FY21 AmeriCorps Competitive Funding

Technical Assistance Webinar (New/Recompete)
OVERVIEW

I. The Big Picture of AmeriCorps

II. AmeriCorps: Members, Grant Guidelines, Activities, Budget

III. Next Steps
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.
What does Volunteer Florida do?

- Administers AmeriCorps and National Service programs
- Coordinates volunteers and donations before, during and after disasters
- Increases volunteerism through grants, trainings and recognitions
- Manages the Volunteer Florida Foundation
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.
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.
Helpful Webinar Recordings

**AmeriCorps 101: Serve, Impact, Transform**
FY 2020 AmeriCorps Funding Opportunity

**AmeriCorps Grant Application: Creating Strong Narratives**

**AmeriCorps Budget 101**
FY 2020 AmeriCorps Funding Opportunity

**Find recordings:**
https://www.volunteerflorida.org/americorps-grant-opportunities/
AmeriCorps in Florida

AmeriCorps programs support local community efforts to address education, environmental stewardship, disaster services, veterans services and other human needs.
How can the people power of AmeriCorps move the needle on critical issues in my community?
Focus Areas for National Service

- **Education**: 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.

- **Environmental Stewardship**: Members build trails, restore parks, protect watersheds, run recycling programs, and promote energy efficiency, weatherization, and clean energy.

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

- **Veterans and Military Families**: AmeriCorps supports the military community by engaging veterans in service, helping veterans readjust to civilian life, and providing support to military families.

- **Healthy Futures**: AmeriCorps increases access to health services, provides nutrition education, alleviates hunger and supports independent living and social support services.

- **Capacity Building**: 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.

- **Economic Opportunity**: AmeriCorps provides financial education, job training and placement programs, tax preparation services, and connection with community services and benefits.
Join AmeriCorps
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living allowance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student loan deferment</td>
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<tr>
<td>$ to pay for college or repay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Job skill development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health insurance (full time members)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child care assistance (full time members)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaged learning and connection to community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Career opportunities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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
Volunteer Florida Application Criteria, pg. 3

Performance Measures
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories/ Subcategories</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Design</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory of Change and Logic Model</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence Tier</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence Quality</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notice Priority</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Experience</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organizational Capability</strong></td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Background and Staffing</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compliance and Accountability</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture That Values Learning</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Supervision</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy</strong></td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
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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 0.0526 x 0.60)
  • Commission Fixed (Section 1 + Section 2 x 0.0526 x 0.40)
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Reminders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calculations should be itemized and in equation format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum living allowance for full time members is $15,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The cost per MSY has increased to $16,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be sure to Include background check costs for all staff and members charged to the grant either Federal or Match</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Include the Source of Funds information in Section III and the dollar amount in this section should total the dollar amount in the budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Travel costs for at least 3 staff members to attend 3 VF trainings (2 in Tallahassee, 1 (Orlando, Miami, Jacksonville, Tampa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission Fixed is required and must be budgeted in the CNCS section only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be sure to include costs for member training, member gear, worker’s compensation, and health insurance for members if FT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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
• AmeriCorps Application due in eGrants – November 2, 2020
• AmeriCorps Application supplemental documents due to americorpsrfp@volunteerflorida.org – November 2, 2020
• Sign up for Volunteer Florida communications (www.volunteerflorida.org)
AMERICORPS PLEDGE

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