

between the national government and the States.

List of Subjects in 45 CFR Part 2552

Aged, Grant programs—social programs, Volunteers.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Corporation for National and Community Service proposes to amend 45 CFR part 2552 as follows:

PART 2552—FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

1. The authority citation for part 2552 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4950 *et seq.*

§ 2552.42 [Amended]

2. In § 2552.42(c), remove the phrase “15 percent” and add in its place the phrase “50 percent”.

§ 2552.45 [Amended]

3. In § 2552.45, add a new paragraph (f), as follows:

* * * * *

(f) *Other Volunteer Expenses.* Foster Grandparents may be reimbursed for expenses incurred while performing their volunteer assignments provided these expenses are described in the Memorandum of Understanding negotiated with the volunteer station to which the volunteer is assigned and meet all other requirements identified in the notice of grant award.

§ 2552.93 [Amended]

4. In § 2552.93, remove paragraph (d) and redesignate paragraphs (e) through (i) as (d) through (h) accordingly.

Dated: February 3, 2004.

Tess Scannell,

Director, National Senior Service Corps.

[FR Doc. 04–2801 Filed 2–9–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6050--SS-P

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

45 CFR Part 2553

RIN 3045-AA39

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program; Amendments

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: These proposed amendments to the regulations governing the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) modify provisions concerning the allowability of certain volunteer expense items. The specific amendments are as follows: Sections

2553.43 and 2553.73(d) are modified to allow project funds, including the required non-federal share, to be used to reimburse volunteers for expenses, including transportation costs, incurred while performing volunteer assignments, and for purchase of equipment or supplies for volunteers on assignment.

DATES: Submit comments on or before March 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by the title of the program, by any of the following methods:

(1) By mail sent to: Corporation for National and Community Service, National Senior Service Corps; Attention Peter Boynton, Program Officer; 9th Floor, 1201 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20525.

(2) By hand delivery or by courier to the Corporation's mailroom at Room 6010 at the mail address given in paragraph (1) above, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

(3) By fax to: (202) 565-2743, Attention Peter Boynton, Program Officer.

(4) Electronically through the Corporation's e-mail address system: *Seniorfeedback@cns.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter L. Boynton, 202-606-5000, ext. 554.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

A. Program Description

RSVP, one of the largest volunteer efforts in the nation, engages people age 55 and older in a diverse range of volunteer activities. Volunteers organize neighborhood watch programs, tutor children, renovate homes, teach English to immigrants, assist victims of natural disasters, and serve their communities in a myriad of other ways. Through RSVP, more than 480,000 volunteers serve a few hours a week to nearly full time at an estimated 65,000 local and national nonprofit groups, government agencies, and small community-based organizations, both faith-based and secular. Volunteers are not paid, but sponsoring organizations may reimburse them for some costs incurred during service, including meals and transportation.

B. Volunteer Expenses

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program regulations currently distinguish between volunteer expenses that may be paid or reimbursed with federal and required non-federal grant funds and volunteer expenses that must

be paid by the volunteer station to which a RSVP volunteer is assigned. Grant funds may be used only to pay for volunteer stipends, insurance, transportation to and from volunteer assignments and official project activities, annual physical examinations, meals taken on assignment, and service recognition expenses. With the exception of certain meals, volunteer stations must pay for all expenses incurred while performing volunteer assignments.

In “Principles and Reforms for a Citizen Service Act,” issued by President Bush April 9, 2002, the Administration proposed to create greater flexibility in the use of Federal resources by easing requirements that govern the activities and support of volunteers. The proposed amendment would allow Retired and Senior Volunteer Program sponsors to determine, in consultation with volunteer stations, how best to fund volunteer expenses. The respective responsibilities of the sponsor and volunteer station for volunteer expenses would be incorporated in the memorandum of understanding negotiated by the sponsor with each station. Sponsors would be free to maintain the current division of responsibility for volunteer expenses but have the flexibility to use federal and required non-federal funds to cover any volunteer expense when the sponsor determines that doing so would be in the best interest of the project. The provisions of the applicable OMB Cost Principles Circulars referenced in 2553.73(a)(4) would continue to apply to all expenses paid with federal or required non-federal funds.

Impact of Various Acts and Executive Orders

After carefully reviewing the changes implemented by this amendment, and after coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, it was determined that:

(1) This was a significant regulatory action under section 3(f)(4) of Executive Order 12866 “Regulatory Planning and Review”, and required a review by the Office of Management and Budget;

(2) The Corporation hereby certifies that the Regulatory Flexibility Act does not apply because there is no “significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities”;

(3) That the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. chapter 25, subchapter II) does not apply because the amendment does not result in any annual expenditures of \$100 million by State, local, Indian Tribal governments or the private sector;

(4) That the Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the amendments do not impose any additional reporting or record-keeping requirements;

(5) That the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 does not apply because it is not a major rule as defined by section 251 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, and would not result in an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more; result in an increase in cost or prices; or have significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based companies to compete with foreign-based companies in domestic and export markets; and

(6) That Executive Order 13132, "Federalism" does not apply because it would not have substantial direct effects on the States or the relationship between the national government and the States.

List of Subjects in 45 CFR Part 2553

Aged, Grant programs—social programs, Volunteers.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Corporation for National and Community Service proposes to amend 45 CFR part 2553 as follows:

PART 2553—THE RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

1. The authority citation for part 2553 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4950 *et seq.*

2. In § 2553.43, add a new paragraph (e) to read as follows:

* * * * *

(e) Other Volunteer Expenses. RSVP volunteers may be reimbursed for expenses incurred while performing their volunteer assignments provided these expenses are described in the Memorandum of Understanding negotiated with the volunteer station to which the volunteer is assigned.

§ 2553.73 [Amended]

3. In § 2553.73, remove paragraph (d) and redesignate paragraphs (e) through (i) as paragraphs (d) through (h).

Dated: February 3, 2004.

Tess Scannell,

Director, National Senior Service Corps.

[FR Doc. 04-2803 Filed 2-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6050--\$5-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 54

[CC Docket No. 02-6; FCC 03-323]

Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Commission addresses several matters related to the administration of the schools and libraries universal service mechanism (also known as the e-rate program). The Commission seeks comment on several issues, including whether we should change the discount matrix used to determine the level of discounts for which applicants are eligible, the current competitive bidding process, the definition of "rural area" used in the program, the definition of Internet access, current rules relating to wide area networks, and current procedures for recovery of funds. The Commission also seeks comment on measures to limit waste, fraud, and abuse and improve the Commission's ability to enforce the rules governing the program.

DATES: Comments are due on or before March 11, 2004. Reply comments are due on or before April 12, 2004. Written comments on the proposed information collection(s) must be submitted by the public, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and other interested parties on or before April 12, 2004.

ADDRESSES: All filings must be sent to the Commission's Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the Secretary, a copy of any Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) comments on the information collection(s) contained herein should be submitted to Judith B. Herman, Federal Communications Commission, Room 1-C804, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554, or via the Internet to Judith-B.Herman@fcc.gov, and to Kim A. Johnson, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10236 NEOB, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, or via the Internet to Kim.A.Johnson@omb.eop.gov or by fax to 202-395-5167. Parties should also send three paper copies of their filings to Sheryl Todd, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445

Twelfth Street, SW., Room 5-B540, Washington, DC 20554. See Supplemental Information for further filing instructions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathy Tofigh, Attorney, at (202) 418-1553, Karen Franklin, Attorney, at (202) 418-7706, or Jennifer Schneider, Attorney, at (202) 418-0425 in the Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau. For additional information concerning the information collection(s) contained in this document, contact Judith B. Herman at 202-418-0214, or via the Internet at Judith-B.Herman@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (*Second FNPRM*) in CC Docket No. 02-6; FCC 03-323, released on December 23, 2003. A companion Order was also released in CC Docket No. 02-6; FCC 03-323, on December 23, 2003. The full text of this document is available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Center, Room CY-A257, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554.

I. Introduction

1. In this Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, we address several matters related to the administration of the schools and libraries universal service mechanism (also known as the e-rate program). In the Second FNPRM, we seek comment on several issues, including whether we should change (1) the discount matrix used to determine the level of discounts for which applicants are eligible, (2) the current competitive bidding process, (3) the definition of "rural area" used in the program, (4) the definition of Internet access, (5) current rules relating to wide area networks, and (6) current procedures for recovery of funds. We also seek comment on measures to limit waste, fraud, and abuse and improve the Commission's ability to enforce the rules governing the program. Finally, we seek additional comment on how to ensure the goals of section 254 continue to be met.

II. Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

A. Discount Matrix

2. Under the Commission's rules, eligible schools and libraries may receive discounts ranging from 20 percent to 90 percent of the pre-discount price of eligible services, based on indicators of need. We seek comment on the effectiveness and efficiency of the discount matrix used to determine support payments for eligible