

Subpart C—Suspension and Termination of Corporation Assistance

§ 2551.31 What are the rules on suspension, termination, and denial of refunding of grants?

(a) The Chief Executive Officer or designee is authorized to suspend further payments or to terminate payments under any grant providing assistance under the Act whenever he/she determines there is a material failure to comply with applicable terms and conditions of the grant. The Chief Executive Officer shall prescribe procedures to insure that:

(1) Assistance under the Act shall not be suspended for failure to comply with applicable terms and conditions, except in emergency situations for thirty days;

(2) An application for refunding under the Act may not be denied unless the recipient has been given:

(i) Notice at least 75 days before the denial of such application of the possibility of such denial and the grounds for any such denial; and

(ii) Opportunity to show cause why such action should not be taken;

(3) In any case where an application for refunding is denied for failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant, the recipient shall be afforded an opportunity for an informal hearing before an impartial hearing officer, who has been agreed to by the recipient and the Corporation; and

(4) Assistance under the Act shall not be terminated for failure to comply with applicable terms and conditions unless the recipient has been afforded reasonable notice and opportunity for a full and fair hearing.

(b) In order to assure equal access to all recipients, such hearings or other meetings as may be necessary to fulfill the requirements of this section shall be held in locations convenient to the recipient agency.

(c) The procedures for suspension, termination, and denial of refunding, that apply to the Senior Companion Program are specified in 45 CFR part 1206.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 72 FR 48583, Aug. 24, 2007, § 2551.31 was redesignated as § 2551.34, effective Nov. 23, 2007.

Subpart D—Senior Companion Eligibility, Status, and Cost Reimbursements

§ 2551.41 Who is eligible to be a Senior Companion?

(a) To be a Senior Companion, an individual must:

(1) Be 60 years of age or older;

(2) Be determined by a physical examination to be capable, with or without reasonable accommodation, of serving adults with special needs without detriment to either himself/herself or the adults served;

(3) Agree to abide by all requirements as set forth in this part; and

(4) In order to receive a stipend, have an income that is within the income eligibility guidelines specified in this subpart D.

(b) Eligibility to be a Senior Companion shall not be restricted on the basis of formal education, experience, race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, handicap, or political affiliation.

§ 2551.42 What income guidelines govern eligibility to serve as a stipended Senior Companion?

(a) To be enrolled and receive a stipend, a Senior Companion cannot have an annual income from all sources, after deducting allowable medical expenses, which exceeds the program's income eligibility guideline for the state in which he or she resides. The income eligibility guideline for each state is the higher amount of either:

(1) 125 percent of the poverty line as set forth in 42 U.S.C. 9902 (2); or

(2) 135 percent of the poverty line, in those primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSA), metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) and non-metropolitan counties identified by the Corporation as being higher in cost of living, as determined by application of the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) subsistence rates. In Alaska the guideline may be waived by the Corporation State Director if a project demonstrates that low-income individuals in that location are participating in the project.

(b) For applicants to become stipended Senior Companions, annual income is projected for the following 12

§ 2551.43

months, based on income at the time of application. For serving stipended Senior Companions, annual income is counted for the past 12 months. Annual income includes the applicant or enrollee's income and that of his/her spouse, if the spouse lives in the same residence. Sponsors shall count the value of shelter, food, and clothing, if provided at no cost by persons related to the applicant, enrollee, or spouse.

(c) Allowable medical expenses are annual out-of-pocket medical expenses for health insurance premiums, health care services, and medications provided to the applicant, enrollee, or spouse which were not and will not be paid by Medicare, Medicaid, other insurance, or other third party payor, and which do not exceed 50 percent of the applicable income guideline.

(d) Applicants whose income is not more than 100 percent of the poverty line shall be given special consideration for enrollment.

(e) Once enrolled, a Senior Companion shall remain eligible to serve and to receive a stipend so long as his or her income, does not exceed the applicable income eligibility guideline by 20 percent.

[64 FR 14115, Mar. 24, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 60998, Sept. 27, 2002; 69 FR 20830, Apr. 19, 2004]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 72 FR 48584, Aug. 24, 2007, § 2551.42 was redesignated as § 2551.43, and a new § 2551.42 was added, effective Nov. 23, 2007. For the convenience of the user, the added text is set forth as follows:

§ 2551.42 May an individual who is subject to a State sex offender registration requirement serve as a Senior Companion or as a Senior Companion grant-funded employee?

Any individual who is registered, or who is required to be registered, on a State sex offender registry is deemed unsuitable for, and may not serve in, a position as a Senior Companion or as a Senior Companion grant-funded employee.

§ 2551.43 What is considered income for determining volunteer eligibility?

(a) For determining eligibility, "income" refers to total cash or in-kind receipts before taxes from all sources including:

45 CFR Ch. XXV (10-1-07 Edition)

(1) Money, wages, and salaries before any deduction, but not including food or rent in lieu of wages;

(2) Receipts from self-employment or from a farm or business after deductions for business or farm expenses;

(3) Regular payments for public assistance, Social Security, Unemployment or Workers Compensation, strike benefits, training stipends, alimony, child support, and military family allotments, or other regular support from an absent family member or someone not living in the household;

(4) Government employee pensions, private pensions, and regular insurance or annuity payments; and

(5) Income from dividends, interest, net rents, royalties, or income from estates and trusts.

(b) For eligibility purposes, income does not refer to the following money receipts:

(1) Any assets drawn down as withdrawals from a bank, sale of property, house or car, tax refunds, gifts, one-time insurance payments or compensation from injury;

(2) Non-cash income, such as the bonus value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms and the imputed value of rent from owner-occupied farm or non-farm housing.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 72 FR 48584, Aug. 24, 2007, § 2551.43 was redesignated as § 2551.44, effective Nov. 23, 2007.

§ 2551.44 Is a Senior Companion a federal employee, an employee of the sponsor or of the volunteer station?

Senior Companions are volunteers, and are not employees of the sponsor, the volunteer station, the Corporation, or the Federal Government.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 72 FR 48584, Aug. 24, 2007, § 2551.44 was redesignated as § 2551.45, effective Nov. 23, 2007.

§ 2551.45 What cost reimbursements are provided to Senior Companions?

Cost reimbursements include:

(a) *Stipend.* Senior Companions who are income eligible will receive a stipend in an amount determined by the Corporation and payable in regular installments, to enable them to serve