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Learning Systems International
Introduction to AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Demonstration
Program

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CG

15:26:47 [Music]

15:32:54 >>Recording in progress.

15:33:07 >> Good afternoon everyone and welcome to today's session, Introduction to AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Demonstration Program.

15:33:17 My name is Linda Cook and joining me today is Kalynn Evans. We are both with AmeriCorps Seniors.

15:33:46 I'm going to quickly go over a few house rules. All lines are on mute. If you have questions for us, we ask that you please put them in the Q&A box. Otherwise, all responses in the Chat will be directed to everyone so we all have the benefit of seeing your response.

15:33:53 If you have technical problems, please let Jeff know. He is our staff person on today to help us with technical issues.

15:34:00 And the slides and the recording of this will be available on AmeriCorps.gov.

15:34:18 This presentation is a series of training opportunities that we will have over the next couple of weeks.

15:34:23 Some of these will be repeated, as well. Today's session is on the introduction to AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors SDP program.

15:34:44 You will note that tomorrow and the following day we will go into more depth about Notice of Funding Opportunity for ARP, AmeriCorps Seniors, SDP program.

15:34:52 As well as talk a little bit more in detail about the actions of some of the work that some of our SDP programs have been doing.

15:35:12 Very quickly, here is what we hope to accomplish today. We hope to provide some basic information about AmeriCorps, formerly known as the Corporation for National and Community Service.

15:35:21 We are going to review the Senior Demonstration Program objectives and key information to consider.

15:35:32 As I mentioned, the session is a precursor to tomorrow's session that will cover the Notice of Funding Opportunity for The American Rescue Plan in more detail.

15:35:50 If you are not already familiar with AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors, we hope that this presentation today will answer all of the questions you have about National Service.

15:36:00 If you are familiar with us we want you to walk away with this as a refresher and know what your place is in National Service.

15:36:34 AmeriCorps, formerly known as the Corporation for National and Community Service, is the federal agency responsible for civic engagement-that means we lead civic engagement through service and volunteerism.

15:36:34 Through grantmaking efforts, and national days of service in the United States.

15:36:34 We help millions of Americans improve their lives and the lives of their fellow citizens through service.

15:36:56 We do that mostly by working hand-in-hand with local partners to tap the ingenuity and can-do spirit of the American people, to tackle our country's most pressing challenges.

15:36:56 Our mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.

15:37:25 What is National Service? National Service is the opportunity to volunteer your time and talent to make a difference in people's lives and get things done for America.

15:37:25 Through AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors, individuals of any age can serve our country and their community by putting their valuable skills to use.

15:37:52 You may be familiar with AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps is the federal agency that engages people in service for a set period of time, where they often serve in their communities and serve anywhere in the United States.

15:37:58 People of all ages can serve in different types of AmeriCorps programs, but they tend to skew a little bit younger than our program.

15:37:58 AmeriCorps Seniors is specifically geared toward volunteers who are 55 and older.

15:38:10 AmeriCorps encourages volunteerism through national days of service such as Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and the September 11 Day of Service.

15:38:30 If you want to learn more about AmeriCorps generally, you can visit our website listed there. AmeriCorps.gov and check out some statistics on National Service in your state, your regional area, and through social media.

15:38:46 It is also the location that you can go, we will cover some things later. It is at this website that you can sign up for future training opportunities.

15:39:03 I'm going to talk a little bit about our AmeriCorps Seniors three traditional programs. They are separate and distinct from the Senior Demonstration Program.

15:39:13 The first one we will discuss is the Foster Grandparent program or FGP.

15:39:18 This program engages older Americans as role models and mentors to help children with special and exceptional needs.

15:39:21 Eligible volunteers in the program may receive a small stipend to defray the cost of service.

15:39:49 Our second program is the Senior Companion Program or SCP, which provides assistance and friendship to adults who have difficulty with daily living tasks such as shopping or paying bills, helping them maintain independence in their homes.

15:39:51 Again, eligible volunteers receive a small stipend for their service.

15:40:12 For RSVP, all of our programs engage individuals 55 and older in service, that is really the core of our third type of program, RSVP.

15:40:32 It was established in 1971 and it engages people 55 and older in a wide variety of volunteer activities.

15:40:32 Essentially, if you can think of a volunteer doing it, there is probably an RSVP program volunteer serving in that capacity now.

15:40:54 It was really built to meet community needs. It's very flexible and also all of RSVP program volunteers, focus on one specific area. RSVP volunteers can tutor children, renovate homes, assist victims of national disasters, and do other things.

15:41:03 Now I'm going to talk a little bit about the Senior Demonstration Program.

15:41:16 Senior Demonstration programming allows us to expand our program reach in a way that's different from our standard three types of programs.

15:41:28 I mentioned that FGP focuses primarily solely on adults 55 and older that are tutoring kids.

15:41:38 Exceptional kids and the SDP program may have seniors serving kids with exceptional needs, as well as serve their parents.

15:42:01 Like providing parenting tips or homework assistance tips. The Senior Demonstration Authority, which governs the Senior Demonstration Program, allows us to fund innovative programming.

15:42:11 The expectation is that the activities will be carried out by seniors, but the program has a new innovative twist to demonstrate the power of senior volunteers to make significant contributions in their communities.

15:42:19 In general as well as - we will discuss tomorrow how we can move toward recovering from this pandemic.

15:42:36 There is some bullet points that kind of illustrate Senior Demonstration Program.

15:42:36 It can be described as a hybrid of our three programs, but with a twist.

15:42:51 SDP has the capacity of creating a different type of program to engage folks over the age of 55, to be engaged in community driven interventions that address unmet community needs.

15:43:05 We have a few demonstration programs currently that are zero-dollar grants, meaning they receive no funds from AmeriCorps.

15:43:13 And some Senior Demonstration Programs are state driven, state defined and state-funded.

15:43:27 For example, we have several programs in Texas and Michigan that have Senior Demonstration grants where there is no federal dollars being used to fund the program, it is all being funded by the state.

15:43:39 Let's talk a little bit about the Senior Demonstration Program and where you can get more information about it.

15:44:06 One of the things that we are going to do this year is to really use the Senior Demonstration Program to help us amplify funding that we received from the American Rescue Plan.

15:44:24 As I told you, our Senior Demonstration Program's really give us the flexibility to use our senior power to respond to areas in pressing needs in communities.

15:44:34 What we want it to do is introduce the AmeriCorps Seniors American Rescue Plan competition.

15:44:53 Some key points, and these will be gone over in greater detail tomorrow, the AmeriCorps Seniors rescue plan notice opened on November 1. It is currently on our website right now.

15:45:04 It is our call for new applicants or organizations that do not have a current grant with AmeriCorps Seniors, to respond to community-based needs.

15:45:30 Illuminated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are looking for efforts to help local communities recover from the pandemic, as well as applications that established education that may have been lost as a result of the COVID pandemic.

15:45:43 Vaccination and vaccination education efforts, and particularly to reach different communities or hard-to-reach communities.

15:45:53 We are also looking for applications that actively engaged in removing structural racial inequities, advanced racial - and increase opportunities to achieve sustainable change in communities.

15:46:04 One of the things that we know as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a lot of the racial inequities really were highlighted or magnified, if you will.

15:46:16 As a result of the numbers of deaths that occurred or people who were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 virus.

15:46:33 We would like to receive applications for programming that really helps us a little bit more about issues around racial inequity.

15:46:51 Applicants are also encouraged to propose programming anywhere in the United States. Some of you who may have received funding from us in the past know that traditionally our programs focus specifically in a specific Geographic Service Area.

15:46:58 With this opportunity, you can apply for funding in any county, city, or town.

15:47:13 Applications are - we are hoping to receive applications that propose programming in the priority service areas that are identified and Appendix A.

15:47:23 These are areas where there is high poverty or areas where we currently do not have AmeriCorps Seniors programming.

15:47:49 AmeriCorps Seniors will be programming our ARP funding in accordance with section 231 of the DVSA, which authorizes the Director of AmeriCorps Seniors to make grants to public and nonprofit organizations for the purpose of demonstrating.

15:47:57 Innovating activities involving older Americans as volunteers and for testing whether older American volunteer programs may contribute to new objectives or certain national priorities.

15:48:12 The specific legal authority, the Senior Demonstration is 42 5028.

15:48:23 By exercising this authority AmeriCorps Seniors will encourage innovation --.

15:48:33 Innovation as communities recover and Build Back Better.

15:48:46 You'll notice on the screen if there are questions that folks have regarding the American Rescue Plan Senior Demonstration Program, they are encouraged to send them by email to the email address there.

15:49:06 AmericanRescueSDP@cns.gov and for more information and to review any of the resources, as it pertains to the American Rescue Plan, there is a link that is provided.

15:49:29 I do want to take a step back and highlight how different the Senior Demonstration Program is in comparison to our traditional FGP, SCP and RSVP programs.

15:49:48 We are looking for programs that maybe takes the best of FGP, the best of Senior Companion's, RSVP, combines them in some way and is really innovative and interesting - unmet needs in communities.

15:49:51 All of the participants who serve volunteers are over the age of 55.

15:50:09 One of the things that makes our RSVP programs different, if you will, is that the agency is looking at what lessons can we learn as a result of this type of programming?

15:50:27 What are things-does it call for us to develop a new program, or are there things that we can learn to strengthen our core three programs?

15:50:43 We are really looking for innovative practices through this line of programming. There would not be a federal program if we did not go over some rules and regulations.

15:50:51 We wanted to make sure that you are aware of some of the rules, as it applies to all of our programming.

15:51:03 The code of federal regulations is the source of the requirements that govern our grants in our grantmaking.

15:51:22 Please go to the website as noted there. It is the Code of Federal Regulations website, ECFR.gov to review their rules and regulations.

15:51:27 There's also plenty of links on our website that talk specifically about some of these rules and regulations.

15:51:44 If you are ever lucky enough to receive a grant from our agency, you will become very well-versed in the Code of Federal Regulations, specifically 200.

15:52:15 The fiscal responsibilities for all of our grantmaking. Some of the things that are key regulations that carry across all of our programs, including the Senior Demonstration Program, is that there are specific service activities that are prohibited.

15:52:28 Your Program Design, you are not allowed to present something that replaces paid staff.

15:52:35 No political activity can occur at all during any time on grant time.

15:52:45 There is also a requirement that no religious activity occurs for our programming.

15:52:59 We also have National Service Criminal History Check Requirements for all of our programs where funds are being used to pay staff or volunteers.

15:53:07 There is a link that goes into great detail about the Criminal History Check costs or requirements.

15:53:32 If you are interested in applying for SDP program or any of our programs really, I highly suggest that you go to this site and review this information, so that you are well aware of the requirements to conduct criminal history checks on both staff and paid volunteers.

15:53:48 I think we have a little bit of time for Q&A. I see some questions that are in the Q&A. I'm going to ask Colin to help me with those questions.

15:54:10 >> One is, when I look at Appendix A, I see the counties that we serve are not located on it.

15:54:10 Can you still apply if your county is not shown in the appendix?

15:54:25 >> For SDP programming, for the American Rescue Plan, yes. You can apply for any county that is recovering from COVID. If it's not on Appendix A, it's fine.

15:54:41 The ones that are on Appendix A are ones that are a priority for us, if you will, because they address communities where there is a high need or a community that we don't currently have an AmeriCorps Seniors program.

15:54:56 >> If AmeriCorps Seniors already has a presence in my area, can our organization still apply for the American Rescue Plan senior program?

15:55:09 >> Yes. Yes, you can still apply. Provided that you are not doing the same thing that that organization is doing in the community.

15:55:32 I imagine that since the ARP, SDP notice is specifically calling out recovery from the COVID pandemic, both financial, economic and health challenges that may have arisen, there is a good chance that what you are providing is different.

15:55:49 >> The next question. When you say all volunteers have to be over 55, can there be volunteers under 55 funded by other sources?

15:56:20 >> Like I said, the SDP program model is we are looking for innovation, so if you have a volunteer that is under the age of 55 that are serving alongside the volunteers who are 55, as long as they are not-their activities are not counted towards the performance measures.

15:56:23 And the progress reports that are required from our programs, I think that that is fine.

15:56:35 >> Do we have to turn away volunteers that are younger?

15:56:59 >> Our funds can only be used to support volunteers who are over the age of 55. However, there is a volunteer component where younger volunteers are engaged with older volunteers.

15:57:07 And those younger volunteers are not being compensated in any way by the grant. I'm sure that is something that we can learn from.

15:57:18 >> Thank you. Is there matching requirement for the Senior Demonstration Program grant?

15:57:41 >> I knew someone would ask me that question. There is a 10% match required for this program. We will get in greater detail about that during tomorrow's training.

15:57:51 >> Are the grant funds to be used to stipend volunteers?

15:58:00 >> Not sure I understand.

15:58:14 >> Are grant funds able to be used to stipend volunteers?

15:58:21 >> Yes. They should be used to provide the stipend, unless you have state funds, they can also be used, as well.

15:58:29 >> There is a request to please define a paid volunteer.

15:58:40 >> A paid volunteer? Perhaps that means with the stipend, as well.

15:59:01 >> I will try to answer it this way. If I don't answer the question, please provide some clarification. Two of our programs, the Foster Grandparent and the Senior Companion Program provide a small stipend.

15:59:27 That amount is provided, depending on how the agency's structure is. It could receive a stipend once a week or twice a week, once every two weeks or once a month. It just depends on how the sponsoring organization's payroll is set up and handled.

15:59:48 It's not a salary, and a little bit of money to kind of help with some of the cost of volunteering.

15:59:48 People can use it to pay for gas to get to the service location or things like that.

15:59:55 Is that what the question is pertaining to, what we mean by paid volunteers?

16:00:17 >> Does no political activity mean you cannot interact with state legislatures or politics that interact with older people?

16:00:38 >> That means you can't do lobbying or legislative action. Of course, you can invite your elected officials to visit your program. Educate them about the great work and services being provided is one of the things we encourage and love to see happen.

16:01:00 The political advocated for a particular candidate or trying to engage in something to encourage folks to vote on a specific bill, those are the types of political activities that are not allowed to be using our federal dollars.

16:01:18 >> A similar question, this is about religious programming. I understand requirement that no funds can be used for religious activities, but that does not prevent us from having religion in our organizations?

16:01:29 As long as it is not on the grant time and effort. Whatever occurs outside of the grant time is your own personal business and the business of the organization.

16:02:03 The religious part speaks to requiring volunteers to participate in prayer service, for example. Or requiring volunteers to subscribe to a particular religious belief.

16:02:03 That is what we mean by religious activities.

16:02:22 >> The next one is if an organization is already receiving ARP funding through a different source, i.e. government agencies, are we still eligible to apply?

16:02:31 >> Yes. As long as it's not funding from AmeriCorps Seniors.

16:02:35 >> Just a quick reminder for those who are putting the questions in the chat, if you can use the Q&A feature, it helps us keep track of the questions easier.

16:02:43 >> What is the maximum number of senior volunteers one organization can apply for?

16:02:51 >> There is not a maximum number set.

16:03:15 >> Are there any questions specific to the design of an SDP program? A lot of these questions are related to the ARP notice, which we will go into detail about tomorrow.

16:03:21 Are there any general questions about the SDP program?

16:03:41 >> I am looking through a couple of the general questions. A couple questions about stipends that we already answered.

16:03:58 I have a question that says we received an RSVP and SDP grant in 2020 that is currently in operation.

16:04:03 I want to confirm that means we are not eligible for this SDP funding opportunity.

16:04:21 That would be the ARP funding opportunity, and that is correct. If you currently have a grant with us, then the opportunity to apply for the ARP funding was earlier this year.

16:04:35 So this third round of funding that we have now is for folks who don't currently have an operating grant with us or people who are brand new to our agency.

16:04:57 >> There's a question about can you apply if you are a nonprofit. You have to be a nonprofit.

16:05:12 >> We have a question asking to clarify eligibility for those of you that already have a program, why they -- have a senior -- as well.

16:05:40 >> Under the ARP Senior demonstration project. Our intent is to bring on new funding. The second opportunity, Phase 2 for American Rescue Plan was open to current grantees.

16:05:57 That opportunity has closed. This third round --

16:06:34 >> Linda, I think we lost your audio. I think we temporarily lost Linda on the audio.

16:06:43 We will keep a record of the questions. Linda, are you there?

16:06:43 >> Can you hear me?

16:07:05 >> Yes. My internet glitched for a moment. For current grantees that are looking to do something specific to COVID, it's worth it to have a conversation with your Portfolio Manager.

16:07:11 The funding opportunity that exists right now is only for organizations that do not currently have a grant with us.

16:07:24 >> There is a question about how we can find out if there are any AmeriCorps programs running in our area.

16:07:48 >> There is a Path finder on our website. If you go to our AmeriCorps website, there is a link there to Path finder, which will list all of our areas where we have existing programs.

16:08:08 We also have on our general organization section, there is a press release section where we have previous practice announcements for grants that were awarded.

16:08:13 And organizations that received those awards are listed there, as well.

16:08:19 >> Any other questions that we can respond to today?

16:08:47 I do want to say, if there are specific questions to the NOFO, tomorrow's session, we have a lot of folks that are registered, I think I saw over

300 people registered for tomorrow's session, that is the place to be if you have specific questions related to the Notice.

16:08:57 I will not be able to readdress those types of questions right now. That is for tomorrow. This session will also be repeated, I think sometime in January.

16:09:10 If you go to our website, it lists the second round of a lot of the sessions that will be made available for folks to sign up for at a later date, as well.

16:09:26 Linda, if you can reiterate where you can -- the priority areas?

16:09:34 >> Any priority areas will be listed in our Notice of Funding Opportunity, or NOFO.

16:09:45 If you go to our website, there is a tab that is for partnering organizations, if you scroll down a little bit, it lists all of the funding opportunities.

16:10:05 Every funding opportunity that we ever do, it will always list a priority area and always list priorities for things we are interested in taking a look at.

16:10:09 That is where you get all that information. That is across the board for anything that is funded by AmeriCorps.

16:10:22 If you're interested in looking at VISTA or other types of grantmaking programs that we have, you can find out their priorities there, as well.

16:10:52 >> Looking through some of the questions. This is for eligibility. We received an RSVP grant that is currently in operation. I want to confirm we are not eligible for this SDP funding opportunity?

16:10:57 >> You are not eligible for the ARP Senior Demonstration opportunity.

16:11:11 >> If you can one more time clarify about the Appendix A. If you are not listed, what does that mean in terms of the ability to apply?

16:11:31 >> The notice indicates that you can apply for any area, anywhere in the United States that you are looking to address a community need that has been a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

16:11:45 Appendix A lists areas where, looking at census data and other stuff, we have identified as high poverty areas that we would like to see programming directed towards.

16:11:57 You can either apply for one of those areas that is listed on appendix A, or you can apply for anywhere in the United States.

16:12:28 >> Like I said, this is a little different from other types of funding opportunities. Like for example, for FGP or -- what is listed on Appendix A is what you have to apply for. However, with this, ARP funding, we know that communities across the country have suffered as a result of this pandemic.

16:12:50 We want to give every opportunity for those communities to have their needs addressed. So, that is the reason why it is open for anywhere in the country, but at the same time, we know there are high poverty areas that have suffered greatly that we don't have programs in.

16:13:02 We want folks to take a look at that. I just saw a question pop up that says where is Appendix A?

16:13:21 When you go for funding opportunity, there are links that are listed for the NOFO. There is a link for Appendix A and there is also a link to the Appendix B, which talks about specific performance measures that we are directing folks to use.

16:13:35 >> Which AmeriCorps grants can be applied for that do not require a match?

16:13:52 >> I don't know if I can answer that. All of our grants for AmeriCorps Seniors, there is a match requirement. You can take a look of our funding opportunity page to see what is going on with VISTA or AmeriCorps State and National.

16:14:13 >> A lot of things will be covered in the webinar tomorrow. We can save those and hopefully you can attend the webinar for tomorrow and that should cover a lot of the questions.

16:14:25 Match can be in cash or in-kind.

16:14:42 >> A couple of people are asking for examples of programs. Like a general SDP program, what it may look like.

16:15:23 >> Just in general, let me see if I can think of one. We have a program that uses senior volunteers to connect them with food insecurity issues, connecting them with food banks.

16:15:23 Connecting with the SNAP program, and so forth.

16:15:41 But also connecting them with resources around job opportunities and workforce development. That is one example of a Senior Demonstration Program.

16:16:06 It sounds very different from our traditional program. Where Foster Grandparents, we have some that were working in schools with children who need assistance, and they are only working with those kids.

16:16:15 With the SDP program, they are able to branch out a little bit more and impact children, their families, and the community in a more broader way.

16:16:19 That is one example.

16:16:27 >> What are the regulations around non-US citizens serving as your volunteers or benefiting from the programming?

16:16:49 >> You have to be a US citizen or a permanent resident in order to be able to benefit from our programs, to receive a stipend, or to receive an education award, if you are serving in a program that offers that.

16:16:59 >> Does participation in AARP program --

16:17:01 >> I'm sorry,

16:17:10 >> Does participation in AARP program limit participation in AmeriCorps programs?

16:17:21 >> No. If the question is can you get multiple types of grants from our agency, the answer is yes, you can.

16:17:30 I saw a question pop up about a location that was not listed Appendix A in Massachusetts.

16:17:38 There is nothing that would prohibit you or stop you from applying with the community that is not listed on Appendix A.

16:17:49 I don't want folks to think that just because you do not see it on there, that means we are not interested in that location or that area.

16:18:05 Again, you can apply anywhere in the country. What is listed on Appendix A are areas in communities that we know that have been identified by census reports as high poverty areas.

16:18:23 We are also looking for communities where there are Native American communities and Tribes, as well as we have very few programs that are serving and operating in the US territories.

16:18:28 That is why those areas are listed on Appendix A.

16:18:43 >> Can you clarify, there has been a few questions about volunteers that are 55 and over. Can you talk about that eligibility?

16:18:50 >> As long as they are over 55, they are available to serve in our AmeriCorps Seniors programs.

16:19:15 >> Several questions asking if these are federal grants with federal guidelines for accountability.

16:19:26 >> Yes, AmeriCorps is a federal agency, so you bet we will have federal requirements, federal reporting, expectations.

16:20:06 >> We have RSVP programs and nonprofit and definitely have low income and COVID restrictions in our areas. Are we -- this is a question about, if they already have a AmeriCorps Seniors program, can they apply even though they have low income and COVID issues in their area?

16:20:06 Again, this program is intended for organizations that do not have a current grant with us.

16:20:28 We had two other opportunities for existing grantees to apply for ARP funding, and those two opportunities are now closed. Again, this third opportunity is for organizations that do not have a current grant with AmeriCorps Seniors.

16:20:39 >> Are there prerequisites to operate a senior volunteer program previously?

16:21:08 >> Prerequisites. I think in general, all of our programs have systems or standard operating procedures to run the program. They have staff who can serve as the director and make sure that the objectives that were articulated in the grant applications, that those are met and carried out.

16:21:23 There are, just as with any federal grant, there are financial obligations or requirements that you have to meet.

16:21:35 We do a check to make sure that the person who is running the program is not on an exclusion parties list.

16:21:59 I'm trying to think of all of the ways to answer that question. There are requirements because this is federal money, and because this is, there are specific requirements that we expect our grantees to be able to address and be able to produce.

16:22:12 I am sure many nonprofits and many of you on the phone do have standard operating procedures for staff members in place.

16:22:21 If you have that, I think this opportunity to apply should be of interest to you.

16:22:32 I just saw a question that popped up about the minimum amount.

16:22:36 The NOFO explains the minimum amount that we are looking at.

16:22:42 I don't recall the dollar amount. I think it's $100,000 or $150,000, it is in the Notice.

16:23:03 >> Can I expand on themes? This is a competitive grant process, so I am not allowed to answer any questions like that.

16:23:08 Don't want to give any unfair advantages.

16:23:22 >> A lot of questions that are coming in will be addressed hopefully with tomorrow's webinar that reviews the NOFO.

16:23:46 >> I hope this presentation has - some thoughts about the innovative ways that organizations and communities can use the Senior Demonstration Program in general.

16:24:04 It is an opportunity for organizations to go beyond some of the traditional requirements of our FGP, and an RSVP programming.

16:24:19 I encourage all of you, there is information on our website that goes into some examples about Senior Demonstration Programs.

16:24:19 I encourage you to take a look at our website and learn more about the programs.

16:24:36 Learn more about our traditional programs. I hope you learned something about our agency and the programs that we support.

16:24:57 >> As a quick note, on the same website that we posted that lists the resources and everything for the program, there is a FAQ document that we are updating frequently.

16:25:04 I think I will post that link into the main - will have access to it.

16:25:32 >> And as I am looking to the same link, that will be where the recording will be. As they are made available that will be posted to the website to the link that I just added to the chat box.

16:26:03 There are still a lot of questions about who can apply. Again, Linda did a really good job explaining Appendix A and what that means for eligibility.

16:26:13 Thank you for explaining that. Some are concerned if the organization is not listed in Appendix A, what that may mean.

16:26:32 Any other questions that you see before we end our time here?

16:26:38 >> How can our organization become an RSVP agency?

16:27:03 Our RSVP programs have service locations where their volunteers are serving, so many of them reach out to organizations and partners in their communities to place an RSVP volunteer.

16:27:30 If there is an RSVP grants in your community that you can identify by looking on our website, you can reach out to that grantee to inquire about becoming a placement site, or the organization can apply for an RSVP grant.

16:27:39 Next competition for RSVP will not be until 2025. That is when our next round for RSVP grants will be made available.

16:27:57 If we registered for today, do we have to register for each of the sessions? Each session has a different link so in order to see or hear tomorrows, you have to register for that particular session.

16:28:21 >> It's asking if we can speak a bit about the difference between AmeriCorps Seniors and other levels of AmeriCorps service. Is the program functionally the same? That volunteers have to be over 55?

16:28:32 >> You mean in how is AmeriCorps Seniors different from AmeriCorps State and National or AmeriCorps NCCC?

16:28:44 >> Just the difference between AmeriCorps Seniors and other AmeriCorps service.

16:28:57 >> With AmeriCorps State and National, anyone can serve. However, a lot of the programs they are traditionally younger volunteers. They are not volunteers, they are members. They receive a living allowance while they are serving.

16:29:20 They are serving full-time or part-time in a full-time or part-time capacity. With AmeriCorps Seniors, all of our volunteers are over the age of 55. There is training and support, specifically for volunteers over the age of 55.

16:29:45 I guess that is the biggest difference there. Also, the senior volunteers are not serving in a full-time capacity, the way that AmeriCorps State and National or NCCC members are volunteering.

16:29:53 >> There is a quest to clarify what volunteer stations mean.

16:30:09 >> Volunteer stations are the locations where the volunteers show up to serve. For example, a soup kitchen or middle school, or elementary school. Volunteers stations and service locations are used interchangeably.

16:30:20 It is the place that volunteers are serving or placed.

16:30:31 >> There's a couple questions asking about who provides volunteers. Is there help with recruiting volunteers?

16:30:50 >> The programs do a lot of recruitment on the local level. The help that is provided from our agency is in the form of marketing materials that folks can use.

16:31:01 The organization that receives the grants and placement locations are largely responsible for recruiting their volunteers.

16:31:45 Can we utilize chaperones on the school bus?

16:32:12 >> With an RSVP program, that is something that you potentially do. But with the standard programming, that is not something that occurs. However,

you might want to before you come up with that program design, reach out to the school system.

16:32:18 I am aware a lot of the schools have liability requirements for volunteers that are serving on their buses.

16:32:36 As an idea for an SDP program, that certainly would fit in.

16:32:43 >> There's a couple questions about minimal number of volunteers. Is there a minimal number of volunteers for programs?

16:32:51 >> No, there is not a minimum or maximum.

16:33:15 >> I really appreciate everyone's participation in and the questions that have come in. Our goal today was to really talk about Senior Demonstration Program and highlight ways that we are using that and ways that is connected to ARP funding.

16:33:20 I really hope the session has answered any questions as it relates to that.

16:33:38 The focus of tomorrow's session will be on the NOFO for the ARP funding. I hope if you still have questions about that that, you register for that session.

16:33:42 I hope everyone enjoys the rest of the day.

16:33:45 >> Thank you very much.