

VGF19-002 Nonprofit & Community-Based Organization Capacity Grant

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated July 29, 2020

Note: FAQs are organized by date received. Therefore, recent updates are at the end of the document.

- **Do you know if volunteer time (now \$31.51/hour in CA) will count for the match?**

ANSWER: Yes, volunteer time can be leveraged as in-kind match for this grant, as long as the volunteer time is directly related to the work for this project.

- **What is the grant start and end date?**

ANSWER: The expected grant start date is 9/1/2020 and the end date is 9/30/2020. This is a short-term project.

- **Is there a list of what we need to submit?**

ANSWER: The submitted proposal should align with the scoring criteria, addressing the requested overview of the organization, work plan and response to scope of work, summary of personnel assigned to the project, cost proposal/budget, and the Std. 204 Payee Data Record. Additionally, the proposer is required to include, if a corporation, proof that the organization is in good standing and qualified to conduct business in California, proof of nonprofit status, as well as other organizational credentials (business licenses, professional certifications, etc.). The written proposal and the cost proposal must be within the 10-page requirement. Additional documents pertaining to professional certifications, etc. are not included within the 10-page limit.

- **The RFA mentions letters of recommendation. Do we need to get one and does that also fit into the 10-page limit?**

ANSWER: Letters of recommendation may be submitted. However, they are not required. Additionally, any letters submitted will not be counted against the 10-page limit.

- **Is the expectation that organizations will expend the \$25,000 in one month? Is this funding seen as a kind of “stimulus” for organizations that are involved in COVID response? Will we have to report where all the funding is going within a month?**

ANSWER: This is a reimbursable grant. Therefore, California Volunteers will process invoices based on expenses incurred by the grantee. The grant period currently ends September 30. While we realize this is a short period of time, our hope is that

the expenditures for activities proposed by applicants support activities within that timeframe. Depending on the status of activities at the end of September, there may be an opportunity to amend a grant. However, we cannot guarantee that. At this point, as stated in the funding announcement, activity performance is still tied to the period identified.

- **The Corporation for National and Community Service has waived the requirement that you cannot use federal funds to match their funding during the COVID crisis. This grant period corresponds with the beginning of the VIP AmeriCorps Year. Could these funds be used as match to leverage an additional VIP member to work on virtual volunteer engagement in disaster?**

ANSWER: As these capacity grants are funded through a Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) grant – the Volunteer Generation Fund – these funds could not be used as match for another CNCS related project.

- **If we use funds for production of video trainings and safety trainings for volunteers and our vendor gives us a discount from fair market value, can that count towards the match?**

ANSWER: Match can either be in-kind or monetary. However, a discount from a vendor cannot be used as match. The value of the vendor providing the work can be used, but not the discount.

- **Can we plan ahead and use funds to purchase a year's worth of PPE, zoom accounts, and email engagement/communication credits that will allow us to successfully engage and deploy recruited volunteers for months as part of the sustainability plan?**

ANSWER: No, grantees cannot use the grant funds to purchase supplies, materials, etc. to stock up on these items for the period outside of the grant period.

- **Can we use any of the funds on recognition for volunteers who are stepping up during COVID?**

ANSWER: These funds are to be used for capacity building projects and any proposed activities for this grant would need to be aligned with the intent of capacity building for organizations. It is up to the grantee to provide the justification for volunteer recognition in the grant proposal.