



FY22 VGF Cohort Q&A

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO): <https://volunteernh.org/news-opportunities/nofo-fy22-vgf-cohort/>
Q&A session recording: <https://youtu.be/N8L7Pa7ZyGU>

How many awards do you expect to make?

We expect to fund approximately five new applicants. The FY22 Cohort will also include eleven subgrantees receiving continuation funding.

Is there potential for our application to be partially funded?

We expect to only fund full, eligible requests. Requests that are outside of the minimum or maximum grant amounts outlined in the NOFO will also not be considered.

Will additional years of funding be available for successful applicants?

Continuation funding may be available for up to two additional years, as outlined in Section II.D. of the NOFO. This is not guaranteed and is contingent on factors such as funding availability and grantee performance.

If my application is not funded, when will I be able to reapply?

We expect to re-open the opportunity again next year, following a similar timeline for new applicants (competition in fall 2023; grant period January-September 2024). This is not guaranteed and is contingent on factors such as funding availability.

Are there funding priorities?

Yes – outlined in the NOFO, Section I.B. **All applicants** should seek to recruit/train/deploy volunteers as a strategy to address a clearly identified pressing community need. Aside from that, submitting a compelling and complete application is generally more important than fitting within a funding priority.

What have been the key components to successful applications and applicant organizations?

It is important to submit a complete application that provides all requested information. Successful applicants are able to make a clear and compelling case that (a) the community need exists and is significant, and (b) the proposed interventions are likely to have a notable, positive impact on the community need. See Section V of the NOFO for more information about review criteria.

Do we need to start a completely new project/initiative?

No, this is not always necessary to qualify for funding. However, you must identify an unmet **community need** (*rather than stopping at your organization's need for increased funding*). See the Goals & Objectives section of the Application Instructions for more information.

Can this grant be used to pay for staff salaries?

Yes, grant funds can be used to cover all/some of the portion of staff time spent working on the VGF project. Note that staff with time included in the grant (VGF or Grantee share) must undergo a multi-part National Service Criminal History Check. See the NOFO for more information.

My organization already ran a background check on me. Do I need to be re-checked?

Very likely, yes, unless it was completed for an AmeriCorps grant using Truescreen and Fieldprint. Reach out directly if you believe that this applies to you.

My organization already operates an AmeriCorps Program/Planning grant. Can we still apply for this VGF opportunity?

Yes, but please note that VGF cannot be used to augment ASN funds and AmeriCorps members are not considered volunteers for the purposes of the VGF grant.

If we include a consultant in our application, do we need to have one identified already? Will the consultant need to be approved by Volunteer NH?

No – If your proposal includes consultant work, it will be up to your organization to identify a consultant and work with them to complete the project within the grant period. That said, it would be beneficial for you to research relevant consultants and the rates they charge in order to inform your application.

Can we pay a consultant to create a webpage for our organization?

Yes, as long as the webpage is directly related to a volunteer program/initiative.

We are interested in creating multi-purpose marketing materials for our organization. Can we apply for funds to cover the portion of the costs attributable to volunteer recruitment efforts?

Yes, if you are able to be clear in your request as to how you are determining the portion of the costs that is eligible for the VGF grant.

Can the match come from philanthropic funds that have been raised by our organization?

Absolutely. Cash match can come from private funds, state funds (if allowed), and even federal funds (with proof of approval from the other federal agency).

Can staff salaries count towards the match contribution requirement?

Yes, staff salaries can be included in the match (grantee) and/or VGF share of the budget. This is assuming that the reported time is spent working on the VGF project. If included as match, the source of funds used to pay them must be allowed under this grant. This is considered cash match (rather than in-kind).

Can volunteer time count towards the match contribution requirement?

Only if the volunteer is providing skilled services related to building the capacity of the volunteer program. For example, if a consultant volunteers their marketing services or a member of your Board of Directors offers their expertise for a volunteer training at no cost. You will need to determine a reasonable hourly rate based on what they (or a similar consultant/trainer) would typically charge.

Are matching dollars required to be secured at the time when the application is submitted?

No, but you are required to identify the expected source(s) of funds in the budget. Funds may be secured (already received/committed) or proposed.

If a cost is not eligible under this funding opportunity, can it be included as match (grantee share)?

No, unallowed costs may not be included anywhere in the budget.

My organization operates under a fiscal sponsor that charges a 10% administrative fee. Are we eligible for this funding opportunity and if yes, can we be reimbursed for the administrative cost?

Yes, your organization is eligible to apply as long as the fiscal sponsor is an eligible organization type (see Section III.A. of the NOFO). AmeriCorps statute only allows for up to 5% of administrative costs to be reimbursed by the VGF grant, however. The remaining administrative fee could be covered with other funds and is eligible to be used as match.

Do you have a list of previous VGF grantees and projects?

Yes: <https://volunteernh.org/volunteer-generation-fund/>

Are there other funding opportunities available through Volunteer NH?

Yes:

- We expect to offer a VGF Mini-Grant funding opportunity in early 2023, which will be a smaller-scale version of the VGF Cohort opportunity ([see the most recent NOFO](#)).
- Planning Grants are typically available in the spring for organizations interested in developing an AmeriCorps program that will place AmeriCorps members in service in New Hampshire ([see the most recent NOFO](#)).
- Program Grants are typically available in the spring for organizations interested in operating an AmeriCorps program in New Hampshire. Only organizations that have successfully run an AmeriCorps Planning grant through Volunteer NH and/or have operated an AmeriCorps program previously are eligible to apply ([see the most recent NOFO](#)).