

Frequently Asked Questions
FY 2017 AmeriCorps Affiliate Selection
Updated January 6, 2017

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) provides a Notice of National Service Positions (Notice) and the AmeriCorps Affiliate Application Instructions as the primary sources of information about the requirements of this selection. The FAQ resource is intended to provide further clarification, where necessary, and should be read together with the Application Instructions and Notice.

1. General Application Submission and Notice

1.1 What is the role of state service commissions during the application submission process?

AmeriCorps Affiliate applicants are asked to contact their state service commission during the application process to let them know that they are applying and to share information about their project. If the program will operate in more than one state, all appropriate state service commissions should be contacted.

After applications are received, CNCS will contact the appropriate state service commission(s) via email to receive their input on the applicant.

1.2 Can I receive one-on-one technical assistance to answer my questions about AmeriCorps Affiliate?

Yes, to an extent. AmeriCorps Affiliate is a non-competitive application process, however depending on CNCS capacity and application deadlines, CNCS may not be able to hold multiple one-on-one conversations with your organization. Any questions should be submitted to affiliate@cns.gov. Answers will be received via email and CNCS will update this document regularly with answers to frequently asked questions. During the clarification process, multiple one-on-one conversations may be held between CNCS and an applicant to assist CNCS in determining whether or not to designate national service positions.

1.3 If Affiliates are designated on a non-competitive basis, will my application definitely be selected?

No, applying for AmeriCorps Affiliate does not guarantee that you will be approved as an AmeriCorps Affiliate sponsor. Selection as a sponsor depends on several factors, including but not limited to, the availability of CNCS Education Awards, the sufficiency of the application content, and CNCS's portfolio considerations.

Added 1.06.2017

1.4 We run a program that begins several months prior to the announcement dates for the results of this selection. If my organization is selected for AmeriCorps Affiliate, can we enroll

our current program participants into Affiliate if they have already been serving in our program for several months?

No. Members cannot be retroactively enrolled after they have already begun serving in your program. If your program has already started, apply by a deadline for which selection to be an Affiliate Sponsor is prior to enrolling members as Affiliate members at the beginning of your next program cycle.

1.5 Applications are reviewed three times this calendar year. How do I know which application cycle I should apply to?

The application cycle should be selected generally depending on when you would like AmeriCorps members to begin serving. The member start dates are listed in the last column of the Application Cycle Calendar. These dates should be used as a general guide indicating how long CNCS anticipates it would take a project to reasonably recruit and place members after applicant notifications are made. If you think that more time would be needed for your program to recruit and place members, you may want to consider applying to an earlier application cycle deadline.

1.6 Are certain performance measures better to use than others?

No. As stated on page 4 of the performance measures instructions, "CNCS values the quality of performance measures over the quantity of performance measures." You should select the measures that are a best fit for your proposed program activity.

1.7 May we apply for AmeriCorps Affiliate while also applying for other AmeriCorps programs? Would having two pending applications with CNCS undermine a successful grant application and/or AmeriCorps Affiliate application?

Yes, you may apply for more than one CNCS program at a time. The application should include reference to other applications submitted to CNCS and the differences between your proposed programs. Funding received from other CNCS programs cannot be used to pay for staff that run AmeriCorps Affiliate. Additionally, you would need to keep in mind that reporting for each program must be tracked separately. As stated on page 1 of the Notice, "Affiliate designations are intended to use national service as a means to incubate and expand service opportunities to create self-sustaining service models that complement existing AmeriCorps programs," meaning that there should be some distinction between programs and they should not be identical.

2. AmeriCorps Affiliate Program Implementation

2.1 Do AmeriCorps Affiliate members get paid while doing this service?

Members could be paid while participating in this program. CNCS does not provide funding to pay participants nor is it required. CNCS only provides the Education Awards.

Approved service activities must adhere to CNCS requirements regarding nondisplacement of employees and prohibited activities.

2.2 What is the role of state service commissions after selection?

CNCS will inform the appropriate state service commission(s) about Affiliate sponsors selected in their state. Selected Affiliate sponsors are asked to reach out to their state service commission(s) to collaborate when possible on training events, Days of Service, and other national service activities in the state.

3. Education Awards

3.1 For members serving in 100 hour positions, how long does an Affiliate member have to complete the service term?

Members serving in 100 hour positions must complete their term in the time specified in the application (which is incorporated by reference) into the memorandum of agreement between CNCS and the sponsor. This is clearly articulated in this Program Design selection Criteria:

Describe and justify your program timeline to include the timeframe for completion of each type of national service term requested. For example, if 100 hour positions are requested, clearly state the number of weeks in which members would be required to complete their 100 hour service term and why.

3.2 Can an individual enroll as an Affiliate member if they have already earned two full time Education Awards?

Possibly. An individual may not earn more than the equivalent total of two Education Awards in a lifetime. If a member has already earned two full time Education Awards, they may only enroll in a full-time Affiliate position. Individuals who have earned the value of two full-time Education Awards would not receive an Education Award after completing their term of service as an Affiliate.