

Appendix A.15 – Final Rule Overview

Overview

Senior Corps implemented updated program regulations, 45 CFR 2551, 45 CFR 2552, and 45 CFR 2553, in the Federal Register on January 31, 2019. Many of the updates were to reword regulations for clarity and to make technical changes such as numbering. Other updates which more significant to change are highlighted below. [As of September 2020, CNCS and Senior Corps rebranded to AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors. CNCS and Senior Corps remains their legal names and reflect so in regulations.]

AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program/ Senior Companion Program

- Reduces the minimum requirement of ongoing in-service training annually from forty (40) hours to twenty-four (24) (45 CFR 2552.23 (f) and 45 CFR 2551.23(f)).
- Removes annual service plan and annual assessment requirements as these processes are duplicative of work required to assess community need for national performance measure requirements (45 CFR 2552.23 (i), (j) and 45 2551.23 (i), (j)).
- Removes annual volunteer physical examination requirement (45 CFR 2552.41(a)(2)/ 2552.46(d) and 2551.41(a)(2)/ 2551.46(d)).
- Clarifies that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, public assistance, child support, and disability payments are not considered income for eligibility verification purposes (45 CFR 2552.44(a), (b) and 45 CFR 2551.44(a), (b)).
- Changes the service hour requirement to volunteers must serve at least five (5) hours weekly or 260 hours annually (45 CFR 2552.51/ 45 CFR 2551.51).
- Removes the Direct Benefit Ratio or “80/20 rule” which required that a sum equal to at least 80 percent of the amount of the Federal share of the grant award shall be expended on cost reimbursements that are provided directly to volunteers such as stipend payments, transportation reimbursements, meals, and recognition (45 CFR 2552.92(e)/ 45 CFR 2551.92(e)).
- Removes the requirement that FGP and SCP projects coordinate with local RSVP projects when enrolling over-income volunteers in FGP and SCP (45 CFR 2552.101/45 CFR 2551.101).
- Revises non-stipend volunteer service requirement to mirror stipended volunteer service requirements (45 CFR 2552.102(e) (f)/45 CFR 2551.102(e) (f)). The new regulations no longer recommend that non-stipended volunteers serve at separate volunteer stations from stipended volunteers and no longer recommend an average weekly service hour requirement for non-stipended volunteers that differed from the requirement for stipended volunteers.
- Removes the requirement to separate any administrative cost related to non-stipend volunteers (45 CFR 2552.104/ 45 CFR 2551.104).

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP

- Removes annual service plan and annual assessment requirements as these processes are duplicative of work required to assess community need for national performance measure requirements (45 CFR 2553.23(f)(g)).
- Clarifies cost reimbursements such that recognition and insurance must be provided; meals and transportation may be provided (45 CFR 2553.43).

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- Removes language that “no more than 5% of the total number of volunteers budgeted for the project are assigned to it in administrative or support positions” (45 CFR 2553.61).
- Broadens the RSVP performance measurement language (45 CFR 2553 Subpart J).