

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Federal Agency Name: AmeriCorps
Funding Opportunity Title: FY 2021 AmeriCorps State and National Tribal Grants
Announcement Type: Initial Announcement
Assistance Listing Number: 94.006

Disclosure: Publication of this Notice of Funding Availability (Notice) does not obligate the AmeriCorps to award any specific number of grants or to commit any particular amount of funding. The actual level, timing, and process of grant funding will be subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

Important Dates

- Applications are due **Friday, July 23, 2021** by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time to AmeriCorps.
- Successful applicants will be notified by **late August 2021**.

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A.1. Purpose of AmeriCorps Funding

AmeriCorps brings people together to tackle the country's most pressing challenges through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. AmeriCorps helps make service a cornerstone of our national culture.

AmeriCorps State and National grants are awarded to eligible organizations (See Section *C.1 Eligible Applicants*) proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions/practices to strengthen communities. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award from the National Service Trust that members can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

A.2. Funding Priorities

AmeriCorps seeks to prioritize the investment of national service resources in the following areas:

- Efforts to help local communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants may propose programming in any AmeriCorps focus area to aid communities as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Programs that actively engage in removing structural racial inequities, advancing racial equality, and increasing opportunity in order to achieve sustainable change in communities.
- Economic Opportunity – a program model that increases economic opportunities for communities by preparing people for the workforce i.e. broad band and building/renovating low income housing.
- Education – improving student academic performance in Science, Technology,

Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), and/or serving students who attend Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools.

- Environmental Stewardship – i.e. traditional food systems
- Healthy Futures – a program model that reduces and/or prevents prescription drug and opioid abuse.
- Veterans and Military Families – a program model that improves the quality of life outcomes of veterans and improves military family strength.
- Programs that reduce child poverty.

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. Proposing programs that receive priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

A.3. Performance Goals or Expected Outcomes

National Performance Measures

All applications must include at least one aligned performance measure (output and outcome) that corresponds to the proposed primary intervention. This may be a National Performance Measure or an applicant-determined measure. Additional performance measures, including output-only National Performance Measures, may also be included if desired; however, all performance measures must be consistent with the program's Theory of Change and represent significant program activities. AmeriCorps does not expect applicants to select performance measures to correspond to each and every potential member activity or community outcome. AmeriCorps values the quality of performance measures over the quantity of performance measures.

The agency expects applicants to use National Performance Measures as part of their comprehensive performance management strategy if the National Performance Measures are part of the applicant's Theory of Change. Applicants should use both performance and evaluation data to learn from their work as well as make tactical and strategic adjustments to achieve their goals. For more information, please refer to <https://americorps.gov/partner/funding-opportunities>

A.4. Program Authority

Awards under this Notice are authorized by the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, (42 U.S.C. § 12501 et seq.)

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

B.1. Estimated Available Funds

The agency expects a highly competitive AmeriCorps grant competition. The agency reserves the right to prioritize providing funding to existing awards over making new awards. The actual level of funding will be subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

B.2. Estimated Award Amount

Award amounts will vary, as determined by the scope of the projects.

B.3. Period of Performance

AmeriCorps anticipates making three-year grants. The agency generally makes an initial award for the first year of the period of performance, based on a one-year budget. Continuation awards for subsequent years are not guaranteed; they depend upon availability of appropriations and satisfactory performance.

The project start date may not occur prior to the date AmeriCorps awards the grant. AmeriCorps members may not enroll prior to the start date of the award. AmeriCorps members may not begin service prior to the beginning of the member enrollment period as designated in the grant award. A program may not certify any hours a member performs prior to the beginning of the member enrollment period.

B.4. Type of Award

AmeriCorps Operating Grants: The agency may award a Cost Reimbursement or a Fixed Amount grant to any successful applicant, but the availability of a Full-Cost Fixed Amount grant is limited to certain applicants. Professional Corps are not eligible to apply for Cost Reimbursement grants. See the C.1. *Eligible Applicants* section and the Mandatory Supplemental Information for more information. AmeriCorps will not provide both types of grants for the same project in one fiscal year.

AmeriCorps Planning Grants: The agency is seeking applications for planning grants that will be used to develop national service models. Planning grants are only available as a Cost Reimbursement grant.

Grant Types	Cost Reimbursement		Fixed Amount			
Available Subtypes	Traditional	Planning Grant	Full-Cost	Education Award Program (EAP)	Professional Corps See Sec. D.6.a.2 for further requirements	No Cost Slots
Maximum Cost per MSY	\$18,000	N/A	\$18,000	\$800 or \$1,000*	\$1,000	\$0
Type of Slots in the National Service Trust	Full-Time, Three Quarter-Time, Half-time, Reduced Half-Time, Quarter-Time, Minimum-Time, Abbreviated-Time	N/A	Full-Time, Three Quarter-Time, Half-Time, Reduced Half-Time, Quarter-Time, Minimum-Time, Abbreviated-Time	Full-Time, Three Quarter-Time, Half-Time, Reduced Half-Time, Quarter-Time, Minimum-Time, Abbreviated-Time	Full-Time only	Full-Time, Three Quarter-Time, Half-Time, Reduced Half-Time, Quarter-Time, Minimum-Time, Abbreviated-Time

Budget Submission Required	Yes	No	Yes, if requesting operating funds	No
Availability of Funds linked to enrollment and retention of awarded MSYs	No	Yes		No
Special Requirements	N/A	N/A	Must place qualified professionals in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals. Member salaries and benefits must be paid entirely by organization where member serves and not included in budget.	N/A
Financial Reporting Requirements	Yes	No		
Available to new Applicants	Yes	No	Yes	

*Per 42 U.S.C. § 12581a, AmeriCorps may provide the operational support under this section for a program in an amount that is not more than \$800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position, or not more than \$1,000 per such individual if at least 50 percent of the persons enrolled in the program are disadvantaged youth.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

C.1. Eligible Applicants

The following non-federal entities (all of which are defined in 2 CFR 200.1) are eligible to apply:

- Indian Tribes

In addition to Indian Tribes as defined in 2 CFR 200.1, Tribal organizations that are controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by federally recognized Indian Tribes are also eligible to apply. If an entity applies for an award as a tribal organization that is controlled or chartered by one or more Indian Tribes, the organization must provide copies of, or links to, documentation which

demonstrates that the organization is controlled or chartered by a federally recognized Indian tribe. If an entity applies as an organization sanctioned by a federally recognized Tribe, or multiple specific federally recognized Tribes, it must submit a sanctioning resolution, adopted by the Tribal Council (or comparable tribal governing body) of each Indian Tribe. The resolution(s) must identify the entity applying for an AmeriCorps award by name as a Tribal organization that is sanctioned by the Indian Tribe(s) for the purpose of applying for AmeriCorps funding (or federal grant funds generally).

Entities must have a valid SAM registration and DUNS to receive an award. See Section D.3. Unique entity identifier and System for Award Management (SAM) for more information.

New Applicants

AmeriCorps encourages organizations that have not received prior funding from the agency to apply. The general practice is to award no more than 50 member positions (slots) to organizations receiving an AmeriCorps grant for the first time.

New applicants are eligible to apply for Cost Reimbursement and Education Award Program (EAP) grant but are not eligible to apply for Full-Cost Fixed Amount grants.

Threshold Issues

Applications should reflect that they meet the following threshold requirements for the grant type for which they are applying.

- Professional Corps applicants and/or applicants determined to be a Professional Corps by AmeriCorps must demonstrate that the community in which it will place AmeriCorps members serving as professionals has an inadequate number of said professionals.
- If the proposed service activities require specialized member qualifications and/or training (for example, tutoring programs: 45 CFR 2522.910-.940), the applicant must describe how the program will meet these requirements.

C.2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Fixed Amount Grants

There is no match requirement for Fixed Amount grants. AmeriCorps does not provide all the funds necessary to operate the program, therefore organizations should raise the additional revenue required to operate the program.

Cost Reimbursement Grants

Applicants are required to match funds based on the chart below. The applicant's match can be non-AmeriCorps cash and/or in-kind contributions. Applicants must indicate whether the match is proposed or secured. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to meet the match requirement at the time of application submission. However, in December 2020, AmeriCorps issued a match waiver on FY 2021 AmeriCorps State and National awards. Applicants who wish to take advantage of this waiver do not need to submit additional requests to have the match waived. While match does not have to be included in the proposed applications' budgets, it is encouraged, when applicable, to represent full support of the program.

See Section *D.6. Funding Restrictions* for more information.

A first-time successful applicant is required to match at 24 percent for the first three-year funding period. Starting with year four, the match requirement gradually increases every year to 50 percent by year ten, according to the minimum overall share chart found in 45 CFR 2521.60 and below.

AmeriCorps Funding Year	1, 2, 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
Grantee Share Requirements	24%	26%	30%	34%	38%	42%	46%	50%

Section 121(e)(5) of NCSA (42 U.S.C. §12571(e)) requires programs that use other federal funds as match for an AmeriCorps grant to report the amount and source of these funds to the agency on a Federal Financial Report. Grantees must track and be prepared to report on that match separately each year and at closeout.

The living allowance or salary provided to AmeriCorps members in Professional Corps programs (see Mandatory Supplemental Information) does not count toward the matching requirement.

Alternative Match

Under certain circumstances, applicants may qualify to meet alternative matching requirements that increase over the years to 35 percent instead of 50 percent as specified in the regulations at 45 CFR 2521.60(b). To qualify, applicants must demonstrate that the proposed program is either located in a rural county or in a severely economically distressed community as defined in the Application Instructions. Applicants who plan to request an alternative match schedule must submit a request at the time the application is submitted. Tribes will submit requests to directly to ACAlternateMatchRequests@cns.gov.

C.3. Other Eligibility Requirements

Under Section 132A(b) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, organizations that have been convicted of a federal crime may not receive assistance described in this Notice.

Applications that propose to engage in activities that are prohibited under AmeriCorps’ statutes, regulations, or the terms and conditions of its awards are not eligible to receive AmeriCorps funding.

Note that under appropriations provisions annually enacted by Congress, if the agency is aware that any corporation has any unpaid federal tax liability—

- that has been assessed
- for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed
- that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability—

that corporation is not eligible for an award under this Notice. However, this exclusion will not apply to a corporation which a federal agency has considered for suspension or debarment and has made a determination that suspension or debarment is not necessary to protect the interests of the federal government.

Pursuant to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, an organization described in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(4) that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply for AmeriCorps funding.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

This *Notice* should be read together with the AmeriCorps Regulations, 45 CFR 2520–2550, the Mandatory Supplemental Information, Application Instructions, and Performance Measure Instructions which are incorporated by reference. These documents can be found on <http://www.americorps.gov/partner/funding-opportunities>. The full Regulations are available online at www.ecfr.gov.

D.1. Address to Request an Application Package

All information associated with this funding opportunity is available through the AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities webpages. Applicants should refer to AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities for more information and instructions on how to fully respond to this Notice. Applicants can also send an email to americorpsgrants@cns.gov or call (202) 606-7508 for a printed copy of the application materials. The agency also offers live text chat at <https://www.americorps.gov/contact>.

D.2. Content and Form of Application Submission

D.2.a. Application Content

In the agency's web-based management system, applicants will enter the following components of a complete application:

- Standard Form 424 (SF-424) Face Sheet: This is automatically generated when applicants complete the data elements in the system
- Narratives:
 - Executive Summary: This is a brief description of the proposed program.
 - Program Design
 - Organizational Capability
 - Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy
 - Evaluation Plan (if applicable)
- Logic Model
- Standard Form 424A Budget
- Performance Measures
- Authorization, Assurances, and Certification (<https://espan.cns.gov/cnsmisc/ECERTS.HTM>, and <https://espan.cns.gov/cnsmisc/EASSUR.HTM>).

D.2.b. Page Limits

There are page limits for the Narratives and Logic Model.

Narratives

Applications must not exceed 10 double-spaced pages for the Narratives. Planning grants may not exceed more than seven pages.

The application sections that count towards the page limit are the:

- SF-424 Face Sheet
- Executive Summary
- Program Design, Organizational Capability, and Cost-Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy narratives.

The application page limit does not include the Budget, Performance Measures, or any required additional documents.

Logic Model

The Logic Model may not exceed three pages when printed with the application from the “Review” tab in the agency’s web-based management system.

Both Narratives and Logic Model

Please note that the length of the application as a word processing document may differ from the length of the document printed out from eGrants. The character limits in eGrants do not align with page limits set in the Notice. **AmeriCorps strongly encourages applicants to print out the application from the “Review and Submit” tab in eGrants prior to submission in order to confirm that the application does not exceed the page limit.**

AmeriCorps will not consider the results of any alternative printing methods when determining if an application complies with the page limit. Reviewers will also not consider material that is over the page limit, even if eGrants allows applicants to enter and submit additional text.

D.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

All applicants **must** register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/> and maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete. If an applicant is awarded a grant, it must maintain an active SAM registration throughout the life of the award. See the SAM Quick Guide for Grantees at: https://sam.gov/SAM/transcript/Quick_Guide_for_Grants_Registrations.pdf.

SAM registration must be renewed annually. AmeriCorps suggests that applicants finalize a new registration or renew an existing one at least three weeks before the application deadline, to allow time to resolve any issues that may arise. **Applicants must use their SAM-registered legal name and address on all grant applications to AmeriCorps.**

The agency will not make awards to entities that do not have a valid SAM registration and DUNS. If an applicant has not fully complied with these requirements by the time AmeriCorps is ready to make a Federal award, the agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to

receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

Applications must include an Employer Identification Number.

The Federal government is implementing Unique Entity Identifiers (UEI) as part of the SAM registration process to eventually replace DUNS numbers. AmeriCorps may ask applicants to add the UEI to their application as part of the clarification or pre-award process. The agency is adding a field to capture the UEI in eGrants. If you already have a UEI and the UEI field is available in eGrants, you can enter it at the time you submit your application.

Applicants can obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling the DUNS number request line at (866) 705-5711 or by applying online at the [DUNS Request Service](#). AmeriCorps recommends registering at least 30 days before the application due date.

D.4. Submission Dates and Times

D.4.a. Application Submission Deadline

Applications are due **Friday, July 23, 2021 by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

AmeriCorps will not consider applications submitted after the deadline, except as noted in Section *D.4.c. Late Applications*. The agency reserves the right to extend the submission deadline. AmeriCorps will post a notification in the event of an extended deadline on the agency's website.

D.4.b. Additional Documents Deadline

Additional documents are due by the application submission deadline. See *Sections D.4.a. Application Submission Deadline* and *D.7.b. Submission of Additional Documents* for more information.

D.4.c. Late Applications

All applications received after the submission deadline published in this Notice are presumed to be non-compliant. To overcome this presumption, the applicant must:

- submit a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstance(s) that caused the delay, including:
 - the timing and specific cause(s) of the delay
 - the ticket number if a request for assistance was submitted to the National Service Hotline
 - any information provided to the applicant by the National Service Hotline
 - any other documentation or evidence that supports the justification
- ensure that AmeriCorps receives the written explanation or justification and any other evidence that substantiates the claimed extenuating circumstance(s), via email to LateApplications@cns.gov no later than Monday, July 26, 2021 at 5:00pm ET.

Communication with agency staff, including an applicant's portfolio manager, is not a substitute for a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstance that caused the delay as

outlined above. Applicants are required to continue working in eGrants, the agency’s web-based application system and with the National Service Hotline to submit the application. AmeriCorps will determine whether or not to accept a late application on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants that do not meet the application submission deadline, and do not submit a written explanation or justification or any other evidence to overcome the presumption of non-compliance within the published timeframe, will be deemed noncompliant. If AmeriCorps sustains a noncompliant determination the application will not be reviewed or selected for award.

Please note: AmeriCorps will *not* consider an advance request to submit a late application. Please carefully review and follow the guidance in this section and submit your application as soon as possible.

D.5. Intergovernmental Review

This Notice is not subject to Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.”

D.6. Funding Restrictions

D.6.a. Award Funding Requirements

1. Member Living Allowance

A living allowance is not considered a salary or a wage. Programs are not required to provide a living allowance for members serving in less than full-time terms of service. If a program chooses to provide a living allowance to a less than full-time member, it must comply with the maximum limits in the table below. For Cost Reimbursement grants, the amount must be included in the proposed budget as either AmeriCorps or grantee share. Exceptions are noted below.

While Fixed Amount grant applicants are not required to submit detailed budgets, they are still required to provide a living allowance to members that complies with the minimum and maximum requirements. Exceptions are noted below. Fixed Amount grant applicants are not required to indicate that amount in the application and should request those positions as “without living allowance” in the budget.

Table: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1,700	\$16,000	\$32,000
Three Quarter-time	1,200	n/a	\$22,588
Half-time	900	n/a	\$16,941
Reduced Half-time	675	n/a	\$12,706
Quarter-time	450	n/a	\$8,471
Minimum-time	300	n/a	\$5,647
Abbreviated-time	100	n/a	\$1,882

Exceptions to the Living Allowance Requirements

a. Programs existing prior to September 21, 1993 are not required to offer a living allowance. If an applicant chooses to offer a living allowance, it is exempt from the minimum requirement, but not the maximum requirement.

b. EAP Grantees are not required to provide a living allowance, but if a living allowance is provided, it must comply with the maximum requirements set forth in the Living Allowance Table above.

c. Professional Corps Grantees must provide members a living allowance or salary, which must meet the minimum, but may exceed the maximum living allowance set in the Living Allowance Table above. Professional Corps member salaries and benefits including childcare are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve; and are not included in the budget request to AmeriCorps (federal or matching share).

2. Maximum Cost per Member Service Year (MSY)

The AmeriCorps State and National cost per MSY is determined by dividing the AmeriCorps share of budgeted grant costs by the number of MSYs requested. It does not include childcare or the value of the education award a member may earn. The maximum amount an applicant may request from AmeriCorps State and National per MSY is determined on an annual basis.

Table: Maximum Cost per MSY

Grant Program	Maximum
Indian Tribes (cost reimbursement)	\$18,000
Professional Corps Fixed Amount Applicants/Grantees	\$1,000**
Education Award Program Fixed Amount Grant	\$800 or \$1,000***
Full-cost Fixed Amount Grant	\$18,000

AmeriCorps requires **Professional Corps programs to cover the operating expenses associated with the AmeriCorps program through non AmeriCorps resources. The agency will only consider operating funds of up to \$1,000 per MSY if an applicant is able to demonstrate significant organizational financial need.

*** Per 42 U.S.C. 12581a, the AmeriCorps may provide the operational support under this section for a program in an amount that is not more than \$800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position, or not more than \$1,000 per such individual if at least 50 percent of the persons enrolled in the program are disadvantaged youth.

For purposes of fundamental fairness, AmeriCorps may review an application which meets the statutory characteristics of a professional corps as a professional corps, regardless of whether the organization applied as a professional corps program. The agency reserves the right to determine whether an applicant (whether or not the applicant has applied as a **Professional Corps**) has sufficiently demonstrated that they cannot effectively operate an AmeriCorps program without receiving AmeriCorps operating funds. There may be specific circumstances where the agency determines that a legal applicant has not demonstrated the need for operational grant funds due to

other funding resources. Where the agency's due diligence review of an application shows that the applicant has a historically high level of support from non-AmeriCorps sources, and as a result has levels of unrestricted funding that is in excess of the requested level of AmeriCorps funding, the agency may choose to not provide operational grant funding.

3. Segal AmeriCorps Education Award

AmeriCorps members who successfully complete a term of service will be eligible for an Education Award from the National Service Trust. The amount of the Education Award is linked to the value of the Pell Grant. A member has up to seven years after his or her term of service to use the Education Award. The agency will provide the updated Education Award amounts at the time of grant award.

4. Cost Sharing or Matching

a. Please see Section C. Eligibility Information 3. Cost Sharing or Matching earlier in the Notice.

D.6.b. Indirect Costs

Application budgets may include indirect costs. Based on qualifying factors, applicants may either use a federally-approved indirect cost rate, a 10 percent *de minimis* rate of modified total direct costs, or may claim certain costs directly, as outlined in 2 CFR 200.413. States, local governments, and Indian Tribes may use previously-approved indirect cost allocation plans. All methods must be applied consistently across all federal awards. Applicants that have a federal negotiated indirect cost rate or that will be using the 10 percent *de minimis* rate must enter that information in the Organization section in eGrants. However, under section 121(d) of the NCSA and the agency's regulations at 45 CFR 2521.95 and 2540.110, no more than five percent of award funds may be used to recover indirect costs on AmeriCorps State and National grants.

The instructions for how to enter the organization's indirect cost rate are located here: [eGrants Indirect Cost Rate User Instructions](#). Applicants should not submit documentation addressing the indirect cost rate agreement via email.

Please note: To request a Federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, when AmeriCorps is the applicable cognizant agency for an organization's indirect costs, the applicant must submit a request to IndirectCostRate@cns.gov. The applicant may also obtain instructions and additional information by contacting the email address above.

D.6.c. Pre-Award Costs

Pre-award costs, where authorized, are allowed after receiving written approval from the Office of Grant Administration.

D.7. Other Submission Requirements

D.7.a. Electronic Application Submission in eGrants

Applicants must submit applications electronically via [eGrants, the agency's web-based application system](#). AmeriCorps recommends that applicants create an eGrants account and begin the application at least three weeks before the deadline. Applicants should draft the application as a Word document, then copy and paste the text into the appropriate eGrants field no later than 10 days before the deadline.

The applicant's authorized representative must be the person who submits the application. The authorized representative must use his or her own eGrants account to sign and submit the application. A copy of the governing body's authorization for this official representative to sign must be on file in the applicant's office.

Applicants should contact the AmeriCorps Hotline at (800) 942-2677 or via [eGrants Questions](#) if they have a problem when they create an account, prepare, or submit the application. AmeriCorps Hotline hours are posted at <https://questions.americorps.gov/app/ask>.

Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the competition to which the organization is applying. If the issue cannot be resolved by the deadline, applicants must continue working with the AmeriCorps Hotline to submit via eGrants.

If circumstances make it impossible for an applicant to submit in eGrants, applicants may send a paper copy of the application via overnight carrier below. Applicants must include a written explanation and any other documentation or evidence that support their inability to submit their application electronically.

AmeriCorps
ATTN: Office of Grant Administration (OGA)/FY21 AmeriCorps State & National
Tribal Grants
250 E Street, SW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20525

Please use a non-U.S. Postal Service carrier to avoid security-related delays. **All deadlines and requirements in this Notice also apply to paper applications. The agency does not accept applications submitted via fax or email.**

D.7.b. Submission of Additional Documents

Applicants are required to submit the following additional documents by the application submission deadline:

All applicants

- Evaluation briefs, reports, studies. Please refer to the *Evidence Base* section and Mandatory Supplemental Information for detailed instructions by evidence tier. If multiple evaluation briefs/reports/studies are submitted by the applicant, the most recent (as measured by the date of completion or publication) will be reviewed first, and any documents submitted beyond the allowable number will not be reviewed.
- All applicants regardless of funding level are required to submit an Operational and Financial Management Survey (OFMS) located at: https://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/OFMS-Control-Number-3045_0102_FY20%20%28%29.docx . Please submit the OFMS as a Word document. Forms submitted as a PDF or any other document format may not be accepted.
- Labor union concurrence (if applicable)

Recompeting applications

- Evaluation report, if required. Please submit in Word. The evaluation report should include a title page with the AmeriCorps grant ID for the project that was evaluated, the name of the project, and the date of completion of the report. If any of this required information is missing, the applicant may not receive credit for meeting their evaluation requirements. Please see the *Evidence Tiers* definitions in the Mandatory Supplemental Information and Section E. Evaluation Plan for further information.

Entities applying on behalf of a Federally Recognized Tribe (New and recompeting)

- Tribal organization eligibility documentation. (See *Section C.1. Eligible Applicants* section.)

Failure to submit the required additional documents by the deadline may have a negative effect on the assessment of your application and/or on the determination of the application's eligibility to advance for review.

Additional documents must be emailed to AdditionalDocuments@cns.gov with the following subject line: "*Legal Applicant Name*" – "*Application ID Number*." Emails should include:

- the legal applicant name and its point of contact information
- the application ID number
- a list of documents that are attached to the email
- individually attached files that are clearly labeled, and that include the legal applicant name and application ID number within the heading of each document. To ensure that all required additional documents are received, please provide each document as an individual file. Please do not send all documents as one scanned file.
- If the size of an applicant's files requires multiple emails, please also include an ordering system in the subject line, such as "(1 of 3)."

Do not submit any items that are not requested in this Notice and Guidance. The agency will not review or return them.

AmeriCorps will assess an applicant's strategic considerations. Applicants must check the relevant boxes in the Program Information tab in the agency's web-based management system in order to be considered for the agency's assessment of the strategic considerations (see *Selection for Funding* section.) Applicants should only check the boxes if the strategic consideration is a significant and intentional part of their program design and if implementation strategies are described in the application.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

E.1. Review Criteria

Each applicant must describe a project that will deploy AmeriCorps members effectively to solve a significant community problem. AmeriCorps urges applicants to submit high quality applications that carefully follow the guidance in this *Notice* and in the Application Instructions. The quality of an application will be an important factor in determining whether an organization will receive funding.

Categories/Subcategories	Percentage
Executive Summary	0
Program Design	50
Theory of Change and Logic Model	24
Evidence Tier	12
Evidence Quality	8
Notice Priority	0
Member Experience	6
Organizational Capability	25
Organizational Background and Staffing	9
Compliance and Accountability	8
Culture That Values Learning	4
Member Supervision	4
Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy	25

E.1.a. Executive Summary (Required - 0 percent)

Please fill in the blanks of these sentences to complete the Executive Summary. Do not deviate from the template below.

The [Name of the organization] proposes to have [Number of] AmeriCorps members who will [service activities the members will be doing] in [the locations the AmeriCorps members will serve]. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for [anticipated outcome of project]. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage [number of leveraged volunteers, if applicable] who will be engaged in [what the leveraged volunteers will be doing.]

This program will focus on the AmeriCorps focus area(s) of [Focus Area(s)].* The AmeriCorps investment of \$[amount of request] will be matched with \$[amount of projected match], \$[amount of local, state, and federal funds] in public funding and \$[amount of non-governmental funds] in private funding.

*If the program is not operating in an AmeriCorps focus area, omit this sentence.

Fixed-Amount grant applicants (EAP, Full-Cost Fixed, No Cost Slots) should list their Other Revenue (see Mandatory Supplemental Information) because they are not required to provide a specific amount of match, but still raise significant additional resources to operate the program.

E.1.b. Program Design (50 percent)

Reviewers will consider the quality of the application’s response to the criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

1. Theory of Change and Logic Model (24 points)

The Theory of Change shall address:

- The proposed intervention is responsive to the identified community problem.
- The applicant’s proposed intervention is clearly articulated including the design, dosage, target population, and roles of AmeriCorps members and (if applicable) leveraged volunteers.

- The applicant’s intervention is likely to lead to the outcomes identified in the applicant’s Theory of Change.
- The expected outcomes articulated in the application narrative and logic model represent meaningful progress in addressing the community problem identified by the applicant.
- The rationale for utilizing AmeriCorps members to deliver the intervention(s) is reasonable.
- The service role of AmeriCorps members will produce significant contributions to existing efforts to address the stated problem.

The Logic Model shall depict:

- A summary of the community problem.
- The inputs or resources that are necessary to deliver the intervention, including but not limited to:
 - Locations or sites in which members will provide services
 - Number of AmeriCorps members who will deliver the intervention
- The core activities that define the intervention or program model that members will implement or deliver, including:
 - The duration of the intervention (e.g., the total number of weeks, sessions or months of the intervention)
 - The dosage of the intervention (e.g., the number of hours per session or sessions per week)
 - The target population for the intervention (e.g., disconnected youth, third graders at a certain reading proficiency level)
- The measurable outputs that result from delivering the intervention (i.e. number of beneficiaries served, types and number of activities conducted). If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as output indicators
- Outcomes that demonstrate changes in knowledge/skill, attitude, behavior, or condition that occur as a result of the intervention. If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as outcome indicators.

Note: The logic model is a visual representation of the applicant’s Theory of Change. Programs should include short, medium or long-term outcomes in the logic model. Applicants are not required to measure all components of their Theory of Change. The applicant’s performance measures should be consistent with the program’s Theory of Change and should represent significant program activities.

In the application narrative, applicants should discuss their rationale for setting output and outcome targets for their performance measures.

Rationales and justifications should be informed by the organization’s performance data (e.g., program data observed over time that suggests targets are reasonable), relevant research (e.g. targets documented by organizations running similar programs with similar populations), or prior program evaluation findings.

Applicants with multiple interventions should complete one Logic Model chart which incorporates each intervention. Logic model content that exceeds three pages will not be reviewed.

2. Evidence Base (20 points)

The assessment of an applicant's evidence base has two parts. First, the applicant will be assigned to an evidence tier (see the Mandatory Supplemental Information.) Second, the quality of the applicant's evidence and the degree to which it supports the proposed program design will be assessed and scored.

Evidence Tier (12 points):

An evidence tier will be assessed for each applicant for the purpose of understanding the relative strength of each applicant's evidence base and the likelihood that the proposed intervention will lead to outcomes identified in the logic model.

In 2020, the evidence tiers of successful AmeriCorps State and National applicants that were competing were as follows: Strong 26%, Moderate 18%, Preliminary 24%, and Pre-Preliminary 32%. As these figures indicate, AmeriCorps values and funds programs at all points along the evidence continuum and expects programs to progress along the evidence continuum over time. Thus, do not be deterred from applying for funding due to your current evidence level.

Applicants who have outcome or impact evaluation reports of the same intervention described in the application (see Mandatory Supplemental Intervention for a definition of "same intervention") may submit up to 2 of those reports, plus (if applicable) the evaluation report from their last three-year grant cycle, to qualify for the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tier. In order to qualify for consideration, the intervention evaluated in the submitted report(s) must match the intervention proposed by the applicant in the following areas, all of which must be clearly described in the Program Design and Logic Model sections of the application:

- Characteristics of the beneficiary population
- Characteristics of the population delivering the intervention
- Dosage (frequency, duration) and design of the intervention, including all key components and activities
- The context in which the intervention is delivered
- Outcomes of the intervention

Submitted reports that do not sufficiently match the intervention proposed by the applicant in all of these areas will not be considered applicable and will not be reviewed or receive any points. Submission of additional documents that are not consistent with the guidance and requirements described in the *Notice* (e.g., advocacy pieces, policy briefs, other narratives that are not research studies or program evaluations) will not be reviewed.

In the Evidence Tier section of the application narrative, applicants must (1) summarize the study design and key findings of any outcome or impact evaluation report(s) submitted and (2) describe any other evidence that supports their program, including past performance measure data and/or other research studies that inform their program design. Applicants who submit evaluation reports for consideration must also describe in the Evidence Base section of the application narrative how the intervention described in the submitted reports is the same as the intervention described in the application (see Mandatory Supplemental Information).

Applicants should provide citations for the studies they describe, if applicable; however, reviewers will not review any documents external to the application other than evaluation report(s) submitted in accordance with the *Notice* instructions.

Applicants must meet all requirements of an evidence tier in order to be considered for that tier.

If the evaluation reports submitted by the applicant do not meet the definitions in the Mandatory Supplemental Information, the applicant may be considered for a lower evidence tier.

Evidence Quality (8 points)

After the applicant's evidence tier has been assessed, the quality of the applicant's evidence and the extent to which it supports the proposed program design will be assessed and scored.

For applicants who are assessed as being in the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tiers, reviewers will score the submitted evaluation reports using the following standards:

- The submitted reports are of satisfactory methodological quality and rigor for the type of evaluation conducted (e.g., adequate sample size and statistical power, internal and/or external validity, appropriate use of control or comparison groups, etc.);
- The submitted reports describe evaluations that were conducted relatively recently, preferably within the last six years;
- The submitted reports show a meaningful and significant positive effect on program beneficiaries in at least one key outcome of interest.

For applicants who are assessed as being in the Pre-Preliminary evidence tier, reviewers will score the narrative provided in the Evidence Base section of the application using the following standards:

- The applicant uses relevant evidence, including past performance measure data and/or cited research studies, to inform their proposed program design;
- The described evidence is relatively recent, preferably from the last six years;
- The evidence described by the applicant indicates a meaningful positive effect on program beneficiaries in at least one key outcome of interest.

All applicants, including new grantees, are required to provide additional information in the Evaluation Summary or Plan field of the application (See Section E. Evaluation Plan); however, information provided in the Evaluation Summary or Plan field will not be scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions have been made.

3. Notice Priority (0 points)

- The applicant proposed program fits within one or more of the AmeriCorps funding priorities as outlined in the *Funding Priorities* section and more fully described in the Mandatory Supplemental Information and the proposed program meets all of the requirements detailed in the *Funding Priorities* section and in the Mandatory Supplemental Information.

4. Member Experience (6 points)

- AmeriCorps members will gain skills as a result of their training and service that can be utilized and will be valued by future employers after their service term is completed.

- The program will recruit AmeriCorps members from the geographic or demographic communities in which the programs operate.
- The applicant will foster an inclusive service culture where different backgrounds, talents, and capabilities are welcomed and leveraged for learning and effective service delivery.

E.1.c. Organizational Capability (25 percent)

Reviewers will consider the quality of the application’s response to the following criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

1. Organizational Background and Staffing (9 points)

- The organization details the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the staff that will be implementing the AmeriCorps program as well as providing oversight and monitoring for the program.

2. Compliance and Accountability (8 points)

- The organization has a monitoring and oversight plan to prevent and detect non-compliance and enforce compliance with AmeriCorps rules and regulations including those related to prohibited and unallowable activities and criminal history checks at the grantee, subgrantee (if applicable), and service site locations.
- The AmeriCorps-required evaluation report meets AmeriCorps requirements (if applicable).
- The AmeriCorps-required evaluation report is of satisfactory quality (if applicable).

3. Culture that Values Learning (4 points)

- The applicant's board, management, and staff collect and use information, including performance data, for learning and decision making.

4. Member Supervision (4 points)

- AmeriCorps members will receive sufficient guidance and support from their supervisor to provide effective service.
- AmeriCorps supervisors will be adequately trained/prepared to follow AmeriCorps and program regulations, priorities, and expectations.

E.1.d. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 percent)

Reviewers will assess the quality of the application’s budget to the following criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

These criteria will be assessed based on the budget submitted. No narrative should be entered in the narrative box except for “See budget”

1. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 points)

- Budget is submitted without mathematical errors and proposed costs are allowable, reasonable, and allocable to the award.
- Budget is submitted with adequate information to assess how each line item is calculated.
- Budget is in compliance with the budget instructions.
- Match is submitted with adequate information to support the amount written in the budget.
- The budgeted match is equal to or more than the required match for the given program year.

- The cost per MSY is equal to or less than the maximum cost per MSY.

Proposed budgets that contain MSY costs that exceed the maximum cost per MSY and/or less than required match will be considered unresponsive to the application criteria.

Applicants must complete the budget and ensure the following information is in the budget screens:

- Current indirect rate cost rate information if used to claim indirect/administrative costs.
- Identify the non-AmeriCorps funding and resources necessary to support the project, including Fixed Amount applicants.
- Indicate the amount of non-AmeriCorps resource commitments, type of commitments (in-kind and/or cash), the sources of these commitments, and if the commitments are proposed or secured.

E.1.e. Evaluation Plan (Required for recompeting grantees - 0 percent)

If the applicant is competing for the first time, please provide a data collection plan in the “Evaluation Summary or Plan” field that includes the following:

- A description of the applicant’s data collection system and how it is sufficient to collect high quality performance measurement data during the first three years of the grant. If the applicant does not yet have a data collection system, describe the plan and timeline for developing a high-quality system.
- A description of how the applicant will use performance data (including AmeriCorps performance measures and other process and outcome measures if applicable) to improve its program in the first three years of funding.

First-time applicants should be aware that AmeriCorps may require submission of data collection instruments if a grant is approved for funding.

If the applicant is recompeting for AmeriCorps funds for the first time (see definition of “recompeting” below) the program must submit its evaluation plan in the “Evaluation Summary or Plan” section of the Narratives field in the agency’s web-based management system. If the applicant is recompeting for a subsequent time, the program must submit its evaluation report as an attachment (see the *Submission of Additional Documents* section for more information), and must also submit an evaluation plan for the next three-year period in the “Evaluation Summary or Plan” field in the system. Evaluations plans submitted outside of the system will not be reviewed.

Evaluation plans must include as much information as possible for each of the following:

- A short description of the Theory of Change - why the proposed intervention is expected to produce the proposed results
- Outcome(s) of interest - clear and measurable outcomes that are aligned with the Theory of Change and will be assessed during the evaluation
- Research questions to be addressed by the study - concrete research questions (or hypotheses) that are clearly connected to the outcomes
- Proposed research design for the evaluation including a rationale for the design selected, an assessment of its strengths and limitations, and a description of the main components;

- Description of the data sources, sampling methods, measurement tools, and data collection procedures that will be used in the evaluation
- Analysis plan that clearly describes the methodology/ies that will be used to analyze the collected data
- A timeline for the evaluation that describes how the evaluation will cover at least one year of AmeriCorps-funded activity and will be completed within the three-year timeframe of the grant
- Qualifications needed for the evaluator
- The proposed budget

Information provided in the Evaluation Summary or Plan field will not be scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions have been made.

The evaluation requirements differ depending on the amount of the grant, as described in 45 CFR 2522.700-710:

- If the applicant is a Tribal/National Direct Grantee (other than an Education Award Program grantee), and its average annual AmeriCorps program grant is \$500,000 or more, it must arrange for an external impact evaluation of the program (see Mandatory Supplemental Information), and it must submit the evaluation with any subsequent application to the agency for competitive funds as required in 45 CFR 2522.730.
- If the applicant is a Tribal/National Direct Grantee whose average annual AmeriCorps program grant is less than \$500,000, or an Education Award Program Grantee, it must conduct an internal or an external evaluation of the program, and it must submit the evaluation with any subsequent application to the agency for competitive funds as required in 45 CFR 2522.730.

For purposes of compliance with evaluation plan and report requirements, an application will be considered a re-competing application if it has previously been funded competitively for at least three years for the same project (see Mandatory Supplemental Information for the AmeriCorps definition of “same project”).

- If the applicant has received competitive funding for the same project for at least three years, it will be required to submit an evaluation plan.
- If the applicant has received at least six years of competitive funding for the same project, the applicant will be required to submit an evaluation report as well as an evaluation plan for the upcoming 3-year grant. If the applicant does not satisfy the definition of re-competing, it will not be required to submit an evaluation plan or completed evaluation report.

The “Evaluation Summary or Plan” field of the Narrative does not count toward the page limit of the application; however, it does have a set character limit of 20,000 characters.

Tribal/National Direct Grantees that are re-competing for funds may be eligible to apply for approval of an alternative evaluation approach (AEA). Grantees requesting approval of an alternative evaluation approach should submit this request along with their evaluation plan in the Evaluation Summary or Plan field in the system. AmeriCorps guidance on alternative evaluation approaches can be found on the agency website:

http://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/2021_04_21_Alternative_Evaluation_Approach_ASN.pdf.

If the request for the alternative evaluation approach plus the Evaluation Plan itself will exceed the character limit of the Evaluation Summary or Plan field in the system, the applicant should do the following:

- Enter the Evaluation Plan in the Evaluation Summary or Plan field in the system.
- Include a note in the Evaluation Summary or Plan field stating that the applicant is requesting an alternative evaluation approach.
- Include the alternative evaluation approach at the END of the application narrative with the heading “REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVE EVALUATION APPROACH.” This section of the application narrative will not count against the page limit.

E.1.f. Amendment Justification (0 percent)

Enter N/A. This field will be used if the applicant is awarded a grant and needs to amend it.

E.1.g. Clarification Information (0 percent)

Enter N/A. This field will be used to enter information that requires clarification in the post-review period.

E.1.h. Continuation Changes (0 percent)

Enter N/A. This field will be used to enter changes in the application narratives in continuation requests.

E.2. Criteria for Planning Grants

Categories/Subcategories	Percentage
Executive Summary	0
Program Design	50
Problem/Need	20
Planning Process/Timeline	30
Organizational Capability	25
Organizational Background and Staffing	25
Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy	25

E.2.a. Executive Summary (Required - 0 percent)

Please fill in the blanks of these sentences to complete the Executive Summary. Do not deviate from the template below.

The [Name of the organization] proposes a planning grant to ultimately have [Number of] AmeriCorps members who will [service activities the members will be doing] in [the locations the AmeriCorps members will serve]. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for [anticipated outcome of project]. In addition,

the AmeriCorps members will leverage [number of leveraged volunteers, if applicable] who will be engaged in [what the leveraged volunteers will be doing.]

This program will focus on the AmeriCorps focus area(s) of [Focus Area(s)].* The AmeriCorps investment of \$[amount of request] will be matched with \$[amount of projected match], \$[amount of local, state, and federal funds] in public funding and \$[amount of non-governmental funds] in private funding.

*If the program is not operating in an AmeriCorps focus area, omit this sentence.

E.2.b. Program Design (50 percent)

Reviewers will consider the quality of the application's response to the criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

1. Problem/Need (20 points):

- The problem is prevalent and severe in communities where the program plans to serve and has been documented with relevant data.
- The applicant provides a clear explanation for why a planning grant is needed.

2. Planning Process/Timeline (30 points):

- The applicant describes a clear and logical planning process, including:
 - A detailed description of who is leading the planning process.
 - A clear description of how the planning period will be used to develop the necessary components to effectively manage an AmeriCorps program in the future.
- The planning timeline includes development of the following program elements:
 - Theory of Change/Logic Model
 - Intervention and evidence base
 - Member training and supervision plans
 - Commitment to AmeriCorps Identity
 - Program Compliance and Accountability
 - Securing Match Support for the Program

E. 2.c. Organizational Capability (25 percent)

Reviewers will consider the quality of the application's response to the following criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

1. Organizational Background and Staffing(25 points)

- The applicant describes how it has the experience, staffing, and management structure to plan the proposed program.
- The applicant describes its prior experience in the proposed area of programming (if any).
- The applicant describes its plans to engage community members and partner organizations in the planning process.

E.2.d. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 percent)

Reviewers will assess the quality of the application's budget to the following criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

This criteria will be assessed based on the budget submitted. No narrative should be entered in the narrative box except for "See budget"

1. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 points)

- Budget is submitted without mathematical errors and proposed costs are allowable, reasonable, and allocable to the award.
- Budget is submitted with adequate information to assess how each line item is calculated.
- Budget is in compliance with the budget instructions.
- Match is submitted with adequate information to support the amount written in the budget.
- The budgeted match is equal to or more than the required match for the given program year.

Applicants must complete the budget and ensure the following information is in the budget screens:

- Current indirect rate cost rate information if used to claim indirect/administrative costs.
- Identify the non-AmeriCorps funding and resources necessary to support the project, including for Fixed Amount applicants.
- Indicate the amount of non-AmeriCorps resource commitments, type of commitments (in-kind and/or cash), the sources of these commitments, and if the commitments are proposed or secured.

E.2.e. Evaluation Plan (0 percent)

Planning applicants should enter "N/A" in this section.

E.3. Review and Selection Process

AmeriCorps will engage External and Staff Reviewers with relevant knowledge and expertise to assess and provide input on the eligible applications. The review and selection process is intended to produce a diversified set of high-quality programs that represent the priorities and strategic considerations described in this Notice. The determinations made by AmeriCorps reviewers may be different than what the applicant self-determined upon submission of its application.

The stages of the review and selection process follow:

E.3.a. Initial Application Compliance and Eligibility Review

AmeriCorps will conduct an initial Compliance and Eligibility Review to determine if an application meets the eligibility requirements published in this Notice and advances to the next stage of the review process.

An application is compliant and eligible if the applicant:

- is an eligible organization
- submitted an application by the submission deadline

Reviewing for eligibility is intended to ensure that only those applications that are eligible for award are further reviewed. However, determinations of eligibility can take place at any point during the application review and selection process. Applicants that are determined to be ineligible will not receive an award.

E.3.b. Application Review

External Review

External Reviewers will review and assess the evidence criteria in the *Notice*. AmeriCorps will recruit and select reviewers on the basis of demonstrated expertise. All External Reviewers will be screened for conflicts of interest.

Internal Review

The agency staff will evaluate the applications using the application review criteria and assess the priorities and strategic considerations detailed in the *Notice*. Reviewers will be screened for conflicts of interest.

Post-Review Quality Control

After the initial review process is complete, the agency staff will review the results for fairness and consistency. Some applications may be selected for a Quality Control assessment. This additional level of review may be used to assess applications for which there are significant reviewer anomalies.

E.3.c. Applicant Clarification

AmeriCorps may ask an applicant for clarifying information. The agency staff will use this information to make funding recommendations. A request for clarification does not guarantee an award. Applicants may be recommended for funding even if they are not asked for clarifying information. An applicant's failure to respond to a request for clarification adequately and in a timely manner may result in the removal of its application from consideration.

E.3.d. Pre-Award Risk Assessment

AmeriCorps staff will evaluate the risks to the program posed by each applicant to assess an applicant's ability to manage federal funds. This evaluation is in addition to assessment of the applicant's eligibility and the quality of its application on the basis of the Selection Criteria. Results from this evaluation will inform funding decisions. If the agency determines that an award will be made to an applicant with assessed risks, special conditions that correspond to the degree of assessed risk may be applied to the award. Additionally, if the agency concludes that the reasons for applicants having a poor risk assessment are not likely to be mitigated, those applications may not be selected for funding.

In evaluating risks, AmeriCorps may consider the following criteria:

Due Diligence:

- federal debt delinquency
- suspension and debarment
- information available through OMB-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as:
 - Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)

- U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services
- System for Award Management (SAM)
- “Do Not Pay”
- reports and findings from single audits performed under Uniform Administrative Guidance and findings of any other available audits or investigations
- IRS Tax Form 990
- Oversight.gov
- Public Litigation Records

Operational and Financial Management:

- financial stability
- Operational and Financial Management Survey

Past Performance:

- applicant’s record in managing previous agency awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:
 - timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements
 - accuracy of data reported
 - conformance to the terms and conditions of previous federal awards
 - applicant’s ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients
 - meeting matching requirements
 - the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards
- Grant progress reports – attainment of Performance Measures
- Enrollment and retention
- Monitoring findings - the agency and/or OIG (if applicable)

Other Programmatic Risks:

- publicly available information, including information from the applicant organization's website

E.3.e. Consideration of Integrity and Performance System Information

Prior to making any award that exceeds \$250,000, the agency is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM and FAPIIS (see 41 U.S.C. 2313). Additionally, AmeriCorps may expand upon these requirements and use its discretion to review and consider information about any applicant receiving an award, including those under \$250,000.

Any applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through FAPIIS and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through FAPIIS.

AmeriCorps may consider comments by any applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing its review of risk posed by the applicant under the Risk Assessment Evaluation section of this Notice.

E.3.f. Selection for Funding

The review and selection process is designed to:

- identify how well eligible applications are aligned with the application review criteria
- build a diversified portfolio based on the following strategic considerations:
 - AmeriCorps Funding Priorities (See *Section A.2. Funding Priorities*)
 - meaningful representation of
 - geographic diversity
 - rural communities
 - faith-based organizations
 - focus area representation

Based on the evaluation of these strategic considerations, applications may be selected for funding over applications with a greater degree of alignment with the review criteria. In selecting applicants to receive awards under this Notice, the Chief Executive Officer will endeavor to include a diverse portfolio of applications based on staff recommendations and strategic considerations.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to prioritize funding existing awards over making new awards.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to award applications in an amount other than at the requested level of funding and will document the rationale for doing so.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to adjust or make changes to the review process, if unforeseen challenges or urgent circumstances make it impossible, impracticable, or inefficient to conduct the review process as planned. Any such adjustments or changes will not affect the selection criteria that will be used to assess applications.

E.4. Feedback to Applicants

Following awards, applicants will receive feedback from the External Review and Staff Review of their compliant applications. This feedback will be based on the review of the original application and will not reflect information provided during clarification.

E.5. Transparency in Grant-making

AmeriCorps is committed to transparency in grant-making. The following information for new and re-competing applications will be published on the agency [AmeriCorps Results of Grant Competitions](#)

within 90 business days after all grants are awarded:

- a list of all compliant applications submitted
- executive summaries of all compliant applications
- data extracted from the SF-424 Face Sheet

- a blank template of the external review worksheet
- a list of all external reviewers who completed the review process
- a summary of external reviewer comments for successful applications.

Submitted program narratives for successful applications will be available upon request via email to OGAGarp@cns.gov.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

F.1. Federal Award Notices

AmeriCorps will make awards following the grant selection announcement. AmeriCorps anticipates announcing the results of this competition by **late August 2021** contingent on the availability of congressional appropriations. All applicants, successful or not, will be notified of funding decisions via email.

Notification of an award is not an authorization to begin grant activities. The Notice of Grant Award signed by the Office of Grant Administration Grant Award Specialist is the authorizing document. An awardee may not expend federal funds until the start of the Period of Performance identified on the Notice of Grant Award unless it has received a written pre-award cost approval from AmeriCorps.

F.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

F.2.a. Uniform Guidance

All awards made under this Notice will be subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 2205.

F.2.b. Requests for Improper Payment Information

AmeriCorps may request documentation from recipients in order to monitor the award or to comply with other legal requirements, such as the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002, as amended. Failure to make timely responses to these requests may result in award funds being placed on manual hold, reimbursement only status, or other remedies may be applied as appropriate.

F.2.c. AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions

All awards made under this Notice will be subject to the FY 2021 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, and the FY 2021 AmeriCorps Program Specific Terms and Conditions for the particular program (when applicable). These Terms and Conditions contain detailed, mandatory compliance and reporting requirements. Current versions of the AmeriCorps General and Program Specific Terms and Conditions for each of its programs is available at <https://americorps.gov/grantees-sponsors/directs-territories-tribes>

F.2.d. National Service Criminal History Check Requirements

The National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) is a specific screening procedure established by law to protect the beneficiaries of national service. Applicants are strongly

encouraged to review the regulations and additional guidance at <https://americorps.gov/grantees-sponsors/history-check> to fully understand how to comply with these requirements.

Failure to conduct a compliant NSCHC may result in significant disallowed costs.

An NSCHC consists of the following components:

- (1) A nationwide check of the National Sex Offender Public website through NSOPW.gov;
- (2) A check of the State criminal history record repository or agency-designated alternative for the individual's State of residence *and* State of service; and
- (3) A fingerprint-based check of the FBI criminal history record database through the State criminal history record repository or agency-approved vendor.

All NSCHC components must be conducted, reviewed, and an eligibility determination made before the individual begins work or service. AmeriCorps strongly encourages funded applicants to utilize the two AmeriCorps-approved vendors to conduct the required NSCHCs. Information regarding use of these two vendors can be found at <https://americorps.gov/grantees-sponsors/history-check>

In general, award recipients and subrecipients must conduct an NSCHC for AmeriCorps members, AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers, and staff funded under, or whose salary is reflected as match on, the award.

An individual is not eligible to serve or work in a position subject to the NSCHC requirements if:

- the individual refuses to consent to a criminal history check;
- makes a false statement in connection with a criminal history check;
- is registered, or is required to be registered, on a state sex offender registry or the National Sex Offender Registry; or
- has been convicted of murder.

The cost of conducting NSCHC is an allowable expense under the award and the individual subject to the NSCHC may not be required to cover the cost without being reimbursed.

See [45 CFR 2540.200– 2540.207](#) and [National Service Criminal History Check Resources](#) for complete information and FAQs.

F.2.e. Official Guidance

All AmeriCorps active Guidance is available on the agency's Guidance webpage: <https://www.americorps.gov/about/agency-overview/official-guidance>. The contents of these documents do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way unless incorporated into a contract or grant agreement. These documents are intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

F.3. Use of Material

To ensure that materials generated with AmeriCorps funding are available to the public and readily accessible to recipients and non-recipients, the agency reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to obtain, use, modify, reproduce, publish, or disseminate publications and materials produced under the award, including data, and to authorize others to do so (2 CFR §200.315).

F.4. Reporting

Recipients are required to submit a variety of reports which are due at specific times during the life cycle of an award. All reports must be accurate, complete, and submitted on time.

Cost reimbursement grantees are required to provide annual progress reports, semi-annual financial reports, and an internal or external evaluation report as required by the AmeriCorps regulations 45 CFR 2522.500-2522.540 and 2522.700-2522.740. Final financial and progress reports are due 90 days after the end of the agreement.

Fixed Amount grantees are required to provide annual and final progress reports and an internal or external evaluation report.

All grantees, including Fixed Amount grantees, must submit quarterly financial reports to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Payment Management System.

In addition, at the end of the award period, recipients must submit final financial and progress reports that are cumulative over the entire award period and consistent with the close-out requirements. The final reports are due 120 days after the end of the project period.

Award recipients will be required to report at www.FSRS.gov on all subawards over \$30,000, and may be required to report on executive compensation for the recipient organization and its subrecipients. Recipients must have the necessary systems in place to collect and report this information. See 2 CFR Part 170 for more information and to determine how these requirements apply.

Once the grant is awarded, recipients will be expected to have data collection and data management policies, processes, and practices that provide reasonable assurance that they are reporting high quality performance measure data. At a minimum, recipients should have policies, processes, and practices that address the following five aspects of data quality for themselves and for subrecipients (if applicable):

- the data measures what it intends to measure
- the data reported is complete
- the recipient collects data in a consistent manner
- the recipient takes steps to correct data errors
- the recipient actively reviews data for accuracy prior to submission.

In addition to annual reporting of progress toward the grant's approved performance measure outputs and outcomes, additional performance data and narrative data must be reported annually

(as applicable), including the number of applicants for AmeriCorps positions and the number of volunteers recruited and/or supported by AmeriCorps members.

Failure to submit accurate, complete, and timely required reports may affect the recipient's ability to secure future AmeriCorps funding.

F.5. Continuation Funding Information and Requirements

Organizations that have current awards that continue beyond FY 2021 must submit an application in order to be eligible to receive funding for the following year. Please see the Application Instructions, if applicable. Requests by existing continuation applicants for increases in the level of funding or number of positions will be assessed using the review criteria published in this Notice. The review will also be based on progress reports, the federal financial report, evaluation plans, and the agency's staff's knowledge of the grant program. To be approved for continuation funding, recipients must demonstrate satisfactory performance with respect to key program goals and requirements, as well as compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to award applications in an amount other than at the requested level of funding and will document the rationale for doing so.

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

For more information, call (202) 606-7508 or email americorpsgrants@cns.gov. The agency offers live text chat at www.americorps.gov/contact.

For technical questions and problems with the eGrants system, call the AmeriCorps Hotline at (800) 942-2677. AmeriCorps Hotline hours are posted at <https://questions.americorps.gov/app/ask>.

Potential applicants can also use this link: <https://questions.americorps.gov/app/ask>. Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the name of the Notice to which the organization is applying.

H. OTHER INFORMATION

H.1. Technical Assistance

AmeriCorps will host technical assistance calls to answer questions about the funding opportunity and eGrants. The agency strongly encourages all applicants to participate in these sessions. The schedule and call-in information for the technical assistance calls is on the agency's website: <https://americorps.gov/partner/funding-opportunities>.

H.2. Re-Focusing of Funding

AmeriCorps reserves the right to re-focus program dollars under this Notice in the event of disaster or other compelling needs.

I. IMPORTANT NOTICES

Public Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for collection of information under this Notice of Funding is estimated to average six hours per submission, including reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing the application and reporting forms. AmeriCorps informs people who may respond to this Notice of Funding that they are not required to respond unless the OMB control number and expiration date are current valid. (See 5 C.F.R. 1320.5(b)(2)(i).) The OMB Control Number for the information collection is 3045-0187. It expires on 9/30/2022.

Privacy Act Statement: The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C 552a) requires that we notify you that the information requested under this Notice of Funding is collected pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 12592 and 12615 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 as amended, and 42 U.S.C. 4953 of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 as amended. Purposes and Uses - The information requested is collected for the purposes of reviewing grant applications and granting funding requests. Routine uses may include disclosure of the information to federal, state, or local agencies pursuant to lawfully authorized requests. In some programs, the information may also be provided to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to determine the existence of any prior criminal convictions. The information may also be provided to appropriate federal agencies and contractors that have a need to know the information for the purpose of assisting the government to respond to a suspected or confirmed breach of the security or confidentiality or information maintained in this system of records, and the information disclosed is relevant and unnecessary for the assistance. Effects of Nondisclosure - The information requested is voluntary; however, to be a recipient of this grant program, disclosure of personal or sensitive information is required to receive federal benefits.