

the basis of disability, if the participant or member is a qualified individual with a disability; and

(3) Annually assessing the placement of RSVP volunteers to ensure the safety of volunteers and their impact on meeting the needs of the community.

(d) Consider the demographic make-up of the project service area in the enrollment of RSVP volunteers, taking special efforts to recruit eligible individuals from minority groups, persons with disabilities and under represented groups.

(e) Encourage the most efficient and effective use of RSVP volunteers by coordinating project services and activities with related national, state and local programs, including other Corporation programs.

(f) Develop, and annually update, a plan for promoting service by older adults within the project service area.

(g) Conduct an annual assessment of the accomplishments and impact of the project and how they meet the identified needs and problems of the community.

(h) Provide RSVP volunteers with cost reimbursements specified in § 2553.43.

[64 FR 14135, Mar. 24, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 6875, Feb. 14, 2002; 69 FR 60095, Oct. 7, 2004]

**§ 2553.24 What are a sponsor's responsibilities for securing community participation?**

(a) A sponsor shall secure community participation in local project operation by establishing an Advisory Council or a similar organizational structure with a membership that includes people:

(1) Knowledgeable about human and social needs of the community;

(2) Competent in the field of community service and volunteerism;

(3) Capable of helping the sponsor meet its administrative and program responsibilities including fund-raising, publicity and programming for impact;

(4) With an interest in and knowledge of the capability of older adults; and

(5) Of a diverse composition that reflects the demographics of the service area.

(b) The sponsor determines how this participation shall be secured, consistent with the provisions of para-

graphs (a)(1) through (a)(5) of this section.

**§ 2553.25 What are a sponsor's administrative responsibilities?**

A sponsor shall:

(a) Assume full responsibility for securing maximum and continuing community financial and in-kind support to operate the project successfully.

(b) Provide levels of staffing and resources appropriate to accomplish the purposes of the project and carry out its project management responsibilities.

(c) Employ a full-time project director to accomplish program objectives and manage the functions and activities delegated to project staff for NSSC program(s) within its control. A full-time project director shall not serve concurrently in another capacity, paid or unpaid, during established working hours. The project director may participate in activities to coordinate program resources with those of related local agencies, boards or organizations. A sponsor may negotiate the employment of a part-time project director with the Corporation when it can be demonstrated that such an arrangement will not adversely affect the size, scope and quality of project operations.

(d) Consider all project staff as sponsor employees subject to its personnel policies and procedures.

(e) Compensate project staff at a level that is comparable with similar staff positions in the sponsor organization and/or project service area.

(f) Establish risk management policies and procedures covering project and RSVP activities. This includes provision of appropriate insurance coverage for RSVP volunteers, vehicles and other properties used in the project.

(g) Establish record keeping and reporting systems in compliance with Corporation requirements that ensure quality of program and fiscal operations, facilitate timely and accurate submission of required reports and cooperate with Corporation evaluation and data collection efforts.

(h) Comply with and ensure that all volunteer stations comply with all applicable civil rights laws and regulations, including providing reasonable

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accommodation to qualified individuals with disabilities.

**§ 2553.26 May a sponsor administer more than one program grant from the Corporation?**

A sponsor may administer more than one Corporation program grant.

**Subpart C—Suspension, Termination and Denial of Refunding**

**§ 2553.31 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 or 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

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be held in locations convenient to the recipient agency.

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

**Subpart D—Eligibility, Cost Reimbursements and Volunteer Assignments**

**§ 2553.41 Who is eligible to be a RSVP volunteer?**

(a) To be an RSVP volunteer, an individual must:

(1) Be 55 years of age or older;

(2) Agree to serve without compensation;

(3) Reside in or nearby the community served by RSVP;

(4) Agree to abide by all requirements as set forth in this part.

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

**§ 2553.42 Is a RSVP volunteer a federal employee, an employee of the sponsor or of the volunteer station?**

RSVP volunteers are not employees of the sponsor, the volunteer station, the Corporation, or the Federal Government.

**§ 2553.43 What cost reimbursements are provided to RSVP volunteers?**

RSVP volunteers are provided the following cost reimbursements within the limits of the project's available resources:

(a) *Transportation.* RSVP volunteers shall receive assistance with the cost of transportation to and from volunteer assignments and official project activities, including orientation, training, and recognition events.

(b) *Meals.* RSVP volunteers shall receive assistance with the cost of meals taken while on assignment.

(c) *Recognition.* RSVP volunteers shall be provided recognition for their service.