

NOTICE OF FEDERAL FUNDS AVAILABLE
OVERVIEW

Federal Agency Name: Corporation for National and Community Service
Funding Opportunity Title: Skilled Service in the Gulf
Announcement Type: Initial announcement
CFDA No.: 94.007
Dates: **Deadline May 1, 2007 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

Funding Opportunity Description: The Corporation for National and Community Service (the Corporation) announces the anticipated availability of up to \$1 million. These funds will be awarded to one to three eligible organizations to create a new national model for involving skilled workers in service in areas affected by disasters.

In 2005 when Katrina and Rita ravaged the Gulf states, first responders saved lives and government provided resources, but it was volunteers from the region and across America who returned hope and optimism to the stricken communities. Today these volunteers continue to drive the recovery in the Gulf. Nearly a half a million Americans have volunteered in the Gulf Coast, including more than 41,000 participants from National Service programs. But the work is far from done.

This grant is designed to stimulate the particular kind of volunteering that the Gulf needs the most—volunteers who are skilled in the building and other trades—and to create a viable national model for skilled trades volunteering in rebuilding efforts after future disasters.

The purpose of the Skilled Service in the Gulf initiative is to create a national model for disaster recovery by mobilizing skilled volunteers to meet the significant unmet needs in areas affected by the 2005 hurricanes. The goal of this initiative is to increase the number of skilled workers (particularly working and retired baby boomers) volunteering to participate in Gulf rebuilding efforts. We expect the successful strategy will include outreach to increase public awareness and facilitate recruitment, and mini-grants to support and manage skilled volunteers.

Submission Dates and Times: Please submit an e-mail stating your intent to apply to SkilledServiceGulf@cns.gov by **April 20, 2007 by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time**. This is not required, but helps us plan the review of the applications.

The deadline for applications is **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on May 1, 2007**. Applications submitted by hard copy or fax will not be accepted. This *Notice* contains all application instructions, and is available at http://www.nationalservice.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp or by e-mailing SkilledServiceGulf@cns.gov. Submit your application via e-mail to: SkilledServiceGulf@cns.gov.

FULL TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Funding Opportunity Description

For more than a decade, the Corporation—through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve programs—has mobilized a new generation of engaged citizens. This year, more than 1.8 million individuals of all ages and backgrounds will serve through these programs. They will help thousands of national and community nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, schools, and local agencies meet local needs in education, the environment, public safety, homeland security, and other critical areas.

The purpose of the Skilled Service in the Gulf initiative is to create a national model for disaster recovery by mobilizing skilled volunteers to meet the significant unmet needs in areas affected by the 2005 hurricanes. The goal of this initiative is to increase the number of skilled workers (particularly working and retired baby boomer contractors, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, etc.) volunteering to participate in Gulf rebuilding efforts. We expect the strategy will include outreach to increase public awareness and facilitate recruitment, and mini-grants to support and manage skilled volunteers.

The Corporation will award one grant of up to \$1 million, or up to approximately three smaller grants, to an intermediary(ies) or other organization to develop and execute a plan to engage skilled trades professionals in Gulf rebuilding efforts. An intermediary organization specializes in supporting the work of many smaller, newer, often faith and community based organizations with and through which they make their impact.

We are especially interested in working with such intermediaries that already are working in the Gulf, and who have well-developed national networks with skilled trades organizations. We also encourage applicants to apply that have not received Corporation funding in the past.

The organization(s) initiating this campaign should be able to activate and leverage their natural bases of support to implement a large scale strategy that will build a high volume of quality skilled volunteers. This outreach may be conducted by the intermediary through the support of sub-grants or direct funding to its affiliate organizations.

If multiple grants are awarded, the award amount may vary based on the capacity of the applicant and the scope of the proposed project.

Grantees' success will be measured by:

1. Impact on Gulf region.
2. Number of skilled volunteers recruited and deployed.
3. Number of national and/or local professional organizations participating.

B. Authority

These funds will be available under Section 198 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12653).

II. Award Information

A. Number of Awards and Award Amount

The Corporation expects to make approximately one to three awards up to \$1 million.

B. Award Period and Future Funding

The successful applicant will have up to three years to conduct the project. While the Corporation has no obligation to provide funds beyond the initial amount, additional funding may be made available pending satisfactory performance of applicants and/or future appropriations.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

The type of funding instrument is a grant.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

The Corporation wants to ensure that all eligible organizations are able to compete on an equal basis for federal financial assistance. Eligible applicants are nonprofit organizations, including national intermediaries, associations, alliances, consortia, and networks; and public charities, faith-based and other community organizations, and private foundations.

We expect the successful applicant(s) will have well-developed relationships and networks in the skilled trades and the volunteer sector. Applicants must also be able to develop a program that can serve as a national model, and provide compelling evidence that their model can be replicated in other locations.

We encourage submissions from organizations with little or no experience with federal grants, where our investment could dramatically increase community involvement in service.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

There is no required match for the Skilled Service in the Gulf grant. However, the capacity to leverage grant funds with non-Corporation resources will be considered in reviewing the applications.

C. Other Eligibility Requirements

Lobbying: Any organization described in Section 501 (c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(4) that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply, serve as a host site for member placements, or act in any type of supervisory role in Corporation programs.

Current Grantees: An organization that currently operates a Corporation-funded program or is applying for other Corporation funding is eligible to apply.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

This *Notice* contains all application instructions, and is available at http://www.nationalservice.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp or by e-mailing SkilledServiceGulf@cns.gov.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

1. Content of Application:

Your application consists of Standard Form 424 and *page one only* of Standard Form 424A; and a narrative that addresses Program Design, Organizational Capability, Cost Effectiveness, and Budget Adequacy. You can find the Standard Forms here: http://www.nationalservice.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp. Please include costs associated with subgrants in the “Other” line item on the 424A. You will create a more detailed budget if you are approved for funding.

Your narrative can be no longer than 20,000 characters (approximately 8 pages), single spaced in a font no smaller than 12 point Times Roman, with one inch margins. Your narrative should provide a well-designed plan with a clear and compelling justification for awarding the requested funds. The narrative will cover the three-year project period for which you are requesting approval. Please address the following elements in your narrative.

a. Program Design

Describe your approach to addressing the need or problem described in this *Notice*. Applicants must include a plan for mobilizing non-paid skilled volunteers, e.g., seniors, youth from disadvantaged circumstances, or members of the community of all ages and backgrounds, in the implementation of the program.

Your strategy should address the following:

- 1) Goals and Objectives.** What are your proposed project’s target goals and objectives? What are the expected outcomes and how will you measure them? What is the logical connection between the community need(s) you describe and the approach you are proposing? In describing the strategy, address the following:
 - Who is the target population or beneficiaries of this proposed project?
 - How is this approach innovative?
 - Why will this approach be successful and why is it more promising than other alternative approaches?
 - How will the program track the number of new skilled volunteers and identify how many successfully completed their volunteer service?

- 2) Community Resources.** Your strategy to secure previously untapped sources of private funds to build sustainable service and volunteer programs should address the following:

- How will you use existing community resources, such as other service or community organizations, community volunteers, to implement your approach?
- How will the proposed program bring additional beneficial resources to the community?
- How will the program collaborate with organizations on a national, statewide or regional scale?

3) Description of Activities. Please describe in detail the activities of the proposed program and provide a timeline for the activities.

b. Organizational Capacity

Describe your capacity to implement and manage the proposed program, including any plans to tap previously untapped sources of private funds to build sustainable service and volunteer programs. Your description should address the following:

1) Ability to Provide Program Oversight. Describe the demonstrated experience and infrastructure your organization has in managing programs similar to the one proposed in this application. Who are the key staff responsible for program oversight? What past experience does the key staff have in securing previously untapped sources of private funds? Detail the responsibilities of each key staff member.

2) Ability to Provide Fiscal Oversight. Describe the demonstrated experience and infrastructure your organization has in managing grants. What is your current organizational budget and what percentage of the budget would this grant represent? How will you ensure that the fiscal management is compliant with Federal requirements? Who are the key staff responsible for fiscal oversight, and what past experience will they bring to program? Detail the responsibilities of each key staff member.

3) Volunteer Management. What experience does your organization have with recruiting and managing volunteers? What capacity does your organization currently have to recruit and manage volunteers?

4) Training and Technical Assistance. Describe your plans and your capacity to provide or secure needed training and technical assistance for this project.

5) Data Collection. Describe your plans and your capacity (current and anticipated) to implement and use self-assessments and continuous improvement systems to provide data and information on the success of the project.

c. Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

1) Budget and Program Design. Explain how the proposed program budget reflects the program's goals and design.

2) Match Sources. *Match is not required for this initiative, but will be considered in assessing applications.*

2. Equal Opportunity Survey: Applicants are asked to complete the Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants. You can find this Survey at http://www.nationalservice.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp.

3. Universal Identifier: Applications must include a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number on the Standard Form 424. The DUNS number is an identifier that helps the federal government improve statistical reports on federal grants and cooperative agreements. The DUNS number does not replace your Employer Identification Number. DUNS numbers may be obtained at no cost by calling the DUNS number request line at (866) 705-5711 or by applying online at www.dnb.com.

The website indicates a 24-hour email turnaround time on requests for DUNS numbers; however, we suggest registering at least 30 days in advance of the application due date. Expedited DUNS numbers may be obtained by telephone at a cost of \$99 by calling the DUNS number request line. Applications without DUNS numbers or with invalid DUNS numbers are subject to potential rejection.

4. E-mail Submission: Submit your application as four attachments to an e-mail message addressed to SkilledServiceGulf@cns.gov. Attach the 424, 424A, narrative, and Survey on Equal Opportunity. **All four attachments are required for a valid submission.**

C. Submission Dates and Times

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The deadline for applications is **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on May 1, 2007**. Applications submitted by hardcopy or fax will not be accepted.

D. Intergovernmental Review

Applicants under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372 "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." All applicants are required to submit a copy of their application to their State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) offices, if they have one. To determine if your state has a SPOC, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget maintains a current listing at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html.

E. Funding Restrictions

Grants under this program are subject to the applicable Cost Principles under OMB Circulars A-21, A-122, A-87 or FAR 31.2 at www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/circulars/.

V. Application Review Information

The successful applicant(s) will be selected based on the degree to which they demonstrate:

1. Deep and broad knowledge of rebuilding needs in the Gulf.
2. Clarity and feasibility of plan, including alignment between problem, solution and outcomes.
3. Ability to activate and mobilize an extensive and diverse national network of local and national professional trades organizations.
4. Strategic connections with trade groups and nonprofit organizations currently operating in the Gulf region, including CNCS strategic partners.
5. Strategy for making new connections with such groups.
6. Experience in recruiting and engaging a diverse pool of volunteers, including baby boomers that are currently working, or retired; or a plan for engaging such volunteers.
7. Organizational capability to carry out plan.
8. Cost effectiveness and capacity to leverage Corporation funds.
9. Adequacy of budget to support proposed project.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Anticipated Announcement and Award Notices

We anticipate announcing selections under this *Notice* by June 1, 2007. Selected applicants are approved to negotiate with the Corporation for a grant award. During the negotiation period, you must satisfactorily resolve any questions or issues identified during the review of your application before the Corporation will award your grant.

Grants will be awarded following the successful conclusion of negotiations. The negotiated project start date may not occur prior to award date. If you are applying as a new grantee, you should not expect a start date prior to June 1.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Corporation regulations and other specific conditions are incorporated in the Notice of Grant Award (NGA). The NGA incorporates the approved application as part of a binding commitment under the grant.

C. Reporting

Grantees are required to supply annual performance and bi-annual financial reports, and a project close-out report.

VII. Agency Contacts

This *Notice* is available at

http://www.nationalservice.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp. The TTY number is 202-606-3472. For further information or for a printed copy of this *Notice*, call the Special Initiatives Hotline at (202) 606-7507. Or send an e-mail to SkilledServiceGulf@cns.gov.

VIII. Additional Information

Technical Assistance: The Corporation will host a technical assistance call to answer applicant questions about funding opportunities soon after the publication of this *Notice*.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to participate in the technical assistance call. The call information is as follows:

Date: Tuesday, April 10th, 2007

Time: 3:00pm - 4:00pm Eastern

Call Leader: Femi Estrada-Petersen

Dial-In Number: 800-857-3059

Verbal Passcode: GULF SERVICE

This call will be recorded and available for replay. Please contact SkilledServiceGulf@cns.gov for the replay information.

Public Burden Statement: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 requires the Corporation to inform all potential persons who are to respond to this collection of information that such persons are not required to respond unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. (See 5 CFR 1320.5(b)(2)(i)). This collection is approved under OMB Control #: 3045-0108 (Expiration Date: 07/31/2008).