

FY 2017-2018 Volunteer Generation Fund FAQ's

Who is eligible to apply?

Eligible entities must be public or private nonprofit organizations, including faith based and other community organizations; institutions of higher education; government entities within states or territories (e.g., cities, counties); labor organizations; partnerships and consortia; or Indian Tribes.

The FY 2017-2018 VGF program is intended to build capacity that will result in sustainable skills-based volunteer programs. **As such, organizations receiving VGF program funds for three (3) years are not eligible for FY 2017-2018 VGF funding.**

- A. Eligible entities must mobilize people and resources to deliver creative solutions to community problems through programs and services that encompass the following:
 - 1. Recognize that all volunteers have skills and talents to share;
 - 2. Connect people with opportunities to serve;
 - 3. Promote volunteering at all levels and ages; and
 - 4. Build or establish partnerships and collaboration among organizations in the community.

- B. Volunteer Florida will encourage geographic diversity by actively seeking proposals from all seven (7) regions of the state, as defined by the Florida Division of Emergency Management
http://www.floridadisaster.org/county_em/county_list.htm.

The Volunteer Generation Fund cannot be used as an expansion of existing federally funded national service programs such as: AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps VISTA, and Senior Corps (RSVP, Foster Grandparents).

How many sub-grants will be awarded?

In anticipation of federal funding for the Volunteer Generation Fund program for FY 2017-2018, Volunteer Florida will make available up to \$286,000 to a maximum of twenty-two (22) subgrantees serving the needs of Floridians. Each sub-grantee will receive \$13,000 in grant funding along with additional training support associated with the Volunteer Generation Fund program.



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Is my organizations tax status eligible to apply for VGF funding?

Eligible entities must be public or private nonprofit organizations, including faith based and other community organizations; institutions of higher education; government entities within states or territories (e.g., cities, counties); labor organizations; partnerships and consortia; or Indian Tribes.

Organization Type:

501(c)3

501(c)4

501(c)6

Public Foundation

Private Foundation

Charitable Organization

509(a)(1)

509(a)(1)(2)

509(a)(1)(3)

509(a)(4)

Municipality

Indian Tribe

What is Skills-Based Volunteering?

Skills-based volunteering is an innovative approach that is rapidly gaining recognition as a powerful driver of both social impact and business value. Skills-based volunteering is a strategic type of volunteerism that exponentially expands the impact of nonprofits by incorporating a range of skills that strengthen the operations and services of nonprofit organizations. Skills-based volunteerism utilizes the skills, experience, talents, and education of volunteers and matches them with the needs of nonprofit organizations. Skills-based volunteerism can also serve as a pathway to employment by maintaining employability skills or developing new skills of volunteers. Skilled individual volunteers may offer their particular expertise to a nonprofit agency, while corporate skills-based volunteering may involve employee volunteers working on projects for a nonprofit organization through a structured program developed and managed by their employer. Skills-based volunteering is about matching the right person with the right skills and knowledge, at the right time, to the right project in order to achieve greater impact. By leveraging diverse types of knowledge and expertise, skills-based volunteers help to build



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and sustain nonprofits' capacity to successfully achieve their missions and goals. Skills based volunteering can serve to enhance and enrich the lives of the volunteers.

What type of work is allowed to count for volunteer hours and number of volunteers?

Examples of allowable work for volunteer hours and number of volunteers could include: canvassing and community organizing, data entry and analysis, demographic research, etc.

Can we choose our own performance target?

Applicants MUST opt into the given performance measures provided, applicants cannot change or choose their own performance measures.

Why must I get a background check?

Successful sub-grantees will be required to complete an online training and the three part background check process consistent with the standards of the Corporation for National & Community Services Volunteer Generation Fund National Criminal History Check Requirements. This includes a National Sex Offender Predator Registry (NSOPR) clearance, State of Florida (and State of Residence as applicable), and FBI fingerprint check on all staff members assigned to grant through federal or match funds.

Source National Service Criminal History Check (CNCS Requirements)
<https://www.nationalservice.gov/resources/criminal-history-check>

Is it possible to receive any of the money in advance?

No. The Volunteer Generation Fund is a federal, reimbursement grant.

Is there a certain way you would like us to keep records of volunteers and hours?

Yes. All Successful sub-grantees will receive training which will cover all aspects of the grant, including, reporting, budgets, and finances.

Can grants be used for salaries?

Yes, grant funds may be used for salaries. (Conversely, salaries and fringe benefits may also be used for your "match".)



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May I send you a hard copy in the mail?

No, Proposals must be submitted to Volunteer Florida through the MicroEdge online portal no later than Friday, August 4, 2017 at 5:00pm EDT. **Proposals submitted after this deadline will not be considered for funding.** Volunteer Florida does not require organizations to submit an intent to respond.

Application link: https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_2153?SA=SNA&FID=35293

How do I find my Region Number?

You can find your region number by visiting the Florida Division of Emergency Management (http://www.floridadisaster.org/county_em/county_list.htm).

Are agencies and programs already funded through CNCS eligible to apply for this additional funding?

Yes! Agencies and programs that already receive funding through CNCS are still eligible for this VGF funding.

Please note: The Volunteer Generation Fund cannot be used as an expansion of existing federally funded national service programs such as: AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps VISTA, and Senior Corps (RSVP, Foster Grandparents).

Can the funds be used to purchase a data management system for our organization?

Yes, funds can be used to purchase a data management system, however Volunteer Florida would like to the purchase made at the beginning of the grant cycle, so it can be used to help with volunteer recruitment and retention.

How much does a background check cost?

It varies. Background checks can run between \$30 - \$100 dollars.

How are grantees expected to report their volunteers and volunteer hours?

We are tentatively expecting grantees to complete a mid-year and end of year report.

