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Learning Systems International
AmeriCorps Seniors American Rescue Plan SDP in Action-Mobilizing a
Generation

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MD

15:02:38 >> Good afternoon and thank you for joining us. Let's review the zoom features we will use for the -- for this event.

15:02:57 The audio is broadcasting by phone and online. This event is lecture only and microphones are muted to reduce background noise.

15:02:58 To adjust audio through your computer, go to bottom left of the screen, click the small arrow next to the audiio settings and select a speaker.

15:02:58 Some viewers get better audio when streaming while others get better quality by phone.

15:03:12 If you have audio difficulties, you may want to try a different connection method. There are several Zoom features we will use. At the top of the screen, click the view options button and select exit full screen to display the chat panel on the right side of the slides.

15:03:26 If you need technical assistance, email us at AmeriCorps webinar support@lsidc.com.

15:03:37 Chat panel is disabled and will be used by presenters to display resources. You could ask questions by using the Q&A panel.

15:03:49 Select the closed captioning icon for live captioning in English. If you wish to view captioning in Spanish, select the Stream Text link and post it into chat to view them into the browser.

15:03:57 We have -- we will record the event so let's start the recording and turn it over to the presenters.

15:03:58 >> Recording in progress

15:04:17 >> Good afternoon everyone. I am Linda Cook and I'm associate director with AmeriCorps Seniors. Thank you for joining us today.

15:04:37 This is our third webinar for this week. Covering the series of Senior Demonstration Program grants. With American Rescue Plan notice that is currently open as well as the FGP SCP replacement competition.

15:04:57 Today's webinar will feature, we will focus specifically on the AmeriCorps Seniors demonstration program, give you examples of those

programs as well as cover a little bit more about the American Rescue Plan opportunity.

15:05:03 I am going to go off camera.

15:05:29 One caveat before we dive into questions, because this is a competition, there will be questions I cannot answer in all fairness because this is a competition.

15:05:35 If you -- if your question is his -- is specific and requires context in -- and discussion, we cannot answer or address that information.

15:05:47 You will be directed to send an email to the americanrescuesdp@cns.gov address that is on the screen.

15:06:06 If there's a question that none of us could answer today, we will provide a response in our FAQs section that is present on the notice page.

15:06:18 I will talk about AmeriCorps, the agency, just before we dive in and before I turn it over to Calynn to introduce a poll.

15:06:41 AmeriCorps formerly known as CNCS is a federal agency responsible for civic engagement, that means we lead civic engagement through service and volunteerism through our grantmaking efforts into our national [indiscernible] of service.

15:06:58 We help millions of Americans improve their lives and the lives of their fellow citizens through service. We do that mostly by working hard hand-in-hand with local partners to tap the ingenuity and can-do spirit of the American people.

15:07:06 To tackle our country's most pressing challenges. Our mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement.

15:07:18 National Service is an opportunity to volunteer your time and talent to make a difference in people's lives and get things done for America.

15:07:29 Through AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors, individuals of any age can serve our country and our community by putting their valuable skills to use.

15:07:49 As I mentioned, and was also mentioned during survey yesterday, the Senior Demonstration Program allows us to expand our program reach in a way that's different from our standard three programs of FGP SCP and RSVP.

15:08:05 For example, SDP program may have seniors serving kids with exceptional needs and their parents, such as through providing parenting tips or homework assistant tips.

15:08:30 This feature is different from our FGP programming where we have seniors that are serving kids with exceptional needs in the schools and classrooms, but they are not allowed to provide the reach to parents in offering homework assistant -- assistance tips to parents.

15:09:03 The Senior Demonstration Authority which governs Senior Demonstration Program allows us to fund innovative programming. The expectation is that the activities will be carried out I seniors, individuals over the age 55, but the program has a new innovative twist to demonstrate the power of senior volunteers to make significant contributions in their communities as we recover and reopen after the CoVid 19 pandemic.

15:09:41 This is the third webinar we have had this week. Thank you so much for folks that had the opportunity to join me earlier as I provide an introduction to AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps Seniors and Senior Demonstration Program yesterday we took a tour of the notice of funding opportunity for ARP and for FGP SCP replacement.

15:10:09 Today's webinar, we will provide specific examples about SDP programming. Before we begin, just a reminder, all of our sessions are recorded. They will be posted on our website if you need to go back and listen to them again or for the first time for a webinar you did not have the opportunity to attend.

15:10:26 Next week, there's a very important webinar concerning our national performance measures and how you could make sure that you are selecting the right measures as you complete your application.

15:10:35 I will turn it over to Calynn to introduce a couple polls.

15:11:06 >> I am the ARP training specialist and I want to welcome everyone and we're going over a couple polls. I want to see who we have joining us today. First question is how would you describe primary field of your organization?

Aging, volunteerism, community development, faith-based organizations, higher education, state County municipal or other government or something else.

15:11:25 I will give everyone a few moments to add in their response to this question. Just looking at responses, majority of you have organizations focus on aging as well as something else with community development being a close third.

15:11:52 We can end the poll. Primarily is aging. Something else aging and then community development. We will do the second poll question which is going to ask if you attend -- if you have attended any of the other webinars?

15:12:17 Responses are coming in and majority view have attended previous webinars. We could close the poll out an 80% of you have attended other webinars. Those are the only two questions we have and Linda I will turn it back over to you.

15:12:29 >> Thank you. We will start by establishing basic facts about the competition. So that everybody is working from the same basic information.

15:12:48 The American Rescue Plan, Senior Demonstration Program notice went live on November 1 of this year. Applications are due by 5:00 PM, Eastern, on February 3, 2022.

15:13:08 American Rescue Plan Senior Demonstration Program phase 3 is our call for new applicants or those who do not currently have an active grant with AmeriCorps Seniors to submit applications for funding.

15:13:39 We will be programming our ARP funding in accordance with the section 231 of the DVSA which authorizes director of AmeriCorps Seniors to make grants to public and nonprofit organizations for the purpose of demonstrating innovative activities involving older Americans as volunteers and for testing whether older American volunteer programs may contribute to new objectives or certain national priorities.

15:14:04 The specific section of the DVSA code 42, US code section 5028 this legal authority as Senior Demonstration Authority and by exercising this authority, AmeriCorps Seniors can encourage innovation as communities recover and build back better.

15:14:30 As a reminder, AmeriCorps Seniors overall framework is based on community programs and community partnerships and because of you, we do that really well.

15:15:06 AmeriCorps Seniors plans to use this opportunity with ARP to build upon the framework. We know we could build upon the program by partnering with communities to find solutions to challenges by building equity into the agency's grantmaking process and through serving communities that have been disproportionately -- disproportionately impacted by CoVid 19.

15:15:20 As we go through the presentation, we are asking you to look to see where we could partner together, AmeriCorps Seniors goal is to partner with new organizations will -- who are not only supporting CoVid 19 mitigation and recovery methods but committing to increasing the senior volunteers to reopen and rebuild our communities together.

15:15:48 Let's talk about the resources that you can use as you are preparing to apply for this funding opportunity. I will say that all of your questions or most of your questions are likely found in the notice for this particular program.

15:16:00 I realized the print on the slide is small but we wanted to show you all the funding opportunity page as it's currently on the website.

15:16:11 If you click on the second link, that is where it will open the notice and provide all the information and go into greater detail than what I am able to do today.

15:16:45 In addition to the NOFO, or the Notice of Funding Opportunity, there are other resources that will be important to you that you will find on this page. I will call out a couple of them. The first one is the NOFO, which establishes the competition, provides requirements as well as evaluation criteria and funding priorities.

15:17:06 The application instructions will provide you with step-by-step instructions for navigating eGrants. EGrants is AmeriCorps electronic grants management system in all of our funding opportunities as well as financial and programmatic reports are completed in eGrants.

15:17:31 The notice will also provide Appendix A, which is a list of priority funding areas for this competition. Appendix A represents communities where we know there are no -- where we don't have programming right now for AmeriCorps Seniors.

15:17:44 They are communities that have high poverty rates or they could be communities that have low CoVid 19 vaccination rates.

15:17:54 This funding opportunity while we do call out those communities listed on Appendix A, you have the opportunity to apply anywhere in the US for your program.

15:18:21 Appendix B covers national performance measures. There's also a list of technical assistance webinars that will be offered. I want to make sure that you note there's a FAQs section. These are updated periodically and they provide more information on specific questions that we receive.

15:18:34 Want to make sure that you go back to check that from time to time.

15:18:46 I will cover highlights for the funding opportunity. I will not go into great detail. These next set of slides come directly from the notice.

15:19:08 Just to make sure we are all on the same page, this funding opportunity is for organizations that are new to AmeriCorps Seniors, meaning you never received a grant from AmeriCorps Seniors.

15:19:23 Or if you received a grant from us in the past, you don't currently have a currently active grant. Those are the two types of agencies that we are targeting with this notice.

15:19:56 We are specifically because this is ARP funds, we are looking for efforts to help local communities recover from the CoVid 19 pandemic. We are interested in applications that establish or support education, which may have been lost learning lost during the summer or last year's academic year.

15:20:15 Vaccination and vaccination education efforts, especially in hard to reach communities. We are also interested in applications that are actively engaged in removing structural racial inequities, advancing racial equity and increase opportunities to achieve sustainable change in communities.

15:20:43 As I mentioned, applicants may propose programming in any county, city or town. Applicants are encouraged to propose programming in the priority areas that are identified on Appendix A, specifically because we know those communities are high poverty or have low vaccination rates.

15:20:58 Again, if the community you're looking at proposing is not listed on Appendix A, that's fine. You could plan and carry out the programming or propose the programs.

15:21:22 The next slide lists programs that we are prioritizing. You could see that these programming connects directly back to the CoVid 19 pandemic and our recovery from it.

15:21:51 Access to care, we are called out looking for public education, public health education opportunities in hard-to-reach communities or in historically underserved communities. Included but not limited to establishing and supporting contact tracing, vaccination sites and providing vaccination education, transportation and registration.

15:22:24 In terms of education, we are looking for intergenerational programming. Where applications engage older adults and supporting students and families for successful transitions to returning to classrooms as well as strengthening social emotional [indiscernible] of students with veterans and military families we are looking for programs to improve the life, quality of life for veterans and well-being of military family, caregivers and survivors.

15:22:42 For aging in place, independent living, applications that support communities historically underserved, marginalized in adversely impacted by persistent poverty and inequity to increase independent living for older adults and/or individuals with this a.

15:23:01 The notice calls attention to activities such as companionship to deal with debridement of a loved one due to death related to CoVid 19 or providing support to seniors adjusting to the loss of a loved one during the pandemic.

15:23:35 Other areas programming that we are interested in, access to care, substance abuse. We know that the use of opioids increased tremendously over

the last year or so. Applications that focus on AmeriCorps Senior volunteers on assignments to increase access to care and participation in health education activities designed to prevent or reduce substance abuse is an area that we are interested in.

15:24:13 As well as applications that focus on food insecurity. Applications that protect seniors who may be victims of financial fraud and abuse or neglect. Particularly as communities emerge from the CoVid 19 pandemic, we are aware of the increase in the number of scams and how our older community are targeted most of the times for these fraudulent activities.

15:24:49 We are also in terms of workforce development, we want to help communities recover from some economic challenges so applications that address programming to increase the number of economically disadvantaged individuals who receive job training or other skill development as well as support around financial and -- financial knowledge, financial literacy and utilization of savings plans.

15:25:22 We are interested in those programs and then finally, we talk a little bit about economic mobility. Programs or activities that engage in helping communities that have experienced persistent unemployment or underemployment, students that experience homelessness or those in foster care or programs that take a look at increasing number of underserved and economically disadvantaged individuals.

15:25:39 Have access to and opportunity to develop skills needed for online resources. Those are the types of programming that we are looking for applicants to propose in their applications.

15:25:44 [indiscernible]

15:26:15 Giving you suggestions for program ideas for Senior Demonstration Program. Under this authority would you currently have Senior Demonstration Program grants that are engaged in innovative practices that Mary what is great with our existing programs, FGP SCP and RSVP and branching off into different levels.

15:27:04 Example is one case of that -- for the FGP program, the income eligibility is at 200% below the poverty index. With the SCP programs, if applicants propose to demonstrate by increasing the income eligibility to 400% below the poverty index, they are able to do so and we could learn from that what areas we can learn from increasing the poverty level, does it increase the pool of volunteers who are engaged in our programs and how so.

15:27:42 The second example, organization could propose to demonstrate that by supporting small support groups such as book clubs or tea clubs for seniors that this could be led by what traditionally would be SCP volunteer. The volunteers in the current program structure, they work in one-on-one with individuals but from a standpoint of Senior Demonstration Program,

15:27:52 Maybe there are lessons we can learn around involving small support groups and settings.

15:28:16 Third example talks about potentially proposing a new partnership with the local city County health officials to establish health education outreach project to reach disproportionally impacted communities impacted by CoVid 19.

15:28:38 Knowing that CoVid 19 outreach is still needed in so many communities, and applicants goal could be to demonstrate that AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers are often seen as trusted community leaders will be able to bring health education tools and resources to high-risk populations.

15:28:54 Our fourth example and these are just examples -- you are certainly encouraged to think outside the box of these program ideas.

15:29:25 But this is to help you think about programming that you can propose. An organization could be interested in partnering with local jobs training program to bring skilled senior volunteers but could mentor jobseekers who are looking to develop new jobs and skills in their communities, particularly as a lot of communities are reopening and recovering from CoVid 19.

15:29:49 You could also fund this particular program is set up the organization or applicant will be able to demonstrate their impact plus the fact they could mobilize senior volunteers to support or propose -- a proposed service area.

15:30:08 That is our list of examples. Just to get some of your thoughts flowing about program models or types of things you can propose. I want to take a look at performance measures.

15:30:25 There is a training taking a look at national performance measures next week. But I want to do a teaser for that, the training is very important.

15:30:53 For all of our grantmaking and particularly for this Senior Demonstration Program for ARP, all applicants are required to use national performance measures and as a part of a strategy that relies on performance and evaluation data to learn from your work intimate technical and strategic adjustments to improve your goals.

15:31:17 Applicants are required to use identified performance measures outlined in the notice. For this particular competition, that information would be on Appendix B. That is located on the notice page that I provided the screenshot for earlier. Earlier in my comments.

15:31:25 Applicants must identify a primary focus area in the work plan must include the service activities in that selected primary focus area.

15:31:45 Also for cost effective practices, applications must include work plans that meet the following minimum requirements and these are minimum requirements.

15:32:05 For volunteer assignments, better non-stipended, for every $1000 of federal funding, at least one unduplicated volunteer must be placed in work plans that result in national performance measures outcomes for the selected focus area..

15:32:29 Volunteer assignments for stipended volunteers, for every $7500 in federal funding, at least one volunteer Service Year must be placed in work plans that result in national performance measures outcomes for the selected focus area.

15:32:43 All propose volunteers and their intended outcomes for their service must be representative in the narratives and in outcome-based performance measures as well as in the budget.

15:32:58 Next week's training, we will go into detail as it relates to the national performance measures but I did want to highlight that today as you are thinking about designing your program design and how you could put all the pieces together.

15:33:18 Finally, putting it all together, an organization could be interested in partnering with local jobs training program to identify skilled senior volunteers who could mentor jobseekers looking to develop new skills or new jobs in their communities.

15:33:33 With the specific outcome to demonstrate the fact that they could mobilize senior volunteers to support the proposed service area while building strong community partnerships.

15:33:47 While your juices are flowing, and you're thinking more about what you can propose, we will move to a poll. I will turn it over to Calynn.

15:33:54 >> Thank you, Linda. [indiscernible]

15:34:16 First question is about applications so applications are due -- please choose from the dates on the screen.

15:34:33 Everyone much got this correct. We could share the results that it's due February 3, 2022 no later than 5 PM Eastern time.

15:34:55 Second question -- this is about where to send questions. Please choose one of the choices on the screen.

15:35:18 Almost all of you got this one correct. We could broadcast the results. Send questions to AmericanRescueSDP@cns.gov.

15:35:36 For the next question -- all applications must be structured in a way that volunteers are able to receive a stipend. This is true or false.

15:36:02 Couple people coming in. Overall, pretty much 96% say true so we could broadcast -- 93% says falls and the answer is false, applications do not need to be structured where they all need to receive stipend.

15:36:19 Last question -- all propose volunteers must be included in national performance measures includes output and outcome, true or false.

15:36:44 Responses coming in. 97% this answer is true. Those are all the questions we had for you. We will move into the Q&A portion so if you have a question, type it in the Q&A box and we will do our best to answer them.

15:37:04 Because this is a competitive process, there's a few questions we can't answer. If your question is specific and requires context and discussion we cannot address it but you could submit your questions to the email address.

15:37:51 First question -- I want to do a clarification. We had a slide supposed to speak on national performance measures for next week but -- it's on the 16th, December 16, we have one on the ninth for the ARP SDP program so there's a couple questions asking about that and information is posted on the website is accurate.

15:38:11 Volunteers come from outside community, would they go to rural areas? Not sure what that means.

15:38:22 >> Sounds like a question we cannot answer. Sounds like a program design specific question.

15:38:38 >> Are the senior volunteers in SDP only provide program services or can they be used to help recruit other volunteers?

15:38:59 >> Not sure I know the answer. My initial reaction is we want them to be engaged in service, however, depending on program design so you may want to ask that question to the FAQ box.

15:39:09 >> Is there a minimum number of volunteers required?

15:39:28 >> No. The minimum number to keep in mind is 100,000 that is the minimum range for request of funds, but in terms of number of volunteers, there's not minimum number.

15:39:34 >> Is there a set stipend amount for volunteers?

15:39:47 >> Yes, refer to the notice regarding the stipend amount.

15:40:04 >> Is there a resource detailing difference between RSVP, FGP and SEP volunteers -- and SCP volunteers?

15:40:21 >> Our website has a page for each of those programs. I would start there. FGP has its page and gives stats and same for senior companion and RSVP.

15:40:48 >> If I'm requesting 100,000 for two years, do I need to put 100 volunteers or 50 for the first and then 50 for the second just organizing volunteers over the two-year period?

15:41:09 >> That's not a question we could answer and I will ask you to refer to the notice, the amount you are requesting would be for two years. Because it's a two-year project period but refer to the NOFO.

15:41:16 >> Can you submit more than one kind of program or activity on the application?

15:41:28 >> Yes.

15:41:39 >> Can the volunteers SCP project also be RSVP volunteers?

15:42:04 >> Not sure I understand the question because SDP volunteer is SDP volunteer. We aren't calling them RSVP or FGP. Does that make sense? They would be SDP volunteer.

15:42:17 >> Thank you. If that doesn't answer the question, email us. And then we could reply. Do volunteers need to be US citizens?

15:42:38 >> Yes, in order to receive money from the federal agency of AmeriCorps, you have to be US citizen or permanent resident alien. I'm getting that wrong. In order to be eligible to receive funds.

15:42:54 On our website when you go to our specific programs, eligibility requirements for volunteers is also provided there.

15:43:13 >> Does AmeriCorps provide technical assistance if the grantee has issues recruiting volunteers?

15:43:50 >> Yes, technical assistance can be provided through your once you receive a grant and you will be assigned portfolio manager. Any kind of technical assistance that you would need, you would engage your portfolio manager on that. AmeriCorps also has general marketing materials that you can use that's available on the website that you could use to market your program.

15:44:07 There's examples of applications you could use for your volunteers and a lot of resources that exists that you will have access to once you are a grantee of the organization of the agency.

15:44:16 >> Do we have to match 100,000 in cash or in-kind?

15:44:41 >> Refer to the NOFO as it relates to the discussion about in-kind -- I am sorry, as it relates to discussion about the match requirement is communicated in the NOFO.

15:44:49 >> How did they receive a portfolio manager?

15:45:10 >> Portfolio managers are assigned once your grant is awarded. They are assigned based on our regional structure. You will not receive a portfolio manager until your grant has been awarded.

15:45:18 >> Should there be only one application per organization?

15:45:27 >> Yes.

15:45:44 >> Link to sign up for the next webinar? We will get the link for the website posted in the chapter. So you could have access to it but the sign up link for the next webinar is on the website.

15:46:01 >> Question about to show the first page of highlights again? Is it possible to do that?

15:46:17 >> There we go. Thank you.

15:46:32 If we are new to federal funding, do we need [indiscernible] to participate or will the -- [indiscernible].

15:46:53 >> Answer to that is in the notice speaks to financial requirements. You could look for that response there.

15:47:04 >> To questions about hiring a program manager. If hiring program manager could be included in the budget?

15:47:26 >> Yes, it can.

15:47:43 >> We have a local CoVid economic -- I am reading is it possible to include more than one focus area that is listed?

15:47:55 >> If that's the question, yes, that is possible.

15:47:58 >> Must program manager be 55 or older?

15:48:15 >> Program director? No. Volunteers engaged in service have to be 55 or older.

15:48:43 >> Minimum number of volunteers based on required -- [indiscernible]. In the NOFO but Linda do you want to add to that?

15:49:08 >> I guess that question is true because that's how you determine amount of funds you would like to ask for based on number of volunteers. But the notice provides great detail around how to apply for funds and how to develop your budget so please refer to the NOFO.

15:49:40 >> If I was in RSVP previously, do I need to apply under office of aging? I'm assuming if previous RSVP, do they still need to apply for RSVP type program or apply for something else? In terms of eligibility.

15:50:09 >> If you don't have an active grant with us, you are eligible to apply. You are certainly able to present any programming to address this NOFO.

15:50:39 >> Entering information in eGrants must occur in one sitting? We do have a webinar on eGrants but Linda, anything you want to add to that? I added the link and she responded to one Q&A with registration link and the registration link for upcoming ones including eGrants national performance.

15:50:52 >> Perfect, nothing to add.

15:51:21 >> Any other questions you may have? If you have any questions, use the Q&A box. If you don't have any questions at the time, follow up with us by email.

15:51:40 Will this recording be available for viewing? Yes, it will be available on the website. That is the case for this webinar, the ones we have already had and the upcoming ones.

15:51:50 The recording and any additional resource we have gone over all on the funding opportunities page.

15:52:19 >> Great exclamation point if there are no further questions, I want to thank everyone for joining us today. We have about 94 participants. We are so excited there's a lot of excitement about this funding opportunity.

15:52:46 There's a lot of areas folks could focus on as we come out of the CoVid 19 pandemic. I want to apologize for background noise you may have heard. My officemate is a guinea pig and he decided he was thirsty right now and he wanted to drink water so you may have heard a bit of him pulling on the water bottle.

15:53:06 I want to thank everyone for your participation today. It was my pleasure to go over information about the Senior Demonstration Program as well as the ARP Senior stem -- Senior Demonstration Program opportunity.

15:53:14 Hope everyone has a wonderful rest of the day. Thank you for joining us.

15:53:21 [End of session]