

Subpart E—Volunteer Terms of Service

- 2553.51 What are the terms of service of a RSVP volunteer?
 2553.52 Under what circumstances may a RSVP volunteer's service be terminated?

Subpart F—Responsibilities of a Volunteer Station

- 2553.61 When may a sponsor serve as a volunteer station?
 2553.62 What are the responsibilities of a volunteer station?

Subpart G—Application and Fiscal Requirements

- 2553.71 What is the process for application and award of a grant?
 2553.72 What are project funding requirements?
 2553.73 What are grants management requirements?

Subpart H—Non-Corporation Funded Projects

- 2553.81 Under what conditions may an agency or organization sponsor a RSVP project without Corporation funding?
 2553.82 What benefits are a non-Corporation funded project entitled to?
 2553.83 What financial obligation does the Corporation incur for non-Corporation funded projects?
 2553.84 What happens if a non-Corporation funded sponsor does not comply with the Memorandum of Agreement?

Subpart I—Restrictions and Legal Representation

- 2553.91 What legal limitations apply to the operation of the RSVP Program and to the expenditure of grant funds?
 2553.92 What legal coverage does the Corporation make available to RSVP volunteers.

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Subpart A—General**§ 2553.11 What is the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?**

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) provides grants to qualified agencies and organizations for the dual purpose of: engaging persons 55 and older in volunteer service to meet critical community needs; and to provide a high quality experience that will enrich the lives of volunteers.

§ 2553.12 Definitions.

(a) *Act.* The Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, as amended, Pub. L. 93-113, Oct. 1, 1973, 87 Stat. 396, 42 U.S.C. 4950 *et seq.*

(b) *Adequate staffing level.* The number of project staff or full-time equivalent needed by a sponsor to manage NSSC project operations considering such factors as: number of budgeted volunteers, number of volunteer stations, and the size of the service area.

(c) *Assignment.* The activities, functions or responsibilities to be performed by volunteers identified in a written outline or description.

(d) *Chief Executive Officer.* The Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation appointed under the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, (NCSA), 42 U.S.C. 12501 *et seq.*

(e) *Corporation.* The Corporation for National and Community Service established under the NCSA. The Corporation is also sometimes referred to as CNCS.

(f) *Cost reimbursements.* Reimbursements budgeted as Volunteer Expenses and provided to volunteers to cover incidental costs, meals, transportation, volunteer insurance, and recognition to enable them to serve without cost to themselves.

(g) *Letter of Agreement.* A written agreement between a volunteer station, the sponsor, and person(s) served or the person legally responsible for that person. It authorizes the assignment of a RSVP volunteer in the home of a client, defines RSVP volunteer activities, and specifies supervision arrangements.

(h) *Memorandum of Understanding.* A written statement prepared and signed by the RSVP project sponsor and the volunteer station that identifies project requirements, working relationships and mutual responsibilities.

(i) *National Senior Service Corps (NSSC).* The collective name for the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP), the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), and the Senior Companion Program (SCP), and Demonstration Programs established under Parts A, B, C, and E, Title II of the Act. NSSC is also referred to as the "Senior Corps".

§ 2553.21

(j) *Non-Corporation support (required).* The percentage share of non-Federal cash and in-kind contributions required to be raised by the sponsor in support of the grant, including non-Corporation federal, state and local governments and privately raised contributions.

(k) *Non-Corporation support (excess).* The amount of non-Federal cash and in-kind contributions generated by a sponsor in excess of the required percentage.

(l) *Project.* The locally planned and implemented RSVP activity or set of activities in a service area as agreed upon between a sponsor and the Corporation.

(m) *Qualified individual with a disability.* An individual with a disability (as defined in the Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. 705 (20)) who, with or without reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of a volunteer position that such individual holds or desires. If a sponsor has prepared a written description before advertising or interviewing applicants for the position, the written description may be considered evidence of the essential functions of the volunteer position.

(n) *Service area.* The geographically defined area approved in the grant application, in which RSVP volunteers are recruited, enrolled, and placed on assignments.

(o) *Sponsor.* A public agency or private non-profit organization that is responsible for the operation of a RSVP project.

(p) *Trust Act.* The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, as amended, Public Law 103-82, Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 785.

(q) *United States and States.* Each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam and American Samoa, and Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands.

(r) *Volunteer station.* A public agency, private non-profit organization or proprietary health care agency or organization that accepts responsibility for assignment, supervision and training of RSVP volunteers. Each volunteer station must be licensed or otherwise certified, when required, by appropriate

45 CFR Ch. XXV (10-1-03 Edition)

state or local government. Private homes are not volunteer stations.

Subpart B—Eligibility and Responsibilities of a Sponsor

§ 2553.21 Who is eligible to serve as a sponsor?

The Corporation awards grants to public agencies, including Indian tribes and non-profit private organizations, in the United States that have the authority to accept and the capability to administer a RSVP project.

§ 2553.22 What are the responsibilities of a sponsor?

A sponsor is responsible for fulfilling all project management requirements necessary to accomplish the purposes of the RSVP program as specified in the Act. A sponsor shall not delegate or contract these responsibilities to another entity. A sponsor shall comply with all regulations contained in this part, policies, and grant provisions prescribed by the Corporation.

§ 2553.23 What are a sponsor's program responsibilities?

A sponsor shall:

(a) Focus RSVP resources to have a positive impact on critical human and social needs within the project service area.

(b) Assess in collaboration with other community organizations or utilize existing assessments of the needs of the community or service area and develop strategies to respond to those needs using the resources of RSVP volunteers.

(c) Develop and manage a system of volunteer stations to provide a wide range of placement opportunities that appeal to persons age 55 and over by:

(1) Ensuring that a volunteer station is a public or non-profit private organization or an eligible proprietary health care agency capable of serving as a volunteer station for the placement of RSVP volunteers to meet locally identified needs;

(2) Ensuring the placement of RSVP volunteers is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding:

(i) That is negotiated prior to placement;