

**§ 2553.26**

**§ 2553.26 [Reserved]**

**Subpart C—Suspension, Termination and Denial of Refunding**

**§ 2553.31 What are the rules on suspension, termination and denial of refunding of grants?**

(a) The Chief Executive Officer or designee is authorized to suspend further payments or to terminate payments under any grant providing assistance under the Act whenever he or she determines there is a material failure to comply with applicable terms and conditions of the grant. The Chief Executive Officer shall prescribe procedures to insure that:

(1) Assistance under the Act shall not be suspended for failure to comply with applicable terms and conditions, except in emergency situations for thirty days;

(2) An application for refunding under the Act may not be denied unless the recipient has been given:

(i) Notice at least 75 days before the denial of such application of the possibility of such denial and the grounds for any such denial; and

(ii) Opportunity to show cause why such action should not be taken;

(3) In any case where an application for refunding is denied for failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant, the recipient shall be afforded an opportunity for an informal hearing before an impartial hearing officer, who has been agreed to by the recipient and AmeriCorps; and

(4) Assistance under the Act shall not be terminated for failure to comply with applicable terms and conditions unless the recipient has been afforded reasonable notice and opportunity for a full and fair hearing.

(b) Hearings or other meetings as may be necessary to fulfill the requirements of this section should, to the extent practicable, be held in locations convenient to the grant recipient.

(c) The procedures for suspension, termination, and denial of refunding, that apply to the RSVP program are specified in 45 CFR part 1206.

[64 FR 14135, Mar. 24, 1999, as amended at 76 FR 20246, Apr. 12, 2011; 83 FR 64655, Dec. 17, 2018]

**45 CFR Ch. XXV (10–1–24 Edition)**

**Subpart D—Eligibility, Cost Reimbursements and Volunteer Assignments**

**§ 2553.41 Who is eligible to be an RSVP volunteer?**

(a) To be an RSVP volunteer, an individual must:

(1) Be 55 years of age or older;

(2) Agree to serve without compensation; and

(3) Reside in or nearby the community served by RSVP.

(b) Eligibility to serve as an RSVP volunteer shall not be restricted on the basis of formal education, experience, race, color, national origin including limited English proficiency, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity or expression, political affiliation, marital or parental status, or military service.

[64 FR 14135, Mar. 24, 1999, as amended at 83 FR 64655, Dec. 17, 2018]

**§ 2553.42 Is an RSVP volunteer a federal employee, an employee of the sponsor or of the volunteer station?**

RSVP volunteers are not employees of the sponsor, the volunteer station, AmeriCorps or the Federal Government.

[83 FR 64655, Dec. 17, 2018]

**§ 2553.43 What cost reimbursements and benefits may sponsors provide to RSVP volunteers?**

(a) RSVP volunteers may be provided the following cost reimbursements within the limits of the project's available resources:

(1) *Transportation.* RSVP volunteers may receive assistance with the cost of transportation to and from volunteer assignments and official project activities, including orientation, training, and recognition events.

(2) *Meals.* RSVP volunteers may receive assistance with the cost of meals taken while on assignment.

(3) *Other volunteer expenses.* RSVP volunteers may also be reimbursed for allowable out-of-pocket expenses incurred while performing their assignments.

(b) RSVP volunteers must be provided the following cost reimbursements:

(1) *Recognition.* RSVP volunteers shall be provided recognition for their service.

(2) *Insurance.* An RSVP volunteer is provided with the AmeriCorps-specified minimum levels of insurance as follows:

(i) *Accident insurance.* Accident insurance covers RSVP volunteers for personal injury during travel between their homes and places of assignment, during volunteer service, during meal periods while serving as a volunteer, and while attending project sponsored activities. Protection shall be provided against claims in excess of any benefits or services for medical care or treatment available to the volunteer from other sources.

(ii) *Personal liability insurance.* Protection is provided against claims in excess of protection provided by other insurance. It does not include professional liability coverage.

(iii) *Excess automobile insurance.* (A) RSVP drivers who drive in connection with their service shall be provided protection against claims in excess of the greater of either:

(1) Liability insurance the volunteers carry on their own automobiles; or

(2) The limits of applicable state financial responsibility law, or in its absence, levels of protection to be determined by AmeriCorps for each person, each accident, and for property damage.

(B) RSVP volunteers who drive their personal vehicles to or on assignments or project-related activities shall maintain personal automobile liability insurance equal to or exceeding the levels established by AmeriCorps.

[83 FR 64655, Dec. 17, 2018, as amended at 89 FR 70544, Aug. 30, 2024]

**§ 2553.44 May cost reimbursements received by RSVP volunteers be subject to any tax or charge, treated as wages or compensation, or affect eligibility to receive assistance from other programs?**

No. An RSVP volunteer's cost reimbursements are not subject to any tax or charge, and are not treated as wages or compensation for the purposes of unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, temporary disability, retirement, public assistance or similar ben-

efit payments or minimum wage laws. Cost reimbursements are not subject to garnishment, and do not reduce or eliminate the level of, or eligibility for, assistance or services that a volunteer may be receiving under any governmental program.

[83 FR 64656, Dec. 17, 2018]

### Subpart E—Volunteer Terms of Service

**§ 2553.51 What are the terms of service of an RSVP volunteer?**

An RSVP volunteer shall serve on a regular basis, or intensively on short-term assignments, consistent with the assignment description.

[83 FR 64656, Dec. 17, 2018]

**§ 2553.52 Under what circumstances may a sponsor remove an RSVP volunteer from service?**

(a) A sponsor may remove an RSVP volunteer from service for cause. Grounds for removal include, but are not limited to: Extensive and unauthorized absences; misconduct; failure to perform assignments and or failure to accept supervision.

(b) The sponsor shall establish appropriate policies on removal from service as well as procedures for appeal.

[83 FR 64656, Dec. 17, 2018]

### Subpart F—Responsibilities of a Volunteer Station

**§ 2553.61 When may a sponsor serve as a volunteer station?**

The sponsor and RSVP project itself may function as a volunteer station or may initiate special volunteer activities provided that AmeriCorps agrees these activities are in accord with program objectives and will not hinder overall project operations.

[83 FR 64656, Dec. 17, 2018]

**§ 2553.62 What are the responsibilities of a volunteer station?**

A volunteer station shall undertake the following responsibilities in support of RSVP volunteers:

(a) Develop volunteer assignments that impact critical human and social