



Association Board Update: Fixed Amount Grants

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FFMC

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Context



Fixed Amount Grants

Authorized by Serve America Act

- A specific amount of money per VSY, *“Significantly less than the reasonable and necessary cost of administering the program”*
- CNCS must consider the, *“Capacity of the entity carrying out the program to manage funds and achieve programmatic results”*
- National performance measures, now in development by CNCS

What Changes?

Cost Reimbursement	Fixed Amount
Detailed line item budget	One line item
Budget negotiation by line item	No budget negotiation
Admin to volunteer expense ratio tracked	No 80/20 ratio
Specific allocations between CNCS, Grantee, and Excess columns	No division of funds
Minimum 10% match	No match documentation
Grantees document all costs charged to grant and volunteer impact	Grantees document results of volunteers' efforts (impact) only
Semi-annual FFR reporting and end-of-performance period final FFR	One end-of-performance period FFR

What Remains?

- Outputs: you must produce agreed level of VSY
- Outcomes: you must demonstrate the changes your volunteers make
- Final FFR
- Volunteer record keeping
- Unexpended funds are aggressively managed
- A-133 audit requirement if over \$500K
- Stipend hourly rate

Feedback from Initial AmeriCorps Pilot

- Timely guidance, clear process and consistent messaging needed
- *Non-CNCS* budgeting & financial reporting varies
- Focusing on what's important – which is not chasing receipts – is good
- Fixed amount is independent of local cost of living, so benefit varies
- Attrition could cost you funding
- Though the federal audit becomes outcome focused, state and private audits may still apply

Operations

- Separate (new) eGrants NOFA
- Phasing in
 - First cycle: 1/1/11 grantees in year one of a three year cycle
 - Small potential starting class: 15 SCP; 33 FGP
- Policy 850

Operations

- Communication
 - PO will communicate eligibility
 - CSO will share guidance and FAQ regarding budget and performance measurement
 - GO will monitor actual VSYS level

Funds Analysis

FGP: FY2011

- Median FGP total cost per VSY: \$5760
 - \$4543 Federal
- 60th percentile: total cost per VSY: \$5900
 - \$4597 Federal
- **Recommended Federal fixed amount: Up to \$4600/VSY**

Funds Analysis

SCP: FY2011

- Median SCP total cost per VSY: \$5882
 - \$4424 Federal
- 60th percentile: total cost per VSY: \$6148
 - \$4548 Federal
- **Recommended Federal fixed amount: Up to \$4550/VSY**

Questions?

Thank you!