

AmeriCorps State and National 101 and FY 2021 Competition Overview

10/29/2020

Agenda



- AmeriCorps State and National (ASN)
- Eligible Programs
- ASN Members
- Program responsibilities
- How to apply



AmeriCorps



- Awards grants to non-profits, faith & community-based organizations, public agencies, Indian tribes, and institutions of higher education.
- Provides opportunities for individuals – AmeriCorps members – to serve communities across the country.
- Since 1994, more than **1 million** men and women have provided service as AmeriCorps members.



ASN Grants



- Provide partial funding to support ASN projects/programs. Grant recipients must contribute cash or in-kind match funds.
- Solely for program expenses and not for general organizational expenses.
- Fund programs in six focus areas - education, healthy futures, economic opportunity, veterans and military families, environmental stewardship, and disaster services.
- Include an allotment of AmeriCorps member positions and funds that are directly tied to the number of members.

ASN Grants



- Activities designed for ASN members must demonstrate an evidence-based or evidence-informed approach to strengthening communities and solving community problems
- Allow an organization to better address community needs by utilizing ASN resources to build capacity or deepen the impact of the service to individuals or communities
- Broaden the scope of the service activities to reach previously underserved communities

NOTE: Funds cannot supplant resources that organically exist in a community.

How does an organization become an ASN Program?



There are 2 ways an organization can become an ASN grantee:

Apply directly to AmeriCorps

OR

Submit an application to a State Service Commission

Single-State ASN Programs



If your program wishes to address community needs in only one state, your organization must apply to your state's State Service Commission for AmeriCorps funding.

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/about-cnccs/contact-us/state-service-commissions>

State Service Commissions



- Comprised of governor appointed boards who oversee the implementation of service and volunteer initiatives in their state.
- Employ staff that manage, monitor and evaluate the programs.
- Provide Corporation funding to single-state programs through grant competitions.
- Provide feedback to the Corporation on the multi-state programs operating in their state.

Multi-State ASN Programs



- Address community needs in at least two states
- Have relationships with entities in different states that will operate the local programs
- Consult with State Commissions in each of the states where they operate programming
- Submit grant applications directly to AmeriCorps

Indian Tribes



Federally recognized Indian Tribes may apply for funding via one of several mechanisms:

- Apply directly to the Corporation for National and Community Service
 - Via the Indian Tribes Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
 - Via the main AmeriCorps NOFO
- Submit an application to a State Service Commission

AmeriCorps Members

- Individuals enrolled for a specific term of service with an AmeriCorps program
- Members are not volunteers or employees
- Members have a contract with the program
- Members must commit to a specific term of service



ASN Member Terms of Service



| Service Term | Minimum Hours Served |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Full-time | 1,700 |
| Three Quarter-time | 1,200 |
| Half-time | 900 |
| Reduced Half-time | 675 |
| Quarter-time | 450 |
| Minimum-time | 300 |
| Abbreviated-time | 100 |

Examples of ASN Member Activities



- Training citizens in disaster preparedness
- Providing recovery and/or mitigation
- Improving the housing situation for economically disadvantaged people.
- Improving the school readiness of pre-k children
- Improving the academic performance or academic engagement of K-12 students
- Responding to disaster events
- Improving the environmental condition of distressed public lands and waterways
- Enhancing the quality of life for homebound or older adults and individuals with disabilities
- Increasing access to food resources for economically disadvantaged individuals
- Engaging veterans and military families in service or providing service to these individuals.

Prohibited Activities



Activities that staff, volunteers and members may not engage in while charging time to the AmeriCorps program, accumulating service or training hours, or otherwise performing activities supported by the AmeriCorps program or CNCS

The full list of prohibited activities can be found in the AmeriCorps Regulations, section 2520.65.

Prohibited Activities



- (1) Attempting to influence legislation;
- (2) Organizing or engaging in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes;
- (3) Assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing;
- (4) Impairing existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements;
- (5) Engaging in partisan political activities, or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to any public office;
- (6) Participating in, or endorsing, events or activities that are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties, political platforms, political candidates, proposed legislation, or elected officials;

Prohibited Activities



(7) Engaging in religious instruction, conducting worship services, providing instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious instruction or worship, constructing or operating facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship, maintaining facilities primarily or inherently devoted to religious instruction or worship, or engaging in any form of religious proselytization;

Prohibited Activities



- (8) Providing a direct benefit to—
 - (i) A business organized for profit;
 - (ii) A labor union;
 - (iii) A partisan political organization;
 - (iv) A nonprofit organization that fails to comply with the restrictions contained in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 except that nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent participants from engaging in advocacy activities undertaken at their own initiative; and
 - (v) An organization engaged in the religious activities described in paragraph (g) of this section, unless Corporation assistance is not used to support those religious activities;

Prohibited Activities



- (9) Conducting a voter registration drive or using Corporation funds to conduct a voter registration drive;
- (10) Providing abortion services or referrals for receipt of such services; and
- (11) Such other activities as the Corporation may prohibit.

AmeriCorps members **may not engage in the above activities directly or indirectly by recruiting, training, or managing others** for the primary purpose of engaging in one of the activities listed above. Individuals may exercise their rights as private citizens and may participate in the activities listed above on their initiative, on non-AmeriCorps time, and using non-CNCS funds. Individuals should not wear the AmeriCorps logo while doing so.

ASN Program Responsibilities



- Contribute cash or in-kind match funds
- Recruit, interview, and select members
- Provide regular training and supervision to members
- Track and report on performance measures that capture significant program outputs and outcomes
- Fiscal management and reporting



ASN Grant Applications



- Organizations submit grant applications to AmeriCorps via online eGrants system or to their State Service Commission's competition.

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/egrants/>

- Applications consist of a narrative, budget, and performance measures, plus a few supplementary items.
- May not exceed 10 pages for the narratives or 12 pages for Rural Intermediaries and Multi-State applicants with more than 5 operating sites.

FY 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity Documents



- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- Application Instructions
- Mandatory Supplemental Information
- Performance Measure Instructions



Application Deadline



Wednesday, January 6th, 2021
5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

Priority Areas



- COVID-19 Recovery
- Advancing Racial Equality
- Economic Opportunity
- Education
- Healthy Futures
- Evidence-Based Interventions
- Veterans and Military Families
- Rural Intermediaries
- Faith-based Organizations
- Reducing Childhood Poverty
- Environmental Stewardship
- Economic Mobility Corps



FY 2021 NOFO Highlights

- Additional NOFO priorities: COVID-19 Recovery, Advancing Racial Equality, Evidence-Based Interventions, Reducing Childhood Poverty, Environmental Stewardship, and Economic Mobility Corps.
- Maximum cost per MSY is \$16,300.
- Maximum cost per MSY for rural programs and opportunity youth is \$16,800.
- Maximum cost per MSY for EAP programs is not more than \$1,000 per such individual if at least 50 percent of the persons enrolled in the program are disadvantaged youth.
- Minimum living allowance is \$15,100.
- Added Abbreviated Time service term (100 hours).

FY 2021 NOFO Highlights



- Eliminated two past performance indicators.
- Applicants should include short, medium, and long-term outcomes in the logic model.
- The threshold for reporting on www.FSRS.gov is \$30,000.
- AmeriCorps will review information accessible through SAM and FAPIIS systems for awards over \$250,000.

Additional Technical Assistance



Review recordings

- Best Practices in Developing Performance Measures
- Best Practices in Demonstrating Evidence
- Best Practices in Writing an Evaluation Plan
- Best Practices in Evaluation Reporting

Note: Recordings will be available online November 2, 2020.

Additional Technical Assistance



Live sessions

- Best Practices in Budget Development Webinar
- Best Practices in Developing Performance Measures Q&A
- Best Practices in Demonstrating Evidence Q&A

Note: there will not be a live Q&A session for the content in Best Practices in Writing an Evaluation Plan or Best Practices in Evaluation Reporting. If you have any questions after reviewing the recording, please see the resources on the [Evaluation TA Portal](#) or email AmeriCorpsEvaluationTA@norc.org.

Questions?



Please email AmeriCorpsGrants@cns.gov with questions about the NOFO.

Please call the National Service Hotline at (800) 942-2677 with eGrants technical issues.

Thank you!