVP volunteers for

each national organization. Awards will cover a twelve-month period and can be renewed for up to twenty-four additional months contingent upon the continuing need for the projects, performance and the availability of appropriations. This allows the Corporation to fund multi-state and multi-site projects that are national in scope and build on existing networks. The Corporation is seeking national organizations that are willing to actively promote senior service within their networks and that view older volunteers as an important resource in accomplishing their own objectives.

The RSVP provides service opportunities to adults age 55 and older, matching their skills, life experiences, and interests to priority needs in communities across the nation. Through this service, RSVP provides communities with valuable resources to meet their needs, enhances the lives of the volunteers and those whom they serve. The primary focus of volunteer activities for this twelve-month period must be on helping children learn to read and other literacy activities that support the goals of the America Reads Challenge.

DATES: Applications must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, May 11, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Application instructions and kits are available from the Corporation for National and Community Service, National Senior Service Corps, 1201 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20525, (202) 606–5000, ext. 261, TDD (202) 565–2799, or TTY via the Federal Information Relay Service at 1–(800) 877–8339.

Applications should be submitted to the Corporation for National and Community Service, 1201 New York Avenue, NW., National Senior Service Corps, Mailstop 9310, Attn: Barbara Wilson, Washington, DC 20525. The Corporation will not accept applications that are submitted via facsimile or e-mail transmission.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

The Corporation is a federal government corporation that encourages Americans of all ages and backgrounds to engage in community-based service. This service addresses the nation's educational, public safety, environmental, and other human needs to achieve direct and demonstrable results. In supporting service programs, the Corporation fosters civic responsibility, strengthens the ties that bind us together as a people, and provides educational opportunity for

those who make a substantial commitment to service.

The RSVP is authorized by the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, as amended. (See 42 U.S.C. 5001 *et seq.*). The RSVP provides service opportunities to adults age 55 and older, matching their skills, life experiences, and interests to priority needs in communities across the nation. Through this service, RSVP provides communities with valuable resources to meet their needs, enhances the lives of the volunteers and those whom they serve.

The RSVP was launched with 11 RSVP projects in 1971. Today there are over 450,000 RSVP volunteers serving almost 80 million hours annually through a myriad of local community organizations in over 1,500 communities. They volunteer in schools, libraries, hospitals, nursing homes, meals on wheels, senior centers, public housing, law enforcement agencies, parks, environmental organizations, and a wide range of community organizations. Through these organizations, they tutor youth, respond to natural disasters, serve as citizen patrols, teach parenting skills to teen parents, get children immunized, mentor troubled youth, plan community gardens, help other seniors complete income tax forms, serve as hospital aides, conduct groundwater protection surveys, provide in-home respite care with the frail elderly, teach computer classes at elementary schools, test buildings for radon, read to hospitalized children, manage grief counseling groups, set up block watch projects, bring meals to the terminally ill, test water for pollutants and track down their sources, drive the visually impaired to doctors appointments, provide a human touch to AIDS babies, and so much more.

B. Purpose of This Announcement

The Corporation is soliciting applications from national nonprofit organizations in order to fund multi-state and multi-site projects that are national in scope and build on existing networks of the national organizations. The Corporation is interested in expanding RSVP to serve new geographic locations currently unserved by the program. It is expected that the new projects, in the first year of operation, will focus on activities that support the goals of the America Reads Challenge.

The goal of the America Reads Challenge is to mobilize Americans from all walks of life to ensure that all children can read well and independently by the end of third grade.

The America Reads Challenge is a comprehensive, nationwide effort to create in-school, after-school, weekend, and summer tutoring programs in reading. Working to support the efforts of teachers and parents, this initiative calls on all Americans, including college students, business leaders, and senior citizens, to work through schools, libraries, religious organizations, universities, community and national groups, and cultural organizations to ensure that every child can read independently by the end of third grade.

C. Eligible Applicants

National nonprofit organizations that operate in more than one state are eligible to apply. The Corporation defines a national nonprofit organization as one whose mission, membership and activities, or constituencies are national in scope. However, an organization described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, (26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(4)) that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply, serve as a host site for volunteers, or act in any type of supervisory role in the program. The Corporation is seeking national organizations that are willing to actively promote senior service within their networks and that view older volunteers as an important resource in accomplishing their own objectives.

The local affiliates of the national organizations must have or develop strong partnerships with: (1) entities planning or operating city, county, statewide, or multi-state America Reads initiatives; (2) local governments planning or operating area-wide America Reads initiatives; (3) volunteer centers engaged in recruiting trained literacy tutors for the America Reads Challenge and, (4) university service-learning centers coordinating work-study and other college students for the America Reads Challenge.

RSVP sponsors that are currently funded by the Corporation are not eligible to receive a grant to expand into new geographic areas.

D. Award Process and Estimated Number of Awards

The Corporation will issue a letter of intent to provide funding to each approved applicant. This letter will instruct the national organization to work with the Corporation to identify the local affiliates that will serve as local project sites. The official awards will be made only after the Corporation is satisfied that the local sites are located in currently unserved geographic areas and that the local

affiliates have the capacity to effectively implement the program.

The Corporation anticipates making two awards to national organizations, and approximately three awards to local affiliates of each national organization.

E. Scope of Grants

The amount of the grants for the national organizations will include funds to cover national coordination, networking and training and technical assistance. The amounts of the grants to the local affiliates will include funds to cover: Volunteer travel reimbursement; insurance costs; incentives including monetary stipends of up to \$150 a month for Volunteer Leaders; and volunteer support costs including project administration, staff and training and technical assistance. The average federal cost is \$300 per volunteer a year and \$2,100 a year for each Volunteer Leader.

Grant applicants should demonstrate their commitment to cost-sharing by offsetting part of the costs. This support can be achieved through cash or in-kind contributions.

Publication of this announcement does not obligate the Corporation to award any specific number of grants or to obligate the entire amount of funds available, or any part thereof, for grants under the RSVP Program.

F. Period of Awards

Grants cover twelve months and may be renewed for up to twenty-four additional months contingent upon the continuing need for the projects, performance and the availability of appropriations.

G. Submission Requirements

To be considered for funding, applicants must submit five copies of the following (with original signatures on items 1 and 2):

- (1) An Application for Federal Assistance, Corporation Form 424-NSSC (OMB 3045-0035), Parts I through III;
- (2) Signed Assurances (424-B) and Certifications (424E-G);
- (3) Verification of status as a non-profit organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and
- (4) Most recent audit report.

H. General Selection Criteria

The Corporation will initially determine whether the organization is eligible and whether the application contains the information required in the application materials. All activities within a proposal should be coordinated through a well-developed national

strategy and unified programmatically by a common theme and program elements, including training and technical assistance.

To ensure fairness to all applicants, the Corporation reserves the right to take action up to and including disqualification, in the event that a proposal fails to comply with any requirements specified in the application instructions. After this initial screening, the Corporation will assess applications based on the following criteria that will be further specified in the application instructions:

(1) The capacity of the applicant to effectively implement RSVP according to law, regulations and current Corporation policy, procedures, and priorities.

(2) The cost-effectiveness of the proposal; the applicant's ability to leverage significant additional resources from non-federal sources to support and sustain the project; and the extent to which the national organization can demonstrate that local projects have the capacity to continue in subsequent years.

The Corporation will take into consideration the following factors after the proposals are assessed:

Geographic Location: The Corporation will assure that local projects include a mix of urban and rural sites.

Diversity: The Corporation will select organizations whose local projects have the capacity to recruit ethnic and racial minorities, males and persons with disabilities.

I. Applicable Regulations

Regulations governing the RSVP Program are located in 45 CFR part 1209 (1997).

J. Program Authority

The Corporation's authority to make these grants is codified in 42 U.S.C. 5001.

Dated: April 10, 1998.

Thomas L. Bryant,

Associate General Counsel.

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CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Availability of Funds for New Senior Companion Projects—Nationwide

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National and Community Service ("Corporation")

announces the availability of up to \$1,000,000 to support one national organization and five of its local affiliates to operate new Senior Companion Projects. The local projects must be located in geographic areas that do not fall within approved geographic service areas of current Senior Companion program sponsors or urban areas or large counties where the project serves only part of the city or county. The national organization will be expected to provide coordination, networking and training and technical assistance to its five local affiliates who combined will support a total of 225 Senior Companions. Awards will cover a twelve-month period and can be renewed for up to twenty-four additional months contingent upon the continuing need for the projects, performance and the availability of appropriations. This allows the Corporation to fund multi-state and multi-site projects that are national in scope and build on existing networks. The Corporation is seeking a national organization that is willing to actively promote senior service within its network and that have the potential to view older volunteers as an important resource in accomplishing its own objectives.

The Senior Companion Program (SCP) provides opportunities for income eligible individuals 60 years of age and over to serve frail adults on a person to person basis. The SCP provides essential services that enable frail adults to continue to live in their own homes, while also enhancing the lives of the volunteers and those whom they serve. **DATES:** Applications must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, May 11, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Application instructions and kits are available from the Corporation for National and Community Service, National Senior Service Corps, 1201 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20525, (202) 606-5000, ext. 261, TDD (202) 565-2799, or TTY via the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-(800) 877-8339.

Applications should be submitted to the Corporation for National and Community Service, National Senior Service Corps, 1201 New York Avenue, NW., Mailstop 9310, Attn: Barbara Wilson, Washington, DC 20525. The Corporation will not accept applications that are submitted via facsimile or e-mail transmission.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

The Corporation is a federal government corporation that encourages

Americans of all ages and backgrounds to engage in community-based service. This service addresses the nation's educational, public safety, environmental, and other human needs to achieve direct and demonstrable results. In supporting service programs, the Corporation fosters civic responsibility, strengthens the ties that bind us together as a people, and provides educational opportunity for those who make a substantial commitment to service.

The SCP is authorized by the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, as amended. (See 42 U.S.C. 5013 *et seq.*) The SCP is one of three programs that comprise the National Senior Service Corps. All three Senior Corps programs are based on the premise that seniors are valuable resources, can be mobilized to help meet priority community needs, and through their skills and talents can have an impact on national problems of local concern.

The SCP was launched in 1974 with its first 11 projects. Today there are over 13,000 Senior Companions serving 48,000 frail adults annually. These Senior Companions provide high quality and reliable personal support to adults, primarily frail elderly, experiencing difficulties with activities of daily living, allowing them to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible. SCP focuses on those with moderate physical, mental or emotional impairments who are without adequate family support and who in the absence of non-medical support services would be at risk of institutionalization. Senior Companions also assist clients in patient discharge programs at acute care, mental health, and long-term care facilities to make the transition to living in less restrictive community settings, and some Senior Companions provide short-term respite for primary care givers of frail adults in times of special need.

B. Purpose of This Announcement

The Corporation is soliciting applications from national nonprofit organizations in order to fund multi-state and multi-site projects that are national in scope and build on existing networks of the national organizations. The Corporation is interested in expanding the Senior Companion Program to serve new geographic locations currently unserved by the program. The Corporation is interested in focusing on in-home assignments for older persons most in need and respite for family care givers.

Many older adults experience problems in one or more routine activities of daily living (ADLs) which