



A M E R I C O R P S

Funding Opportunity Fact Sheet

What Is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is a national service program that provides opportunities for citizens to serve their community. Participants of AmeriCorps called “members” join a local program and provide intensive community services such as tutoring students who need extra help, assisting in after-school programs, and a host of other services that strengthen communities. AmeriCorps members are not staff, but can assist in capacity building efforts such as volunteer recruitment and management.

How are these programs funded?

Volunteer Florida receives these national funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service. We award them to local non-profits and governmental organizations through a competitive Request For Proposal (RFP) process.

How does an AmeriCorps program operate locally?

Once awarded funding, a local organization recruits members from their local community and train them to carry out the identified service of the organization. The organization has the autonomy to operate the program according to their agencies mission and goals.

Are AmeriCorps Members considered Staff or Volunteers?

Neither. AmeriCorps members are always considered as “participants or members”. AmeriCorps members are considered participants or members because they receive a modest living allowance, health and child care (full time only), and are eligible for an educational scholarship after they complete their year of service.

Because of the benefits provided through AmeriCorps, members may provide services on a more consistent and intensive basis than volunteers generally do. Also, members are not considered staff because they may not have the same professional credentials i.e. lawyer, doctor, or teacher.

GET STARTED NOW!!!

Visit our website at www.volunteerflorida.org to register for notification of funding availability. You can also click on the AmeriCorps link for a listing of all AmeriCorps State and National programs in Florida. For further assistance, please contact Amieko Watson, Director of National Service Programs, at 850-414-2976.



TYPES OF AMERICORPS MEMBER POSITIONS

One of the major decisions you must make before applying for AmeriCorps funding is deciding how many and what type of AmeriCorps members for which to apply.

For the purpose of developing a budget, AmeriCorps member positions must be figured on a member service year (MSY) equivalency basis.

To decide the number of AmeriCorps members you want to request, consider the amount of time that each member will serve, the task or service your agency will need members to provide, and consider how much match funding your organization can provide.

AMERICORPS MEMBER BENEFITS

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours over a year	MSY	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance	Educational Award
Full-time	1700	1.000	\$11,800	\$23,600	\$5,350
One-year Half-time	900	0.500	\$6,247	\$12,500	\$2,675
Two-year Half-time	900	0.250	\$6,247	\$12,500	\$2,675
Reduced Half-time	675	0.381	\$4,685	\$9,370	\$2,038
Quarter-time	450	0.265	\$3,123	\$6,250	\$1,415
Minimum-time	300	0.212	\$2,082	\$4,160	\$1,132

*There is no requirement to pay a living allowance for less than full-time members. However, it is recommended that a living allowance be provided to support members and increase the likelihood that members will successfully complete the program.

Education Award Only (Scholarship) Programs

Members will only receive the scholarship at the end of service. No other benefits are provided.

WHO BECOMES AN AMERICORPS MEMBER?

Since AmeriCorps first began in 1994, over 100,000 citizens have served their country through AmeriCorps. Florida averages between 800 -1,000 members each year. Being a member in AmeriCorps is for everyone!

Requirements to become an AmeriCorps member:

- A U.S. Citizen, U. S. National or a permanent legal resident
- Must be at least 17 years of age
- Have a High School Diploma or GED
- Pass a background check (required if serving with vulnerable populations)
- Commit to a term of service in a local program

Because of the scholarship benefit, AmeriCorps attracts both high school and college students. However, Florida AmeriCorps Members also include retired seniors and persons with disabilities to make Florida's programs among the strongest in the country!