



RSVP News

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Federal budget cuts result in RSVP changes

The fiscal year 2011 federal budget brought unprecedented cuts to the national RSVP program and those cuts will affect the RSVP programing at Douglass Community Services in Hannibal.

The passage of the FY2011 budget resulted in a \$12.6 million cut in national RSVP funding.

Douglass Community Services has spent the last month working with the federal RSVP program to anticipate how that funding short-fall would be expressed at the local level.

“I am deeply saddened by the federal cuts made to the RSVP Program,” said RSVP Director Stacey Nicholas. “In no way do

these cuts represent a lack of faith in the volunteer work that our senior adults contribute. The cuts are a process of refocused national spending.”

Given the severity of the cuts, it is not possible to simply go forward and do with less. Dramatic changes had to be made to the local program budget. Cost cutting measures include not replacing the part-time assistant and reducing the services provided by RSVP at Douglass Community Services.

Historically, it costs the RSVP program nearly \$255 annually to recruit, train, retain, and recognize registered volunteers. During that same time, federal support has underwritten approximately \$100 of that cost.

“With the newest budget cuts, we do not have the local resources to continue with the high quality of

care that we have traditionally provided senior adult volunteers,” Nicholas said.

Annually, the local RSVP program raises over 60% of its operating budget through grants, fundraisers, and donations.

Under the remodeled plan advised by the federal

program specialist and approved by the RSVP Advisory Council, the Douglass Community Services RSVP program will retain 51% of the present volunteers and 14 of the volunteer stations. As per federal regulations, over 50% of the volunteers will be in outcome-based work plans. For the retained volunteers and work stations,

RSVP will continue to provide support, especially through volunteer insurance, recognition, and mileage reimbursement. There is at least one volunteer station in each of the counties served by RSVP at Douglass Community Services.

RSVP supported volunteer programs that will receive continued support include disaster services (American Red Cross, United Way, and local Unmet Needs Committees), food pantries, CLAIM, VITA, and the Hannibal Free Clinic, and Randolph County volunteer partners. All existing Douglass programs will also be supported, such as CASA, Kids in Motion, Head Start, and Nifty Thrifty.

Volunteers at these stations will be covered under the RSVP insurance and eligible to receive mileage

We at Douglass Community Services value both our community partners and our senior adult volunteers. We sincerely hope that the volunteers continue the good work that they have undertaken at their present volunteer sites.

Dave Dexheimer
Executive Director
Douglass Community Services

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reimbursements.

Present volunteers, who fail to meet the remodeled program emphasis and wish to remain active in RSVP, will be encouraged to accept volunteer opportunities with the new plan.

“It is expected that most volunteers will continue in their present volunteer assignments, but that their volunteer location will become responsible for all of the volunteer support,” Nicholas stated.

This new plan does not take effect until July 1, 2011. Until that time, it is important that volunteer stations continue to report the hours that volunteers serve. The volunteer hours served through June 30 are an important factor in the August Recognition Banquet.

“We at Douglass Community Services value both our community partners and our senior adult volunteers,” said Douglass Executive Director Dave Dexheimer. “We sincerely hope that the volunteers continue the good work that they have undertaken at their present volunteer sites.”

Regrettably, the budget battles are not over. In the initial resolution passed by the US House of Representatives for FY 2012, the Corporation for National and Community Services (the federal agency responsible for RSVP) was again eliminated. Without a doubt, this battle will rage for a few more months, as the FY 2012 year does not begin until October 1.

Please turn time reports in by the 10th of the following month.

Social program changes as a result of budget cuts

Federal program cuts of nearly \$12.6 million have adversely affected the local RSVP program at Douglass Community Services. The local program has restructured the volunteer plans that it is able to support. Other changes include cuts and revisions to social programming.

“No one likes to cut established programs,” said RSVP Director Stacey Nicholas. “But the financial reality is that we cannot continue to provide quality programming without the necessary financial support.”

According to federal regulations, the RSVP program is not allowed to ask participants for financial donations.

Social program changes include reducing the number of fellowship events to include only the Winter Party in January and the Recognition Event in August. “Federal guidelines require that we sponsor an annual event to recognize the outstanding efforts that our senior adult volunteers give to the community. We will continue to make the Recognition Event a quality experience for volunteers,” Nicholas said.

Other changes include placing the monthly Jam Session on hiatus beginning in July. “We have fewer staff hours to devote to events. We are really focusing staff time and program resources on those requirements of the national program,” Nicholas added. “We will re-evaluate the status of the Jam Session in the fall, after the staff has had a chance to manage the revised RSVP program.”

The weekly bingo session at Douglass Community Services will continue for the time being.

For 2011, the Santa’s Workshop event has been suspended. Historically, the RSVP program has sponsored a Santa’s Workshop event in Palmyra, Monroe City, and Hannibal. The program assisted low-income children in selecting gifts for their family members.

RSVP will also no longer collect coupons for military families. The coupons were mailed with a national program that shared them with military bases across the world. “The coupon program is a great help to our military families, but we can no longer absorb the cost of organizing it, especially mailing the coupons to the distribution centers. This would be a great program for another community group to pick-up and we would be willing to help them get started,” Nicholas said.

If additional resources become available the RSVP Advisory Council and the program director will examine which social programs will be added.

Opportunities abound!

Looking for an opportunity to share your gifts and skills?

Nifty Thrifty

(Hannibal) is a thrift shop at Douglass Community Services and seeks volunteers to sort items and work in the store.

Senior Food: (Hannibal) Once a month, RSVP volunteers assist with distributing the Senior Commodities food. Volunteers are needed to load boxes into the cars and to help with paperwork.

Red Cross: Seeks volunteers to provide single event disaster assistance (such as helping families who have experienced a fire) or providing communication assistance to military families. Training will be provided.

Birth Right (Hannibal): seeks volunteers to do light clerical work and assist clients.

DCS Food Pantry (Hannibal): on the first Thursday of the month, volunteers are needed to assist with the USDA commodities distribution. Volunteers should be at Douglass Community Services by 8 am.

If any of these volunteer activities, please contact the RSVP office at 573.221.3892.



June Birthdays

June 2: Jerri White and Carol Wilhoit
June 3: Rose Horton, and John Rodgers
June 4: Donna Steeves
June 5: John LaPesh
June 10 Robert McDaniel and Bob Taylor
June 13: Mike Lawzano, Wayne Myers,
and Patsy Pollard
June 14: Linda Harmon
June 15: Ila Bunn, Donna Campbell,
and Rhonda Jefferies
June 16: James Boettcher and Betty Summers
June 19: Emma Ely
June 21 Melissa Williams
June 22: Carole Hartel
June 23: Eva Boggs
June 24: Sharon Laser
June 24: Karen McFarland
June 25: Elizabeth Gravitt
and Dolores Taylor



People underestimate their capacity for change. There is never a right time to do a difficult thing. A leader's job is to help people have vision of their potential.

John Porter

Enjoy the outdoors and stay healthy this summer

Here are some helpful tips to protect yourself from the sun:

* Wear protective clothing such as long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

* Wear a wide-brimmed hat that shades your face, neck and ears.

* Seek shade whenever possible.

* Wear sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 15 or higher as well as UVA and UVB protection.

* Re-apply sunscreen regularly, especially after swimming, perspiring heavily or drying skin with a towel.



* Wear sunglasses that block both UVA and UVB rays.

* Avoid direct sun exposure between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the sun's rays are strongest.

With heat, humidity and outdoor summer-time activities on the rise, be on the lookout for signs of heat-related stress. Some symptoms of heat exhaustion to watch out for are: heavy sweating; paleness; muscle cramps; tiredness; weakness; dizziness; headache; nausea or fainting.

People experiencing symptoms should be moved to a cool, shady or air-conditioned area and provided cool, non-alcoholic beverages.

RSVP



Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

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ADVISORY COUNCIL

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*The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
enables volunteers aged 55 and over
to contribute their time, talent,
experience, knowledge, and interests
to others in their community.
We are dedicated to helping seniors
retain useful roles after retirement.*

RSVP Staff

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Stacey Nicholas
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Douglass Community Services is a United Way agency