AmeriCorps Seniors

Office Hours: General & Performance Measures and Work Plans Q&A

FY2024 Senior Companion Program Replacement and Expansion Opportunities

Agenda

- Important Dates
- Contact Information
- Primary Focus Area
- Funding Priorities
- Q&A
  - Pre-Submitted
  - Open Forum

Poll #1

Question 1:

Did you attend any of our live applicant training and technical assistance webinars? Please select all that apply.

- AmeriCorps Seniors in Action: Mobilizing a Generation
- Identifying Funding Priority Areas in Your Community
- Tour of the Notice of Funding Opportunity – Selection Criteria Review
- National Performance Measures and Work Plans
- I did not attend any other live events

Question 2:

Have you accessed the training and technical assistance resources and webinars on the funding opportunity webpage?

Poll #2:

How confident do you feel in your current level of expertise related to today's primary topics: *General Information, Performance Measures and Work Plans?*

5- Very Confident
4- Confident
3- Neutral/Not sure
2- Not confident
1- Very not confident

Important Dates

Applications are
due no later than
**Thursday, February
1, 2024, by 5:00 p.m.
Eastern Time.**

Successful
applicants will be
issued awards by
June 2024.

Successful
applicants will be
notified by
April 2024.

Late Application Process

See section D.4.c in the Notice.

Applications submitted after February 1, 2024, at 5:00 pm ET will not be accepted.

Unless:
- The applicant provides written explanation or justification and any other evidence that substantiates the claimed extenuating circumstance(s)
  - Via email to FGPSCPReplacement@americorps.gov
  - No later than 24 hours after the application deadline as stated in the Notice
  - Early requests for an extension will not be approved

Contact Information

For questions related to this funding opportunity, contact FGPSCPReplacement@americorps.gov.

For details on this opportunity and to see other opportunities available through AmeriCorps, visit the AmeriCorps [Funding Opportunities](#) website.

Primary Focus Areas and Funding Priorities

Primary Focus Area and Funding Priorities

The Senior Companion Program focuses on **Healthy Futures**.

Grants must establish programming that engages adults fifty-five (55) years and older to serve as volunteers who **help older adults live independently**. Activities may include providing support and/or facilitating access to services and resources that contribute to independent living.

Senior Companion Program Funding Priorities

Primary Focus Areas and Funding Priorities

Priority consideration* will be given to:

- Projects that propose to raise public awareness about the challenges and needs of family caregivers and the role of older adult volunteers. Innovative service projects that can be executed by older adults will be given priority consideration. These projects can include those that:
  - Advance partnerships that promote greater engagement for older adult support for family caregivers.
  - Optimize well-being of family caregivers by strengthening services and supports, e.g., services to help caregivers manage their own health/emotions/physical stress, helping to find and secure other trustworthy/affordable services or supports, and those that prevent caregiver isolation.

Funding Priorities

Primary Focus Areas and Funding Priorities

- Organizations leading service in communities with **concentrated poverty**, **rural** communities, **tribal** communities, and those organizations **serving historically underrepresented and underserved individuals**, including but not limited to communities of color, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community, and religious minorities.

- Projects that propose to serve states listed in **Appendix A: Priority States and Territories**.

- Organizations that serve people with **arrest and conviction records** and provide **meaningful reentry opportunities**.

- Programs that support **civic bridgebuilding projects** (meaning projects that foster respect among diverse communities, strengthen relationships across lines of difference, forge a sense of common civic purpose, and seek to solve a community program and diminish polarization) and provide training in civic bridgebuilding skills and techniques to AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers.

Senior Companion Program Funding Priorities

Primary Focus Areas and Funding Priorities

Funding Priorities Continued…

- Develop volunteer roles that integrate older adults as volunteers who serve as part of a care coordination for clients and ongoing support for family and other caregivers.
- Develop interventions where elders can support caregivers in tribal communities.
- Spur innovations that engage older adults in intergenerational activities that help increase access to information and services for caregivers.

*To receive priority consideration, applicants must show that the priority area is a **significant** part of the program focus and intended outcomes and must include a high-quality program design.

Suggested Resource: Identifying Priority Areas

AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities website.

Appendix A: Priority States and Territories

Primary Focus Areas and Funding Priorities
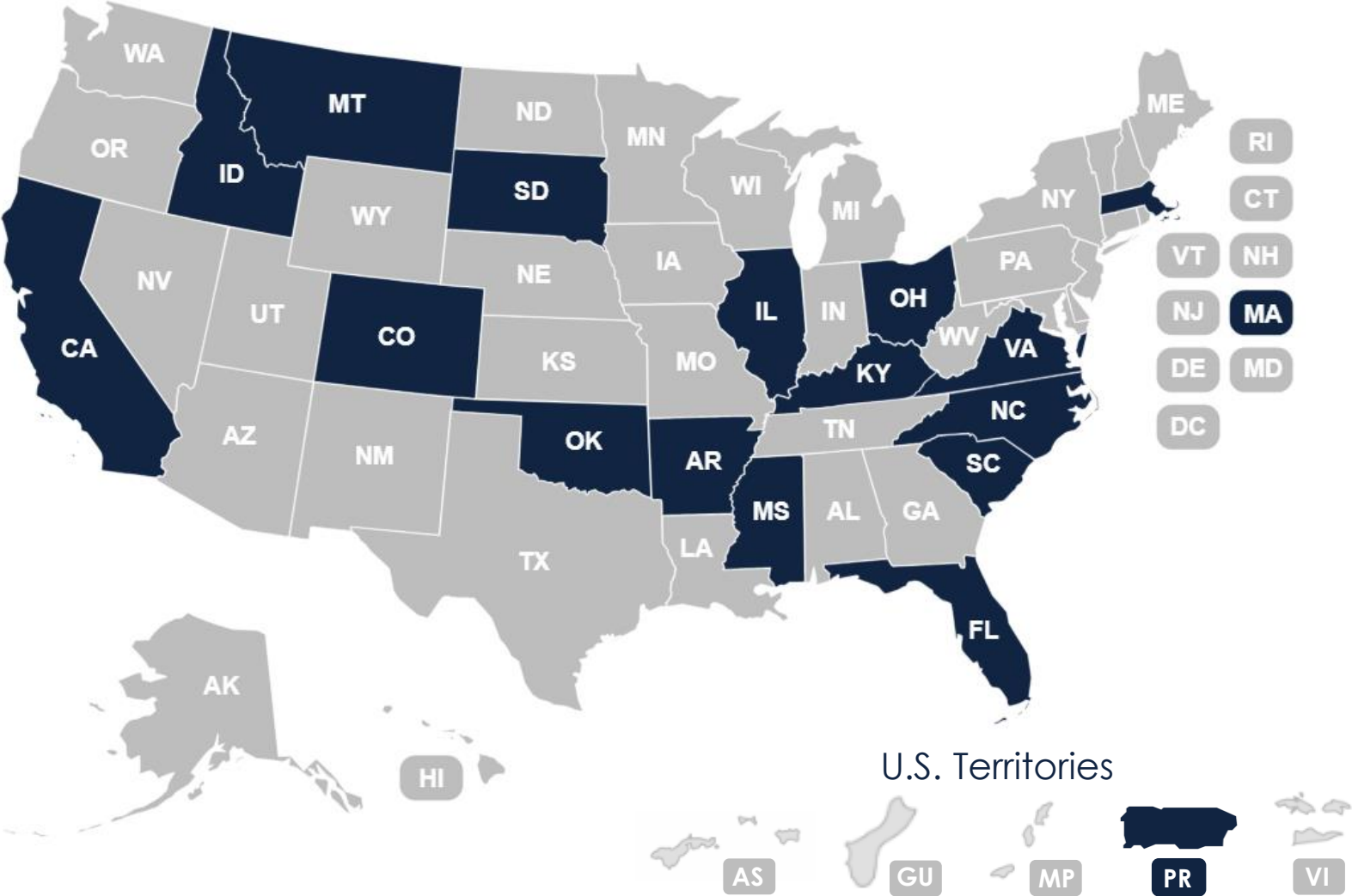
U.S. Territories

*Applicants are not limited to this list of states and territories to apply for, but AmeriCorps Seniors is prioritizing projects that designate counties in these states and territories due to relinquishments.

*Applicants can apply for one or more counties.

General Questions

General Questions

How do I know if our agency should apply?

We cannot tell anyone whether they should or should not apply. But we can provide some suggested ways to assess if you should:

- ❑ Do you meet the eligibility requirements in section C.1. Eligibility of the Notice of Funding Opportunity?

- ❑ Can you demonstrate Healthy Futures/Aging in Place support is needed in your community, and your agency has the capacity to meet this need?

- ❑ Does data show that there are older adults (aged 55+) in your community that are capable and interested in service?

General Questions

If the geographic area I wish to serve is not listed in Appendix A Priority States and Territories; can I apply for that service area?

Yes. Applicants are not limited to apply to serve areas in this list of states and territories, but AmeriCorps Seniors is prioritizing projects that designate geographic service areas operating in these states and territories due to relinquishments.

Geographic Service Area reminders:

• Grant applicants must propose to serve one or more geographic service areas.

• There is no maximum number of counties that applicants may propose to serve.

• All counties that an applicant proposes to serve can be included in one application

General Questions

Geographic Service Area Examples:

Geographic Area Served	How to List on Application
• One Entire County	• ABC County
• Multiple Entire Counties	• ABC County, MNO County, and XYZ County
• 5 or fewer cities or towns, but not the entire county	• ABC County (City 1, City 2, City 3)
• More than 5 cities or towns, but not the entire county	• ABC County (North Central ABC, Eastern ABC)
• Large metropolitan area	• ABC County (ABC Metro area)

General Questions

Can two or more organizations jointly apply for one grant?

No. One organization must be identified as the sponsor organization. Other organizations can become volunteer stations but would not be considered the grantee. AmeriCorps Seniors does not allow sub-awards.

General Questions

If there is already an AmeriCorps Seniors program in my geographic service area, may I apply to this funding opportunity?

Yes, more than one AmeriCorps Seniors program can be in the same geographic service area if there is no duplication of services.

For example, an AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP and Senior Companion program can be in the same service area if they are not both doing the same performance measures and using the same stations. Two AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion programs can be in the same geographic service area if there is no volunteer and station overlap between the projects.

General Questions

Would an organization that does not use volunteers or provide direct service be eligible to apply? Could a statewide association partner with another organization in applying to this program?

Proposed projects must plan to use volunteers to achieve project goals. Volunteers can be stationed with partner organizations, established with formal Memorandums of Understandings.

This grant opportunity does not allow for subgrantees.

General Questions

What age groups can our AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program volunteers serve?

Per [Section 2551.81](#) of the Code of Federal Regulations, AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program volunteers serve only adults, primarily older adults, who have one or more physical, emotional, or mental health limitations and need assistance to achieve and maintain their highest level of independent living.

General Questions

How does my organization determine how much federal funding we should apply for?

Applicants can request as much funding as needed to support a successful program. There are two things to consider: number of Volunteer Service Years (VSY) and amount of match.

- For every $9,000 in federal funding, you must budget for and place **one volunteer service year** in an outcome-based work plan in the **Healthy Futures focus area**.

- Applicants are required to match funds equal to **10 percent** of the total requested one-year program budget. This can be either in-kind or cash match.

General Questions

How does my organization determine how much federal funding we should apply for? (*continued*)

For example, if you think you can recruit 23 volunteers to serve 20 VSYs (or 20,880 hours of service) in outcome-based work plans in the **Healthy Futures** focus area, you can request $180,000 in federal funding. Your grantee share is $20,000, and your total project budget is $200,000.

VSY * $9,000 = Federal Funding	Determine Total Project Budget	Calculate Grantee Share
20 * $9,000 = $180,000	(Federal Share/0.90) = Total Project Budget ($180,000/0.90) = $200,000	Total Project Budget * 0.10 = Grantee Share $200,000 * 0.10 = $20,000

Appendix E: Cost per Volunteer Calculator can be used to determine a minimum number of VSYs for a funding request.

General Questions

Our organization is currently a grantee and are operating within a temporary geographic service area. Do we need to apply to this opportunity?

Yes. If your organization was granted permission by AmeriCorps to operate within a geographic service area that was not a part of your original project, the new geographic service area needs to be applied for during this opportunity. The application will only be for the new service area and will not have an impact on your current grant. If the application is successful, the original project can be amended to merge both into a single grant.

Without a successful grant application, organizations will not be allowed to operate in temporary geographic service areas beyond June 2024.

General Questions

Our organization is currently a temporary sponsor of a relinquished project. Do we need to apply to this opportunity?

Yes. If your organization was granted permission by AmeriCorps to operate as a temporary sponsor for a relinquished project, to maintain services as an AmeriCorps grantee, the organization must apply for this opportunity

Without a successful grant application, organizations will not be allowed to operate in temporary geographic service areas beyond June 2024.

General Questions

Do we need to have a full-time Project Director budgeted in our application?

For new applicants, **yes**. Section 2552.25(c) of the Code of Federal Regulations states that projects should employ a full-time project director to accomplish project objectives and manage the functions and activities delegated to project staff for Senior Companion projects(s) within its control.

For current AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program grantees applying to permanently add a geographic service area, **no.** They don't need to budget for a full-time director, as their current grant has the full-time director already.

General Questions

If I am applying for the geographic service area to be permanently added, do we need to apply for funding if we do not need it?

No. Applicants can propose the funding level needed to meet the needs of a successful project in the geographic area. There may be cases where programs are already operating and are requesting to add the geographic service area. If awarded, current grantees may choose to merge the new award into current grants. These cases may not need funds and will apply with a zero budget.

If you are requesting zero dollars in funding, ensure you clearly communicate and describe how staffing, volunteers, and programmatic needs will be met in section E.1.d.i. Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy -enter your response in Other section of eGrants.

Performance Measures and Work Plans Questions

Performance Measures and Work Plans Questions

How many hours a week do AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers need to serve?

Stipended volunteers must serve at least 260 hours per year, or a minimum of 5 hours per week. This includes all stipended hours, such as time spent with clients, training and orientation, recognition events, etc.

Volunteers cannot exceed 2,880 hours per year.

Performance Measures and Work Plans Questions

Can AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers Serve in More than One Work Plan?

Yes, they can. However, be sure to count volunteer service hours only once. Each hour will be counted in the work plan that aligns with the service they will be doing. You will also include them in the "total volunteer" field in eGrants for each work plan that includes their hours of service.

Performance Measures and Work Plans Questions

Can a volunteer station be included in more than one work plan if there is more than one service activity occurring at the station?

Yes. Each work plan is developed based on the service activities selected for an output/outcome pair, not based on one particular volunteer station. One volunteer station may have many service activities occurring there and so may appear in more than one work plan.

Performance Measures and Work Plans Questions

If a beneficiary receives interventions under more than one service activity, how do you determine which work plan to count them in?

Beneficiaries can only be counted in one work plan. You may base it on the work plan under which they receive the most services, either in terms of hours or intensity or services, or on another method that works for your program.

Performance Measures and Work Plans Questions

I cannot complete the validate function for the performance measures. When I go to validate, it says that you must have a performance measure for all objectives. What am I doing wrong?

It is likely that you have checked an objective on the first Performance Measure screen and have not entered a work plan for that objective. Contact the National Service Hotline at 1-800- 942-2677 or via webform if further assistance is needed.

Performance Measures and Work Plans Questions

How frequently will I report on performance measures? How much time per month does it involve?

Recipients are required to submit a full progress report annually on your progress toward your targets. Additionally, you will report on outputs semi-annually. The time varies per grantee based on their internal recordkeeping. On average, AmeriCorps Seniors expects a burden of about 4 hours per report.

As stated in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (Section F.4. Reporting), recipients are required to provide:

- Annual progress reports

- Semi-annual financial reports

- Final financial reports that are cumulative over the entire award period and consistent with the closeout requirements. The final reports are due 120 days after the end of the period of performance.

All reports must be submitted through eGrants, AmeriCorps web-based grants management system.

Suggested Resource: Frequently Asked Questions
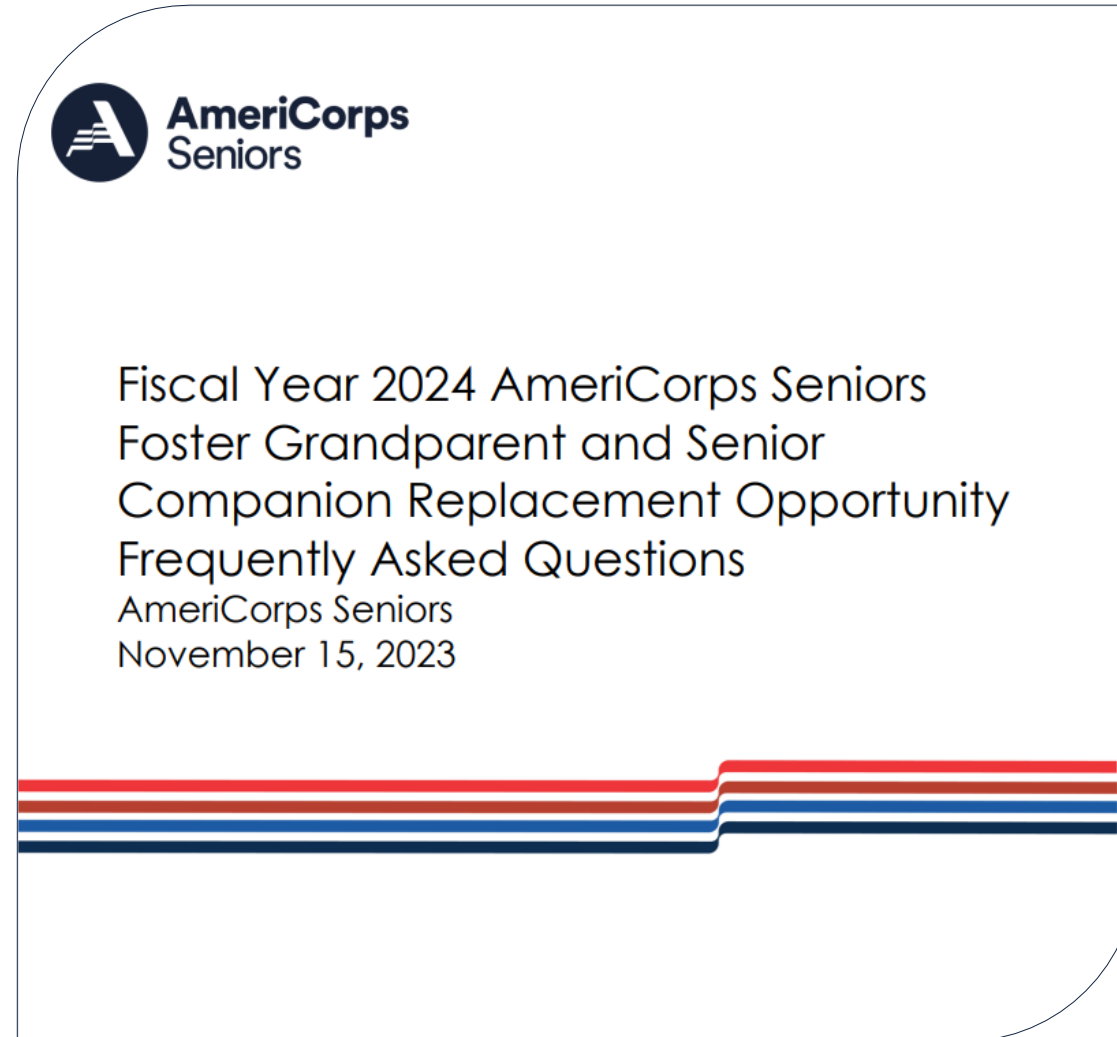
Found on the Funding Opportunity webpage.

Questions?

Please enter your questions into the Q&A box.

Use the Q&A to ask your questions.

Notice of Funding Opportunity and Appendices

AmeriCorps Seniors

Notice of Funding Opportunity	Key information related to the program's description, federal award, eligibility, application and submission, and application review. **Read this first.**
Appendix A: Priority States and Territories	Lists states and territories where AmeriCorps Seniors is prioritizing projects. Applicants are not limited to this list of states and territories. Applicants can apply for one or more counties in a state.
Appendix B: National Performance Measure Instructions	Guidance for performance measures selection, output and outcome pairings, and required information for Work Plan in eGrants.
Appendix C: Terms and Definitions	Defines terms most used by AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors.
Appendix D: Grant Application Instructions	Step-by-step guidance for submitting your application in eGrants
Appendix E: Cost Per Volunteer Calculator	Resource to help applicants determine a minimum number of volunteer service years (VSY) for a funding request.

Resources available on the [Funding Opportunity](#) Page.

Applicant Training and Technical Assistance

General Information	Notice of Funding Opportunity	Performance Measures and Work Plans	Budgets	Applications
• AmeriCorps Seniors in Action: Mobilizing a Generation • Introducing AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps Seniors, and Its Programs • Identifying Funding Priority Areas in Your Community	• Tour of the Notice of Funding • Tour of the Notice of Funding Opportunity – Selection Criteria Review	• National Performance Measures Curriculum • National Performance Measures and Work Plans • Office Hours: General and Performance Measurement Q&A	• Best Practices in Budget Development • Office Hours: Budget Q&A	• Submitting Your Application in eGrants • AmeriCorps Due Diligence Review and Compliance Training

Event recording and presentations available at on the [Funding Opportunity](#) Page.

Poll #3

Having attended today's webinar, how confident do you feel in your current level of knowledge relating to **General Information, Performance Measures and Work Plans**?

5- Much more confident

4- More confident

3- Neutral/Not sure

2- Less confident

1- Much less confident

Thank you for your interest in AmeriCorps Seniors funding opportunities.