

Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

Report on FY 2012 Conference Activities

January 31, 2013

As part of the government-wide effort to expend resources more efficiently and effectively, the President signed [Executive Order 13589](#) “Promoting Efficient Spending” – encouraging agencies to reduce costs and improve efficiencies. To further promote and ensure accountability and oversight in spending, OMB issued [Memorandum-12-12](#), “Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations” in May 2012. The memorandum directed Federal agencies to publish a report on major conference activities for the previous fiscal year. This report on CNCS’ conference activities and expenses in FY 2012 fulfills that requirement.

In FY 2012, CNCS participated in three major conferences to help advance our mission of improving lives, strengthening communities, and fostering civic engagement through service and volunteering. This report describes the three major agency conferences where the agency’s net expenses exceeded \$100,000. Concerning each conference, this report includes:

1. The total conference expenses incurred by the agency for the conference;
2. The location of the conference;
3. The date of the conference;
4. A brief explanation of how the conference advanced the mission of the agency; and
5. The total number of individuals whose travel expenses or other conference expenses were paid by the agency.

The 2012 Financial and Grants Management Institute - FGM Institute (Financial/Grant Management Training)

Convened by the Corporation for National and Community Service from **April 24-25**, the 2012 FGM Institute took place at the **Hyatt Regency in St. Louis, MO**. This premier CNCS training event included financial and grants management topics for direct grantees and sub-grantees of CNCS programs and initiatives. The goal of the FGM Institute is to help grantees learn and apply requirements that will make operating their grants more efficient and effective, while ensuring compliance with Federal grant provisions and regulations. Grantees left the 2012 training with an increased understanding of Federal grants management regulations and requirements, techniques to enhance their grants management practices, and the opportunity to share best practices with their peers. CNCS sent **16** staff to the FGM Institute to facilitate focused workshops and training sessions as well as to provide logistical support. A total of **450** participants attended. In total, CNCS spent **\$282,828.37** on the 2012 FGM Institute. Total costs are not exclusive to travel and per diem, but also include programmatic/content development for sessions, meeting space, and logistical support.

The 2012 National Conference on Service and Volunteering (National Conference)

The annual National Conference on Volunteering and Service is the world's largest training conference for volunteer and service leaders from the nonprofit, government, and corporate sectors. The conference is an essential national training event that brings together service sector leaders from every level, including federal grantees, to efficiently share solutions, best practices, and lessons learned for achieving greater impact on these pressing community challenges. The conference provides attendees with an opportunity to attend training, learn, and develop strategies to increase impact and accountability through a wide range of sessions, workshops, service projects, and panels discussions.

Before 2012, these national training events were convened as a public/private partnership between the Points of Light Institute/Hands on Network (POLI/HON) and CNCS. To reduce agency costs for the National Conference, CNCS ended its co-sponsorship of the event after the 2011 conference. The training conference is now solely hosted by POL/HON.

The 2012 National Conference, convened by the Points of Light Institute from **June 18-20**, took place at **McCormick Place** in **Chicago, Illinois**. It brought together former first lady Barbara Bush, Dr. Jill Biden, U.S. Secretary of Education Arnie Duncan, and over **5,000** other service leaders and volunteers to learn about and cultivate new ideas for service. The event built upon the power of people, leveraging the energy and innovation of the meeting into long-term relationships and partnerships that use service to help improve lives and strengthen communities. CNCS sent **32** staff members to the conference to facilitate focused workshops and sessions, lead panel discussions, and provide logistical support. The Points of Light Institute reported that overall more than **5,000** participants attended. In total, CNCS spent **\$291,024.30** on the 2012 National Conference. Total costs are not exclusive to travel and per diem, but also include programmatic/content development for sessions, meeting space, and logistical support.

The 2012 AmeriCorps Grantee Meeting: Building on Excellence (Grantee Meeting)

Convened by the Corporation for National and Community Service from **September 17-21**, the 2012 AmeriCorps Grantee Meeting took place at the **Washington Hilton** in **Washington, DC**. AmeriCorps state commissions and national grantees are required to attend the annual Grantee Meeting. During the 2012 meeting, grantees participated in training sessions, development workshops, and panel discussions on critical topics. Topics included partnership building and collaboration, sub-grantee monitoring, managing performance, and constructing compelling impact statements. CNCS staff members participated in the Grantee Meeting to facilitate focused workshops and sessions, lead panel discussions, build face-to-face relationships between grantees and their assigned CNCS grant managers, and provide logistical support. This conference was held in Washington, DC so costs were kept at a minimum. **Seventy-five** CNCS staff members attended. Overall, **394** participants attended the Grantee Meeting. In total, CNCS spent **\$249,773** on the 2012 AmeriCorps Grantee Meeting. Total costs are not exclusive to travel and per diem, but also include programmatic/content development for training sessions, meeting space, and logistical support.