

# FY21 AmeriCorps Competitive Funding

## Technical Assistance Webinar (New/Recompete)



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# OVERVIEW

- I. The Big Picture of AmeriCorps
- II. AmeriCorps: Members, Grant Guidelines, Activities, Budget
- III. Next Steps



# Volunteer Florida

Volunteer Florida was established in 1994 by the Florida Legislature to administer grants under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

Volunteer Florida is the Governor's lead agency for volunteerism and national service in Florida.

Volunteer Florida is governed by a Board of Commissioners appointed by the Governor and approved by the Florida Senate.



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# What does Volunteer Florida do?



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Administers AmeriCorps and National Service programs

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Coordinates volunteers and donations before, during and after disasters

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Increases volunteerism through grants, trainings and recognitions

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Manages the Volunteer Florida Foundation



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Corporation for  
**NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE**



1) AmeriCorps State and National

2) AmeriCorps VISTA  
(Volunteers in Service to America)

3) AmeriCorps NCCC  
(National Civilian Community Corps)



1) Foster Grandparents

2) Senior Companions

3) RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program)



1) Focuses investments in volunteer management practices that increase both volunteer recruitment and retention.



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# AmeriCorps State and National

AmeriCorps State and National engages more than **65,000** men and women in intensive service each year at a variety of locations including **nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups** across the country.

AmeriCorps members help communities tackle pressing problems while mobilizing **millions** of volunteers for the organizations they serve.

Members gain **valuable professional, educational, and life benefits,**

and the experience has a **lasting impact** on the members and the communities they serve.





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# Helpful Webinar Recordings

## AmeriCorps 101: Serve, Impact, Transform

FY 2020 AmeriCorps Funding  
Opportunity



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## AmeriCorps Grant Application: Creating Strong Narratives



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## AmeriCorps Budget 101

FY 2020 AmeriCorps Funding  
Opportunity



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### Find recordings:

[https://www.volunteerflorida.org/  
ameri-corps-grant-opportunities/](https://www.volunteerflorida.org/ameri-corps-grant-opportunities/)



# AmeriCorps in Florida

AmeriCorps programs support local community efforts to address education, environmental stewardship, disaster services, veterans services and other human needs.

In 2020-2021,  
**VOLUNTEER FLORIDA**

WILL ADMINISTER

**36**

AMERICORPS PROGRAMS  
IN FLORIDA



WITH

**1,497** AMERICORPS MEMBERS



SERVING IN

**32** FLORIDA  
COUNTIES



WHO CAN EARN UP TO

**\$6.8** IN  
MILLION SCHOLARSHIPS



**77%** OF THIS GRANT FUNDING  
WILL SUPPORT  
EDUCATION IN FLORIDA



# How can the people power of AmeriCorps move the needle on critical issues in my community?



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# Focus Areas for National Service



AmeriCorps places thousands of teachers, tutors, and mentors into low performing schools, helping students succeed in school and gain skills necessary to get 21st century jobs.

Education



Members build trails, restore parks, protect watersheds, run recycling programs, and promote energy efficiency, weatherization, and clean energy.

Environmental Stewardship



From forest fires and floods, to hurricanes and tornadoes, AmeriCorps members have provided critical support to millions of Americans affected by disasters since 1994.

Disaster Services



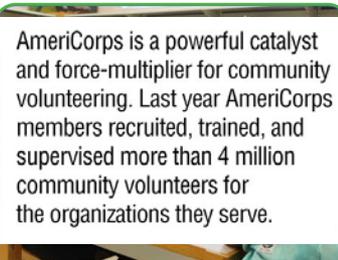
AmeriCorps supports the military community by engaging veterans in service, helping veterans readjust to civilian life, and providing support to military families.

Veterans and Military Families



AmeriCorps increases access to health services, provides nutrition education, alleviates hunger and supports independent living and social support services.

Healthy Futures



AmeriCorps is a powerful catalyst and force-multiplier for community volunteering. Last year AmeriCorps members recruited, trained, and supervised more than 4 million community volunteers for the organizations they serve.

Capacity Building



AmeriCorps provides financial education, job training and placement programs, tax preparation services, and connection with community services and benefits.

Economic Opportunity



Get  
Things  
Done

Join  
**AmeriCorps**  
[www.Americorps.gov](http://www.Americorps.gov)



**AmeriCorps is an Opportunity**

You can help make the world a better place: help children learn, protect the environment, or bring needed services to a low-income community.

**AmeriCorps is an Experience**

You will learn teamwork, leadership, responsibility and other essential skills that will help you for the rest of your life.

**AmeriCorps Offers Tangible Benefits**

Most AmeriCorps members receive student loan deferment, training, a living allowance and health insurance. After you complete your term of service, you will also receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to help pay for college, graduate school, vocational training or to repay student loans.

# AmeriCorps Benefits

Living allowance

Student loan deferment

\$ to pay for college or repay

Job skill development

Health insurance (full time members)

Child care assistance (full time members)

Engaged learning and connection to community

Career opportunities



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# AmeriCorps Members commit to serve a full year and can serve:

Full-Time – 1700 Hours

Reduced Full-Time – 1200 Hours

Half-Time – 900 Hours

Quarter-Time – 450 Hours

Minimum Time – 300 Hours



# Examples of AmeriCorps Service

Provide **tutoring** and **mentoring** to students

Provide independent living and **financial literacy** to persons with **disabilities**

Provide **career coaching** and **job skills** training resulting in **employment**

Remove **invasive exotics** from public parks, **restore habitat**, visitor **education**

**Home repair** and housing units made available to disadvantaged individuals

Increase **financial literacy** or **health access** services for individuals

**Disaster preparedness, mitigation** and **recovery**



# Things to Know

1

AmeriCorps programs are funded through federal grants.

2

Organizations apply to Volunteer Florida through a competitive process for a grant to support a minimum of the equivalent 10 full time members (i.e. 20 half time members).

3

The host or lead organization fully manages the program at the local level and includes 1 FTE or the equivalent in budget for program management.

4

AmeriCorps members are not staff and can not be placed in an administrative function.



# Overview of Application

- **FY2021 AmeriCorps Competitive RFP (Volunteer Florida)**
- Notice of Funding Opportunity (CNCS)
- Application Instructions (CNCS)
- Mandatory Supplemental Guidance (CNCS)
- Performance Measures Instructions (CNCS)



# FY2021 AmeriCorps Competitive RFP (Volunteer Florida)

## CDFIs

- A joint initiative of the CDFI Fund and CNCS, the **Economic Mobility Corps (EMC)** places full-time AmeriCorps members at Certified CDFIs to enhance their capacity to provide financial literacy, financial planning, budgeting, saving, and other financial counseling activities in distressed and underserved areas.
- **Economic Mobility Corps** members will be placed in Certified CDFIs and will receive training on the principles of financial counseling and financial literacy.
- A Certified CDFI is an entity that the CDFI Fund has officially notified that it meets all CDFI certification requirements.
- Only Certified CDFI's are eligible to receive EMC members.

# FY2021 AmeriCorps Competitive RFP (Volunteer Florida)

## Sample AmeriCorps Member Position Description

- Conducting community outreach and recruitment of clients to the CDFI's counseling and planning services and programs;
- Assisting or conducting orientation sessions for new clients to explain services;
- Providing financial planning workshops and individual financial counseling, including conducting group education meetings
- Assisting in the development and execution of marketing strategies to promote client participation;
- Providing clients with information on the different financial products and services
- Conducting scheduled follow-ups with clients to ask how they are doing, find out if they need additional help, and to help them stay engaged;
- Performing administrative duties that support the CDFI's activities, including but not limited to, coordinating meetings, preparing presentations, conducting research, reviewing training and outreach materials, reviewing applications, and developing material that supports the financial counseling and outreach activity

# FY2021 AmeriCorps Competitive RFP (Volunteer Florida)

Volunteer Florida Application  
Criteria, pg. 3

Performance Measures



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# FY2021 AmeriCorps Competitive RFP (Volunteer Florida)

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

# FY2021 AmeriCorps Competitive RFP (Volunteer Florida)

- Budget Instructions
  - See the Volunteer Florida specific requirements (pages 4-7)
  - See Attachment B – Detailed Budget Instructions (pages 107-111)
- Administrative/Indirect Costs – 5% Total
  - Corporation Fixed (Section 1 + Section 2 x .0526 x .60)
  - Commission Fixed (Section 1 + Section 2 x .0526 x .40)



# Budget Example

Applicants can request the maximum of \$16,300 per 1 Member Service Year (MSY).

An applicant requesting 10 full-time members would apply for a \$163,000 grant.

1 full-time member = 1 MSY

Cost per MSY = \$16,300

10 full-time Members = 10 MSY

10 MSY X \$16,300 = \$163,000

Match: 24% cash/in kind of the total grant



# Match Example:

10 full time members:

- Approximately \$163K federal request
- Minimum match estimate \$52K

Source of Match  
Type: Cash or In Kind

20 full time members:

- Approximately \$326K federal request
- Minimum match estimate \$104K

Examples: In Kind Donations, Local Foundation Grants, School District, State and Federal grants, Agency General Revenue

# Budget Reminders

Calculations should be itemized and in equation format

Minimum living allowance for full time members is \$15,100

The cost per MSY has increased to \$16,300

Be sure to include background check costs for all staff and members charged to the grant either Federal or Match

Include the Source of Funds information in Section III and the dollar amount in this section should total the dollar amount in the budget

Budget Travel costs for at least 3 staff members to attend 3 VF trainings (2 in Tallahassee, 1 (Orlando, Miami, Jacksonville, Tampa)

Commission Fixed is required and must be budgeted in the CNCS section only

Be sure to include costs for member training, member gear, worker's compensation, and health insurance for members if FT

# FY2021 AmeriCorps Competitive RFP (Volunteer Florida)

## Application Instruction via eGrants system

- A. New Applicants: When submitting your application into the eGrants system, under the “Creating an Application” box (in the lower left hand corner of the page) click on “New”.
- B. For Re-compete or Continuation Applicants (applicants that are currently funded by Volunteer Florida): When submitting your application into the eGrants system, under the “Creating an Application” box (in the lower left hand corner of the page) click on “Continuation/Renewal”.
- C. All applicants must select the following NOFA: **FY 2021 AmeriCorps State and Territory Commission (New and Continuation) (Due date: 1/6/2021)**
- D. All applicants must select Florida from the state dropdown listing. Applicants should see that their application is linked to the Volunteer Florida Prime Application Grant ID Number: 21AC230084



# FY2021 AmeriCorps Competitive RFP (Volunteer Florida)

## Supplemental Documents (New/Recompete)

- The most recent audit report including the management letter and the schedule of findings and questioned costs. If an annual audit is not required, please submit a letter to document.
- Operational and Financial Management Survey (OFMS). Please submit as a word document
- Completed provider assessment questionnaire.
- Certification of 60 day operating capital.
- Most recent agency-wide YTD consolidated financial statement and balance sheets.
- Evaluation documents per NOFO guidance.

# What Does it Mean to “operate” an AmeriCorps Program?

The AmeriCorps program becomes yours!

Your organization must recruit and manage AmeriCorps members

Your organization must manage payment of AmeriCorps member living allowance

Your organization will develop local partnerships

Your organization will track and report progress

Your organization will submit monthly cost reimbursement invoices and support documentation.

# Timeline

- **October 13, 2020** – Technical Assistance Calls
- **October 14, 2020** – AmeriCorps Application FAQs posted (anticipated)
- **November 2, 2020, 5:00 p.m. EST** - Applications due in eGrants and supporting documentation submitted
- **November 2 – November 20, 2020** – External and Internal Review
- **December 3, 2020** - Clarification provided to applicants considered for funding
- **December 14, 2020 by 5:00 p.m. EST** - Revised AmeriCorps Applications due in eGrants
- **December 18, 2020** – Volunteer Florida Commissioner review and approval (anticipated)
- **January 6, 2021** - Estimated submission of approved funding recommendation to CNCS
- **August 1, 2021** - Anticipated contract start date



# Next Steps

- Gather your partners! Decide who is the lead to apply.
- Review the full application – released September 21, 2020
- Contact Volunteer Florida with your questions, [americorpsrfp@volunteerflorida.org](mailto:americorpsrfp@volunteerflorida.org)
- AmeriCorps Application due in eGrants – November 2, 2020
- AmeriCorps Application supplemental documents due to [americorpsrfp@volunteerflorida.org](mailto:americorpsrfp@volunteerflorida.org) – November 2, 2020
- Sign up for Volunteer Florida communications ([www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org))

# — AMERICORPS — PLEDGE

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## **I will get things done for America**

to make our people safer,  
smarter, and healthier.

## **I will bring Americans together**

to strengthen our communities.

Faced with apathy,

**I will take action.**

Faced with conflict,

**I will seek common ground.**

Faced with adversity,

**I will persevere.**

## **I will carry this commitment**

with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps member, and

**I will get things done.**



# Resources

Volunteer Florida Website

<https://www.volunteerflorida.org/americorps-grant-opportunities/>

RFP

Provider Assessment Questionnaire

60 Day Operating Capital Certification

Sample Budget

Operational and Financial Management Survey (OFMS)

FAQs

AmeriCorps.gov

<https://nationalservice.gov/build-your-capacity/grants/funding-opportunities/2021/americorps-state-and-national-grants-fy-2021>