



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Housing and Community Services

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March 12, 2013

The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Peter Buckley, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

Oregon Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS) is requesting permission to apply for \$50,000 for Oregon Volunteers to provide training and technical assistance to national service program staff in the western United States through the federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). No General Fund match is required. The application is due March 28, 2013.

Agency Action

OHCS received annual funding for Oregon Volunteers to provide training and technical assistance to national service program staff until 2012, when the funding appropriation was eliminated. In addition to training provided directly by Oregon Volunteers to Oregon-based national service programs, they have a 20 year partnership with their fellow commission in Washington state as well as the training staff at Education Northwest. Through that partnership, they have a 20-year history of providing regional and national training and technical assistance events across the country until 2012.

ORS 458.568 requires Oregon Volunteers to:

(4) “develop projects, training methods, curriculum materials and other materials and activities related to state service programs that receive assistance directly from the Corporation for National and Community Service.” This grant will allow the organization to meet that legal requirement in spite of the loss of the primary funding source supporting those activities.

On February 15, 2013, the Corporation for National and Community Service announced the availability of \$ 50,000 funding for separate national service staff training events to be conducted in five regional geographical clusters in the US. Oregon Volunteers worked with colleagues in other state commissions to identify a suitable applicant. Because Oregon Volunteers is physically housed at Portland State University, and has extensive event management experience,



as well as access to greatly reduced meeting space and hotel rooms, they were asked today to assume responsibility for submitting the grant and to act as the lead planner for the event, which must be conducted before December 31, 2013.

Action Requested

OHCS requests permission to apply on behalf of Oregon Volunteers for the CNCS Training and Technical Assistance - Regional Training Conferences funds. Awards will be announced May 29, 2013 or later, depending on federal budget availability. At this time, OHCS is not requesting additional limitation, and does not need additional FTE to administer the grant.

Legislation Affected

The agency's request, if approved, does not require a revision of ORS statute, of appropriation bill, chapter law or section.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this notice, please contact Linda Morter at 503.986.0995, Kathleen Joy at (503) 816-5749, or Ben Pray at 503.986.2079.

Sincerely,



Margaret S. Van Vliet
Director

cc: Tamara Brickman, Chief Financial Office
Michelle Deister, Legislative Fiscal Office



Housing and Community Services Department - 1

Request: Approve an application to the federal Corporation for National and Community Service for a federal grant in the amount of \$50,000 for training and technical assistance to AmeriCorps and Senior Corps project hosts in the western United States.

Recommendation: Approve an application to the federal Corporation for National and Community Service for a federal grant in the amount of \$50,000 for training and technical assistance to AmeriCorps and Senior Corps project hosts in the western United States.

Analysis: The mission of Oregon Volunteers! - The Oregon Commission for Voluntary Action and Service is to support AmeriCorps, volunteerism and civic engagement to strengthen Oregon communities. The Commission matches AmeriCorps, Vista, and Senior Corps volunteers with opportunities in Oregon, provides a volunteer opportunity clearinghouse, and provides trainings on managing volunteers and information on best practices for organizations that utilize volunteers.

The grant will provide funding for a training conference for AmeriCorps and Senior Corps program staff in the ten western states and territories. Oregon Volunteers is the grant applicant, but the conference would be organized and executed with the assistance of the Washington Commission. In its application, Oregon Volunteers will propose conference tracks that include the following: ensuring federally funded volunteer programs are designed to fulfill federal performance measurement goals; sustainability and fund development; and non-profit board of director development and best practices.

No matching funds are required, and no additional staffing is anticipated to administer the grant. An award announcement is expected no earlier than May 29, 2013. If successful in its application, Oregon Volunteers! would hold the conference prior to December 31, 2013. The Housing and Community Services Department is expected to have sufficient Federal Funds expenditure limitation to accommodate a grant award of this size.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.