



## *F.R.E.S.H. Summer Mini Grants 2015*

### *Mini Grant NOFA*

#### **Notice of Funding Availability**

Serve DC – The Mayor’s Office on Volunteerism is the District of Columbia Government agency dedicated to promoting service as an innovative, sustainable solution to pressing social challenges.

Serve DC engages District communities by building partnerships and organizational capacity, leading local and national volunteer and service initiatives, and providing and promoting meaningful service opportunities. Serve DC supports communities across the District through federal grant funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

#### **I. Overview and Purpose of the Grant**

Summer of Service is a mini grant opportunity to engage more young people, particularly those from disadvantaged circumstances, in service during the summer months. The mini grants are being sponsored by Serve DC - The Mayor’s Office on Volunteerism, in collaboration with the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Without exposure to constructive activities, summer can be a difficult time for young people. The Summer of Service initiative recognizes the potential of all youth to contribute in meaningful ways to the communities in which they live through volunteer service. According to recent research, youth who are involved in their communities through service do better in school, engage in fewer risky behaviors, have a better sense of themselves, and feel more empowered to make a difference in their own lives than youth who do not participate in volunteer activities.

The purpose of the funding is to support organizations who (will) engage youth in activities that focus on one of the six designated focus areas (see below). Serve DC hopes that the mini grants will increase the awareness of community service in the designated target areas of service, engage youth in productive summer programming and create pathways to service as a sustainable solution to some of the community’s most pressing needs.

## **II. Activities must fall within one of the six (6) designated focus areas:**

1. **Disaster Services-** Concerns regarding the preparation, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts that relate to disaster events.
2. **Economic Opportunity-** Address unmet needs of economically disadvantaged individuals, including financial literacy, affordable housing, and employment-related assistance.
3. **Education-** Topics related to unmet educational needs within communities, especially those that help at-risk youth to achieve success in school and prevent them from dropping out.
4. **Environmental Stewardship-** Matters regarding energy and water efficiency, renewable energy use, at-risk ecosystems, and behavioral change leading to increased efficiency.
5. **Healthy Futures-** Addresses unmet health needs, including access to health care, increasing physical activity and improving nutrition in youth, and increasing seniors' ability to remain in their own homes.
6. **Veterans and Military Families-** Address unmet needs of veterans, members of the armed forces, and family members of deployed military personnel.

## **III. Target Population(s)**

Serve DC is stipulating that the Summer of Service mini grant funds be used for the specific purpose of working with youth aged between 5-20 years of age.

## **IV. Eligible Organizations/Entities**

Applications are requested from District-based non-for-profits, religious organizations, civic groups, and summer camps that engage youth aged 5 to 20 during the summer months.

Applying organizations must have existing programs or create activities with the funding to support one-time projects. Programs should incorporate an element of community service during the grant cycle. Serve DC is defining community service as a project that seeks to give back to its community through volunteer time.

Existing programs and projects must focus on and take place in the specific Police Service Areas (PSA) listed below. Please visit <http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/police-districts-and-police-service-areas> to identify if your application falls within one of the designated PSA's:

- PSA 106
- PSA 404
- PSA 407
- PSA 506
- PSA 507
- PSA 602
- PSA 604
- PSA 702
- PSA 704
- PSA 705

## **V. Examples of Activities**

Serve DC is looking for applications that will address one of the six focus areas listed in Section II. Serve DC seeks applicants that will design and implement creative programming to engage youth. Virtually all community-serving activities that engage youth are encouraged including previously planned summer activities for youth, as well as new activities. Some examples may include:

- i. Health Fair
- ii. Community Garden
- iii. Job Training
- iv. Food Pantry/Drive
- v. Recycling Program
- vi. Community Beautification projects
- vii. Community Cooking Class
- viii. Community Exercise Class
- ix. Literacy Project(s)

## **VI. Application Instructions:**

Interested applicants should submit a 5 -page proposal for consideration. The proposal should include a 4-page narrative and a 1-page budget document. The narrative portion of the proposal should include the following information:

1. Introduction/Community Need -- A statement of your organization's purpose and summary of your work within the community to positively impact youth between 5 and 20 years of age.
2. Focus Area-- A statement regarding the specific Police Service Area to be addressed by your application, and expected impact of work-- i.e., how will this program make a difference in the community?
3. Program Description—should include days/hours of operation, duration and
4. Organizational Capacity-- A full description of how your organization will carry out this activity. What resources will be dedicated to the activity? Do you have a past track record of success in implementation of similar activities?
5. Budget-- The budget section of the proposal should identify the projected expenses. The budget should also identify revenue sources/amounts that will permit program implementation. Please note that this is a cost-reimbursable grant. Sufficient funding for start-up must be available by the sponsoring entity. All approved expenditures will be timely reimbursed.



**Applications will be considered for funding from \$1,000 to \$10,000.**

**VII. Deadlines:**

Applications must be received no later than June 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm for consideration.

**VIII. Period of performance:**

June 29, 2015 - September 30, 2015.

**IX. Grant deliverables:**

One (1) final report is due thirty (30) days after the activity has been completed. Final reports should include:

- a. Recap of activity, with the community service activity described
- b. Focus area of activity, per the six proposed
- c. Number of people served
- d. Testimonial of one (1) participant
- e. Pictures of event (5)