

Pre Application Teleconference
AmeriCorps RFP 2010
November 12, 2009

1. Q. We currently have a VISTA umbrella program would we be eligible to apply for a planning grant?

A. From what I have read so far yes, refer the application instruction for clarity.

2. Q. Can you go over the submission format are we suppose to submit an egrant and print off a copy from egrants?

A. Everyone is submitting in egrant and it's up to you to print off your application from egrants or submit from a difference source such as a word document. As long as the forms submitted match the forms attached to the RFP.

3. Q. How are you going to use the printed application?

A. Our reviewers will use them for reviewing.

4. Q. Are the three part aligned performance measures mention in the RFP the same as the Corporations?

A. They can be if that is what you like. The performances measures are not required at this stage of the RFP, but will part of the Corporations' clarification.

5. Q. Do you have an update of when the 5 performance levels will be available?

A. No, my guess is that the Corporation will have this available December or January.

6. Q. For established programs is egrants the place to look for our required match percentage?

A. Yes, but if you have questions contact me.

7. Q. In our budget, if we are including match that we intend to have by 2011 and it's not confirmed yet how should we clarify that in the application?

A. Put that in the COST EFFECTIVENESS AND BUDGET ADEQUACY section and explain it's your plan to have this in place. Have a contingency plan in case you don't get it. Put the match in the number section of the budget as if you have it.

8. Q. In the instructions there are new requirements and we don't know what that meant, such as breaking down fringe over 30%?

A. If your fringe is over 30% break it down per employee and explain why the fringe is more then 30%. (break it down by how much goes to insurance, retirement, etc.)

9. Q. Is there a list of definition for what the corporation is asking for in the RFP?

A. All the definition should be in the RFP but if you have specific questions email me and I will research it.

10. Q. Why is the commission not participation in the fixed amount grant and will it be possible in the future?

A. The commission chose not to participate in this pilot year for the fixed amount grant because there were too many unknowns on how this grant would operate. The commissioner may support this fixed amount option in the future but not through this FRP.

11. Q. Will Serve Alaska be taking the 1% from the indirect?

A. No not this RFP.

12. Q. The commission will give extra points for programs service learning and violence prevention so how should we highlight that in the application?

A. Highlight it by saying you are focusing on the state initiative. It will help with our review and make it more clear for the National Reviewers.

13. Q. Is there a match for the planning grant?

A. Yes, 24% of the project total operating cost.

14. Q. We have a federally approved indirect rate that is well over the 5% rate allowed, can we use difference in match?

A. Yes, for the most part. For example:

A possible sub grantee has an indirect rate of 35%. They can only 'charge' 5% to the grant portion, but what about the remaining 30%?

The applicant can utilize the rest (30%) as match IF the Federally Negotiated Indirect Rate (FNIR) and their budget needs 'correspond.' In other words, if their FNIR award says that its only for salaries, or if its Provisional (and depending on those provisions) etc and that need is not part of the budget, then they cannot use it as Match (or only use the amount/% allowed by the FNIR award.). If that is the case, (or the amount they are 'allowed' by the FNIR/budget is less than 10%) they may as well just use the Corporation's fixed percentage.

15. Q. For continuation applications are we required to have \$2,000 for travel?

A. Yes, all programs except the EAP programs should have that worked into their budget.

16. Q. Can you give more guidance on days of service?

A. The corporation considers MLK Day (January), September 11 and Make a Difference Day (October) the three official days of service, along with America Corp Week (May 8-16, 2010). Programs should encourage as many members as possible to participate in events for these days.

17. Q. The RFP states that less than full time members will participate on a sliding scale?

A. As of today, a sliding scale has not been created. I will update the question after it has been decided. This should be by the 25th of November. It will be acceptable if a proposal states 'For our less than full time members, they will participate in Days of Service requirements in accordance with Serve Alaska's guidance.'

18. Q. What is match? What is Program income?

A. Match can be program income or in-kind. Program income is cash generated because of a member. For instance, a program may place a member in a school and charge that school an amount (\$5,000 for example) to have the member serve in a school. That money would be considered Program Income. Program Income is tracked separately and the Corporation expects Program Income to be spent on the program in that program year.

In-kind can be cash or in-kind services. Cash maybe donated money and in-kind services could include office space, supplies and supervisor salary.

Match cannot be used as match for any other grant and matching Federal dollars has limits if using it to match another Federal program. AmeriCorps is a federal program.

19. Q. Can you explain the minimum and maximum living allowance?

A. If you look at table 4 in the RFP, if you have a full time member, the minimum amount you must pay that member is \$11,800; the maximum you can pay that member is \$23,600. Less than full time members are not required to receive a living allowance but cannot be paid more then what is shown in the charts.

20. Q. What is the cost per member service year?

A. The cost per member service year (C/MSY) is figured by taking the grant amount (Federal portion only) and divide it by the number of members in the grant. For instance you are requesting \$100,000 in grant funds and ten members your C/MSY would be \$10,000. A program should aim for the C/MSY to be around \$12,600 amounts over that should seek guidance from Serve Alaska.

21. Q. Please explain pr-award cost?

A. Pre-award cost is mainly to allow a program to charge to the grant before the grant is set to start. These charges might include recruitment material but cannot include any member cost.

22. Q. Is the Serve Alaska neutral on requesting pre-award cost?

A. Yes we are neutral.

23. Q. Does pre-award cost count toward the grant?

A. Yes, it is taken out of your grant allotment.

24. Q. Can you send the RFP out in a word document?

A. Yes, I will send it as an attachment as an email to all people that sent intent to apply. The pdf version is the official version

25. Q. How will we find more information on planning grants?

A. I will email the Corporations' version so people can use that as guidance. I will have a Serve Alaska version ready by Monday.

26. Q. What is the due date for the planning grants?

A. The due date is 12/4/09.

27. Q. How complete are the planning grants?

A. Since this is the first year allowed by the corporation it's figured it won't be that complete.