



**AmeriCorps**  
Florida

FY 2022 AmeriCorps Formula RFP



volunteerflorida



**Request for Proposals: 2022 AmeriCorps State and National Notice of Funding Opportunity**

**Due: Monday, March 7, 2022, 5:00 p.m. EDT**

Proposals are submitted through an online application in the AmeriCorps web-based management system. The RFP proposal (henceforth referred to as Application) and all supporting documents must be received in the AmeriCorps web-based management system by 5:00 p.m. EDT on Monday, March 7, 2022. ***Applications received after this deadline will not be considered for funding.*** Volunteer Florida does not require organizations to submit an intent to apply.

For complete information, review the AmeriCorps 2022 State and National Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), the Application Instructions, the 2022 AmeriCorps State and National Mandatory Supplemental Guidance and the AmeriCorps Performance Measures Instructions included herein.

**I. Background**

Volunteer Florida, the Florida Commission on Community Service, 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, administering more than \$47 million in federal, state, and local funding to deliver high impact national service and volunteer programs in Florida. Volunteer Florida promotes and encourages volunteerism to meet critical needs across the state. Volunteer Florida also serves as Florida's lead agency for volunteers and donations before, during, and after disasters.

**II. Grant Period**

The grant period is a twelve-month period, beginning August 1, 2022 and ending July 31, 2023. The contract period will be from the date of contract receipt through July 31, 2023.

**III. Grant Overview**

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations proposing to engage



AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed (e.g., based on proposed program’s data or a similar program’s data) interventions to strengthen communities. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award from the National Service Trust that members can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans. In accordance with the National and Community Service Act of 1990, AmeriCorps emphasizes measuring the impact of service in a core set of national issues. The 2022 AmeriCorps State and National Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity identifies the following six focus areas: Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and Veterans and Military Families. All applicants will select one or more focus areas to reflect the primary impact of member service.

Volunteer Florida serves as the State Commission referenced in the 2022 AmeriCorps State and National Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity, and the Application Instructions. Please reference these documents for specific guidance on Volunteer Florida’s AmeriCorps Formula Funding Cycle.

**IV. 2022 Funding Priorities**

Detailed information about all funding priorities identified by AmeriCorps is located in the 2022 AmeriCorps NOFO, including selection criteria. Volunteer Florida supports the AmeriCorps funding priorities. In addition, Volunteer Florida will provide notice priority of three points associated with applications that focus on Environmental Stewardship/Resiliency (see Attachment A).

**V. Volunteer Florida Application Criteria**

- A. All proposals must request a minimum of the equivalent of 10 full time AmeriCorps member positions. Volunteer Florida may consider funding for proposals who commit to increasing to 10 full time AmeriCorps member positions within a three year period.
- B. Members must serve in a minimum of pairs at service locations.



- C. The equivalent of a minimum of one full time equivalent (FTE) staff position is required for program management.
- D. Type of Award
  - I. New applicants (the applicant was not funded in the previous funding cycle) are eligible for cost reimbursement awards only.
  - II. Recompeting applicants (the applicant has completed one three year funding period and is applying for a new funding period), are eligible for fixed amount awards or cost reimbursement awards, pending Volunteer Florida approval.
  - III. Continuation applicants (the applicant received funding during the previous funding cycle), should continue their grant application in the current award status.
  - IV. Planning Grants – Volunteer Florida reserves the right to offer a single year planning grant to applicants.
- E. Maximum Cost per Member Service Year (MSY)
  - I. The maximum allowable federal request is \$28,800 per member service year (MSY) for Cost Reimbursements and for Fixed Amount grant applications. Volunteer Florida recommends that applicants apply for the individual competitive state/territory program cost of \$21,600 but will consider applicants requesting up to the maximum cost per member service year (MSY) of \$28,800.
  - II. Continuation applicants, as defined in application instructions, may apply for expansions – dollars, MSY and/or members, up to the maximum allowable federal request.
  - III. Applicants applying for a higher cost per MSY, should be aware of the associated match requirements.
  - IV. Volunteer Florida reserves the right to reduce cost per MSY of applicant budgets to the individual competitive state/territory program cost of \$21,600.
- F. The minimum required living allowance for full time members is \$16,502.



- G. Match – A first time successful applicant is required to provide match funding at 24 percent for the first three-year funding period. Overall grantee share of total program costs increases gradually beginning in year 4 to 50% by the tenth year of funding and any year thereafter. See cost reimbursement grants match requirements chart found on page 10 of the 2022 State and National Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity and [45 CFR §2521.60](#).
- H. Volunteer Florida’s internal and external application review will align with the application review information criteria published on page 21 of the 2022 State and National Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity.
- I. Note: Page 28, E.2. *Review and Selection Process* of the 2022 State and National Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity, refers to federal competition only.
- J. Member Training - Volunteer Florida requires the following four trainings be provided to members: CPR and first aid training, diversity and inclusion, citizenship and disaster preparedness and response. Funding source can be at entity’s discretion.
- K. New applicants must opt into an August 1, 2022 start date.

## VI. Evaluation

- A. Applicants are required to meet the AmeriCorps evaluation requirements as identified in the 2022 State and National Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity.
- B. Recompeting programs must submit the following evaluation requirements to [americorpsrfp@volunteerflorida.org](mailto:americorpsrfp@volunteerflorida.org) by 5:00 PM Eastern on Friday, February 18, 2022.
  - I. Evaluation Plan (for all recompeting programs) – Required to use [AmeriCorps Evaluation Plan Template](#), saved as a Word document, and named using the following configuration: Grant Number\_Organization Name\_Evaluation Plan (e.g. 22AFHFL0010001\_VolunteerFlorida\_EvaluationPlan)
  - II. Evaluation Report (for programs recompeting for the second time or more) – Reports should be saved as a Word document and named



using the following configuration: Grant Number\_Organization Name\_Evaluation Report (e.g. 22AFHFL0010001\_VolunteerFlorida\_EvaluationReport)

- III. Volunteer Florida will review evaluation plans and evaluation reports to ensure they meet AmeriCorps standards and will provide feedback if needed. Final versions of plans and reports are expected to be submitted as a required supplemental document by March 7, 2022 (See X.B. Instructions for Supplemental Documents).

## VII. Performance Measures

Applicants are required to select at least one set of aligned performance measures. Applicants should use National Performance Measures if they are part of the program's theory of change. Performance measures should focus on core activities for member service and should not exceed 2-3 aligned sets of measures. AmeriCorps State applicants should focus on direct service and not include capacity building performance measures. Applicants should be familiar with AmeriCorps definitions for each performance measure output and outcome including defining the target population, how data is collected, dosage of intervention and rationale for proposed outcome resulting from the intervention. Outcomes should demonstrate changes in knowledge/skill, attitude, behavior, or condition that occur as a result of the intervention.

Applicants are encouraged to review AmeriCorps National Performance Measures information [here](#).

## VIII. Federal Funding Opportunity Instructions

To access the 2022 AmeriCorps State and National Grants, Notice of Funding Opportunity, [click here](#).

To access the Application Instructions, [click here](#).

To access the 2022 AmeriCorps State and National Mandatory Supplemental Guidance, [click here](#).

To access the AmeriCorps Performance Measures Instructions, [click here](#).



## IX. Volunteer Florida Budget Instructions

*All calculations for each budget line item should be written in equation format in the Budget Narrative. Adherence to these budget instructions will impact the budget score for applicants.*

- A. Staff Training: For the 2022 – 2023 program year, all funded programs will be expected to attend two trainings hosted by Volunteer Florida. If the program is a new program, they will be required to attend three trainings, one that will include a Boot Camp at the beginning of the grant year. Two individuals from organizations (representing program and finance duties) should attend each of the trainings. It is anticipated for training(s) to occur in person. Programs should include travel costs in their proposed budget.
- B. Evaluation Costs: Budgets should include applicable evaluation expenses associated with AmeriCorps evaluation requirements.
- C. Background Screening: National Service Criminal History Checks are required for ALL staff and members.
- D. Member Gear: The applicant should budget appropriately for AmeriCorps members to wear AmeriCorps and Volunteer Florida branded gear (i.e. shirts/polos) every day of service.
- E. Travel Costs: In addition to those required guidelines found in the application instructions, Volunteer Florida adheres to strict food and beverage purchasing guidelines. They are as follows:
  - I. If the meal is provided at the hotel, training or included in the lodging room rate, the traveler cannot claim that meal for reimbursement. If the traveler does not eat the meal provided and purchases a meal, the traveler cannot request reimbursement for the purchased meal.
  - II. Overnight travel is required to claim meals. No meals for same day travel will be reimbursed.
- F. To be eligible for reimbursement of food and beverage during a training and/or meeting, the training and/or meeting must provide the following:
  - I. The training must be in person (there can also be a virtual option for the training as well, but the program can only request reimbursement for meals of those who attend the training in person).



- II. There must be a dissemination of knowledge.
  - III. The training must be reasonable and necessary.
  - IV. There must be a necessity to keep attendees in the training for the length of time and not merely to provide food.
  - V. The training and/or meeting must be a minimum of six hours in order to request reimbursement for one meal (breakfast or lunch) and 8 hours in order to request reimbursement for two meals (breakfast and lunch).
- G. To be eligible for reimbursement of food and beverage during a training and/or meeting the grantee must submit a detailed agenda that outlines the sessions and activities that were covered in the meeting.
- H. To be eligible for reimbursement of food and beverage during a training and/or meeting the grantee must submit a sign-in sheet that identifies all participants (including staff and trainers) that were in attendance and whether they attended in person or virtually.
- I. Volunteer Florida follows the State of Florida per diem rates and requires all programs to follow the requirements as stated in section 112.061, Florida Statutes maximum meal allowances are as follows:
- I. Breakfast – Cannot exceed \$6 per person. Depart before 6:00 AM. Travel beyond 8:00 AM.
  - II. Lunch – Cannot exceed \$11 per person. Depart before 12:00 PM. Travel beyond 2:00 PM.
  - III. Dinner – Cannot exceed \$19 per person. Depart before 6:00 PM. Travel beyond 8:00 PM.
  - IV. Snacks are considered an unallowable expense.

*Reimbursement of approved food and beverage expenses associated with a training will be based on State of Florida Per Diem guidelines and must meet all requirements as listed and must provide all required documentation. Reimbursement will be contingent on type of meal provided, number of participants and certified sign in sheets.*



**X. Administrative/Indirect Costs**

Section III is comprised of the Corporation Fixed Amount (3%) and Commission Fixed Amount (2%). Section III cannot exceed 5 percent of the total AmeriCorps Award.

The **Corporation Fixed Amount** includes the administrative costs that are incurred by the lead agency for administering this grant. These costs are reimbursable under this line item. The calculation for this section is the AmeriCorps Section 1 plus AmeriCorps Section 2 X .0526 X .60.

The **Commission Fixed Amount** is the fiscal agent fee paid to Volunteer Florida for overseeing the AmeriCorps grant awards. Each program **must allocate** a minimum of 2% out of the 5% maximum as described above of the total AmeriCorps award in their budgets to this line item. The Commission Fixed Amount **must be paid** from AmeriCorps funds only. Volunteer Florida will draw the Commission Fixed Amount from each program based on the amount expended monthly. Please see the 2022 NOFO Application Instructions for more details and formulas used to calculate these amounts. The calculation for this section is AmeriCorps Section 1 plus AmeriCorps Section 2 X .0526 X .40.

The **Source of Funds** section that appears at the end of Budget Section III is required to be completed. You must include a brief description of each of your Sources of your matching funds and they must be listed separately. Each source must state whether those funds are secured or proposed, whether they are cash or in-kind funds, and what type the source is (Private, State/Local, or Federal). The total amount of Source of Funds Match must equal the total Grantee Share in the budget.

**XI. Application Instructions**

The funding period, match requirements, living stipend minimum, education award amounts, maximum cost per MSY, filing in e-Grants, and other general AmeriCorps provisions are the same as those listed in the 2022 AmeriCorps State and National Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity and the Application Instructions.



- A. Instructions for Submitting Applications (via AmeriCorps [eGrants](#) web based management system). Instructions are based on the grant cycle and type of grant requested.
- I. New Recompete or Continuation Applicants:
    - i. New Applicants: After logging into the eGrants system, click “New” under “Creating an Application” box (in the lower left hand corner of the page).
    - ii. For Re-compete or Continuation Applicants (applicants that are currently funded by Volunteer Florida): When submitting your application into the eGrants system, click “Continuation/Renewal” under the “Creating an Application” box (in the lower left hand corner of the page).
  - II. Cost Reimbursement Applicants
    - i. Cost Reimbursement applicants must select the following NOFA: FY 2022 AmeriCorps State and Territory Commission (New and Continuation) - (Due date: 1/5/2022)
    - ii. Cost Reimbursement 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: 22AC243891.
    - iii. All Cost Reimbursement applicants must include a detailed budget per the FY 2022 NOFO Application Instructions, Attachment C., page 24.
  - III. Fixed Amount Grant Applicants
    - i. Fixed Amount applicants must select the following NOFA: FY 2022 AmeriCorps State and Terr Comm Fixed Amount, EAP (New and Continuation) – (Due date: 1/5/2022)
    - ii. Fixed Amount applicants must select Florida from the state dropdown listing. Applicants should see that their application is linked the Volunteer Florida Prime Application Grant ID Number: 22ES243892.
    - iii. All Fixed Amount applicants must include a budget per the FY 2022 NOFO Application Instructions, Attachment D, page 28.



B. Instructions for Supplemental Documentation (not submitted in eGrants)

I. Volunteer Florida Required Supporting Documentation is due by March 7, 2022 by 5 p.m. EDT. Required supporting documentation varies depending on whether the applicant is submitting a new application, recomplete application or a continuation application.

II. Supporting documentation, as specified below, should be electronically submitted through the Blackbaud Grantmaking platform at the link [here](#) or by copying and pasting this link:

[https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID\\_2153?SA=SNA&FID=35573](https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_2153?SA=SNA&FID=35573) into a web browser. Blackbaud Grantmaking does not require the applicant to create an account to submit materials.

i. New/Recomplete Applications

1. The most recent Audit Report including the Management Letter and the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.
2. [Operational and Financial Management Survey \(OFMS\)](#). Please submit the OFMS as a Word document.
3. Completed Provider Assessment Questionnaire [here](#).
4. Certification of 60-day Operating Capital [here](#).
5. Most recent agency-wide YTD consolidated Income Statement and Balance Sheet.
6. Evidence documents per NOFO guidance.
7. Final Evaluation documents per NOFO guidance for recomplete applications only. [Required Evaluation Plan Template here](#).

ii. Continuation Applications

1. The most recent Audit Report including the Management Letter and the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.
2. Completed Provider Assessment Questionnaire (only required if agency hired a new CEO, Executive Director, CFO or Project Director within last twelve months).
3. Most recent agency wide YTD Consolidated Income Statement and Balance Sheet.



### **XIII. Volunteer Florida Timeline**

**January 24, 2022** - Release Volunteer Florida AmeriCorps Competitive Application.

**February 3, 2022 – AmeriCorps 101: Serve, Impact, Transform 2:00 p.m. EDT** Part one of AmeriCorps three-part webinar series. To register go [here](#).

**February 7, 2022 (10:00 a.m., continuation applicants and 2:00 p.m. new/recompete applicants)** - AmeriCorps funding application technical assistance webinars. To register go [here](#) for continuation and [here](#) for new/recompete.

**February 10, 2022** - AmeriCorps funding application FAQs posted [here](#).

**February 22, 2022 – Creating Strong Narratives 2:00 p.m. EDT** Part two of AmeriCorps three-part webinar series. To register, go [here](#).

**February 24, 2022 – AmeriCorps Budget 101 2:00 p.m. EDT** Part three of AmeriCorps three-part webinar series. To register, go [here](#).

**March 7, 2022 5:00 p.m. EDT** - Applications due in eGrants and supporting documentation submitted [here](#).

**March 11, 2022 – April 13, 2022** - Peer, financial and staff review period.

**April 28, 2022** - Clarification provided to applicants considered for funding.

**May 19, 2022 by 5:00 p.m. EDT** - Revised AmeriCorps applications due in eGrants.

**June 6, 2022** - Estimated submission of approved funding recommendation to AmeriCorps.

**August 1, 2022** - Anticipated contract start date.

### **XIV. Volunteer Florida Technical Assistance Webinars**

Volunteer Florida staff will host technical assistance webinars to provide applicants with an opportunity to ask questions and receive general feedback. Participation in one of the technical assistance webinars is strongly encouraged. Questions and responses from the technical assistance webinars will be posted in an FAQ document and available on Volunteer Florida's [website](#). Questions may also be emailed to [americorsrfp@volunteerflorida.org](mailto:americorsrfp@volunteerflorida.org).



Technical Assistance Webinars are scheduled as follows:

February 7, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. EST - Continuation applicants

To register for the continuation webinar, please click [here](#).

February 7, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. EST - New and recomplete applicants

To register for the new/ recomplete webinar please click [here](#).

Volunteer Florida staff will host a webinar series to review the overall AmeriCorps funding opportunity and go over key elements for creating strong applications. Participation in these webinars is optional.

February 3, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. EST: AmeriCorps 101: Serve, Impact, Transform

February 22, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. EST: Creating Strong Narratives

February 24, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. EST: AmeriCorps Budget 101

To register for the Application Webinar Series, click [here](#).

To ensure that this funding process is carried out in a fair and equitable manner, all questions concerning the application should be submitted to [americorpsrfp@volunteerflorida.org](mailto:americorpsrfp@volunteerflorida.org). Answers will be compiled in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document posted [here](#).

## **XV. Resources**

[AmeriCorps State and National Grants FY 2022](#) (NOFO, Application Instructions, Technical Assistance, Other Documents)

Volunteer Florida Available Grants (Application supporting documents, FAQs and other grant information) [here](#).

## **Attachment A**

### **Environmental Stewardship/Resilience AmeriCorps Opportunity**

Whether protecting coastlines from flooding, reducing heat exposure inland, or helping communities to save money through energy efficiency and waste reduction, there are abundant opportunities to engage Floridians in community “resilience” activities that preserve our natural resources and protect our communities. AmeriCorps has a long history of supporting environmental stewardship activities through service. From trail maintenance to energy conservation, AmeriCorps members have been at the forefront of helping communities respond to environmental challenges. Volunteer Florida is working to identify and support organizations who want to leverage the power of National Service as a part of their community resilience response strategies.

### **AmeriCorps Service Examples**

Volunteer Florida is interested in supporting applications from organizations that will deploy environmentally-related and other resilience-focused AmeriCorps members to address compelling community needs through their service. Applicants will develop their own program specifically designed to meet the needs of their own communities.

Generally, service activities will fall into one or a mix of three major service types (action, education, assessment). Additionally, some programs may include a limited amount of capacity-building service, though this cannot exceed 20% of total member service time. Examples are provided below.

TYPE OF SERVICE	EXAMPLE OUTPUTS	EXAMPLE OUTCOMES
<p><b>Action</b> Activities that measurably reduce negative environmental impacts or preserve or enhance positive environmental benefits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees planted</li> <li>• Miles of coastline cleaned</li> <li>• Residential energy efficiency installations</li> <li>• Acres of coastal wetlands restored</li> <li>• Community gardens created</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased tree canopy in the community</li> <li>• Reduction in coastal pollution</li> <li>• Energy reductions from installations</li> <li>• Enhanced protection from coastal flooding, storm surges, and sea level rise</li> <li>• Increased access to healthy food</li> </ul>
<p><b>Education</b> Delivery of structured environmental education content to a defined audience with capacity to measure participant learning outcomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth receiving school waste reduction programs</li> <li>• Adults participating in urban heat awareness programs</li> <li>• Community members completing climate action training</li> <li>• Homeowners receiving education on solar installations and energy efficiency retrofits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased knowledge of waste reduction practices.</li> <li>• Increased understanding of urban heat risks and solutions</li> <li>• Increased commitment to addressing resiliency risks and to taking action at home</li> <li>• Energy savings and reduced emissions</li> </ul>
<p><b>Assessment</b> Structured measurements of environmental risks or responses on a unit basis that can be used to inform decision-making for individual or community response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home energy audits</li> <li>• Neighborhood tree canopy inventories</li> <li>• Assessment of locations and options for nature-based flood prevention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projected home energy savings</li> <li>• Inventory of high impact tree planting locations</li> <li>• Nature-based stormwater installation recommendations</li> </ul>
<p><b>Capacity Building</b> Activities that support or enhance organizational program delivery in alignment with environmental goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of organizations receiving environmental capacity building service (e.g. organizational research and planning activities such as heat island impacts research, sea-level rise risk analysis, active transportation plan development, vulnerable community engagement strategy development, energy efficiency program design)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of organizations reporting an increase in environmental program effectiveness, efficiency, and/or program scale/reach</li> </ul>

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## NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

**Federal Agency Name:** AmeriCorps  
**Funding Opportunity Title:** Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 AmeriCorps State and National Grants  
**Announcement Type:** Initial Announcement  
**Assistance Listing Number:** 94.006

**Disclosure:** Publication of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (Notice) does not obligate AmeriCorps to award any specific number of grants or to commit any particular amount of funding. The actual level, timing, and process of grant funding will be subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

### Important Dates

- Applications are due Wednesday, January 5, 2022 by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Single-state applicant deadlines to Commissions may be significantly before the AmeriCorps deadlines, so prospective state applicants should contact the Commission in the state or territory where they intend to apply as early as possible. The list of Commissions can be found on the AmeriCorps State Service Commissions webpage.<sup>1</sup>

- Successful applicants will be notified by mid May 2022.

## FULL TEXT OF THE NOTICE

### A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

#### *A.1. Purpose of AmeriCorps Funding*

AmeriCorps brings people together to tackle some of the country's most pressing challenges through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. AmeriCorps helps make service a cornerstone of our national culture. AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations (See Section *C.1 Eligible Applicants*) proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions/practices to strengthen communities. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members earn a Segal

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<sup>1</sup> AmeriCorps State Service Commission webpage: <https://americorps.gov/contact/state-service-commissions>

AmeriCorps Education Award that they can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.<sup>2</sup>

### **AmeriCorps Focus Areas**

The National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended by the Serve America Act, emphasizes measuring the impact of service and focusing on a core set of issue areas. In order to maximize the impact of investment in national service, AmeriCorps has the following focus areas:

#### **Disaster Services**

Grants will support increased and improved disaster services for individuals and communities to prepare and adapt to disasters, including but not limited to climate change events. Activities will provide support to increase preparedness for disasters, improve readiness to respond to disasters, support recovery efforts from disasters, and/or assist in the implementation of pre-disaster mitigation and adaptation measures. Grants will support communities and individuals in planning for disasters, in particular engaging disadvantaged communities in the planning process.

#### **Economic Opportunity**

Grants will provide support and/or facilitate access to services and resources that contribute to the improved economic well-being and security of economically disadvantaged people; help economically disadvantaged people, to have improved access to services that enhance financial literacy; transition into or remain in safe, healthy, affordable housing; and/or have improved employability leading to increased success in becoming employed.

#### **Education**

Grants will provide support and/or facilitate access to services and resources that contribute to improved educational outcomes for economically disadvantaged children; improved school readiness for economically disadvantaged young children; improved educational and behavioral outcomes of students in low-achieving elementary, middle, and high schools; and/or support economically disadvantaged students' preparation for success in post-secondary educational institutions.

#### **Environmental Stewardship**

Grants will support responsible stewardship of the environment, while preparing communities for challenging climate and environmental circumstances and helping Americans respond to and recover from disruptive events: programs that conserve natural habitats; protect clean air and water; maintain public lands; support wildland fire mitigation and sustainable forest management; cultivate individual and community resilience; and provide reforestation services after floods or fires, such as nature based solutions.

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<sup>2</sup> Segal AmeriCorps Education Award: <https://americorps.gov/members-volunteers/segal-americorps-education-award>

## Healthy Futures

Grants will provide support for activities that will address the opioid crisis; increase seniors' ability to remain in their own homes with the same or improved quality of life for as long as possible; and/or increase physical activity and improve nutrition with the purpose of reducing obesity.

## Veterans and Military Families

Grants will improve the quality of life of veterans and improve military family well-being; increase the number of veterans, wounded warriors, military service members, and their caregivers, families, and survivors served by AmeriCorps programs; and/or increase the number of veterans and military family members engaged in service through AmeriCorps programs.

### ***A.2. Funding Priorities***

AmeriCorps' priorities for this grant competition are:

- Efforts to help local communities respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants may propose programming to aid communities in their efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, including outcomes of COVID-19 on student subgroups described in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
- Educational opportunity and economic mobility for communities experiencing persistent unemployment or underemployment, and students experiencing homelessness or those in foster care.
- Programs that prioritize civic engagement and social cohesion.
- Evidence-based interventions on the AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange that are assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence. Please note that many of these interventions have demonstrated effectiveness in improving outcomes for individuals living in underserved communities and that the agency has committed resources to supporting grantees seeking to replicate and evaluate these interventions in similar communities.<sup>3</sup>
- Veterans and Military Families, Caregivers, and Survivors – a program model that improves the quality of life of veterans and improves the well-being of military families, caregivers, and survivors.
- Rural intermediaries - organizations that demonstrate measurable impact and primarily serve rural communities with limited resources and organizational infrastructure.
- Environmental stewardship and climate change including renewable energy and energy efficiency, building community resilience, sustainable food systems and agriculture, and conservation and habitat preservation.
- Faith-based organizations.
- Economic Mobility Corps (See Attachment A).

To receive priority consideration, applicants must show that the priority area is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes. Proposing programs that receive priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

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<sup>3</sup> AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange: <https://americorps.gov/about/our-impact/evidence-exchange>

### ***A.3. Performance Goals or Expected Outcomes*** **Performance Measures**

All applications must include at least one aligned performance measure (output and outcome) that corresponds to the proposed primary intervention. This may be a National Performance Measure or an applicant-determined measure. See the Performance Measure Instructions for details about performance measure requirements and selection rules.<sup>4</sup>

### ***A.4. Program Authority***

Awards under this Notice are authorized by the [National and Community Service Act of 1990](#), as amended, ([42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.](#))

## **B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION**

### ***B.1. Estimated Available Funds***

AmeriCorps expects a highly competitive AmeriCorps grant competition. AmeriCorps reserves the right to prioritize providing funding to existing awards over making new awards. The actual level of funding is subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

### ***B.2. Estimated Award Amount***

Award amounts will vary as determined by the scope of the projects.

### ***B.3. Period of Performance***

AmeriCorps anticipates making three-year grants. The agency generally makes an initial award for the first year of the period of performance, based on a one-year budget. Continuation awards for subsequent years are not guaranteed; they depend upon availability of appropriations and satisfactory performance.

The project start date may not occur prior to the date AmeriCorps awards the grant. AmeriCorps applicants may not enroll prior to the start date of the award. AmeriCorps applicants may not begin service prior to the beginning of the member enrollment period as designated in the grant award. A program may not certify any hours an applicant performs prior to the applicant becoming a member in the system of record and the beginning of the member enrollment period.

### ***B.4. Type of Award***

AmeriCorps Operating Grants: AmeriCorps may award a Cost Reimbursement or a Fixed Amount grant to any successful applicant, but the availability of a Full-Cost Fixed-Amount grant is limited to certain applicants.

Professional Corps applicants are ineligible to apply for Cost Reimbursement grants. See the *C.1. Eligible Applicants* section and the Mandatory Supplemental Information for more

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<sup>4</sup> Performance Measure Instructions: <https://www.americorps.gov/funding-opportunity/fy-2021-ameri-corps-state-national-grants#performance-measure>

information. AmeriCorps will not provide both types of grants for the same project in one fiscal year.

Grant Types	Cost Reimbursement	Fixed Amount			
Available Subtypes	Traditional	Full-Cost	Education Award Program (EAP)	Professional Corps See Sec. D.6.a.2 for further requirements	No Cost Slots
Maximum Cost per MSY	\$21,600	\$21,600	\$800 or \$1,000*	\$1,000	\$0
Type of Slots in the National Service Trust	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT	FT Only	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT
Budget Submission Required	Yes	No		Yes, if requesting operating funds	No
Availability of Funds linked to enrollment and retention of awarded MSYs	No	Yes			No
Grant Types	Cost Reimbursement	Fixed Amount			
Special Requirements	N/A	N/A	Must place qualified professionals in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals. Member salaries and benefits must be paid entirely by organization where member serves and not included in budget.		N/A
Financial Reporting Requirements	Yes	No			
Available to new Applicants	Yes	No	Yes		

\*\$18,000 adjusted for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers.

\*\* Per 42 U.S.C. § 12581a, the Corporation may provide the operational support under this section for a program in an amount that is not more than \$800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position, or not more than \$1,000 per such individual if at least 50 percent of the persons enrolled in the program are disadvantaged youth.

FT = Full time, TQT = Three Quarter Time, HT= Half Time, RHT = Reduced Half Time, QT = Quarter Time, MT = Minimum Time, AT = Abbreviated Time

## **C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

### ***C.1. Eligible Applicants***

The following non-Federal entities (all of which are defined in [2 CFR 200.1](#)) are eligible to apply:

- Indian Tribes
- Institutions of higher education
- Local governments
- Nonprofit organizations
- States

Applicants must have a valid SAM registration and DUNS and/or Unique Entity Identifier to receive an award. See Section D.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM) for more information.

### **New Applicants**

AmeriCorps encourages organizations that have not received prior funding from AmeriCorps to apply.

New applicants are eligible to apply for Cost Reimbursement and Education Award Program (EAP) grant but are not eligible to apply for Full Cost Fixed Amount grants.

### **Types of Applicants**

#### **1. State and Territory Service Commissions (for Single-State Applicants)**

Organizations that propose to operate in only one state must apply through the Governor-appointed State or Territory Commissions. Each commission administers its own selection process and submits the applications it selects to compete for funding directly to AmeriCorps. Single-State applicants must contact their Commissions to learn about their state or territory processes and deadlines. State deadlines may be significantly earlier than the AmeriCorps deadlines and may have additional requirements. The list of Commissions can be found on the AmeriCorps website. A Single-State application from a State or Territory with a Commission that is submitted directly to AmeriCorps by the applicant rather than the Commission will be considered noncompliant and will not be reviewed. See the Mandatory Supplemental Information for descriptions of National Direct and Single-State applicants.

## 2. National Direct Applicants <sup>5</sup>

*Multi-State:* Organizations that propose to operate AmeriCorps programs in more than one State or Territory apply directly to AmeriCorps.

*States and Territories without Commissions:* Applicants in South Dakota, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands apply directly to AmeriCorps because this State and these Territories do not have an established Commission.

*Federally recognized Indian Tribes:* Applicants that are Indian Tribes apply directly to AmeriCorps.

In addition to Indian Tribes as defined in 2 CFR 200.1, tribal organizations that are controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by Federally recognized Indian Tribes are also eligible to apply. If an entity applies for an award as a tribal organization that is controlled or chartered by one or more Indian Tribes, the organization must provide copies of, or links to, documentation which demonstrates that the organization is controlled or chartered by a Federally recognized Indian Tribe. If an entity applies as an organization sanctioned by a Federally recognized tribe, or multiple specific Federally recognized tribes, it must submit a sanctioning resolution, adopted by the Tribal Council (or comparable tribal governing body) of each Indian Tribe. The resolution(s) must identify the entity applying for an AmeriCorps award by name as a tribal organization that is sanctioned by the Indian Tribe(s) for the purpose of applying for AmeriCorps funding (or Federal grant funds generally).

In addition to being eligible to apply under this *Notice*, Federally recognized Indian Tribes will also be eligible to apply for operating or planning grants under a separate Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity for Indian Tribes to be released later in the fall with an application deadline in the spring. AmeriCorps may request applicants apply under the Tribal competition, rather than under this *Notice*.

### **Threshold Issues**

Applications should reflect that they meet the following threshold requirements for the grant type for which they are applying.

- Professional Corps applicants and/or applicants determined to be a Professional Corps by the agency, AmeriCorps, must demonstrate that the community in which it will place AmeriCorps members serving as professionals has an inadequate number of said professionals.
- If the proposed service activities require specialized member qualifications and/or training (for example, tutoring programs: 45 CFR 2522.910-.940), the applicant must describe how the program will meet these requirements.
- All applicants must propose program designs that are either evidence-based or evidence-informed. Applicants assessed as lower than the Preliminary evidence tier (i.e., Pre-

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<sup>5</sup> Although National Direct applicants do not have to apply to Commissions, there are substantial requirements to coordinate with the Commissions for states in which national service programs will operate. See the *Coordination among State Commission & National Direct Applicants* section for information on these important requirements.

Preliminary) must provide adequate responses to the Evidence Quality review criteria in order to be considered for funding.

**C.2. Cost Sharing or Matching**

**Fixed Amount Grants**

There is no match requirement for Fixed Amount grants. AmeriCorps does not provide all the funds necessary to operate the program, therefore organizations should raise the additional revenue required to operate the program.

New applicants are eligible to apply for Cost Reimbursement and Education Award Program (EAP) grant but are not eligible to apply for Full Cost Fixed Amount grants.

**Cost Reimbursement Grants**

Applicants are required to match funds based on the chart below. The applicant’s match can be non-AmeriCorps cash and/or in-kind contributions. Applicants must indicate whether the match is proposed or secured. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to meet the match requirement at the time of application submission. See Section D.6. *Funding Restrictions* for more information.

A first-time successful applicant is required to match at 24 percent for the first three-year funding period. Starting with year four, the match requirement gradually increases every year to 50 percent by year ten, according to the minimum overall share chart found in 45 CFR 2521.60 and below.

AmeriCorps Funding Year	1, 2, 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
Grantee Share Requirements	24%	26%	30%	34%	38%	42%	46%	50%

Law requires that grantees that use other Federal funds as matching funds for an AmeriCorps grant to report those amounts and sources to AmeriCorps on a Federal Financial Report.<sup>6</sup> Grantees must track and be prepared to report on that match separately each year and at closeout.

**Match Waiver**

Please see the Match Waiver information.

**Alternative Match**

Under certain circumstances, applicants may qualify to meet alternative matching requirements that increase over the years to 35 percent instead of 50 percent as specified in the regulations.<sup>7</sup> To qualify, applicants must demonstrate that the proposed program is either located in a rural county or in a severely economically distressed community as defined in the Application Instructions. Applicants who plan to request an alternative match schedule must submit a request at the time the application is submitted. Programs applying through State Service Commissions must submit requests for alternative match to the Commission, who will submit it to AmeriCorps

<sup>6</sup> Section 121(e)(5) of NCSA (42 U.S.C. §12571(e)).

<sup>7</sup> 45 Code of Federal Regulations CFR 2521.60(b)

on their behalf. Commissions and National Directs will submit requests to directly to [ACAlternateMatchRequests@cns.gov](mailto:ACAlternateMatchRequests@cns.gov).

### ***C.3. Other Eligibility Requirements***

Under Section 132A(b) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, organizations that have been convicted of a Federal crime may not receive assistance described in this Notice.

Applications that propose to engage in activities that are prohibited under AmeriCorps' statutes, regulations, or the terms and conditions of its awards are not eligible to receive AmeriCorps funding.

Note that under appropriations provisions annually enacted by Congress, if AmeriCorps is aware that any corporation has any unpaid Federal tax liability—

- that has been assessed
- for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed
- that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability—

that corporation is not eligible for an award under this Notice. However, this exclusion will not apply to a corporation which a Federal agency has considered for suspension or debarment and has determined that suspension or debarment is not necessary to protect the interests of the Federal government.

Pursuant to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, an organization described in the [Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 501 \(c\)\(4\)](#) that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply for AmeriCorps funding.

## **D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

This *Notice* should be read together with the AmeriCorps Regulations, 45 CFR 2520–2550, the Mandatory Supplemental Information, Application Instructions, and Performance Measure Instructions which are incorporated by reference. These documents can be found on <https://www.americorps.gov/partner/funding-opportunities>. The full Regulations are available online at [www.ecfr.gov](http://www.ecfr.gov).

### ***D.1. Address to Request an Application Package***

All information associated with this funding opportunity is available through the AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities webpages. Applicants should refer to [AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities](#) for more information and instructions on how to fully respond to this Notice. Applicants can also send an email to [americorpsgrants@cns.gov](mailto:americorpsgrants@cns.gov) or call (202) 606-7508 for a printed copy of the Notice and Application Instructions. AmeriCorps also offers live text chat at <https://www.americorps.gov/contact>.

## ***D.2. Content and Form of Application Submission***

### **D.2.a. Application Content**

Complete applications must include the following elements:

- Standard Form 424 (SF-424) Face Sheet: This is automatically generated when applicants complete the data elements in the eGrants system.
- Narrative Sections:
  - Executive Summary: This is a brief description of the proposed program.
  - Program Design
  - Organizational Capability
  - Cost-Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy
  - Evaluation Summary/Plan
- Logic Model
- Performance Measures
- Standard Form 424A Budget
- Continuation Changes
- Clarification
- Authorization, Assurances, and Certifications <sup>8</sup>

### **D.2.b. Page Limits**

There are page limits for the Narratives and Logic Model:

- Narratives
  - Applications must not exceed 10 double-spaced pages for the Narratives or 12 pages for Rural Intermediaries and Multi-State applications with more than five operating sites as the pages print out from eGrants. AmeriCorps will use the number of locations in the “multi-state operating sites” field in AmeriCorps’ web-based management system to determine whether a multi-state application has more than five operating sites. The “multi-state operating sites” field can be found by clicking on the “operating sites” link in the system. Multi-state applicants that list five or fewer operating sites cannot exceed 10 pages for the Narrative.
  - The application sections that count towards the page limit are the:
    - SF-424 Face Sheet
    - Executive Summary
    - Program Design, Organizational Capability, and Cost-Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy narratives.
  - The application page limit does not include the Budget, Performance Measures, or any required additional documents.
- Logic Model
  - The Logic Model may not exceed three pages when printed with the application from the “Review” tab in AmeriCorps’ web-based management system.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://egrants.cns.gov/cnsmisc/ECERTS.HTM>  
and <https://egrants.cns.gov/cnsmisc/EASSUR.HTM>

Please note that the length of the application as a word processing document may differ from the length of the document printed out from eGrants. The character limits in eGrants do not align with page limits set in the Notice. **AmeriCorps strongly encourages applicants to print out the application from the “Review and Submit” tab in eGrants prior to submission in order to confirm that the application does not exceed the page limit.**

AmeriCorps will not consider the results of any alternative printing methods when determining if an application complies with the page limit. Reviewers will also not consider material that is over the page limit, even if eGrants allows applicants to enter and submit additional text.

### ***D.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)***

All applicants **must** register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/> and maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete. If an applicant is awarded a grant, it must maintain an active SAM registration throughout the life of the award. See the SAM Quick Guide for Grantees at: [https://sam.gov/SAM/transcript/Quick\\_Guide\\_for\\_Grants\\_Registrations.pdf](https://sam.gov/SAM/transcript/Quick_Guide_for_Grants_Registrations.pdf).

SAM registration must be renewed annually. AmeriCorps suggests that applicants finalize a new registration or renew an existing one at least three weeks before the application deadline, to allow time to resolve any issues that may arise. **Applicants must use their SAM-registered legal name and address on all grant applications to AmeriCorps.**

AmeriCorps will not make awards to entities that do not have a valid SAM registration and DUNS or Unique Entity Identifier. If an applicant has not fully complied with these requirements by the time AmeriCorps is ready to make a Federal award, AmeriCorps may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

Applications must include an Employer Identification Number.

Applications must include a DUNS number. Applicants can obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling the DUNS number request line at (866) 705-5711 or by applying online at the [DUNS Request Service](#). AmeriCorps recommends registering at least 30 days before the application due date.

The Federal government is implementing Unique Entity Identifiers (UEI) as part of the SAM registration process to eventually replace DUNS numbers. AmeriCorps may ask applicants to add the UEI to their application as part of the clarification or pre-award process. AmeriCorps is adding a field to capture the UEI in eGrants. If you already have a UEI and the UEI field is available in eGrants, you can enter it at the time you submit your application.

### ***D.4. Submission Dates and Times***

#### **D.4.a. Application Submission Deadline**

Applications are due **Wednesday, January 5, 2022 by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

Commissions' deadlines may be significantly before the AmeriCorps deadline, so prospective Single-State applicants should contact their respective Commission as soon as possible.

AmeriCorps will not consider applications submitted after the deadline, except as noted in Section *D.4.c. Late Applications*. AmeriCorps reserves the right to extend the submission deadline. AmeriCorps will post a notification in the event of an extended deadline on AmeriCorps' website.

#### **D.4.b. Additional Documents Deadline**

Additional documents are due by the application submission deadline. See *Sections D.4.a. Application Submission Deadline* and *D.7.b. Submission of Additional Documents* for more information.

#### **D.4.c. Late Applications**

All applications received after the submission deadline published in this Notice are presumed to be non-compliant. To overcome this presumption, the applicant must:

- submit a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstance(s) that caused the delay, including:
  - the timing and specific cause(s) of the delay
  - the ticket number if a request for assistance was submitted to the AmeriCorps Hotline, if available
  - any information provided to the applicant by the AmeriCorps Hotline
  - any other documentation or evidence that supports the justification
- ensure that AmeriCorps receives the written explanation or justification and any other evidence that substantiates the claimed extenuating circumstance(s), via email to [LateApplications@cns.gov](mailto:LateApplications@cns.gov) no later than 24 hours after the application deadline stated in the Notice.

Communication with AmeriCorps staff, including an applicant's portfolio manager, is not a substitute for a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstance that caused the delay as outlined above. Applicants are required to continue working in [eGrants](#), [AmeriCorps' web-based application system](#) and with the AmeriCorps Hotline to submit the application. AmeriCorps will determine whether or not to accept a late application on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants that do not meet the application submission deadline and do not submit a written explanation or justification or any other evidence to overcome the presumption of non-compliance within the published timeframe will be deemed noncompliant. If AmeriCorps sustains a noncompliant determination, the application will not be reviewed or selected for award.

**Please note:** AmeriCorps will *not* consider an advance request to submit a late application. Please carefully review and follow the guidance in this section and submit your application as soon as possible.

### ***D.5. Intergovernmental Review***

This Notice is not subject to Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.”

### ***D.6. Funding Restrictions***

#### **D.6.a. Award Funding Requirements**

##### **1. Member Living Allowance**

A living allowance is not considered a salary or a wage. Programs are not required to provide a living allowance for members serving in less than full-time terms of service. If a program chooses to provide a living allowance to a less than full-time member, it must comply with the maximum limits in the table below. For Cost Reimbursement grants, the amount must be included in the proposed budget as either AmeriCorps or grantee share. Exceptions are noted below.

While Fixed Amount grant applicants are not required to submit detailed budgets, they are still required to provide a living allowance to members that complies with the minimum and maximum requirements. Exceptions are noted below. Fixed Amount grant applicants should indicate that amount in the application.

**Table: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance**

<b>Service Term</b>	<b>Minimum # of Hours</b>	<b>Minimum Living Allowance</b>	<b>Maximum Total Living Allowance</b>
Full-time	1,700	\$16,502	\$33,004
Three Quarter-time	1,200	n/a	\$23,103
Half-time	900	n/a	\$16,502
Reduced Half-time	675	n/a	\$12,542
Quarter-time	450	n/a	\$8,581
Minimum-time	300	n/a	\$6,931
Abbreviated-time	100	n/a	\$1,980

##### **Exceptions to the Living Allowance Requirements**

**a. Programs existing prior to September 21, 1993** are not required to offer a living allowance. If an applicant chooses to offer a living allowance, it is exempt from the minimum requirement, but not the maximum requirement.

**b. EAP Grantees** are not required to provide a living allowance, but if a living allowance is provided, it must comply with the maximum requirements set forth in the Living Allowance Table above.

**c. Professional Corps Grantees** must provide members a living allowance or salary, which must meet the minimum, but may exceed the maximum living allowance set in the Living Allowance Table above. Professional Corps member salaries and benefits including childcare are paid

entirely by the organizations with which the members serve; and are not included in the budget request to AmeriCorps (Federal share).

**2. Maximum Cost per Member Service Year (MSY)**

The AmeriCorps cost per MSY is determined by dividing the AmeriCorps share of budgeted grant costs by the number of MSYs requested. It does not include childcare or the value of the education award a member may earn. The maximum amount an applicant may request from AmeriCorps per MSY is determined on an annual basis.

New and re-competing Commission subgrantees/applicants will be held to the maximum cost per MSY for their grant type.

**Table: Maximum Cost per MSY**

<b>Grant Program</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Individual Competitive State/Territory Program (cost reimbursement)	\$21,600
Multi-state competitive (cost reimbursement)	\$21,600
Professional Corps competitive Fixed Amount Applicants/Grantees	\$1,000*
Full-cost competitive Fixed Amount Grant	\$21,600
Education Award Program (EAP) Fixed Amount Grant (competitive and formula)	\$800 or \$1,000**
All non EAP formula grants***	\$28,800****

\*AmeriCorps requires **Professional Corps** programs to cover the operating expenses associated with the AmeriCorps program through non AmeriCorps resources. AmeriCorps will only consider operating funds of up to \$1,000 per MSY if an applicant is able to demonstrate significant organizational financial need.

\*\* Per 42 U.S.C. 12581a, the Corporation may provide the operational support under this section for a program in an amount that is not more than \$800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position, or not more than \$1,000 per such individual if at least 50 percent of the persons enrolled in the program are disadvantaged youth.

\*\*\* Except planning grants

\*\*\*\*\$18,000 adjusted for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to 1) treat an applicant that meets the statutory requirements of a Professional Corps as such, whether or not they submitted their application as a professional corps program; and 2) determine whether an applicant has demonstrated inability to effectively operate in the absence of AmeriCorps operating funds.

### **3. Segal AmeriCorps Education Award**

AmeriCorps members who successfully complete a term of service will be eligible for an Education Award from the National Service Trust. The amount of the Education Award is linked to the value of the Pell Grant. A member has up to seven years after his or her term of service to use the Education Award. AmeriCorps will provide the updated Education Award amounts at the time of grant award.

#### **D.6.b. Indirect Costs**

Application budgets may include indirect costs. Based on qualifying factors, applicants may either use a Federally-approved indirect cost rate, a 10 percent *de minimis* rate of modified total direct costs, or may claim certain costs directly, as outlined in 2 CFR 200.413. States, local governments, and Indian Tribes may use previously-approved indirect cost allocation plans. All methods must be applied consistently across all Federal awards. Applicants that have a Federal negotiated indirect cost rate or that will be using the 10 percent *de minimis* rate must enter that information in the Organization section in eGrants. However, under section 121(d) of the NCSA and AmeriCorps' regulations at 45 CFR 2521.95 and 2540.110, no more than five percent of award funds may be used to recover indirect costs on AmeriCorps State and National grants.

The instructions for how to enter the organization's indirect cost rate<sup>9</sup>. Applicants should not submit documentation addressing the indirect cost rate agreement via email.

Please note: To request a Federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, when AmeriCorps is the applicable cognizant agency for an organization's indirect costs, the applicant must submit a request to [IndirectCostRate@cns.gov](mailto:IndirectCostRate@cns.gov). The applicant may also obtain instructions and additional information by contacting the email address above.

#### **D.6.c. Pre-Award Costs**

Pre-award costs, where authorized, are allowed after receiving written approval from AmeriCorps.

### ***D.7. Other Submission Requirements***

#### **D.7.a. Electronic Application Submission in eGrants**

Applicants must submit applications electronically via [eGrants, AmeriCorps' web-based application system](#). AmeriCorps recommends that applicants create an eGrants account and begin the application at least three weeks before the deadline. Applicants should draft the application as a Word document, then copy and paste the text into the appropriate eGrants field no later than 10 days before the deadline.

The applicant's authorized representative must be the person who submits the application. The authorized representative must use their own eGrants account to sign and submit the application. A copy of the governing body's authorization for this official representative to sign must be on file in the applicant's office.

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<sup>9</sup>[https://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/eGrants%20Indirect%20Cost%20Rate%20Instructions%20FINAL\\_20210519%20Update.pdf](https://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/eGrants%20Indirect%20Cost%20Rate%20Instructions%20FINAL_20210519%20Update.pdf)

Applicants should contact the AmeriCorps Hotline at (800) 942-2677 or via [eGrants Questions](#) if they have a problem when they create an account, prepare, or submit the application. AmeriCorps Hotline hours are posted at <https://questions.americorps.gov/app/ask>.

Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the competition to which the organization is applying. If the issue cannot be resolved by the deadline, applicants must continue working with the AmeriCorps Hotline to submit via eGrants.

If circumstances make it impossible for an applicant to submit in eGrants, applicants may send a paper copy of the application via overnight carrier below. Applicants must include a written explanation and any other documentation or evidence that support their inability to submit their application electronically.

AmeriCorps  
ATTN: Office of Grant Administration (OGA)/FY 2022 ASN Application  
250 E Street, SW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20525

Please use a non-U.S. Postal Service carrier to avoid security-related delays. **All deadlines and requirements in this Notice also apply to paper applications. AmeriCorps does not accept applications submitted via fax or email.**

#### **D.7.b. Submission of Additional Documents**

Applicants are required to submit the additional documents below by the application submission deadline. All documents must be submitted by the Prime Grantee (State Service Commissions or National Directs). Prime sub applicants cannot submit documentation on behalf of the commission in the Notice.

All applicants

1. Evaluation briefs, reports, studies. Please refer to the *Evidence Base* section and Mandatory Supplemental Information for detailed instructions by evidence tier. If multiple evaluation briefs/reports/studies are submitted by the applicant, the most recent (as measured by the date of completion or publication) will be reviewed first, and any documents submitted beyond the allowable number will not be reviewed.
2. Diversity Questionnaire
3. Labor union concurrence (if applicable)

Recompete applicants who have previously received three or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed:

4. Evaluation plan. Please use the evaluation plan template available on the Notice webpage. Evaluation plans are not scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions are made.

Recompete applicants who have previously received six or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed:

5. Evaluation report. Please submit in Word. The evaluation report should include a title page with the AmeriCorps grant ID for the project that was evaluated, the name of the project, and the date of completion of the report. If any of this required information is missing, the applicant may not receive credit for meeting their evaluation requirements.

Rural Intermediaries (New and recompeting)

6. Letters of support from the consortium members

Entities applying on behalf of a Federally Recognized Tribe (New and recompeting)

7. Tribal organization eligibility documentation. (See *Section C.1. Eligible Applicants* section.)

New and Recompeting applications

8. All new and recompeting applicants regardless of funding level are required to submit an Operational and Financial Management Survey<sup>10</sup> (OFMS). Please submit the OFMS as a Word document. Forms submitted as a PDF or any other document format may not be accepted.

Additional documents must be emailed to [AdditionalDocuments@cns.gov](mailto:AdditionalDocuments@cns.gov) with the following subject line: “*Legal Applicant Name*” – “*Application ID Number*.” Emails should include:

- the legal applicant name and its point of contact information
- the application ID number
- a list of documents that are attached to the email by file name, labeling each document type according to the above numbered list
- individually attached files that are clearly labeled, and that include the legal applicant name and application ID number within the file name and heading of each document. To ensure that all required additional documents are considered, please provide each document as a separate single file, labeled appropriately. Please do not send multiple documents in one combined file, and do not send a single document in multiple files.
- If the size of an applicant’s files requires multiple emails, please also include an ordering system in the subject line, such as “(1 of 3).”
- Prime applicants should send separate emails with each subapplicant’s materials, referencing the subapplicant’s Application ID

Failure to submit the required additional documents, following the email instructions in this section, by the deadline and in the format requested above may have a negative effect on the assessment of your application and/or on the determination of the application’s eligibility to advance for review.

Please do not submit any items that are not requested in this Notice and Guidance. AmeriCorps will not review or return them.

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<sup>10</sup> [https://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/OFMS-Control-Number-3045\\_0102\\_FY20%20%282%29.docx](https://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/OFMS-Control-Number-3045_0102_FY20%20%282%29.docx)

### **D.7.c. Coordination among State Commissions and National Direct Applicants**

AmeriCorps expects Commissions and National Direct applicants to consult and coordinate activities at the local level, as specified in Section 131 of the NCSA (42 U.S.C. § 12583). This consultation is designed to ensure the most effective use of national service resources and lead to enhanced coordination. The list of Commissions can be found here:

<https://americorps.gov/contact/state-service-commissions>.

To ensure coordination:

National Direct applicants, except Federally-recognized Indian Tribes, must:

Before application submission:

- Consult with the Commission of each state and/or territory in which the organization plans to operate and describe this consultation in their applications. Contact the Commissions for details about the consultation process. Provide information that connects the proposed activities to the current State/Territory Service plan and/or State logic model.

After Award:

- Provide the Commission with contact information for National Direct programs in the state and/or territory and update the information on an annual basis.
- Participate in the Commissions' annual needs assessment and training plan development activities, and in the development of its state/territory service plan, as well as appropriate training and other events.
- Include the Commission on the National Direct's mailing/email distribution lists and invite it to appropriate training and other events.

State/Territory Commissions must:

Before application submission:

- Consult in a timely manner with the National Direct applicants, except Indian Tribes, that contact them prior to application submission.

After Award:

- Consider the schedules and needs of National Direct applicants, including Indian Tribes, operating in their states when planning annual events and technical assistance activities.
- Include National Direct programs, including Indian Tribes, in their annual needs assessment and training plan development activities, and in the development of their state/territory service plan.
- Add staff of multi-state programs in their state/territory to their mailing/email distribution lists and invite them to appropriate training and other events.

AmeriCorps will solicit Commission input on National Direct applicants, except Indian Tribes, proposing to operate in their state/territory. Via the AmeriCorps' web-based management system, Commissions have the opportunity to select "support," "do not support," or "neutral," and provide comments. Participation by Commissions in providing this input is strongly encouraged. AmeriCorps reviews and considers Commission input on multi-state applicants proposing to operate in their state.

## E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

### E.1. Review Criteria

Each applicant must describe a project that will deploy AmeriCorps members effectively to solve a significant community problem. AmeriCorps urges applicants to submit high quality applications that carefully follow the guidance in this *Notice* and in the Application Instructions. The quality of an application will be an important factor in determining whether an organization will receive funding.

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

#### E.1.a. Executive Summary (Required - 0 percent)

Please fill in the blanks of these sentences to complete the Executive Summary. Do not deviate from the template below.

The [Name of the organization] proposes to have [Number of] AmeriCorps members who will [service activities the members will be doing] in [the locations the AmeriCorps members will serve]. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for [anticipated outcome of project]. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage [number of leveraged volunteers, if applicable] who will be engaged in [what the leveraged volunteers will be doing.]

This program will focus on the AmeriCorps focus area(s) of [Focus Area(s)].\* The AmeriCorps investment of \$[amount of request] will be matched with \$[amount of projected match], \$[amount of local, state, and Federal funds] in public funding and \$[amount of non-governmental funds] in private funding.

\*If the program is not operating in an AmeriCorps focus area, omit this sentence.

Fixed-Amount grant applicants (EAP, Full-Cost Fixed, No Cost Slots) should list their Other Revenue (see Mandatory Supplemental Information) because they are not required to provide a specific amount of match, but still raise significant additional resources to operate the program.

### **E.1.b. Program Design (50 percent)**

Reviewers will consider the quality of the application's response to the criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value. Please ensure the Theory of Change and Logic Model incorporates the funding priorities listed above, for example supporting communities historically excluded and/or underserved from government services, addressing structural and institutional inequities, or increasing opportunity in order to achieve sustainable change in communities.

#### **1. Theory of Change and Logic Model (24 points)**

The Theory of Change shall address:

- The problem is prevalent and severe in communities where the program plans to serve and has been documented with relevant data.
- The proposed intervention is responsive to the identified community problem.
- The applicant's proposed intervention is clearly articulated including the design, dosage, target population, and roles of AmeriCorps members and (if applicable) leveraged volunteers.
- The applicant's intervention is likely to lead to the outcomes identified in the applicant's Theory of Change.
- The expected outcomes articulated in the application narrative and logic model represent meaningful progress in addressing the community problem identified by the applicant.
- The rationale for utilizing AmeriCorps members to deliver the intervention(s) is reasonable.
- The service role of AmeriCorps members will produce significant contributions to existing efforts to address the stated problem.

The Logic Model shall depict:

- A summary of the community problem, including the role current or historical inequities faced by underserved communities may play in contributing to the problem.
- The inputs or resources that are necessary to deliver the intervention, including but not limited to:
  - Locations or sites in which members will provide services
  - Number of AmeriCorps members who will deliver the intervention
- The core activities that define the intervention or program model that members will implement or deliver, including:
  - The duration of the intervention (e.g., the total number of weeks, sessions or months of the intervention)
  - The dosage of the intervention (e.g., the number of hours per session or sessions per week)
  - The target population for the intervention (e.g., disconnected youth, third graders at a certain reading proficiency level)
- The measurable outputs that result from delivering the intervention (i.e. number of beneficiaries served, types and number of activities conducted, equity gaps closed). If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as output indicators
- Outcomes that demonstrate changes in knowledge/skill, attitude, behavior, or condition that occur as a result of the intervention. If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as outcome indicators.

Note: The logic model is a visual representation of the applicant’s Theory of Change. Programs should include short, medium or long-term outcomes in the logic model. Applicants are not required to measure all components of their Theory of Change. The applicant’s performance measures should be consistent with the program’s Theory of Change and should represent significant program activities.

In the application narrative, applicants should discuss the community need as it relates to the CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>. Also in the application narrative, applicants should discuss their rationale for setting output and outcome targets for their performance measures.

Rationales and justifications should be informed by the organization’s performance data (e.g., program data observed over time that suggests targets are reasonable), relevant research (e.g. targets documented by organizations running similar programs with similar populations), or prior program evaluation findings.

Applicants with multiple interventions should complete one Logic Model chart which incorporates each intervention. Logic model content that exceeds three pages will not be reviewed.

## **2. Evidence Base (20 points)**

The assessment of an applicant’s evidence base has two parts. First, the applicant will be assigned to an evidence tier (see the Mandatory Supplemental Information.) Second, the quality of the applicant’s evidence and the degree to which it supports the proposed program design, including program aligned with the priority areas identified above, will be assessed and scored.

Evidence Tier (12 points):

An evidence tier will be assessed for each applicant for the purpose of understanding the relative strength of each applicant’s evidence base and the likelihood that the proposed intervention will lead to outcomes identified in the logic model.<sup>11</sup>

Applicants who have outcome or impact evaluation reports of the same intervention described in the application (see Mandatory Supplemental Intervention for a definition of “same intervention”) may submit up to 2 of those reports, plus (if applicable) the evaluation report from their last three-year grant cycle, to qualify for the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tier. In order to qualify for consideration, the intervention evaluated in the submitted report(s) must match the intervention proposed by the applicant in the following areas, all of which must be clearly described in the Program Design and Logic Model sections of the application:

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<sup>11</sup> In 2021, the evidence tiers of successful AmeriCorps State and National applicants that were competing were as follows: Strong 38%, Moderate 19%, Preliminary 16%, and Pre-Preliminary 26%. As these figures indicate, AmeriCorps values and funds programs at all points along the evidence continuum and expects programs to progress along the evidence continuum over time. Thus, do not be deterred from applying for funding due to your current evidence level.

- Characteristics of the beneficiary population, including evidence of current or historic inequities facing the population;
- Characteristics of the population delivering the intervention;
- Dosage (frequency and duration) and design of the intervention, including all key components and activities;
- The context in which the intervention is delivered; and
- Outcome of the intervention.

Submitted reports that do not sufficiently match the intervention proposed by the applicant in all of these areas will not be considered applicable and will not be reviewed or receive any points. Submission of additional documents that are not consistent with the guidance and requirements described in the *Notice* (e.g., advocacy pieces, policy briefs, other narratives that are not research studies or program evaluations) will not be reviewed.

In the Evidence Tier section of the application narrative, applicants must (1) summarize the study design and key findings of any outcome or impact evaluation report(s) submitted and (2) describe any other evidence that supports their program, including past performance measure data and/or other research studies that inform their program design. Applicants who submit evaluation reports for consideration must also describe in the Evidence Base section of the application narrative how the intervention described in the submitted reports is the same as the intervention described in the application (see Mandatory Supplemental Information). Applicants should provide citations for the studies they describe, if applicable; however, reviewers will not review any documents external to the application other than evaluation report(s) submitted in accordance with the *Notice* instructions.

Applicants must meet all requirements of an evidence tier in order to be considered for that tier.

If the evaluation reports submitted by the applicant do not meet the definitions in the Mandatory Supplemental Information, the applicant may be considered for a lower evidence tier.

#### Evidence Quality (8 points)

After the applicant's evidence tier has been assessed, the quality of the applicant's evidence and the extent to which it supports the proposed program design will be assessed and scored.

Applicants who are assessed as being in the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tiers, reviewers will score the submitted evaluation reports using the following standards:

- The submitted reports are of satisfactory methodological quality and rigor for the type of evaluation conducted (e.g., adequate sample size and statistical power, internal and/or external validity, appropriate use of control or comparison groups, etc.);
- The submitted reports describe evaluations that were conducted relatively recently, preferably within the last six years;
- The submitted reports show a meaningful and significant positive effect on program beneficiaries in at least one key outcome of interest.

Applicants that are assessed as being in the Pre-Preliminary evidence tier, reviewers will score the narrative provided in the Evidence Base section of the application using the following standards:

- The applicant uses relevant evidence, including past performance measure data and/or cited research studies, to inform their proposed program design;
- The described evidence is relatively recent, preferably from the last six years;
- The evidence described by the applicant indicates a meaningful positive effect on program beneficiaries in at least one key outcome of interest.<sup>12</sup>

### **3. Notice Priority (0 points)**

- The applicant proposed program fits within one or more of the AmeriCorps funding priorities as outlined in the *Funding Priorities* section and more fully described in the Mandatory Supplemental Information and the proposed program meets all of the requirements detailed in the *Funding Priorities* section and in the Mandatory Supplemental Information.

### **4. Member Experience (6 points)**

- AmeriCorps members as a result of their service will have opportunities to develop as leaders.
- AmeriCorps members will gain skills as a result of their training and service that can be utilized and will be valued by future employers after their service term is completed.
- The program has a well-defined plan to recruit AmeriCorps members from the geographic or demographic communities in which the programs operate.
- The applicant will foster an inclusive service culture where different backgrounds, talents, and capabilities are welcomed and leveraged for learning and effective service delivery.
- The applicant's organization and/or program has a diversity, equity, and inclusion council that seeks to diversity its staff and board and create a supportive and safe environment as well ensure that its programming is culturally and community appropriate.

#### **E.1.c. Organizational Capability (25 percent)**

Reviewers will consider the quality of the application's response to the following criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

##### **1. Organizational Background and Staffing (9 points)**

- The organization details the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the staff that will be implementing the AmeriCorps program as well as providing oversight and monitoring for the program.
- The organization has facilitated, partnered, or participated in educational or workforce development programs (i.e., pre-apprenticeship/registered apprenticeship, work experience and job training programs, etc.).

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<sup>12</sup> Applicants assessed in the Pre-Preliminary evidence tier that do not provide adequate responses to the Evidence Quality standards will not meet the threshold requirements for this *Notice* and will not be considered for funding.

- The organization has a stated commitment and plan to advance diversity, equality, and inclusion (DEI) throughout its mission, for example by using a DEI council or strategic plan.

## **2. Compliance and Accountability (8 points)**

- The organization has a monitoring and oversight plan to prevent and detect non-compliance and enforce compliance with AmeriCorps rules and regulations including those related to prohibited and unallowable activities and criminal history checks at the grantee, subgrantee (if applicable), and service site locations.
- The organization has sufficient policies, procedures, and controls in place to prevent, detect, and mitigate the risk of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, such as appropriate segregation of duties, internal oversight activities, measures to prevent timekeeping fraud, etc.
- The organization has an effective mechanism in place to report, without delay, any suspected criminal activity, waste, fraud, and/or abuse to both the AmeriCorps Office of Inspector General and AmeriCorps and a plan for training staff and participants on these reporting protocols.
- The AmeriCorps-required evaluation report meets AmeriCorps requirements (if applicable).
- The AmeriCorps-required evaluation report is of satisfactory quality (if applicable).

## **3. Culture that Values Learning (4 points)**

- The applicant's board, management, and staff collect and use information, including performance data, for learning and decision making.
- The applicant's board, management, and staff collect and use information to determine its programmatic effectiveness in serving in a community with members that are diverse.

## **4. Member Supervision (4 points)**

- AmeriCorps members will receive sufficient guidance and support from their supervisor to provide effective service.
- AmeriCorps supervisors will be adequately trained/prepared to follow AmeriCorps and program regulations, priorities, and expectations.

### **E.1.d. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 percent)**

Reviewers will assess the quality of the application's budget to the following criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

**These criteria will be assessed based on the budget submitted. Do not include narrative in the narrative box except for "See budget".**

#### **1. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 points)**

- Budget is submitted without mathematical errors.
- Proposed costs are allowable, reasonable, and allocable to the award.
- Budget is submitted with adequate information to assess how each line item is calculated.
- Budget complies with the budget instructions.

- Match is submitted with adequate information to support the amount written in the budget.
- The budgeted match is equal to or more than the required match for the given program year.
- The cost per MSY is equal to or less than the maximum cost per MSY.

Proposed budgets that contain MSY costs that exceed the maximum cost per MSY and/or less than required match will be considered unresponsive to the application criteria.

Applicants must complete the budget and ensure the following information is in the budget screens:

- Current indirect rate cost rate information if used to claim indirect/administrative costs.
- Identify the non-AmeriCorps funding and resources necessary to support the project, including Fixed Amount applicants.
- Indicate the amount of non-AmeriCorps resource commitments, type of commitments (in-kind and/or cash), the sources of these commitments, and if the commitments are proposed or secured.

**E.1.e. Evaluation Plan (Required for recompeting grantees - 0 percent)**

If the applicant has previously received three or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed (see the Mandatory Supplemental Information for the AmeriCorps definition of “same project”), the applicant must submit an evaluation plan as an attachment (see the *Submission of Additional Documents* section for more information). If the applicant has previously received six or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed, the applicant must submit both an evaluation plan and an evaluation report as attachments.

Applicants should use the evaluation plan template available on the *Notice* webpage to craft their evaluation plans. The template document provides detailed information about the AmeriCorps evaluation requirements (45 CFR 2522.700-710) and specifies the information that must be provided for the evaluation plan to be approved by AmeriCorps. The evaluation plan will not be scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions have been made.

All applicants should enter “N/A” in the “Evaluation Summary or Plan” field of the Narrative. Any other text entered in this field will not be reviewed.

**E.1.f. Amendment Justification (0 percent)**

Enter N/A. This field will be used if the applicant is awarded a grant and needs to amend it.

**E.1.g. Clarification Information (0 percent)**

Please make a heading entitled “FY 2022 Match replacement” and enter the dollar amount of match replacement your program would like to request. The amount cannot result in your program being above the maximum cost per MSY. Should your application go to clarification, this field will also be used to enter information that requires clarification in the post-review period.

### **E.1.h. Continuation Changes (0 percent)**

Enter N/A. This field will be used to enter changes in the application narratives in continuation requests.

### **E.2. Review and Selection Process**

AmeriCorps will engage External and Staff Reviewers with relevant knowledge and expertise to assess and provide input on the eligible applications. The review and selection process is intended to produce a diversified set of high-quality programs that represent the priorities and strategic considerations described in this Notice. The determinations made by AmeriCorps reviewers may be different than what the applicant self-determined upon submission of its application. The stages of the review and selection process follow:

#### **E.2.a. Initial Application Compliance and Eligibility Review**

AmeriCorps will conduct an initial Compliance and Eligibility Review to determine if an application meets the eligibility requirements published in this Notice and advances to the next stage of the review process.

An application is compliant if the applicant:

- is an eligible organization
- is eligible to submit directly to AmeriCorps
- submitted an application by the submission deadline

Reviewing for eligibility is intended to ensure that only those applications that are eligible for award are further reviewed. However, determinations of eligibility can take place at any point during the application review and selection process. Applicants that are determined to be ineligible will not receive an award.

#### **E.2.b. Application Review**

##### **External Review**

External Reviewers will review and assess the evidence criteria in the *Notice*. AmeriCorps will recruit and select reviewers on the basis of demonstrated expertise. All External Reviewers will be screened for conflicts of interest.

##### **Internal Review**

AmeriCorps staff will evaluate the applications using the application review criteria and assess the priorities and strategic considerations detailed in the *Notice*. Reviewers will be screened for conflicts of interest.

AmeriCorps will review and assess the input from the Commission about National Direct applications.

#### **E.2.c. Applicant Clarification**

AmeriCorps may ask an applicant for clarifying information. AmeriCorps staff will use this information to make funding recommendations. Not all applications are clarified. A request for clarification does not guarantee an award. Applicants may be recommended for funding even if they are not asked for clarifying information. An applicant's failure to respond to a request for

clarification adequately and in a timely manner may result in the removal of its application from consideration.

#### **E.2.d. Pre-Award Risk Assessment**

AmeriCorps staff will evaluate the risks to the program posed by each applicant to assess an applicant's ability to manage Federal funds. This evaluation is in addition to assessments of the applicant's eligibility and the quality of its application on the basis of the Selection Criteria. Results from this evaluation will inform funding decisions. If AmeriCorps determines that an award will be made to an applicant with assessed risks, special conditions that correspond to the degree of assessed risk may be applied to the award. Additionally, if AmeriCorps concludes that the reasons for applicants having poor risk assessment are not likely to be mitigated, those applications may not be selected for funding.

In evaluating risks, AmeriCorps may consider the following criteria:

##### Due Diligence:

- Federal debt delinquency
- suspension and debarment
- information available through OMB-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as:
  - Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)
  - U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services
  - System for Award Management (SAM)
  - "Do Not Pay"
- reports and findings from single audits performed under Uniform Administrative Guidance and findings of any other available audits or investigations
- IRS Tax Form 990
- Oversight.gov
- Public Litigation Records

##### Operational and Financial Management:

- financial stability
- Operational and Financial Management Survey <sup>13</sup>

##### Past Performance:

- applicant's record in managing previous AmeriCorps awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:
  - timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements
  - conformance to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards
  - applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients
  - meeting matching requirements

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.nationalservice.gov/resources/financial-management/financial-and-grants-management>

- the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards
- national service criminal history check compliance.

Other Programmatic Risks:

- publicly available information, including information from the applicant organization's website

Commission staff should review for the same types of risks for the applicants they submit.

Commission staff will assess their subgrantees' programmatic past performance using the italicized criteria above and submit those assessments to AmeriCorps.

**E.2.e. Consideration of Integrity and Performance System Information**

Prior to making any award that exceeds the \$250,000, AmeriCorps is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently FAPIIS) (See [41 U.S.C. 2313](#)). Additionally, AmeriCorps may expand upon these requirements and use its discretion to review and consider information about any applicant receiving an award, including those under \$250,000.

Any applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through FAPIIS and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through FAPIIS.

AmeriCorps may consider comments by any applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing its review of risk posed by the applicant under the Risk Assessment Evaluation section of this Notice.

**E.2.f. Selection for Funding**

The review and selection process are designed to:

- identify how well eligible applications are aligned with the application review criteria
- build a diversified portfolio based on the following strategic considerations:
  - AmeriCorps Funding Priorities (See Section A.2. *Funding Priorities*)
  - meaningful representation of
    - rural communities
    - innovative community strategies

Based on the evaluation of these strategic considerations, applications may be selected for funding over applications with a greater degree of alignment with the review criteria. In selecting applicants to receive awards under this Notice, the Chief Executive Officer will endeavor to include a diverse portfolio of applications based on staff recommendations and strategic considerations.

AmeriCorps will assess an applicant's strategic considerations. Applicants must check the relevant boxes in the Program Information tab in AmeriCorps' web-based management system in order to be considered for AmeriCorps' assessment of the strategic considerations (see *Selection for Funding* section.) Applicants should only check the boxes if the strategic consideration is a significant and intentional part of their program design and if implementation strategies are described in the application.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to prioritize funding existing awards over making new awards. AmeriCorps reserves the right to award applications in an amount other than at the requested level of funding and will document the rationale for doing so.

***AmeriCorps reserves the right to adjust or make changes to the review process, if unforeseen challenges or urgent circumstances make it impossible, impracticable, or inefficient to conduct the review process as planned. Any such adjustments or changes will not affect the selection criteria that will be used to assess applications.***

### ***E.3. Feedback to Applicants***

Applicants will receive feedback from the External Review and Staff Review of their compliant applications. This feedback will be based on the review of the original application and will not reflect information provided during clarification.

### ***E.4. Transparency in Grant-making***

AmeriCorps is committed to transparency in grant-making. The following information for new and re-competing applications will be published on <http://www.americorps.gov/partner/funding-opportunities/funded-grants> government within 90 business days after all grants are awarded:

- a list of all approved applications
- executive summaries of all approved applications
- data extracted from the SF-424 Face Sheet
- a blank template of the external review worksheet
- a list of all external reviewers who completed the review process

Information about funded grants and subgrants is also available in USASpending.gov.

Submitted program narratives and a summary of external reviewer comments for successful applications will be available upon request via email to OGAGarp@cns.gov.

## **F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

### ***F.1. Federal Award Notices***

AmeriCorps will make awards following the selection announcement. AmeriCorps anticipates announcing the results of this funding opportunity by mid May 2022 contingent on the availability of congressional appropriations. All applicants, successful or not, will be notified of funding decisions via email.

Notification of an award is not an authorization to begin activities. The Notice of Grant Award is the authorizing document. An awardee may not expend Federal funds until the start of the Period of Performance identified on the Notice of Grant Award unless it has received a written pre-award cost approval from AmeriCorps.

## ***F.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements***

### **F.2.a. Uniform Guidance**

All awards made under this Notice will be subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), in [2 CFR Parts 200](#) and [2205](#).

### **F.2.b. Requests for Monitoring or Payment Integrity Information**

AmeriCorps may request documentation from recipients in order to monitor the award or to comply with other legal requirements, such as the [Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019](#). Failure to make timely responses to these requests may result in award funds being placed on manual hold, reimbursement only status, or other remedies may be applied as appropriate.

### **F.2.c. AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions**

All awards made under this Notice will be subject to the FY 2022 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, and the FY 2022 Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for the particular program (when applicable). These Terms and Conditions contain detailed, mandatory compliance and reporting requirements. Current versions of the AmeriCorps General and Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for each of its programs is available at <https://americorps.gov/grantees-sponsors/directs-territories-tribes>.

### **F.2.d. National Service Criminal History Check Requirements**

The National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) is a specific screening procedure established by law to protect the beneficiaries of national service. We encourage grantees to minimize barriers to service without putting their program beneficiaries at genuine risk.

- In general, award recipients and subrecipients must conduct an NSCHC for AmeriCorps members, AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers, and staff funded under, or whose salary is reflected as match on, the award.
- AmeriCorps strongly encourages applicants to review the regulations and additional guidance to fully understand how to comply with the requirements.<sup>14</sup>
- AmeriCorps also strongly encourages funded applicants to utilize the two AmeriCorps-approved vendors to conduct the required NSCHCs.<sup>15</sup>
- Failure to conduct a compliant NSCHC may result in significant disallowed costs.
- The cost of conducting NSCHC is an allowable expense under the award and the individual subject to the NSCHC may not be required to cover the cost without being reimbursed.

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<sup>14</sup> NSCHC regulations and guidance: <https://americorps.gov/grantees-sponsors/history-check>

<sup>15</sup> Two pre-approved NSCHC vendors: <https://americorps.gov/grantees-sponsors/history-check>.

A NSCHC consists of a check of the:

1. National Sex Offender Public website through NSOPW.gov (nationwide check);
2. State criminal history record repository or agency-designated alternative for the individual's State of residence *and* State of service; and
3. Fingerprint-based check of the FBI criminal history record database through the State criminal history record repository or agency-approved vendor.

All checks must be conducted, reviewed, and an eligibility determination made before the individual begins work or service.

An individual is not eligible to serve or work in a position subject to the NSCHC requirements if:

- the individual refuses to consent to a criminal history check;
- makes a false statement in connection with a criminal history check;
- is registered, or is required to be registered, on a state sex offender registry or the National Sex Offender Registry; or
- has been convicted of murder.

See [45 CFR 2540.200– 2540.207](#) and [National Service Criminal History Check Resources](#) for complete information and FAQs.

### **F.2.e. Official Guidance**

All AmeriCorps active Guidance is available on the agency's Guidance webpage: <https://www.americorps.gov/about/agency-overview/official-guidance>. The contents of these documents do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way unless incorporated into a contract or grant agreement. These documents are intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

### **F.3. Use of Material**

To ensure that materials generated with AmeriCorps funding are available to the public and readily accessible to recipients and non-recipients, AmeriCorps reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to obtain, use, modify, reproduce, publish, or disseminate publications and materials produced under the award, including data, and to authorize others to do so ([2 CFR §200.315](#)).

### **F.4. Reporting**

Recipients are required to submit a variety of reports which are due at specific times during the life cycle of an award. All reports must be accurate, complete, and submitted on time.

Cost reimbursement grantees are required to provide annual progress reports, semi-annual financial reports, and an internal or external evaluation report as required by the AmeriCorps regulations 45 CFR 2522.500-2522.540 and 2522.700-2522.740. Final financial and progress reports are due 120 days after the end of the agreement.

Fixed Amount grantees are required to provide annual and final progress reports and an internal or external evaluation report.

All grantees, including Fixed Amount grantees, must submit quarterly financial reports to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Payment Management System.

In addition, at the end of the award period, recipients must submit final financial (cost reimbursement grantees only) and progress reports that are cumulative over the entire award period and consistent with the close-out requirements. The final reports are due 120 days after the end of the period of performance.

Award recipients will be required to report at <https://www.FSRS.gov> on all subawards over \$30,000, and may be required to report on executive compensation for the recipient organization and its subrecipients. Recipients must have the necessary systems in place to collect and report this information. See [2 CFR Part 170](#) for more information and to determine how these requirements apply.

Once the grant is awarded, recipients will be expected to have data collection and data management policies, processes, and practices that provide assurance that they are reporting high quality performance measure data. At a minimum, recipients should have policies, processes, and practices that address the following five aspects of data quality for themselves and for subrecipients (if applicable):

- the data measures what it intends to measure
- the data reported is complete
- the recipient collects data in a consistent manner
- the recipient takes steps to correct data errors
- the recipient actively reviews data for accuracy prior to submission.

Failure to submit accurate, complete, and timely required reports may affect the recipient's ability to secure future AmeriCorps funding.

#### ***F.5. Continuation Funding Information and Requirements***

Organizations that have current awards that continue beyond FY 2021 must submit an application in order to be eligible to receive funding for the following year. Please see the Application Instructions, if applicable. Requests by existing continuation applicants for increases in the level of funding or number of positions will be assessed using the review criteria published in this Notice. The review will also be based on progress reports, the federal financial report, evaluation plans, and CNCS staff's knowledge of the grant program. To be approved for continuation funding, recipients must demonstrate satisfactory performance with respect to key program goals and requirements, as well as compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to award applications in an amount less than the requested level of funding and will document the rationale for doing so.

## G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

For more information, call (202) 606-7508 or email [americorpsgrants@cns.gov](mailto:americorpsgrants@cns.gov). AmeriCorps also offers live text chat at [www.americorps.gov/contact](http://www.americorps.gov/contact).

For technical questions and problems with the eGrants system, call the AmeriCorps Hotline at (800) 942-2677. AmeriCorps Hotline hours are posted at <https://questions.americorps.gov/app/ask>. Potential applicants can also use this link: [eGrants Questions](#). Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the name of the Notice to which the organization is applying.

## H. OTHER INFORMATION

### *H.1. Technical Assistance*

AmeriCorps will host technical assistance calls to answer questions about the funding opportunity and eGrants. AmeriCorps strongly encourages all applicants to participate in these sessions. Call-in information for the technical assistance calls is on AmeriCorps' website: <http://www.americorps.gov/partner/funding-opportunities>

### *H.2. Re-Focusing of Funding*

AmeriCorps reserves the right to re-focus program dollars under this Notice in the event of disaster or other compelling needs.

## I. IMPORTANT NOTICES

**Public Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for collection of information under this Notice of Funding is estimated to average six hours per submission, including reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing the application and reporting forms. AmeriCorps informs people who may respond to this Notice of Funding that they are not required to respond unless the OMB control number and expiration date are current valid. (See [5 C.F.R. 1320.5\(b\)\(2\)\(i\)](#).) This collection is approved under OMB Control #: 3045-0047, Application Instructions, State and National Competitive, New and Continuation, Expiration Date: September 30, 2023.

**Privacy Act Statement:** The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C 552a) requires that we notify you that the information requested under this Notice of Funding is collected pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 12592 and 12615 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 as amended, and 42 U.S.C. 4953 of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 as amended. Purposes and Uses - The information requested is collected for the purposes of reviewing grant applications and granting funding requests. Routine uses may include disclosure of the information to Federal, state, or local agencies pursuant to lawfully authorized requests. In some programs, the information may also be provided to Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to determine the existence of any prior criminal convictions. The information may also be provided to appropriate Federal agencies and contractors that have a need to know the information for the purpose of assisting the government to respond to a suspected or confirmed breach of the

security or confidentiality or information maintained in this system of records, and the information disclosed is relevant and unnecessary for the assistance. Effects of Nondisclosure - The information requested is voluntary; however, to be a recipient of this grant program, disclosure of personal or sensitive information is required to receive Federal benefits.

## **Attachment A: Economic Mobility Corps**

### **About the CDFI Fund and CDFIs**

The mission of the U.S. Treasury Department’s Community Development Financial Institution Fund (CDFI Fund) is to expand economic opportunity for underserved people and communities by supporting the growth and capacity of a national network of community development lenders, investors, and financial service providers known as Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs).

CDFIs are community-based financial institutions that have a common goal of filling financing gaps in underserved, low-income areas. As community-based institutions, they possess a keen sensitivity to needs of local residents and businesses, and their creation reflects a bottom-up, rather than a top-down, approach to community investment and revitalization.

Currently, there are more than 1,100 CDFIs that are certified by the CDFI Fund serving urban and rural communities throughout the United States. CDFIs are found in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico. They bridge diverse public and private sector interests to serve people and places that traditional financial institutions usually do not. CDFIs provide:

- loans for businesses and projects that otherwise would not receive for financing;
- safe, affordable banking services that otherwise would not be available in the community;
- loan rates and terms that are more flexible than those offered by traditional lenders; and
- development services—such as business planning, credit counseling, and homebuyer education—to help their borrowers use credit effectively and build financial strength.

As a result, CDFIs support the creation of small businesses and local jobs, and the development of affordable housing, community facilities, and schools—all in places where economic opportunity is needed most.

### **About the Economic Mobility Corps**

A joint initiative of the CDFI Fund and AmeriCorps, 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.

This initiative will fund up to 61 full-time members a year for two years.

### **Who is Eligible for a EMC Award**

Organizations that meet the AmeriCorps State and National eligibility criteria.

Additionally, applicants that are Certified CDFIs and organizations with CDFI Fund awards will be considered ineligible for award if the applicant has:

- a previously executed award agreement(s), as of the date of the Application, (i) the CDFI Fund has determined that such entity is noncompliant or found in default with a previously executed agreement, and (ii) the CDFI Fund has provided written notification that such entity is ineligible to apply for or receive any future CDFI Fund awards or allocations. Such entities will be ineligible to apply for such time period as specified by the CDFI Fund in writing. Applicants that have pending noncompliance issues of any of its previously executed award agreement(s), are eligible to receive an award if the CDFI Fund has not yet made a final compliance determination.
- defaulted on a loan from the CDFI Fund within five years of the application deadline.

Preference will be given to applicants that intend to enroll veterans as AmeriCorps members and/or serve rural areas.

### **AmeriCorps Member Position Description**

Economic Mobility Corps members will strengthen the capacity of Certified CDFIs to provide financial literacy, financial counseling, and financial planning services offered by the Certified CDFIs, to distressed and underserved individuals. Duties include:

- conducting community outreach and recruitment of new clients to the Certified CDFI's counseling and planning services and programs;
- assisting or conducting one-on-one or group orientation sessions for new program clients to explain the Certified CDFI's services, as well as the responsibilities of the client;
- providing financial planning workshops and individual financial counseling to meet the needs of Certified CDFI clients, including conducting group education meetings, and delivering workshops, webinars and meetings;
- assisting in the development and execution of marketing strategies to promote program client participation in Certified CDFI-sponsored financial counseling and education programs;
- providing program clients with information on the different financial products and services (e.g., loan products, checking/savings accounts, etc.) offered by the Certified CDFI;
- conducting scheduled follow-ups with program clients to ask how they are doing, find out if they need additional help, and to help them stay engaged to achieve their plans by established deadlines;
- performing duties that support the Certified CDFI's activities, including but not limited to, coordinating client meetings, preparing presentations, conducting research, reviewing training and outreach materials, reviewing applications for programs and services, and developing material that supports the Certified CDFI's financial counseling and outreach activity; and
- reporting to the Certified CDFI on a regular basis on activities undertaken by the service member.

## **Desired Skills**

Economic Mobility Corps members should possess:

- a desire and ability to work with a diverse group of people, particularly those living in low-income and economically distressed neighborhoods;
- willingness to learn and serve others;
- ability to successfully work independently and in a team environment;
- strong organizational, writing, and oral communication skills, and possess high attention to detail;
- familiarity with community development, financial services, banking and lending terminology, including an understanding of financial planning basics, credit and credit scoring;
- have an interest in finance and/or financial education;
- computer skills, including high-degree of familiarity with Microsoft Excel, or other spreadsheet software; and
- Bachelor's degree preferred, with coursework in finance, accounting, business, or community development.

# **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

## **State and National Competitive New and Continuation**

**As applicable to the Notice of Funding Opportunity or Notice of Funding Availability**

**OMB Control #: 3045-0047**

**Expiration Date: 09/30/2023**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

These application instructions conform to the Corporation for National and Community Service's online grant application system, [eGrants](#). All funding announcements by the Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps) are posted on [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov) and [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

**Public Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 80 hours per submission, including reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing the form. Comments on the burden or content of this instrument may be sent to the Corporation for National and Community Service, Attn: Arminda Pappas, 250 E Street, SW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20525. AmeriCorps informs people who may respond to this collection of information that they are not required to respond to the collection of information unless the OMB control number and expiration date displayed on page one are current and valid. (See 5 CFR 1320.5(b)(2)(i).)

**Privacy Act Notice:** The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C § 552a) requires that the following notice be provided to you: The information requested on the AmeriCorps Application Instructions is collected pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 12581 - 12585 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 as amended, and 42 U.S.C. § 4953 of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 as amended. Purposes and Uses - The information requested is collected for the purposes of reviewing grant applications and granting funding requests. Routine Uses - Routine uses may include disclosure of the information to federal, state, or local agencies pursuant to lawfully authorized requests. In some programs, the information may also be provided to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to determine the existence of any prior criminal convictions. The information may also be provided to appropriate federal agencies and Department contractors that have a need to know the information for the purpose of assisting the Department's efforts to respond to a suspected or confirmed breach of the security or confidentiality or information maintained in this system of records, and the information disclosed is relevant and unnecessary for the assistance. Executive Summaries of all compliant applications received and applications of successful applicants will be published on the AmeriCorps website as part of ongoing efforts to increase transparency in grantmaking. This is described in more detail in the *Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity*. The information will not otherwise be disclosed to entities outside of AmeriCorps without prior written permission. Effects of Nondisclosure - The information requested is mandatory in order to receive benefits.

**Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act:** Grant recipients will be required to report at [www.FSRS.gov](http://www.FSRS.gov) on all subawards over \$25,000 and may be required to report on executive compensation for recipients and subrecipients. Recipients must have the necessary systems in place to collect and report this information. See 2 CFR Part 170 for more information and to determine how these requirements apply.

**Indirect Cost Rates:** AmeriCorps allows applicants to include indirect costs in application budgets. Based on qualifying factors, applicants have the option of using a federally approved indirect cost rate, a 10% *de minimis* rate of modified total direct costs, or may claim certain costs directly as outlined in 2 CFR § 200.413 Direct costs. Applicants who hold a federal negotiated indirect cost rate must use that rate in lieu of the AmeriCorps 5/10% allocation of administrative costs.

Applicants who hold a state or federal negotiated indirect cost rate or will be using the 10% *de minimis* rate must enter that information in the Organization section in eGrants (**See Attachment J**).

**Universal Identifier:** Applicants must include a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and/or a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) depending on which field(s) are required in eGrants at the time of submission. Applicants must obtain their UEI and register their entity through the System for Award Management (SAM.gov). All grant recipients are required to maintain a valid registration, which must be renewed annually.

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### ATTACHMENTS

*These attachments are worksheets only. All information must be entered in eGrants.*

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## APPLICATION RESOURCES

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Please use these application instructions if you are a new or re-competing applicant to AmeriCorps.

If you are submitting a request for continuation to AmeriCorps, please see the Continuation Instructions in this document.

Use these instructions in conjunction with the *Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity (Notice)*, and the AmeriCorps Regulations, 45 CFR §§ 2520–2550. **The Notice includes deadlines, eligibility requirements, submission requirements, maximum amount of funding per Member Service Year (MSY),<sup>1</sup> and other information that is specific to the grant competition.**

The AmeriCorps regulations include pertinent information (see Table 1, below). The *Notice* can be found on AmeriCorps’s website.

The full regulations are available online at:

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionCfr.action?collectionCode=CFR>

**Table 1: Requirements in the AmeriCorps Regulations**

Topics	Citation in the AmeriCorps Regulations
Member Service Activities	§2520.20 - §2520.55
Prohibited Activities	§2520.65
Tutoring Programs	§2522.900-2522.950
Matching Funds	§2521.35-2521.90
Member Benefits	§2522.240-2522.250
Calculating Cost Per Member Service Year (MSY)	§2522.485
Performance Measures	§2522.500-2522.650
Evaluation	§2522.500-2522.540 and §2522.700-2522.740
Selection Criteria and Selection Process	§2522.400-2522.475

If there is any inconsistency between the AmeriCorps Regulations, the *Notice*, and the Application Instructions, the order of precedence is as follows:

1. AmeriCorps Regulations 45 CFR §§ 2520–2550 take precedence over the
2. *Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity/Notice of Federal Funding Availability*, which takes precedence over the
3. Application Instructions.

### SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION IN EGRANTS

#### New and Re-competing Applicants

New applicants need to establish an eGrants account by accessing this link:

<https://egrants.cns.gov/espan/main/login.jsp> and selecting “Don’t have an eGrants account? Create an account.”

In eGrants, before Starting Section I you will need to:

- Start a new Grant Application
- Select a Program Area (AmeriCorps)
- Select a NOFA (see the *Notice* for a listing)

Your application consists of the following components. Make sure to complete each section.

#### I. Applicant Info

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<sup>1</sup> One MSY is equivalent to at least 1700 service hours, a full-time AmeriCorps position. The CNCS cost per MSY is determined by dividing the CNCS share of budgeted grant costs by the number of MSYs requested in the application. It does not include childcare or the cost of the education award.

- II. Application Info
- III. Narratives
- IV. Logic Model
- V. Performance Measures
- VI. Program Information
- VII. Documents
- VIII. Budget
- IX. Funding/Demographics
- X. Review
- XI. Authorize, and Submit

### I. Applicant Info

Information entered in the Applicant Info, Application Info, and Budget sections will populate the SF 424 Facesheet. **If you can only submit your application in hard copy, please follow the instructions in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.**

- If you are re-competing (in the final year of a competitive funding cycle and applying for a new grant cycle), select **Continuation/Renewal**
- If you are not a current grantee, but have received a competitive AmeriCorps grant in the past five years, select **Continuation/Renewal**
- If you are applying for the first time, have only received formula funding in the past, or are a former grantee (non-formula) whose last AmeriCorps grant was received more than five years ago, select **New**. (**Note: previous competitive funding history for the same project, even if more than five years ago, may still affect some application requirements; see the Notice of Funding Opportunity for more details**)
- If you are a current planning grantee applying for an implementation grant, select **New**

Enter or update the requested information in the fields that appear. The contact person needs to be the person who can answer questions about the application.

### II. Application Info

In the Application Info Section enter:

- Areas affected by your proposed program. Please include the two-letter abbreviation with both letters capitalized for each state where you plan to operate. Separate each two-letter state abbreviation with a comma. For city or county information, please follow each one with the two-letter capitalized state abbreviation.
- Requested project period start and end dates. The length of the project period is specified in the *Notice*.
- The Application is Subject to Review by State Executive Order 12372 Process: This is pre-filled as “No, this is not applicable.”
- Indicate Yes or No if you are delinquent on any federal debt. If yes, provide an explanation.
- State Application Identifier: Enter N/A.

### III. Narratives

The narrative section of the application is your opportunity to convince reviewers that your project meets the selection criteria as outlined in the *Notice*. Below are some general recommendations to help you present your project in a way the reviewers will find compelling and persuasive.

- **Lead from your program strengths and be explicit.** Do not make the mistake of trying to stretch your proposed program description to fit funding priorities and special considerations articulated in the regulations or the *Notice*.
- **Be clear and succinct.** Do not use jargon, boilerplate, rhetoric, or exaggeration. Describe clearly what you intend to do and how your project responds to the selection criteria.
- **Avoid circular reasoning.** The problem you describe should not be defined as the lack of the solution you are proposing.

- **Explain how.** Avoid simply stating that the criteria will be met. Explicitly describe how the proposed project will meet the criteria.
- **Don't make assumptions.** Even if you have received funding from AmeriCorps in the past, do not assume your reviewers know anything about you, your proposed program, your partners, or your beneficiaries. Avoid overuse of acronyms.
- **Use an impartial proofreader.** Before you submit your application, let someone who is completely unfamiliar with your project read and critique the project narrative.
- **Follow the instructions and discuss each criterion in the order they are presented in the instructions.** Use headings to differentiate narrative sections by criterion.

In eGrants, you will enter text for

- Executive Summary
- Rationale and Approach (Program Design)
- Organizational Capability
- Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

Note: The Narratives Section also includes fields for Evaluation Summary or Plan, Clarification Summary, Amendment Justification, and Continuation Changes. **Please enter N/A in these fields. The latter three fields will be used at a later date to enter information for clarification following review, to request amendments once a grant is awarded, and to enter changes in the narrative in continuation requests.**

Reviewers will assess your application against the selection criteria. To best respond to the criteria listed in the *Notice* and Application Instructions, we suggest that you include a brief discussion of each bullet if it pertains to your application.

#### **A. Executive Summary**

Please complete the executive summary per the instructions in the *Notice*.

#### **B. Selection Criteria**

Each application must clearly describe a project that will effectively deploy AmeriCorps members to solve a significant community problem. Specifics about the selection criteria are published in the Notice.

##### **1. Program Design (50 percent)**

In assessing Rationale and Approach/Program Design, reviewers will examine the degree to which the applicant demonstrates how AmeriCorps members and the proposed intervention are particularly well-suited to addressing the identified community problem.

##### **2. Organizational Capability (25 percent)**

Reviewers will assess the extent to which the applicant demonstrates organizational background and staffing and structures, including compliance and accountability, to support the proposed program.

##### **3. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 percent)**

In assessing Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy, reviewers will examine the degree to which the budget is cost effective and appropriate for the program being proposed. Enter N/A in the narrative as the assessment will be of the budget.

#### **C. Evaluation Summary or Plan**

Enter N/A. If you have previously received three or more years of competitive funding for the same project proposed in your application (see the Mandatory Supplemental Information for the AmeriCorps definition of “same project”), you must submit an evaluation plan as an attachment. Please use the evaluation plan template available on the Notice webpage.

#### **D. Amendment Justification**

Enter N/A. This field will be used if you are awarded a grant and need to amend it.

**E. Clarification Information**

Enter N/A. This field may be used to enter information that requires clarification in the post-review period. Please clearly label new information added during clarification with the date.

**F. Continuation Changes**

Enter N/A. This field will be used to enter changes in your narratives in your continuation requests.

**IV. Logic Model**

Complete the logic model using the instructions provided in the *Notice*.

To begin entering your logic model, from your eGrants application page select “Logic Model” in the left side navigation menu.

In the first blank row of the logic model, click “edit.” Clicking this link will open a pop-up screen with fields for each column of the logic model. Complete any fields that are applicable; there are no required fields in this screen. When you are finished, click “save and close.”

You may add an unlimited number of rows to the logic model by clicking “add a new row.” However, please be mindful of any page limits specified elsewhere in the Application Instructions or *Notice*.

You may edit or delete an existing row by clicking “edit” or “delete” in the last column of the logic model.

**V. Performance Measures**

All applicants must submit performance measures with their application. See Attachments for instructions for entering performance measures, and see the Performance Measure Instructions for details about the number and type of performance measures required.

**VI. Program Information**

In the Program Information Section, applicants must check the relevant boxes in order to be considered for AmeriCorps’ assessment of the strategic considerations and Special Initiatives. Applicants should only check the boxes for those characteristics that represent a significant part of the program.

**AmeriCorps Funding Priorities**

Check any priority area(s) that apply to the proposed program. Only select Priorities that represent a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes.

**Grant Characteristics**

Check any grant characteristics that are a significant part of the proposed program.

**VII. Documents**

In addition to the application submitted in eGrants, you are required to provide your evaluation, labor union concurrence (if necessary – see B., below), other required documents listed in the *Notice* (if applicable), and an explanation of federal debt delinquency (if applicable), as part of your application. After you have submitted the documents via the instructions in the *Notice*, change the status in eGrants from the default “Not Sent” to the applicable status “Sent,” “Not Applicable,” or “Already on File at AmeriCorps.”

**A. Evaluation**

Submit any completed report as described in F., below. Select Evaluation and select “Sent” once you have submitted a completed evaluation report. If an evaluation is required, you must submit a copy at the time of application even if AmeriCorps may already have it on file.

**B. Labor Union Concurrence**

- 1) If a program applicant—
  - a) Proposes to serve as the placement site for AmeriCorps members; and
  - b) Has employees engaged in the same or substantially similar work as that proposed to be carried out by AmeriCorps members; and
  - c) Those employees are represented by a local labor organization  
--then the application must include the written concurrence of the local labor organization representing those employees. Written concurrence can be in the form of a letter or e-mail from the local union leadership.
  
- 2) If a program applicant:
  - a) Proposes to place AmeriCorps members at sites where they will be engaged in the same or substantially similar work as employees represented by a local labor organization, then the applicant must submit a written description of how it will ensure that:
    - i) AmeriCorps members will not be placed in positions that were recently occupied by paid staff.
    - ii) No AmeriCorps member will be placed into a position for which a recently resigned or discharged employee has recall rights as a result of a collective bargaining agreement, from which a recently resigned or discharged employee was removed as a result of a reduction in force, or from which a recently resigned/discharged employee is on leave or strike.

For the purposes of this section, “program applicant” includes any applicant to AmeriCorps or a State Commission, as well as any entity applying for assistance or approved national service positions through an AmeriCorps grantee or subgrantee.

**C. Federally-approved Indirect Cost Agreement**

Applicants applying directly to AmeriCorps that include a federally approved indirect cost rate amount in their budget must enter the current approved indirect cost rate agreement information into eGrants at the same time they submit their application. See **Attachment J**.

**D. Other Documents**

Provide other required documents list in the *Notice* (if applicable) via the e-mail listed in the *Notice*, as part of your application.

**E. Delinquent on Federal Debt**

Any applicant who checks Yes to the question on federal debt delinquency must submit a complete explanation to [AdditionalDocuments@cns.gov](mailto:AdditionalDocuments@cns.gov) at the same time they submit their application.

**F. Submission Instructions for Evaluations, Labor Union Concurrence, Other Required Documents, and Explanation of Federal Debt Delinquency, as applicable.**

Please submit the required documents to the e-mail listed in the *Notice* using the naming convention and other instructions found there. This information must be received at AmeriCorps by the deadline in the *Notice*.

**VIII. Budget Instructions**

**For Fixed Amount grants, including EAPs: Use the Budget Instructions for Fixed Amount applicants (Attachment) and the Budget Worksheet (Attachment) to prepare your budget.**

**A. Match Requirements**

Program requirements, including requirements on match are located in the AmeriCorps Regulations and summarized below.

**Table 2: Match Requirements in the AmeriCorps Regulations**

<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>Match Requirement</b>
Cost Reimbursement including States and Territories without Commissions, Indian Tribes	Minimum grantee share is 24% of program costs for the first three years. Overall grantee share of total program costs increases gradually beginning in Year 4 to 50% by the tenth year of funding and any year thereafter.
EAP Fixed Amount Grants	There are no specific match requirements for fixed amount grants. Grantees pay all program costs over the cost in the <i>Notice</i> provided by AmeriCorps.
Professional Corps Fixed Amount Grants	There are no specific match requirements for fixed amount grants. Grantees pay all program costs over the cost in the <i>Notice</i> provided by AmeriCorps.
Stipended Fixed Amount Grants	There are no specific match requirements for full-cost fixed amount grants. Grantees pay all program costs over the maximum cost in the <i>Notice</i> provided by AmeriCorps.

- Grantees are required to meet an overall matching rate that increases over time. You have the flexibility to meet the overall match requirements in any of the three budget areas, as long as the minimum match of 24% for the first three years, and the increasing minimums in years thereafter, are maintained. See 45 CFR §§ 2521.35–2521.90 for the specific regulations.
- If you are applying for the first time, you must match with cash or in-kind contributions at least 24% of the project’s total Operating Costs (Section I) plus Member Costs (Section II) plus Administrative Costs (Section III). If you are re-competing, please see 45 CFR §§ 2521.40-2521.95 for the match schedule.
- The acceptable sources of matching funds are federal, state, local, and/or private sector funds in accordance with applicable AmeriCorps requirements.
- In the “Source of Funds” field that appears at the end of Budget Section III, enter a brief description of the match. Identify each match source separately. Identify if the match is secured or proposed. Include dollar amount, the match classification (cash or in-kind), and the source type (Private, State/Local, or Federal) for your **entire match**. (The total amount in the Source of Funds field should match the total amount in the budget narrative exactly.) Define all acronyms the first time they are used. See **Attachment G** for instructions for applying for the Alternative Match Schedule.

*Note:* AmeriCorps legislation permits the use of non-AmeriCorps federal funds as match for the grantee share of the budget. Please discuss your intention of using federal funds to match an AmeriCorps grant with the other agency prior to submitting your application. Section 121(e)(5) of the National Community Service Act requires that grantees who use other federal funds as match for an AmeriCorps grant report the amount and source of these funds to AmeriCorps. If you use other federal funds as match, you must ensure you can meet the requirements and purpose of both grants. Grantees who use federal funds as match will be required to report the sources and amounts on the Federal Financial Report (FFR).

**B. Preparing Your Budget**

Your proposed budget should be sufficient to allow you to perform the tasks described in your narrative. Reviewers will consider the information you provide in this section in their assessment of the Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy selection criterion.

Follow the detailed budget instructions in the Attachments to prepare your budget. We recommend that you prepare your budget in the same order as indicated in the Budget Worksheets in the Attachments.

As you enter your detailed budget information, eGrants will automatically populate a budget summary and budget narrative report. Prior to submission be sure to review the budget checklist (Attachment) to ensure your budget is compliant. In addition, eGrants will perform a limited compliance check to validate the budget. If eGrants finds any compliance issues you will receive a warning and/or error messages. You must resolve all errors before you can submit your budget.

As you prepare your budget:

- All the amounts you request must be defined for a particular purpose. Do not include miscellaneous, contingency, or other undefined budget amounts.
- Itemize each cost and present the basis for all calculations in the form of an equation.
- Do not include unallowable expenses, e.g., entertainment costs (which include food and beverage costs) unless they are justified as an essential component of an activity.
- Do not include fractional amounts (cents).
- **Please add the cost of the NSOPW, state check and/or FBI check for criminal history checks for each covered position in the budget. If funds are not budgeted, an explanation for how the costs will be covered must be noted in the budget.**

Programs must comply with all applicable federal laws, regulations, and the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Please refer to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR Part 200) for allowable, allocable, and reasonable cost information, as well as, audit requirements, including the need to provide audits to the Clearinghouse if expending over \$750,000 in federal funds. The OMB Uniform Guidance can be found on-line at [https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200\\_main\\_02.tpl](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl).

### **IX. Funding/Demographics**

In the Funding/Demographics Section enter the information requested which could include:

- Other Revenue funds. Enter the amount of funds that your program uses to run the program that are not identified on the application budget as CNCS share or grantee share (match). Note: Programs should not enter the total operating budget for their organization unless the entire operating budget supports the AmeriCorps program. Programs that have additional revenue sources not included in the matching funds section of the budget should provide the amount of this additional revenue that supports the program. This amount should not include the CNCS or grantee share amounts in the budget. Fixed amount grantees should enter all non-CNCS funds that support the program in this field. All fixed grants will have other revenue.
- Number of Volunteers Generated by AmeriCorps members. Please enter the number of volunteers participating in one day service projects or ongoing volunteer commitments that the proposed AmeriCorps members will generate.

### **X. Operating Sites (for multi-state applicants only)**

In the Multi-State Operating Section (For applicants that are operating in more than one state):

- Please fill in the following information for your operating sites: organization name, address, city, state, zip code + 0000 (eGrants will correct the last four digits to the correct numbers), proposed amount of funding going to the operating site, and number of proposed AmeriCorps members who will be located at the site.

### **XI. Review, Authorize, and Submit**

Applicants must submit common federal government-wide Representations and Certifications through SAM.gov. Entities creating new registrations in SAM.gov and existing entities completing their annual registration renewals in SAM.gov are required to review financial assistance representations and certifications before their registration can be activated. As entities renew and re-register their accounts, the data collected make SAM.gov the federal repository for the government-wide information.

eGrants requires that you review and verify your entire application before submitting, by completing the following sections in eGrants:

- Review
- Authorize
- Assurances
- Certifications
- Verify
- Submit

Read the Authorization, Assurances, and Certifications carefully (<https://espan.cns.gov/cnsmisc/ECERTS.HTM>, and <https://espan.cns.gov/cnsmisc/EASSUR.HTM>). The person who authorizes the application must be the applicant's Authorized Representative or his/her designee and must have an active eGrants account to sign these documents electronically. An Authorized Representative is the person in your organization authorized to accept and commit funds on behalf of the organization. A copy of the governing body's authorization for this official representative to sign must be on file in the applicant's office.

Be sure to check your entire application to ensure that there are no errors before submitting it. When you verify the application eGrants will also generate a list of errors if there are sections that need to be corrected prior to submission. If someone else is acting in the role of the applicant's Authorized Representative, that person must log into his/her eGrants account and proceed with Authorize and Submit. After signing off on the Authorization, Assurances, and Certifications, his/her name will override any previous signatory who may appear and show on the application as the Authorized Representative.

***Note: Anyone within your organization who will be entering information in the application at any point during application preparation and submission in the eGrants system must have their own eGrants account.*** Individuals may establish an eGrants account by accessing this link: <https://egrants.cns.gov/espan/main/login.jsp> and selecting "Don't have an eGrants account? Create an account."

## CONTINUATION REQUESTS

The following instructions for submitting a continuation request apply only to programs that are currently in their first or second year of operation within a grant cycle. If your program is currently in the final year of its grant cycle, you must apply using the application instructions for new and re-competing programs. In addition, if you are in year two or three of a cost reimbursement grant cycle, you need to submit a new application to participate as a fixed amount grant; you cannot continue your existing project period and switch from cost reimbursement to fixed amount. AmeriCorps reserves the right to consider your continuation request if your fixed amount application is not funded.

### When to Submit Your Continuation Request:

See the *Notice* for application deadlines.

### How to Submit Your Continuation Request:

- Click **Continuation/Renewal** on your eGrants home page. You will be shown a list of grants that are eligible to be continued. Select the grant you wish to continue. **Make sure you select the correct one. Do not start a new application.** The system will copy your most recently awarded application.
- Edit your continuation application as directed in the continuation request instructions below. When you have completed your work, click the **SUBMIT** button.

Be sure you also review the *Notice* when preparing your request. If you have questions about the content of your continuation request, please contact your Portfolio Manager.

### What to Include in Your Continuation Request:

#### I. Applicant Info and Application Info

Update the Applicant Info and Application Info Sections in eGrants if necessary. Note in the Continuation Changes field that you have updated the Applicant Info or Application Info Section(s).

#### II. Narrative (Narratives Section)

Your original application will appear in the Executive Summary and in the narrative sections Rationale and Approach/Program Design, Organizational Capability, Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy, Evaluation Summary or Plan, Amendment Justification, Clarification Information, and Continuation Changes, as appropriate. **Do not modify these original narrative fields.**

AmeriCorps expects that programs will maintain a consistent program design for the duration of the three-year project period; however, we recognize that, on occasion, some programmatic changes are necessary. As a result, continuation applicants may request the changes listed below during the continuation process.

Information should be provided in the **Continuation Changes** narrative field as relevant.

- Changes in Operating Sites
- Significant Changes in Program Scope or Design
- Changes to Performance Measures
- Significant Changes to Monitoring Structures or Staffing
- Budget revisions (detail provided in section VI).

The page limit for the Continuation Changes field is six pages, as the pages print out from eGrants.

**Any continuation applicant not requesting changes that fit within the above categories should enter “N/A” in Continuation Changes. AmeriCorps expects that most continuation applications will not be requesting changes.**

Evaluation plans are approved by AmeriCorps when applicants re-compete for funding. If you wish to make changes to your evaluation plan, do NOT change the text of the Evaluation Summary or Plan field in your application.

Instead, send a revised version of the evaluation plan (with the proposed changes in track-changes mode) as an attachment to [EvaluationPlans@cns.gov](mailto:EvaluationPlans@cns.gov). AmeriCorps will notify you if the changes are approved.

### **III. Logic Model**

Continuation applicants do not need to enter content into these fields.

### **IV. Performance Measures (Performance Measures Section)**

Your performance measures are copied from your previous year's application into your continuation request. If you made changes to your program, such as adding or changing grant-funded activities, or requesting additional slots or MSYs, you may need to revise your performance measures. Continuation applicants whose measures do not align with the current-year Performance Measure Instructions must also revise their measures to conform with the current instructions. To revise performance measures, "View/Edit" the performance measures that copy over from your original application, or add new performance measures (see Attachments). Note in the Continuation Changes field that you have updated your performance measures. If you are proposing to significantly increase or decrease output or outcome targets for existing performance measures, provide a justification for this change.

### **V. Program Information**

In the Program Information Section, review and make selections as appropriate. Applicants should only select priorities and characteristics that represent a significant part of the program.

#### **AmeriCorps Funding Priorities**

Check any priority area(s) that apply to the proposed program. Only select Priorities that represent a significant part of the program focus and intended and outcomes.

#### **Grant Characteristics**

Check any grant characteristics that are a significant part of the proposed program.

### **VI. Budget (Budget Section)**

Your budget from the previous year's application is copied into your continuation request so you can make the necessary adjustments. Revise your detailed budget for the upcoming year. Incorporate any required AmeriCorps increases, such as an increase to the member living allowance, into your budget. **Continuation applicants may apply for expansions – dollars, MSY, and/or members.**

#### **Source of Funds (Match)**

In the "Source of Funds" field that appears at the end of Budget Section III, enter a brief description of the match. Identify each match source separately. Identify if the match is secured or proposed. Include dollar amount, the match classification (cash or in-kind), and the source type (Private, State/Local, or Federal) for your **entire match**. (The total amount in the Source of Funds field should match the total amount in the budget narrative exactly.) Define all acronyms the first time they are used.

#### **Multi-Year Funded Grantees**

Multi-year funded grantees may request up to the dollar and MSY amounts they were granted for the continuation year for which they are applying. Multi-year funded grantees may not request funds or MSY in excess of the amounts they were awarded for each year (year two or year three) of their multi-year funded grants.

### **VII. Increasing Grantee Overall Share of Total Budgeted Costs**

Grantees are required to meet an overall matching rate that increases over time. You have the flexibility to meet the overall match requirements in any of the three budget areas, as long as the minimum match of 24% for the first three years, and the increasing minimums in years thereafter, are maintained. See 45 CFR §§ 2521.35–2521.90 for the specific regulations.

See Attachment G for instructions for applying for the Alternative Match Schedule.

In the Funding/Demographics Section enter the requested information:

- Other Revenue funds. Enter the amount of funds that your program uses to run the program that are not CNCS share or match.
- Number of Volunteers Generated by AmeriCorps members. Please enter the number of volunteers participating in one day service projects or ongoing volunteer commitments that the proposed AmeriCorps members will generate.

### **VIII. Operating Sites (for multi-state applicants only)**

In the Multi-State Operating Section (for applicants who are operating in more than one state):

- Make any changes to operating sites being requested as part of Continuation Changes.

### **IX. Review, Authorize, and Submit**

Applicants must submit common federal government-wide Representations and Certifications through SAM.gov. Entities creating new registrations in SAM.gov and existing entities completing their annual registration renewals in SAM.gov are required to review financial assistance representations and certifications before their registration can be activated. As entities renew and re-register their accounts, the data collected make SAM.gov the federal repository for the government-wide information.

eGrants requires that you review and verify your entire application before submitting, by completing the following sections in eGrants:

- Review
- Authorize
- Assurances
- Certifications
- Verify
- Submit

Read the Authorization, Assurances, and Certifications carefully (<https://espan.cns.gov/cnsmisc/ECERTS.HTM>, and <https://espan.cns.gov/cnsmisc/EASSUR.HTM>). The person who authorizes the application must be the applicant's Authorized Representative or his/her designee and must have an active eGrants account to sign these documents electronically. An Authorized Representative is the person in your organization authorized to accept and commit funds on behalf of the organization. A copy of the governing body's authorization for this official representative to sign must be on file in the applicant's office.

Be sure to check your entire application prior to submission to ensure that there are no errors. When you verify the application eGrants will also generate a list of errors if there are sections that need to be corrected prior to submission. If someone else is acting in the role of the applicant's Authorized Representative, that person must log into his/her eGrants account and proceed with Authorize and Submit. After signing off on the Authorization, Assurances, and Certifications, his/her name will override any previous signatory that may appear and show on the application as the Authorized Representative.

***Note: Anyone within your organization who will be entering information in the application at any point during application preparation and submission in the eGrants system must have their own eGrants account.*** Individuals may establish an eGrants account by accessing this link: <https://egrants.cns.gov/espan/main/login.jsp> and selecting "Don't have an eGrants account? Create an account."

## **ATTACHMENT A: Performance Measures Instructions**

### **(eGrants Performance Measures Section)**

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#### **eGrants Performance Measures Module Instructions**

##### **About the Performance Measures Module**

In the performance measures module, you will:

- Provide information about your program’s connection to AmeriCorps focus areas and objectives.
- Show MSY and member allocations.
- Create the required performance measure(s) as specified in the Performance Measure Instructions
- Set targets and describe data collection instruments and strategies for your performance measures.

##### **Home Page**

To start the module, click the “Begin” button on the Home Page.

As you proceed through the module, the Home Page will summarize your work and provide links to edit the parts of the module you have completed. You may also navigate sections of the module using the tab feature at the top of each page.

Once you have started the module, clicking “Continue Working” will return you to the tab you were on when you last closed the module.

To edit the interventions, objectives, MSYs, and member allocations for your application, click the “Edit Objectives/MSYs/Members” button.

After you have created at least one performance measure, the Home Page will display a chart summarizing your measures. To edit a performance measure, click the “Edit” button. To delete a measure, click “Delete.” To create a new performance measure, click the “Add New Performance Measure” button.

##### **Objectives Tab**

On the objectives tab, applicants will account for the full range of their program activity. Applicants are not expected to create performance measures for every focus area, objective, or intervention they select on this tab.

An expandable list of AmeriCorps focus areas appears on this tab. When you click on a focus area, a list of objectives appears. A list of common interventions appears under each objective

First click on a focus area. Then click on an objective. Only the performance measures that correspond to the objectives you select on this tab will be available for selection as you continue through this module. To see which performance measures correspond to which objective, refer to the Performance Measure Instructions.

Next, select all interventions that are part of your program design. Interventions are the activities that members and/or volunteers will carry out to address the problem(s) identified in the application. Select “other” if one of your program’s interventions does not appear on the list. Repeat these actions for each of your program’s focus areas. Select “other” for your focus area and/or objective if your program activities do not fall within one of the AmeriCorps focus areas or objectives.

Choose your program’s primary focus area from the drop-down list. Only the focus areas that correspond to the objectives you selected above appear in the list. Next, select the primary intervention within your primary focus area. You will be required to create an aligned performance measure (output paired with outcome) that contains your primary intervention. Note that your primary intervention, and the performance measure associated with your primary intervention, must be focused on the community impact of the program, not on AmeriCorps member development.

You may select a secondary focus area and a secondary intervention. The primary and secondary focus area may be the same if you have more than one intervention within the focus area.

### **MSYs/Members Tab**

On this tab, you will enter information about the allocation of MSYs and members across the focus areas and objectives you have selected. You must allocate 100% of your program's MSYs to focus areas and objectives. When you create your performance measures, you will be asked to allocate MSYs to each performance measure; however, you will not be required to assign 100% of your total MSYs to performance measures.

Begin by entering the total MSYs for your program. This must match the total MSYs in your budget. Please double-check your budget to make sure that the total MSY values match.

Next, enter the number of MSYs your program will allocate to each objective. Only the objectives that were selected on the previous tab appear in the MSY chart. If some of your program's objectives are not represented in the chart, return to the previous tab and select additional objectives. The MSY chart must show how all your program's resources are allocated. If the only activity in an objective that you have selected is focused on AmeriCorps member development rather than beneficiary impact, enter 0 MSYs for that objective.

As you enter MSYs into the MSY column of the chart, the corresponding percentage of MSYs will calculate automatically. When you have finished entering your MSYs, the total percentage of MSYs in the chart must be 100%. The total number of MSYs in the chart must equal the number of MSYs in your budget.

In the members column, enter the number of members who will be assigned to each objective. Some members may perform services across more than one objective. If this is the case, allocate these members to all applicable objectives. For example, if one member performs service in both school readiness and K-12 success, allocate one member to each of these objectives. It is acceptable for the total number of members in this table to exceed total slots requested in the application due to counting members' service across multiple objectives. If the only activity in an objective that you have selected is focused on AmeriCorps member development rather than beneficiary impact, enter 0 members for that objective.

To ensure that information is entered accurately, please refer to additional instructions in Appendix A of the Performance Measure Instructions on calculating and entering MSY and member allocations.

### **Performance Measure Tab**

This tab allows you to create performance measures for all the grant activities you intend to measure.

Begin by creating the aligned performance measure for your primary intervention. After creating your required performance measure, you will be able to create additional performance measures if desired.

To create a performance measure, begin by selecting an objective. The list of objectives includes those you selected on the objectives tab. Note that programs may not create performance measures for the Find Opportunity, Teacher Corps, Green Jobs, or Access & Attract objectives, since these are member-focused objectives. Member-focused outputs and outcomes related to these objectives may be reported as Performance Data Elements on grantee progress reports.

Provide a short, descriptive title for your performance measure.

Briefly describe the problem your program will address in this performance measure.

Select the intervention(s) to be delivered by members and/or member-supported volunteers. The list of interventions includes the ones you selected previously for this objective. Select only the interventions that will lead to the outputs (plus outcomes, if applicable) of the performance measure and that are applicable to all beneficiaries counted under the measure. If you selected "other" as an intervention and wish to include an applicant-determined intervention in your aligned performance measure, click "add user intervention" and enter a one or two word description of the intervention. Do not a user-defined intervention that duplicates an intervention already available in the system.

Select output(s) for your performance measure. The output list includes only the National Performance Measure outputs that correspond to the objectives you have selected. If you do not wish to select National Performance Measures, and if the objective you have selected permits applicant-determined outputs, you may create an applicant-determined output by clicking in the checkbox next to the empty output text box and entering the text of your output indicator. You may create additional applicant-determined outputs for the performance measure by clicking “Add User Output.” (Note: you are not permitted to create an applicant-determined output that duplicates a National Performance Measure output. If you do not see the National Performance Measure output that you wish to use, check the Selection Rules in the Performance Measure Instructions to make sure you selected the correct objective associated with that National Performance Measure output.)

Select outcome(s). If you have selected a National Performance Measures output that has corresponding National Performance Measures outcome(s), these outcomes will be available to select. If you do not wish to select a National Performance Measure outcome, you may create an applicant-determined outcome by clicking in the checkbox next to the empty outcome text box and entering the text of your outcome indicator. If you do not wish to select any outcome for your National Performance Measure output, click in the checkbox next to the empty outcome text box and enter “NA” in the outcome indicator text box.

If you have not selected a National Performance Measure output, or if there is no corresponding National Performance Measure outcome, create an applicant-determined outcome by clicking “Add User Outcome.” All applicant-determined outputs must be paired with an applicant-determined outcome.

Enter the number of MSYs and members your program will allocate to achieving the outcomes and/or outputs you have selected in this performance measure. Since programs are not required to measure all grant activities, the number you enter does not have to correspond to the MSY chart you created on the MSY/Members tab; however, the total number of MSYs across all performance measures within a single objective cannot exceed the total number of MSYs previously allocated to that objective. Members may be double-counted across performance measures, but MSYs may not.

Click “next” to proceed to the data collection tab. Later you can return to this tab to create additional performance measures.

### **Data Collection Tab**

On this tab, you will provide additional information about your interventions, instruments, and plan for data collection.

Describe the design and dosage (frequency, intensity, duration) of the interventions you have selected. Frequency refers to how often an intervention occurs (for example, number of sessions per week); intensity refers to the length of time devoted to the intervention (for example, number of minutes per session); and duration refers to the period of time over which the intervention occurs (for example, how many total weeks of sessions).

Expand each output and outcome and enter data collection information.

Select the data collection method you will use to measure the output or outcome. To select more than one method, click the “Add new method” button. To de-select a method, click the first (blank) line in the method drop-down.

Describe the specific instrument(s) you will use to measure the output or outcome. Include the title of the instrument(s), a brief description of what it measures and how it will be administered, and details about its reliability and validity if applicable. For outcomes, specify how much improvement in knowledge, attitude, behavior or condition is required to be counted as having improved and clearly explain how the instrument measures this.

Enter the target number for your output or outcome. Targets must be numbers, not percents.

For applicant-determined outputs and outcomes, enter the unit of measure for your target. The unit of measure should describe the beneficiary population you intend to count (children, miles, etc.). Do not enter percents or

member service hours as units of measure. In most cases, the unit of measure should be the same for the outputs and outcomes in an aligned performance measure.

For output-only performance measures, eGrants will require text in the outcome data collection fields. If you do not wish to have an outcome for your National Performance Measure output, enter the following:

- Method: Select “other.”
- Instrument Description: Enter “NA”
- Target: Enter “1”
- Unit of Measure: Enter “NA”

After entering data collection information for all outputs and outcomes, click “Mark Complete.” You will return to the Performance Measure tab. If you wish to create another performance measure, repeat the process. If you would like to continue to the next step of the module, click “Next.”

### **Summary Tab**

The summary tab shows all of the information you have entered in the module.

To print a summary of all performance measures, click “Print PDF for all Performance Measures.”

To print one performance measure, expand the measure and click “Print This Measure.”

Click “Edit Performance Measure” to return to the Performance Measure tab.

Click “Edit Data Collection” to return to the Data Collection tab.

“Click Validate Performance Measures” to validate this module prior to submitting your application. You should also use the Performance Measures Checklist in Appendix B of the Performance Measure Instructions to self-assess your measure(s) prior to submission.

## **ATTACHMENT B: Detailed Budget Instructions for Cost Reimbursement Grants (eGrants Budget Section)**

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Fixed Amount Grants refer to Attachment D.

### **Section I. Program Operating Costs**

Complete Section I, Program Operating Costs, of the Budget Worksheet by entering the “Total Amount,” “CNCS Share,” and “Grantee Share” for Parts A-I, for Year 1 of the grant, as follows:

#### **A. Personnel Expenses**

Under “Position/Title Description,” list each staff position separately and provide salary and percentage of effort as percentage of FTE devoted to this award. Each staff person’s role listed in the budget must be described in the application narrative and each staff person mentioned in the narrative must be listed in the budget as either CNCS or Grantee share. Because the purpose of this grant is to enable and stimulate volunteer community service, do not include the value of direct community service performed by volunteers. However, you may include the value of volunteer services contributed to the organization for organizational functions such as accounting, audit work, or training of staff and AmeriCorps members.

#### **B. Personnel Fringe Benefits**

Under “Purpose/Description,” identify the types of fringe benefits to be covered and the costs of benefit(s) for each staff position. Allowable fringe benefits typically include FICA, Worker’s Compensation, Retirement, SUTA, Health and Life Insurance, IRA, and 401K. You may provide a calculation for total benefits as a percentage of the salaries to which they apply or list each benefit as a separate item. If a fringe benefit amount is over 30%, please list covered items separately and justify the high cost. Holidays, leave, and other similar vacation benefits are not included in the fringe benefit rates, but are absorbed into the personnel expenses (salary) budget line item.

#### **C. 1. Staff Travel**

Describe the purpose for which program staff will travel. Provide a calculation that includes itemized costs for airfare, transportation, lodging, per diem, and other travel-related expenses multiplied by the number of trips/staff. Where applicable, identify the current standard reimbursement rate(s) of the organization for mileage, daily per diem, and similar supporting information. Reimbursement should not exceed the federal mileage rate unless a result of applicant policy and justified in the budget narrative. Only domestic travel is allowable.

**We expect all State Commissions and National Direct applicants to include funds in this line item for travel for staff and site staff to attend AmeriCorps-sponsored technical assistance meetings. There are two to three such opportunities per year.** Travel funds should be budgeted for at least one staff member, especially new staff, to attend the annual AmeriCorps Symposium as well as Symposium pre-conference events (if applicable).

Please itemize the costs. For example: Two staff members will attend the annual AmeriCorps Symposium in Washington, DC.

2 staff X \$750 airfare + \$50 ground transportation + (1 day) X \$400 lodging + \$35 per diem = \$2,470 for Annual AmeriCorps Symposium.

#### **C. 2. Member Travel**

Describe the purpose for which members will travel. Provide a calculation that includes itemized costs for airfare, transportation, lodging, per diem, and other related expenses for members to travel outside their service location or between sites. Costs associated with local travel, such as bus passes to local sites, mileage reimbursement for use of car, etc., should be included in this budget category. Where applicable, identify the current standard reimbursement rate(s) of the organization for mileage, daily per diem, and similar supporting information.

#### **D. Equipment**

Equipment is defined as tangible, non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year AND an acquisition cost of **\$5,000 or more per unit** (including accessories, attachments, and modifications). Any items that do not meet this definition should be entered in E. Supplies below. Purchases of equipment are limited to 10%

of the total CNCS funds requested. If applicable, show the unit cost and number of units you are requesting. Provide a brief justification for the purchase of the equipment under Item/Purpose.

### **E. Supplies**

AmeriCorps members must wear an AmeriCorps logo on a daily basis – preferably clothing with the AmeriCorps logo. The item with the AmeriCorps logo is a required budget expense. Please include the cost of the item with the AmeriCorps logo in your budget or explain how your program will be providing the item to AmeriCorps members without using grant funds. Grantees may add the AmeriCorps logo to their own local program uniform items using federal funds. Please note that your program will be using the AmeriCorps logo in the budget description.

Include the amount of funds to purchase consumable supplies and materials, including member service gear and equipment that does not fit the definition above. You must individually list any single item costing \$1,000 or more. Except for safety equipment, grantees may only charge the cost of member service gear to the federal share if it includes the AmeriCorps logo. All safety gear may be charged to the federal share, regardless of whether it includes the AmeriCorps logo. All other service gear must be purchased with non-CNCS funds.

### **F. Contractual and Consultant Services**

Include costs for consultants related to the project's operations, except training or evaluation consultants, who will be listed in Sections G. and H., below. There is not a maximum daily rate.

#### **G. 1. Staff Training**

Include the costs associated with training staff on project requirements and training to enhance the skills staff need for effective project implementation, i.e., project or financial management, team building, etc. If using a consultant(s) for training, indicate the estimated daily rate. There is not a maximum daily rate.

#### **G. 2. Member Training**

Include the costs associated with member training to support them in carrying out their service activities. You may also use this section to request funds to support training in Life after AmeriCorps. If using a consultant(s) for training, indicate the estimated daily rate. There is not a maximum daily rate.

### **H. Evaluation**

Include costs for project evaluation activities, including additional staff time or subcontracts, use of evaluation consultants, purchase of instrumentation, and other costs specifically for this activity not budgeted in Section A Personnel Expenses. This cost does not include the daily/weekly gathering of data to assess progress toward meeting performance measures, but is a larger assessment of the impact your project is having on the community, as well as an assessment of the overall systems and project design. Indicate daily rates of consultants, where applicable.

### **I. Other Program Operating Costs**

Allowable costs in this budget category should include when applicable:

- Criminal history background checks for all members and for all employees or other individuals who receive a salary, education award, living allowance, or stipend or similar payment from the grant (federal or non-federal share). Please include the cost of the NSOPW, state check and/or FBI check for criminal history checks for all covered positions. If funds are not budgeted, an explanation for how the costs will be covered must be noted in the budget.
- Office space rental for projects operating without an approved indirect cost rate agreement that covers office space. If space is budgeted and it is shared with other projects or activities, the costs must be equitably pro-rated and allocated between the activities or projects.
- Utilities, telephone, internet, postage, copying, and similar expenses that are specifically used for AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps project staff, and are not part of the organization's indirect cost allocation pool. If such expenses are budgeted and shared with other projects or activities, the costs must be equitably pro-rated and allocated between the activities or projects.
- Recognition costs for members. List each item and provide a justification in the budget narrative. Gifts and/or food in an entertainment/event setting are not allowable costs.

- **Multi-state applicants:** Indicate the number of subgrants and the average amount of subgrants. Indicate any match that you will require of your subgrants under the “grantee share” column in this category. Subgranted funds may only cover costs allowable under federal and AmeriCorps regulations and terms and conditions.

## **Section II. Member Costs**

Member Costs are identified as “Living Allowance” and “Member Support Costs.” Your required match can be federal, state, local, or private sector funds.

### **A. Living Allowance**

The narrative should clearly identify the number of members you are supporting by category (i.e., full-time, three-quarter-time, half-time, reduced-half-time, quarter-time, minimum-time) and the amount of living allowance they will receive, allocating appropriate portions between the AmeriCorps share (CNCS Share) and grantee share (match).

The minimum and maximum living allowance amounts are provided in the *Notice*.

In eGrants, enter the total number of members you are requesting in each category. Enter the average amount of the living allowance for each type of member. In addition, enter the number of members for whom you are not requesting funds for a living allowance, but for whom you are requesting education awards.

### **B. Member Support Costs**

Consistent with the laws of the states where your members serve, you must provide members with the benefits described below.

- **FICA.** Unless exempted by the IRS, all projects must pay FICA for any member receiving a living allowance, even when AmeriCorps does not supply the living allowance. If exempted, please note in the narrative. In the first column next to FICA, indicate the number of members who will receive FICA. Calculate the FICA at 7.65% of the total amount of the living allowance.
- **Health Care.** You must offer or make available health care benefits to full-time members in accordance with AmeriCorps requirements. Except as stated below, you may not pay health care benefits to less-than-full-time members with AmeriCorps funds. You may choose to provide health care benefits to less-than-full-time members from other sources (i.e., non-federal) but the cost cannot be included in the budget. Less-than-full-time members who are serving in a full-time capacity for a sustained period of time (such as a full-time summer project) are eligible for health care benefits. If you budget health insurance for less-than-full-time members serving in a full-time capacity, indicate in the budget narrative. In your budget narrative, indicate the number of members who will receive health care benefits. AmeriCorps will not pay for dependent coverage. If health care is not budgeted for all full-time members, please confirm all full-time members will have access to coverage.
- **Worker’s Compensation.** Some states require worker’s compensation for AmeriCorps members. You must check with State Departments of Labor or State Commissions where members serve to determine if you are required to pay worker’s compensation and if so at what level. If you are not required to pay worker’s compensation, you must obtain Occupational, Accidental, Death and Dismemberment coverage for members to cover in-service injury or accidents.
- **Unemployment Insurance and Other Member Support Costs.** Include any other required member support costs here. Some states require unemployment coverage for their AmeriCorps members. You may not charge the cost of unemployment insurance taxes to the grant unless mandated by state law. Programs are responsible for determining the requirements of state law by consulting State Commissions, legal counsel, or the applicable state agencies.

## **Section III. Administrative/Indirect Costs**

### **Definitions**

Administrative costs are general or centralized expenses of the overall administration of an organization that receives AmeriCorps funds and do not include particular project costs. These costs may include administrative staff

positions. For organizations that have an established indirect cost rate for federal awards, administrative costs mean those costs that are included in the organization's indirect cost rate agreement. Such costs are generally identified with the organization's overall operation and are further described in Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance.

**Options for Calculating Administrative/Indirect Costs (choose either A, B, OR C)**

Applicants choose one of three methods to calculate allowable administrative costs – a CNCS-fixed percentage rate method, a federally approved indirect cost rate method, or a *de minimis* method. Regardless of the option chosen, the CNCS share of administrative costs is limited to 5% of the total CNCS funds **actually expended** under this grant. Do not create additional lines in this category.

**A. CNCS-Fixed Percentage Method  
Five/Ten Percent Fixed Administrative Costs Option**

The CNCS-fixed percentage rate method allows you to charge administrative costs up to a cap without a federally approved indirect cost rate and without documentation supporting the allocation. If you choose the CNCS-fixed percentage rate method (Section IIIA in eGrants), you may charge, for administrative costs, a fixed 5% of the total of the CNCS funds expended. In order to charge this fixed 5%, the grantee match for administrative costs may not exceed 10% of all direct cost expenditures.

1. To determine the maximum CNCS share for Section III: Multiply the sum of the CNCS funding shares of Sections I and II by 0.0526. This is the maximum amount you can request as Corporation share. The factor 0.0526 is used to calculate the 5% maximum amount of federal funds that may be budgeted for administrative (indirect) costs, rather than 0.0500, as a way to mathematically compensate for determining Section III costs when the total budget (Sections I + II + III) is not yet established. Enter this amount as the CNCS share for Section III A.
2. To determine the Grantee share for Section III: Multiply the total (both CNCS and grantee share) of Sections I and II by 10% (0.10) and enter this amount as the grantee share for Section III A.
3. Enter the sum of the CNCS and grantee shares under Total Amount.

If a commission elects to retain a share of the 5% of federal funds available to programs for administrative costs up to 2%, that decision is identified within each subgrant's budget. A state commission can take up to 2% in administrative funds, provided the commission has less than 25% in prior year unexpended funds on the Commission Support Grant. If the commission's unexpended exceeds 25%, the commission can take up to 1% in administrative funds. If the commission elects to retain 1% of the administrative costs, to calculate these fractional shares, within Section III of the subgrant budget, **one-fifth (20%) of the federal dollars budgeted for administrative costs is allocated to the commission's share and four-fifths (80%) of the federal dollars budgeted for administrative costs are allocated to the program's share. The allocation between commission and program shares would be calculated as follows:**

$$([\text{Section I}] + [\text{Section II}] \times 0.0526) \times (0.20) = \text{Commission Share}$$

$$([\text{Section I}] + [\text{Section II}] \times 0.0526) \times (0.80) = \text{Subgrantee Share}$$

If a commission elects to retain a share that is less than 1% budgeted for administrative costs, adjust the calculation above, as appropriate.

If the commission elects to retain 2% of the administrative costs, to calculate these fractional shares, within Section III of the subgrant budget, **two-fifths (40%) of the federal dollars budgeted for administrative costs is allocated to the commission's share and three-fifths (60%) of the federal dollars budgeted for administrative costs are allocated to the program's share. The allocation between commission and program shares would be calculated as follows:**

$$([\text{Section I}] + [\text{Section II}] \times 0.0526) \times (0.40) = \text{Commission share}$$

$([\text{Section I}] + [\text{Section II}] \times 0.0526) \times (0.60) = \text{Subgrantee Share}$

**B. Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate**

If you have a federally approved indirect cost rate, this method must be used and the rate will constitute documentation of your administrative costs, not to exceed the 5% maximum federal share payable by AmeriCorps. Specify the Cost Type for which your organization has current documentation on file, i.e., Provisional, Predetermined, Fixed, or Final indirect cost rate. Supply your approved IDC rate (percentage) and the base upon which this rate is calculated (direct salaries, salaries and fringe benefits, etc.). AmeriCorps does not restrict the overall indirect cost rate claimed. It is at your discretion whether or not to claim your entire IDC rate to calculate administrative costs. If you choose to claim a lower rate, please include this rate in the Rate Claimed field.

1. Determine the base amount of direct costs to which you will apply the IDC rate, including both the CNCS and Grantee shares, as prescribed by your established rate agreement (i.e., based on salaries and benefits, total direct costs, or other). Then multiply the appropriate direct costs by the rate being claimed. This will determine the total amount of indirect costs allowable under the grant.

2. To determine the CNCS share: Multiply the sum of the CNCS funding share in Sections I and II by 0.0526. This is the maximum amount you can claim as the CNCS share of indirect costs.

If a commission elects to retain a share of the 5% of federal funds available, please note the percentage or amount in the text. There is no separate line item to show this calculation.

3. To determine the Grantee share: Subtract the amount calculated in step 2 (the CNCS share) from the amount calculated in step 1 (the Indirect Cost total). This is the amount the applicant can claim as grantee share for administrative costs.

**C. De Minimis Rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs**

Organizations who have **never**, at any point in time, held a federally negotiated indirect cost rate (except for those non-Federal entities described in Appendix VII to Part 200—States and Local Government and Indian Tribe Indirect Cost Proposals, paragraph (d)(1)(B)) and who receive less than \$35 million in direct federal funding, may indefinitely use a *de minimis* rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). Additional information regarding what is included in MTDC and use of this option can be found at 2 CFR 200.414(f) and 200.68. If this option is elected, it must be used consistently across all federal awards.

**Source of Funds**

In the “Source of Funds” field that appears at the end of Budget Section III, enter a brief description of the match. Identify each match source separately. Identify if the match is secured or proposed. Include dollar amount, the match classification (cash or in-kind), and the source type (Private, State/Local, or Federal) for your **entire match**. (The total amount in the Source of Funds field should match the total amount in the budget narrative exactly.) Define all acronyms the first time they are used. The total amount of Source of Match should equal the Grantee Share amount.

**Note:** the value of the Segal Education Awards that members earn for their service is not identified in the budget. Also, the childcare reimbursements provided to eligible members is not included in the budget.

**ATTACHMENT C: Budget Worksheet (eGrants Budget Section)**

**Section I. Program Operating Costs**

**A. Personnel Expenses**

Position/Title/Description	Qty	Annual Salary	% Time	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share
Totals						

**B. Personnel Fringe Benefits**

Purpose/Description	Calculation	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share
Totals				

**C.1. Staff Travel**

Purpose	Calculation	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share
Totals				

**C.2. Member Travel**

Purpose	Calculation	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share
Totals				

**D. Equipment**

Item/ Purpose/Justification	Qty	Unit Cost	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share
Totals					

**E. Supplies**

Purpose	Calculation	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share
Totals				

**F. Contractual and Consultant Services**

Purpose	Calculation	Daily Rate	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share
Totals					

**G.1. Staff Training**

Purpose	Calculation	Daily Rate	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share
Totals					

**G.2. Member Training**

Purpose	Calculation	Daily Rate	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share
Totals					

**H. Evaluation**

Purpose	Calculation	Daily Rate	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share
Totals					

**I. Other Program Operating Costs**

Purpose	Calculation	Daily Rate	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share
Totals					

Subtotal Section I:	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share

**Section II. Member Costs**

**A. Living Allowance**

Item	# Mbrs	Allowance Rate	# w/o Allowance	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share
Full-time (1700 hrs)						
Three quarter-time (1200 hrs)						
Half-time (900 hrs)						
Reduced Half-time (675 hrs)						
Quarter-time (450 hrs)						
Minimum-time (300 hrs)						
Abbreviated-time (100 hrs)						
Totals						

**B. Member Support Costs**

Purpose	Calculation	Daily Rate	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share
Totals					

Subtotal Section II:	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share
Subtotal Sections I + II:			

**Section III. Administrative/Indirect Costs**

**A. Corporation Fixed Percentage**

Purpose	Calculation	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share
Totals				

**B. Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate Or *De Minimis* Rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct**

**Costs**

Cost Type	Cost Basis	Calculation	Rate	Rate Claimed	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share

Total Sections I + II + III:	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share

Budget Total: Validate this budget Required Match Percentages:	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share

**Source of Funds**

Match Description (Note whether Secured or Proposed)	Amount	Match Classification (Cash or In Kind)	Match Source (Federal, State/Local, Private)

**ATTACHMENT D: Detailed Budget Instructions for Fixed Amount Grants (eGrants Budget Section)** *These instructions apply only to applicants for fixed amount grants, including education award programs (EAPs). Do not use if you are a Professional Corps applicant.*

EAP and Fixed Amount grant applicants may only request a fixed amount of funding per MSY. Therefore, Fixed Amount applicants are not required to complete a detailed budget or complete the grantee share column. However, you must complete the source of match chart to identify the sources of the additional revenue you need to operate the program. If you are applying for a full-cost fixed amount grant, you must pay at least the minimum living allowance listed in the *Notice* for each type of position you are proposing.

**Budget Section II. AmeriCorps Member Positions**  
**Member Positions**

Identify the number of members you are requesting by category (i.e. full-time, three quarter-time, half-time, reduced half-time, quarter-time, minimum-time) and list under the column labeled **#Mbrs w/o Allow** (without AmeriCorps-funded living allowance.) In the **Allowance Rate** field, enter the average amount of the living allowance for each type of member. Enter zero in the column labeled **#Mbrs w/ Allow**. **Leave all other columns blank**. See example below (applies to a Full-Cost Fixed Amount grant):

Member Positions ?						
Item	# Mbrs w/ Allow	Allowance Rate	# Mbrs w/o Allow	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share
Full Time (1700 hrs)	0	\$16,502	5	\$0	\$0	\$0
Three Quarter Time (1200 hours)	0	\$14,000	7	\$0	\$0	\$0

The total number of member service years (MSY) will **automatically calculate** at the bottom of the Member Positions chart. The MSY are calculated as follows:

**B. Fixed Award** Display your calculation in the following format:

Member Positions	Calculation	MSY
_____ Full-time (1700 hours)	(_____ members x 1.000)	= _____
_____ Three quarter-time (1200 hours)	(_____ members x 0.70000000)	= _____
_____ Half-time (900 hours)	(_____ members x 0.500)	= _____
_____ Reduced half-time (675 hours)	(_____ members x 0.3809524)	= _____
_____ Quarter-time (450 hours)	(_____ members x 0.26455027)	= _____
_____ Minimum-time (300 hours)	(_____ members x 0.21164022)	= _____
_____ Abbreviated-time (100 hours)	(_____ members x 0.07054674)	= _____
	<b>Total MSY</b>	_____

Total # of MSYs \_\_\_\_\_ x MSY amount (See *Notice* for amounts) \_\_\_\_\_ = Total Grant Request \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Type the total amount requested in the “Total Amount” and “CNCS Share” columns. Leave the “Grantee Share” blank. See example below (applies to a Full-Cost Fixed Amount grant):

Purpose	Calculation	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share		
Program Grant Request	47.5 MSY	\$451,250	\$451,250	\$0		
	X \$9,500/MSY					
Subtotal		\$451,250	\$451,250	\$0		

**Source of Funds**

Match Description	Description

**ATTACHMENT E: Budget Worksheet for Fixed Amount Grants (eGrants Budget Section)**

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Complete the fields for the # w/o Allowance and Allowance Rate only.

**Member Positions**

Item	# Mbrs	Allowance Rate	# w/o Allow	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share		
Full-time (1700 hrs)								
Three quarter-time (1200 hrs)								
Half-time (900 hrs)								
Reduced Half-time (675 hrs)								
Quarter-time (450 hrs)								
Minimum-time (300 hrs)								
Abbreviated-time (100 hrs)								
<b>Subtotal</b>							<b>MSY</b>	<b>Cost/MSY</b>

Purpose	Calculation	Total Amount	CNCS Share	Grantee Share
Program Grant Request				
<b>Subtotal</b>				

**Source of Funds**

Match	Description

## ATTACHMENT F: Budget Checklist

Below is a checklist to help you make certain that you submit an accurate budget narrative that meets AmeriCorps requirements. **Note:** This checklist does not apply to fixed amount grants.

In Compliance?	Section I. Program Operating Costs
Yes ___ No ___	Costs charged under the Personnel line item directly relate to the operation of the AmeriCorps project? Examples include costs for staff who recruit, train, place, or supervise members as well as manage the project.
Yes ___ No ___	Staff indirectly involved in the management or operation of the applicant organization are funded through the administrative cost section (Section III) of the budget? Examples of administrative costs include central management and support functions.
Yes ___ No ___	Staff fundraising expenses are not charged to the grant? You may not charge AmeriCorps staff members' time and related expenses for fundraising to the federal or grantee share of the grant. Expenses incurred to raise funds must be paid out of the funds raised. Development officers and fundraising staff are not allowable expenses.
Yes ___ No ___	The types of fringe benefits to be covered and the costs of benefit(s) for each staff position are described? Allowable fringe benefits typically include FICA, Worker's Compensation, Retirement, SUTA, Health and Life Insurance, IRA, and 401K. You may provide a calculation for total benefits as a percentage of the salaries to which they apply or list each benefit as a separate item. If the fringe amount is over 30%, the benefits are listed separately?
Yes ___ No ___	Holidays, leave, and other similar vacation benefits are not included in the fringe benefit rates but are absorbed into the personnel expenses (salary) budget line item?
Yes ___ No ___	The purpose for all staff and member travel is clearly identified?
Yes ___ No ___	You have budgeted funds for State Commission and National Direct staff travel to AmeriCorps - sponsored meetings in the budget narrative under Staff Travel?
Yes ___ No ___	Funds for the purchase of equipment (does not include general use office equipment) are limited to 10% of the total grant amount?
Yes ___ No ___	All single equipment items over \$5000 per unit are specifically listed?
Yes ___ No ___	Justification/explanation of equipment items is included in the budget narrative?
Yes ___ No ___	All single supply items over \$1000 per unit are specifically listed and explained in the budget narrative?
Yes ___ No ___	Cost of items with the AmeriCorps logo that will be worn daily is included for all AmeriCorps members? Or if not, there is an explanation of how the program will be providing the AmeriCorps logo item to AmeriCorps members using funds other than AmeriCorps grant funds?
Yes ___ No ___	You only charged to the federal share of the budget member service gear that includes the AmeriCorps logo and noted that the gear will have the AmeriCorps logo, with the exception of safety equipment?
Yes ___ No ___	Does the budget reflect adequate budgeted costs for project evaluation?
Yes ___ No ___	Have you budgeted the cost of the NSOPW, FBI, and state check in the CNCS share for criminal history checks of each member and grant-funded staff that are in covered positions per 45 CFR 2522.205? If not, have you provided an explanation of how the costs will be covered?
Yes ___ No ___	Are all items in the budget narrative itemized and the purpose of the funds justified?

<b>In Compliance?</b>	<b>Section II. Member Costs</b>
Yes ___ No ___	Are the living allowance amounts correct? Full-time AmeriCorps members must receive at least the minimum living allowance. Note: Programs in existence prior to September 21, 1993 may offer a lower living allowance than the minimum. If such a program chooses to offer a living allowance, it is exempt from the minimum requirement, but not from the maximum requirement.
Yes ___ No ___	Living allowances are not paid on an hourly basis? They may be calculated using service hours and program length to derive a weekly or biweekly distribution amount. Divide the distribution in equal increments that are not based on the specified number of hours served.
Yes ___ No ___	Is FICA calculated correctly? You must pay FICA for any member receiving a living allowance. Unless exempted by the IRS, calculate FICA at 7.65% of the total amount of the living allowance. If exempted from paying FICA, is the exemption noted in the budget narrative?
Yes ___ No ___	Is the Worker's Compensation calculation correct? Some states require worker's compensation for AmeriCorps members. Check with your local State Department of Labor or State Commission to determine whether or not you are required to pay worker's compensation and at what level (i.e., rate). If you are not required to pay worker's compensation, you will provide similar coverage for members' on-the-job injuries through their own existing coverage or a new policy purchased in accordance with normal procedures (i.e., death and dismemberment coverage).
Yes ___ No ___	Health care is provided for full-time AmeriCorps members only (unless part-time serving in a full-time capacity)? If your project chooses to provide health care to other part-time members, you may not use federal funds to help pay for any portion of the cost. Projects must provide health care coverage to all full-time members who do not have adequate health care coverage at the time of enrollment or who lose coverage due to participation in the project. In addition, projects must provide coverage if a full-time member loses coverage during the term of service through no deliberate act of his/her own.
Yes ___ No ___	Unemployment insurance is only budgeted if state law requires it?

<b>In Compliance?</b>	<b>Section III. Administrative/Indirect Costs</b>
Yes ___ No ___	Applicant does not have a current federally approved indirect cost rate and has chosen to use the CNCS-fixed percentage method and the maximum federal share of administrative costs does not exceed 5% of the total federal funds budgeted? To determine the federal administrative share, multiply all other budgeted federal funds by .0526.
Yes ___ No ___	Applicant has chosen to use CNCS fixed percentage method and the maximum grantee share is at 10% or less of total budgeted funds?
Yes ___ No ___	Applicant has a current approved indirect cost rate – The maximum grantee share does not exceed the federally approved rate, less the 5% CNCS share?
Yes ___ No ___	Applicant has a current approved indirect cost rate-the type of rate, the IDC rate percentage, the rate claimed and the base to which the rate is applied has been specified?
Yes ___ No ___	Applicant is directly applying to CNCS and the approved indirect cost rate information has been entered into eGrants to support the costs budgeted?
Yes ___ No ___	Applicant has never had a federally approved indirect cost rate and is choosing to use a <i>de minimis</i> rate of 10% of modified total direct costs?

<b>In Compliance?</b>	<b>Match</b>
Yes ___ No ___	Is the overall match being met at the required level, based on the year of funding?
Yes ___ No ___	For all matching funds, proposed vs secured, the source(s) [private, state, local, and/or federal], the type of contribution (cash or in-kind), and the amount of match, are clearly identified in the narrative and in the Source of Funds field in eGrants?
Yes ___ No ___	The amount of match is for the entire amount in the budget narrative? (The total amount of match equals the amount in the budget exactly?)

## **ATTACHMENT G: Alternative Match Instructions**

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Grantees are required to meet an overall matching rate that increases over time. You have the flexibility to meet the overall match requirements in any of the three budget areas, as long as the minimum match of 24% for the first three years, and the increasing minimums in years thereafter, are maintained. See 45 CFR §§ 2521.35–2521.90 for the specific regulations.

**Special Circumstances for an Alternative Match Schedule:** Under certain circumstances, applicants may qualify to meet alternative matching requirements that increase over the years to 35% instead of 50% as specified in the regulations at §2521.60(b). To qualify, you must demonstrate that your program is either located in a rural county or in a severely economically distressed community as defined below.

**A. Rural County:** In determining whether a program is rural, AmeriCorps will consider the most recent Beale code rating published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the county in which the program is located. Any program located in a county with a Beale code of 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9 is eligible to apply for the alternative match requirement. See Attachment H for the Table of Beale codes.

**B. Severely Economically Distressed County:** In determining whether a program is located in a severely economically distressed county, AmeriCorps will consider the following list of county-level characteristics. See Attachment H for a list of website addresses where this publicly available information can be found.

- The county-level per capita income is less than or equal to 75 percent of the national average for all counties using the most recent census data or Bureau of Economic Analysis data;
- The county-level poverty rate is equal to or greater than 125 percent of the national average for all counties using the most recent census data; and
- The county-level unemployment is above the national average for all counties for the previous 12 months using the most recently available Bureau of Labor Statistics data.
- The areas served by the program lack basic infrastructure such as water or electricity.

**C. Program Location:** Except when approved otherwise, AmeriCorps will determine the location of your program based on the legal applicant's address. If you believe the legal applicant's address is not the appropriate way to consider the location of your program, you must provide relevant facts about your program location in your request. AmeriCorps will, in its sole discretion, determine whether some other address is more appropriate for determining a program's location.

If your program is located in one of these areas, see the instructions below for applying for this alternative match schedule. You must submit your request to the alternative schedule per the information contained in the *Notice*. AmeriCorps will review your request and notify you within 30 days if you qualify for the alternative schedule and provide instructions for entering your budget into eGrants under the Alternative Match Schedule.

If approved for the alternative schedules, programs will base their budget in the upcoming application on the approved alternative match. The alternative match requirement will be in effect for whatever portion of the three-year project period remains or if applying as a new grantee, for the upcoming three-year grant cycle.

**D. Instructions for the Alternative Match Schedule:** Programs operating in one state must send their requests to the State Commission for review and approval. The Commission will then forward the approved request to AmeriCorps for consideration.

## ATTACHMENT H: Beale Codes and County-Level Economic Data for Alternative Match Requests

### Rural Community

**Beale codes** are published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and are used to classify counties as being more urban or more rural. Counties are designated on a scale from one to nine according to the following descriptions:

2003 Beale Codes		
Code#	Metropolitan Type	Description
1	Metropolitan	Counties in metro areas of 1 million population or more
2	Metropolitan	Counties in metro areas of 250,000 to 1 million
3	Metropolitan	Counties in metro areas of fewer than 250,000
4	Non-metro	Urban population of 20,000 or more, adjacent to a metropolitan area
5	Non-metro	Urban population of 20,000 or more, not adjacent to a metropolitan area
6	Non-metro	Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, adjacent to a metropolitan area
7	Non-metro	Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, not adjacent to a metropolitan area
8	Non-metro	Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, adjacent to a metropolitan area
9	Non-metro	Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, not adjacent to a metropolitan area

Any program located in a county with a Beale code of 4,5, 6, 7, 8, or 9 is eligible to apply for the alternative match.

### Severely Economically Distressed Community

The following table provides the website addresses where the publicly available information on county-level economic data including per capita income, poverty rate, and unemployment levels can be found.

WEBSITE ADDRESS	EXPLANATION
<a href="http://www.bea.gov/regional/">http://www.bea.gov/regional/</a>	<b>Bureau of Economic Analysis' Regional Economic Information System (REIS):</b> Provides data on <i>per capita</i> income by county for all states except Puerto Rico.
<a href="https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml">https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml</a>	<b>Census Bureau's American Fact-finder:</b> Provides census data including estimates on poverty, per capita income and unemployment by counties, states, and metro areas including Puerto Rico.
<a href="http://www.bls.gov">www.bls.gov</a>	<b>Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS):</b> Provides data on annual and monthly employment and unemployment by counties for all states including Puerto Rico.
<a href="http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/RuralUrbanContinuumCodes/">http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/RuralUrbanContinuumCodes/</a>	<b>US Department of Agriculture's Rural-Urban Continuum Codes:</b> Provides urban rural code for all counties in US.

## ATTACHMENT I: eGrants Indirect Cost Rate (IDCR) User Instructions

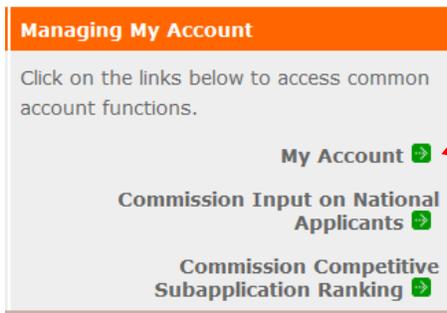
### eGrants Indirect Cost Rate (IDCR) User Instructions

A new feature has been introduced to eGrants which allows users to input Indirect Cost Rate information into their eGrants account. Grantees who will be claiming indirect costs on AmeriCorps awards are required to enter the following indirect cost rates in eGrants: federally negotiated rates, state negotiated rates, and the use of *de minimis* rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). Recipients of AmeriCorps State and National awards may only charge 5% of their negotiated rate to the federal share of the award, with the remaining balance being charged to match (See [45 CFR §§ 2521.95](#) and [2540.110](#)).

**Once a rate is entered and saved in eGrants, it cannot be edited.** If users inadvertently enter incorrect information, a new entry must be submitted with the correct information.

#### Entry for the IDCR screen can be accessed using the following steps:

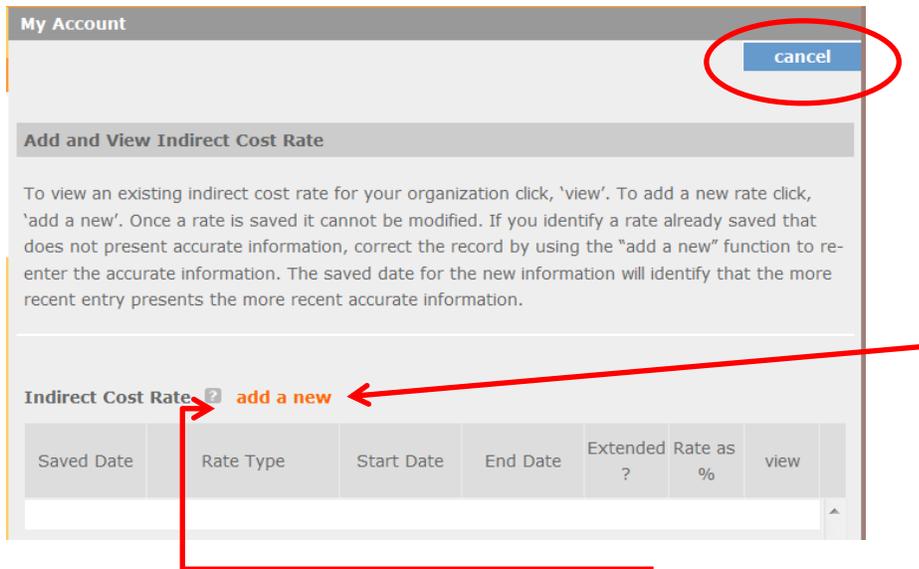
- 1) From the **eGrants Home** screen, in the lower panel under **Managing My Account**, click on **My Account**



- 2) From the **My Account** screen, under **Edit My Organization Info**, click on **Add and View Indirect Cost Rate**



- 3) From the **Add and View Indirect Cost Rate** screen, select **add a new** to add a rate or **cancel** to back out of the screen.



Field by field instructions can be found by clicking the “?” located next to Indirect Cost Rate or Indirect Cost Rate Record.

If **add a new** is selected, the screen below will pop up.

- 4) **Do you have an Indirect Cost Rate to record?** Respond Yes or No. If **NO** is selected, users cannot go any further and nothing will be recorded. If **Yes** is selected, users can continue.

If your organization will be claiming a current, approved indirect cost rate on any AmeriCorps award, it must be reported on this page. The rate information you record will be used in all award negotiation and reviews until it is superseded by a new approved rate, or expires. Applicants will have the opportunity to identify, in application submissions, if they elect to use a lesser percentage of an approved rate.

- 5) **Rate Type:**
- **Federally Negotiated** – select if your rate has been negotiated by your cognizant federal agency. Cognizance is determined by the agency which provides the highest amount of direct federal funding;
  - **State Negotiated** – select if your rate has been negotiated by a state agency or other pass through entity; or
  - **10% of MTDC** – select if your organization qualifies for and elects to use the 10% *de minimus* rate of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC). Organizations qualify for this rate if they have NEVER had a federally negotiated rate. State entities must also not receive more than \$35 million in direct federal funding.

**Rates must be used consistently across ALL federal awards.**

- 6) **Issuing Agency.** Respond by selecting the federal agency that approved your rate, or if the federal agency who issued your rate is not listed, select **Other**, or if your rate is issued by a state agency select **Other**.

Identify federal agencies using the drop-down list. If your rate is approved by a federal agency other than the ones listed, notify your portfolio manager. Other federal agencies may be added as needed.

- 7) **Acceptance Date.** Enter a valid date.  
The acceptance date is usually identified where the rate was signed by the issuing state or federal agency.
- 8) **Rate Status.** Select one of the following options: **Final, Provisional, Predetermined, Fixed, Other, or Other – 10%.**  
Rates issued by federal agencies will almost always be final or provisional. However, if your organization has formally notified a federal or state agency of your eligibility and intent to use the 10-percent of MTDC rate, select **Other – 10%**. If your organization has a **predetermined** or **fixed rate**, select those options accordingly. If a state rate indicates a term that is not listed here select **Other**. Additional rate status options may be added as needed.
- 9) **Effective From.** Enter a valid date.  
The effective from date is found on your indirect cost rate document. If using the 10-percent of MTDC rate, enter today's date or the date your organization formally started charging costs under the 10-percent of MTDC rate.
- 10) **Effective To.** Enter a valid date.  
The effective to date is found on your indirect cost rate document. If your organization has received approval to extend your rate, enter the end date of the extension.
- 11) **No Expiration.** Check or leave unchecked.  
If your rate does not have an expiration date, as is the case with the use of the 10 percent of MTDC rate, check this box, otherwise, leave unchecked.
- 12) **Extended?** Respond Yes or No.  
If the rate "effective to" date has been extended with approval of the federal cognizant agency under authority of the 2014 Omni Circular, respond **Yes**. If it is not an extended rate effective to date, respond **No**.
- 13) **Rate Base.** Enter up to 500 characters including spaces.  
Enter the text as found on your indirect cost rate approval document. For rates issued by state agencies, enter either the rate base used to determine the indirect cost pool as stated on your indirect cost rate approval document or "State Rate N/A." If you need more than 500 characters, indicate "Summary" and record the most important content.
- 14) **Treatment of Fringe Benefits.** Enter up to 500 characters including spaces.  
Enter the text as found on your indirect cost rate approval document. For rates issued by state agencies, enter either the how fringe benefits were treated in determining the indirect cost rate as stated on your indirect cost rate approval document or "State Rate N/A." If you need more than 500 characters, indicate "Summary" and record the most important content.
- 15) **Treatment of Paid Absences.** Enter up to 500 characters including spaces.  
Enter the text as found on your indirect cost rate approval document. For rates issued by state agencies, enter either the how paid absences were treated in determining the indirect cost rate as stated on your indirect cost rate approval document or "State Rate N/A." If you need more than 500 characters, indicate "Summary" and record the most important content.

16) When you have completed all of the above entries, click the “**save & close**” button at the bottom of the page.



- If you would like to cancel your entry, click the “**cancel**” button and the entry will be cancelled. All entry information will be lost and no entry will be shown.
- **Once a rate is saved it cannot be modified.**
- If users inadvertently enter incorrect information, a new entry must be submitted with the correct information.

17) **Order of Rates** - Once an entry is saved, users will be able to see the rates they have entered. Rates will display in the order of entry. Entry of rates will provide users and AmeriCorps with a historical record which can be used to clarify indirect cost rate inquiries for monitoring, consistent record maintenance, and audits.

**2022 AmeriCorps State &  
National Mandatory  
Supplemental Information**

*The AmeriCorps State & National Mandatory Supplemental Information is intended to provide applicants with additional information for the preparation of their applications under the AmeriCorps State and National Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity. The Supplemental Information provides both detailed definitions of certain terms included in the Notice, as well as additional details regarding how to properly file an application under the Notice. This Supplemental Information is incorporated by reference in the Notice, and applicants must comply with any requirements stated in this Supplemental Information.*

**Capacity Building:** A set of activities that expand the scale, reach, efficiency, or effectiveness of programs and organizations. These activities achieve lasting positive outcomes for the beneficiary populations served by AmeriCorps supported organizations (i.e., AmeriCorps programs). As a general rule, AmeriCorps considers capacity building activities to be *indirect services* that enable AmeriCorps - supported organizations to provide more, better, and sustained *direct services*. Capacity building activities cannot be solely intended to support the administration or operations of the organization. Capacity building activities must:

- 1) Be intended to support or enhance the program delivery model;
- 2) Respond to the program's goal of increasing, expanding, or enhancing services in order to address the most pressing needs identified in the community; and
- 3) Enable the program to provide a sustained level of more or better direct services after the capacity building services end.

**Cost Reimbursement Grants:** These grants fund a portion of program operating costs and member living allowances, with flexibility to use all of the funds for allowable costs regardless of whether or not the program recruits and retains all AmeriCorps members. Cost reimbursement grants include a formal matching requirement and require the submission of a budget and financial reports.

**Enrollment Rate:** The enrollment rate is calculated as slots filled, plus refill slots filled, divided by slots awarded.

**Evidence-based:** Evidence-based programs that have been rigorously evaluated and have demonstrated positive results for at least one key desired outcome. Rigorous evaluation means conducting at least one Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) or Quasi-Experimental Design (QED) evaluation of the same intervention described in the application.

Evidence-based interventions on the AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange: interventions supported by positive results from rigorous evaluations that are documented at <https://americorps.gov/about/our-impact/evidence-exchange>. Include but are not limited to the following:

- Economic Opportunity: <https://americorps.gov/evidence-exchange/Evidence-Brief%3A-Effective-CNCS-Funded-Economic-Opportunity-Programs>
- Education: <https://americorps.gov/evidence-exchange/Evidence-Brief%3A-Effective-CNCS-Funded-Education-Programs>
- Healthy Futures: <https://americorps.gov/evidence-exchange/Evidence-Brief%3A-Effective-CNCS-Funded-Healthy-Futures-Programs->

**Evidence-informed:** Programs in this category use the best available knowledge, research, and evaluation to guide program design and implementation, but do not have scientific research or rigorous evaluation of the intervention described in the application.

Applicants may be evidence-informed if they have incorporated research from other evidence-based programs into their program designs and/or have collected performance measurement data on the intervention described in the application.

## **Evidence Tiers**

**Pre-preliminary evidence** means the applicant has not submitted an outcome or impact evaluation of the same intervention described in the application, although the applicant may have collected some performance data on the intervention (e.g., data on intervention outputs and/or outcomes). Applicants in this tier must describe in the Evidence Base section of the application how their program design is evidence-informed (see definition above). Applicants may also cite prior performance measure data if applicable.

**Preliminary evidence** means the applicant has submitted up to two outcome evaluation reports (non-experimental) that evaluated the same intervention described in the application and yielded positive results on one or more key desired outcomes of interest as depicted in the applicant's logic model. The outcome evaluations may either have been conducted internally by the applicant organization or by an entity external to the applicant. The study design must include pre- and post-assessments without a statistically matched comparison group or a post-assessment comparison between intervention and comparison groups. In some cases, a retrospective pre-post assessment may be considered, but its use must be justified in the text of the evaluation report.

AmeriCorps grantees recompeting for their third competitive grant cycle are required to submit an evaluation report of their AmeriCorps funded program. The AmeriCorps -required evaluation report may count towards one of the two reports allowed for the Preliminary evidence tier or may be submitted in addition to this. In the latter case, all three evaluation reports will be considered against the review criteria.

If the applicant is not required to submit an evaluation report of their AmeriCorps funded program, then more than two reports will not be considered.

**Moderate evidence** means the applicant has submitted up to two well-designed and well-implemented evaluation reports that evaluated the same intervention described in the application and identified evidence of effectiveness on one or more key desired outcomes of interest as depicted in the applicant's logic model. Evidence of effectiveness (or positive findings) is determined using experimental design evaluations (i.e., Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT)) or Quasi-Experimental Design evaluations (QED) with statistically matched comparison (i.e., counterfactual) and treatment groups. The ability to generalize the findings from the RCT or QED beyond the study context may be limited (e.g., single-site.) The evaluations were conducted by an independent entity external to the organization implementing the intervention.

AmeriCorps grantees recompeting for their third competitive grant cycle are required to submit an evaluation report of their AmeriCorps funded program. The AmeriCorps -required evaluation report may count towards one of the two reports allowed for the Moderate evidence tier or may be submitted in addition to this. In the latter case, all three evaluation reports will be considered against the review criteria.

If the applicant is not required to submit an evaluation report of their AmeriCorps funded program, then more than two reports will not be considered.

**Strong evidence** means the applicant has submitted up to two evaluation reports demonstrating that the same intervention described in the application has been tested nationally, regionally, or at the state-level (e.g., multi-site) using a well-designed and well-implemented experimental design evaluation (i.e., Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)) or a Quasi-Experimental Design evaluation (QED) with statistically matched comparison (i.e., counterfactual) and treatment groups. Alternatively, the proposed intervention's evidence may be based on multiple (up to two) well-designed and well-implemented QEDs or RCTs of the same intervention described in the application in different locations or with different populations within a local geographic area. The overall pattern of evaluation findings must be consistently positive on one or more key desired outcomes of interest as depicted in the applicant's logic model. Findings from the RCT or QED evaluations may be generalized beyond the study context. The evaluations were conducted by an independent entity external to the organization implementing the intervention.

AmeriCorps grantees re-competing for their third competitive grant cycle are required to submit an evaluation report of their AmeriCorps funded program. The C AmeriCorps NCS-required evaluation report may count towards one of the two reports allowed for the Strong evidence tier or may be submitted in addition to this. In the latter case, all three evaluation reports will be considered against the review criteria.

If the applicant is not required to submit an evaluation report of their AmeriCorps funded program, then more than two reports will not be considered.

**Impact evaluation** An evaluation that provides statistical evidence of how well a program achieves its desired outcomes and what effect it has on service recipients and/or service participants compared to what would have happened in the absence of the program. Impact evaluations must be designed to provide evidence of a causal relationship between program activities and outcomes (45 C.F.R. § 2522.700). Grantees must use an experimental or quasi-experimental evaluation design (i.e., the evaluation must include a control group or a statistically matched comparison group).

**Same intervention described in the application** The intervention evaluated in submitted evaluation reports must match the intervention proposed in the application in the following areas, all of which must be clearly described in the Program Design and Logic Model sections of the application:

- Characteristics of the beneficiary population
- Characteristics of the population delivering the intervention
- Dosage (frequency, duration) and design of the intervention, including all key components and activities
- The setting in which the intervention is delivered
- Outcomes of the intervention

Submitted reports that do not sufficiently match the intervention proposed by the applicant in all of these areas will not be considered applicable and will not be reviewed or receive any points.

**Fixed Amount Grants:** These grants provide a fixed amount of funding per Member Service Year (MSY) that is substantially lower than the amount required to operate the program. Organizations use their own or other resources to cover the remaining costs. Programs are not required to submit budgets or financial reports, there is no specific match requirement, and programs are not required to track and maintain documentation of match. However, AmeriCorps provides only a portion of the cost of running the program and organizations must raise the additional resources needed to run the program. Programs can access all of the funds, provided they recruit and retain the members supported under the grant based

on the MSY level awarded. Professional Corps programs applying for operational funding through a Fixed Amount Grant must submit a budget in support of their request for operational funds.

- **Full-cost Fixed amount grants:** Fixed amount grants are available for programs that enroll all types of member slots. Professional Corps may only have full-time members. Programs can access funds under the grant based on enrolling and retaining the full complement of members supported under the grant.
- **Education Award Grants (EAP) Fixed amount grant:** Programs apply for a small fixed amount per MSY, can enroll less than full-time members, and use their own resources to cover all other costs. Programs can access funds under the grant based on enrolling the full complement of members supported under the grant. As with full-time fixed amount grants, there are no specific match or financial reporting requirements for EAP fixed amount grants.

State Commissions can withhold up to 2% administrative funds from fixed price grants.

**Member Service Location:** A member service location is the site at which an AmeriCorps member is placed to provide his/her service to the community.

**Member Service Year (MSY):** One Member Service Year (MSY) is equivalent to a full-time AmeriCorps position (at least 1,700 service hours.)

### **National Direct Applicants**

*Multi-state:* Organizations that propose to operate AmeriCorps programs in more than one state or territory apply directly to AmeriCorps.

*Federally-recognized Indian Tribes:* Applicants that are Indian Tribes apply directly to AmeriCorps (see the *Eligible Applicants* section in the *Notice*.)

*State and Territories without Commissions:* Applicants in South Dakota, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands apply directly to AmeriCorps because this State and Territories have not established a State Commission.

**Operating Site:** An operating site is the organization that manages the AmeriCorps program on behalf of the multi-state recipient of the grant from AmeriCorps. A multi-state grantee must have an operating site in each state in which it has AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps members may be placed at the operating site, or an operating site may place AmeriCorps members at multiple member service locations. Multi-focused intermediaries may also have operating sites.

AmeriCorps anticipates that applicants have a carefully considered plan for their project implementation and have identified operating sites based on demonstrated community needs. AmeriCorps expects the sites proposed at the time of application to align with those involved in project implementation. However, if necessary, applicants can modify their list of operating sites during the clarification process or through an amendment to the application, if funded.

**Other Revenue:** Funds necessary to operate an AmeriCorps program that are not AmeriCorps funds or grantee share (match) identified in the budget. Programs should not enter the total operating budget for their organization unless the entire operating budget supports the AmeriCorps program. Programs that have additional revenue sources not included in the matching funds section of the budget should provide the amount of this additional revenue that supports the program. This amount should not include the AmeriCorps or grantee share amounts in the budget. Fixed amount grantees should enter all non-AmeriCorps funds that support the program in this field. All fixed grants will have other revenue.

**Professional Corps:** A Professional Corps is a program model composed of AmeriCorps members serving as professionals, i.e., teachers, health care providers, police officers, engineers, attorneys, or other professionals. The programs recruit and place qualified members in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals. Professional Corps applicants and/or applicants determined to be a Professional Corps by AmeriCorps must demonstrate that the community in which it will place AmeriCorps members serving as professionals has an inadequate number of said professionals.

Professional Corps members' salaries/compensation, including childcare, are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve, and are not included in the budget request to AmeriCorps. The living allowance or salary provided to AmeriCorps members in Professional Corps programs does not count toward the matching requirement. AmeriCorps requires **Professional Corps** programs to cover the operating expenses associated with the AmeriCorps program through non-AmeriCorps resources. AmeriCorps will only consider operating funds of up to \$1,000 per MSY if an applicant is able to demonstrate significant organizational financial need based on the materials reviewed by AmeriCorps. These grants are fixed price grants.

Applicants may propose any authorized program type. In the case that a proposed program fits more than one program type (e.g., a program could be either a professional corps or a traditional program). AmeriCorps staff will make a determination as to program type that will be considered for funding. The determination will be based on data provided within the application and supplemental materials submitted with the application. The determination may be different from the program type proposed by the applicant.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to determine whether an applicant (whether or not the applicant has applied as a **Professional Corps**) has sufficiently demonstrated that they cannot effectively operate an AmeriCorps program without receiving AmeriCorps operating funds. There may be specific circumstances where AmeriCorps determines that a legal applicant has not demonstrated the need for operational grant funds due to other funding resources. Where AmeriCorps due diligence review of an application shows that the applicant has a historically high level of support from non- AmeriCorps sources, and as a result has levels of unrestricted funding that is in excess of the requested level of AmeriCorps funding, AmeriCorps may choose to not provide operational grant funding.

**Prohibited Activities:** While charging time to the AmeriCorps program, accumulating service or training hours, or otherwise performing activities supported by the AmeriCorps program or AmeriCorps, staff and members may not engage in the following activities (see 45 CFR § 2520.65):

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;
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;
8. Providing a direct benefit to— a. a business organized for profit; b. a labor union; c. a partisan political organization; d. a nonprofit organization that fails to comply with the restrictions contained in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 related to engaging in political activities or substantial amount of lobbying except that nothing in these provisions shall be construed to prevent participants from engaging in advocacy activities undertaken at their own initiative; and e. an organization engaged in the religious activities described in paragraph C. 7. above, unless AmeriCorps assistance is not used to support those religious activities;
9. Conducting a voter registration drive or using AmeriCorps funds to conduct a voter registration drive;
10. Providing abortion services or referrals for receipt of such services; and
11. Such other activities as AmeriCorps 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 own initiative, on non-AmeriCorps time, and using non- AmeriCorps funds.

**Reducing and/or Preventing Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse:** AmeriCorps is interested in program models that seek to address the prescription drug and opioid abuse crisis in America.

**Retention Rate:** The AmeriCorps member retention rate is calculated as the number of members exited with education award (full or partial award) divided by the number of members enrolled.

**Rural Communities:** AmeriCorps uses rural-urban commuting area (RUCA) codes to classify program addresses as either rural or urban for analytic purposes. RUCA codes classify U.S. census tracts using measures of population density, urbanization, and daily commuting. Census tracts with an urban cluster population less than 50,000 are considered rural (RUCA codes 4-10). Applicants are encouraged to designate themselves as serving rural communities if some or all service locations are in rural areas as defined by RUCA codes or if the program can provide other compelling evidence that the program is rural in the narrative portion of the application. This self-designation will be considered in grant-making decisions.

For more information about RUCA codes, please visit the USDA website found here:  
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-commuting-area-codes.aspx>

The Office of Grant Administration uses Beale Codes when assessing alternative match requirements as the statute (45 CFR 2521.60(c)) requires it.

**Rural Intermediaries:** AmeriCorps recognizes that severely under-resourced communities may have limited capacity to successfully apply for and implement an AmeriCorps program, due to the size and organizational capacity of eligible applicant/host site organizations or the lack of available matching funds in these communities. Thus, it may be effective for a single eligible applicant (intermediary) to develop an application and oversee the implementation of an AmeriCorps program that engages multiple grassroots non-profits/eligible applicants (referred to as a consortium) that, individually, do not have the necessary organizational or fundraising capacity to apply for and run an AmeriCorps program. Given the desire to address community needs holistically, the nonprofits/eligible applicants that make up the consortium may have, but are not required to have, different focus areas (including the non-focus area capacity building) and thus the nonprofit/eligible applicant intermediary will be multi-focused.

Applicants seeking consideration under this priority must demonstrate that they will be serving in rural severely under-resourced communities; that their application represents a consortium, that the activities provided by the consortium collectively address a compelling community need or set of needs; and that they have sufficient financial and management capacity to act as an umbrella organization for the consortium. Applicants should refer to the *Page Limits* section in the *Notice* for information specific to Rural Intermediary requirements.

The eligible applicant (intermediary) should submit one application which describes:

- How the partnership/consortium will be organized, and AmeriCorps resources will be allocated between the partnering entities (intermediary and consortium members).
- The proposed theory (ies) of change and program model(s).
- How the intermediary will utilize an identified consortium of nonprofits/eligible applicants who are well positioned to achieve outcomes identified in the theory of change.

Applicants must submit via email by the application deadline letters of support from all members of the consortium. See the *Submission of Additional Documents* Section in the *Notice* for specific submission information and requirements.

**Same Project:** Two projects will be considered the same if they: address the same issue areas, address the same priorities, address the same objectives, serve the same target communities and population, or utilize the same sites.

Programs must get approval from ASN HQ staff to be considered a new project.

If an applicant is applying for a different program model (a new project), select New. Current and previous grantees need to get approval from ASN HQ staff to be considered a new project. AmeriCorps will consider a project to be new if there is a meaningful difference between it and previous projects in a comparison of the following characteristics, among others: the objectives and priorities of the projects; the nature of the services provided; the program staff, participants, and volunteers involved; the geographic locations in which the services are provided; the populations served; and the proposed community partnerships. (§ 2522.340).

Requests to be considered a new project should include information about how the new project differs from the previous project in the characteristics noted above. The request should also include the proposed name of the new project. AmeriCorps staff will review the request to determine if the proposed project

does represent a meaningful difference from the previous project or if the proposed project is an example of natural program evolution over time. If it is determined that the project is new, ASN HQ staff will create a new project in eGrants. Applicants must request new projects significantly in advance of their application deadline.

**Single-State Applicants:** Single-state applicants are organizations that propose to operate in only one state; they must apply through the Governor-appointed State or Territory Commissions. Each state and territory commission administers its own selection process and submits to AmeriCorps the applicants it selects to compete for funding. Single-State applicants must contact their State Commissions to learn about their state or territory processes and deadlines which may be significantly *earlier* than the AmeriCorps deadlines and may have additional requirements. The list of State and Territory Commissions can be found on AmeriCorps website.

A single-state application submitted directly to AmeriCorps by the applicant rather than the State Commission will be considered noncompliant and will not be reviewed.

**Unallowable Activities:** In addition to the *Prohibited Activities*, the following restrictions also apply to the service of AmeriCorps members:

#### Nonduplication.

Corporation assistance may not be used to duplicate an activity that is already available in the locality of a program. Corporation assistance will not be provided to a private nonprofit entity to conduct activities that are the same or substantially equivalent to activities provided by a State or local government agency in which such entity resides unless the entity complies with the following “nondisplacement” requirements.

#### Nondisplacement.

- (1) An employer may not displace an employee or position, including partial displacement such as reduction in hours, wages, or employment benefits, as a result of the use by such employer of a participant in a program receiving Corporation assistance.
- (2) An organization may not displace a volunteer by using a participant in a program receiving Corporation assistance.
- (3) A service opportunity will not be created under this chapter that will infringe in any manner on the promotional opportunity of an employed individual.
- (4) A participant in a program receiving Corporation assistance may not perform any services or duties or engage in activities that would otherwise be performed by an employee as part of the assigned duties of such employee.
- (5) A participant in any program receiving assistance may not perform any services or duties, or engage in activities, that—
  - (i) Will supplant the hiring of employed workers; or
  - (ii) Are services, duties, or activities with respect to which an individual has recall rights pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement or applicable personnel procedures.
- (6) A participant in any program receiving assistance may not perform services or duties that have been performed by or were assigned to any—
  - (i) Presently employed worker;
  - (ii) Employee who recently resigned or was discharged;
  - (iii) Employee who is subject to a reduction in force or who has recall rights pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement or applicable personnel procedures;

- (iv) Employee who is on leave (terminal, temporary, vacation, emergency, or sick); or
- (v) Employee who is on strike or who is being locked out.

**AmeriCorps Performance Measures Instructions**

**AmeriCorps State and National**

**2022**

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## **AmeriCorps State and National Performance Measure Requirements**

All applications must include at least one aligned performance measure (output paired with outcome) that corresponds to the proposed primary intervention. This may be a National Performance Measure or an applicant-determined measure depending on the program's theory of change. Applications may also include National Performance Measure outputs without associated outcome(s) provided that the output measures a significant program activity. These output-only measures do not fulfill the requirement for an aligned performance measure, but may be selected in addition to the aligned measure(s).

All performance measures must reflect significant program activities whose outputs and outcomes are consistent with the applicant's core theory of change. Applicants are not expected to have performance measures for every program activity. AmeriCorps does not require applicants to use National Performance Measures but expects them to do so if National Performance Measures reflect key outputs and/or outcomes of the theory of change. Applicants may not create applicant determined outputs or outcomes that duplicate existing National Performance Measures.

All performance measures, including output-only measures, must be associated with one or more interventions (service activities). Applicants are expected to use the system-defined intervention categories if they appropriately represent the applicant's program activities. Applicants may not create user-defined intervention labels that duplicate existing intervention categories.

## AmeriCorps State and National Performance Measures Selection Rules

These selection rules specify allowable output/outcome pairings for National Performance Measures. Applicants must follow these selection rules when using National Performance Measures. Applicants may not select any National Performance Measures that may appear in eGrants if they are not present on this list. Please see the NOFO for additional information about application requirements.

### Capacity Building

Strategic Plan Objective	Selection Rules		Interventions
	Outputs	Outcomes (if applicable)*	
Capacity Building & Leverage	G3-3.4: Number of organizations that received capacity building services	G3-3.10A: Number of organizations that increase their efficiency, effectiveness, and/or program reach	Volunteer management Training Resource development Systems development

\*All National Performance Measure outputs may also be paired with an applicant-determined outcome instead or may be used without an associated outcome.

### Disaster Services

Strategic Plan Objective	Selection Rules		Interventions
	Outputs	Outcomes (if applicable)*	
Assistance Provided	D1A: Number of individuals served	D5: Number of individuals reporting increased disaster readiness	Disaster Preparation Disaster Response Disaster Recovery Disaster Mitigation Disaster Adaptation Climate Change Intervention
	D6: Number of structures protected or restored	D7: Number of structures returned to regular use after a disaster	Disaster Preparation Disaster Response Disaster Recovery Disaster Mitigation Disaster Adaptation Climate Change Intervention
	EN4**: Acres of parks or public land treated	EN4.1**: Acres of parks or public land improved	Disaster Preparation Disaster Response Disaster Recovery Disaster Mitigation Disaster Adaptation Climate Change Intervention
	EN5**: Miles of trails or rivers treated.	EN5.1**: Miles of trails or rivers improved	Disaster Preparation Disaster Response Disaster Recovery Disaster Mitigation Disaster Adaptation Climate Change Intervention
	G3-3.4**: Number of organizations that received capacity building services	G3-3.10A**: Number of organizations that increase their efficiency, effectiveness, and/or program reach	Disaster Preparation Disaster Response Disaster Recovery Disaster Mitigation Disaster Adaptation Climate Change Intervention

\*All National Performance Measure outputs may also be paired with an applicant-determined outcome instead or may be used without an associated outcome.

\*\*In the eGrants Performance Measure Module, these measures may appear with the letter “D” at the end when used in the Disaster Services focus area. However, the instructions for these measures are the same regardless of the focus area in which they are used.

**Economic Opportunity**

Strategic Plan Objective	Selection Rules		Interventions
	Outputs	Outcomes (if applicable)*	
Financial Literacy	O1A: Number of individuals served	O9: Number of individuals with improved financial knowledge	Financial Literacy Education
Housing	O1A: Number of individuals served	O11: Number of individuals transitioned into safe, healthy, affordable housing	Housing Unit Development Housing Unit Repair Housing Placement/Assistance
	O4: Number of housing units developed or repaired	O20: Number of safe, healthy, affordable housing units made available	Housing Unit Development Housing Unit Repair
Employment	O1A: Number of individuals served	O10: Number of individuals who secure employment  O21: Number of individuals with improved job readiness	Job Training Job Placement GED Education Other Adult Education
Find Opportunity	N/A (outputs may be reported as Performance Data Elements on annual Progress Reports)	N/A (outcomes may be reported as Performance Data Elements on annual Progress Reports)	N/A
Other Economic Opportunity	O1A: Number of individuals served	Applicant-determined	Applicant-determined

\*All National Performance Measure outputs may also be paired with an applicant-determined outcome instead or may be used without an associated outcome.

**Education**

Strategic Plan Objective	Selection Rules		Interventions
	Outputs	Outcomes (if applicable)*	
School Readiness	ED1A: Number of individuals served	ED23A: Number of children demonstrating gains in school readiness	Tutoring Mentoring Other Classroom Support Out-of-School Time Family Involvement Service Learning Summer Learning Classroom Teaching
K-12 Success	ED1A: Number of individuals served	ED5A: Number of students with improved academic performance  ED9: Number of students graduating from high school on time  ED10: Number of students enrolling in post-secondary education/training  ED27C: Number of students with improved academic engagement or social-emotional skills  ED6: Number of students with increased attendance  ED7A: Number of students with decreased disciplinary incidents (referrals, suspensions/expulsions, criminal or gang involvement)	Tutoring Mentoring Coaching Other Classroom Support Out-of-School Time Family Involvement Service Learning Summer Learning Classroom Teaching Opioid/Drug Intervention
Post-HS Education Support	ED1A: Number of individuals served	ED11: Number of individuals earning a post-secondary degree or technical certification	Tutoring Mentoring Family Involvement Service Learning Summer Learning
Teacher Corps	N/A (outputs may be reported as Performance Data Elements on annual Progress Reports)	N/A (outcomes may be reported as Performance Data Elements on annual Progress Reports)	N/A
Other Education	ED1A: Number of individuals served	Applicant-determined	Applicant-determined

\*All National Performance Measure outputs may also be paired with an applicant-determined outcome instead or may be used without an associated outcome.

## Environmental Stewardship

Strategic Plan Objective	Selection Rules		Interventions
	Outputs	Outcomes (if applicable)*	
At-Risk Ecosystems	EN4: Acres of parks or public land treated	EN4.1: Acres of parks or public land improved	Fire Mitigation Flood Mitigation Invasive Species Removal Debris Removal Plant Establishment Climate Change Intervention
	EN5: Miles of trails or rivers treated.	EN5.1: Miles of trails or rivers improved	Trail Creation Trail Remediation Stream Remediation Fire Mitigation Flood Mitigation Invasive Species Removal Debris Removal Plant Establishment Climate Change Intervention
Energy Efficiency	EN1: Number of housing units or public structures weatherized or retrofitted to improve energy efficiency	EN1.1: Number of housing units or public structures with reduced energy consumption or reduced energy costs	Weatherization Retrofitting Climate Change Intervention
Awareness & Stewardship	EN3: Number of individuals receiving education or training in environmental stewardship and/or environmentally-conscious practices	EN3.1: Number of individuals with increased knowledge of environmental stewardship and/or environmentally-conscious practices  EN3.2: Number of individuals reporting a change in behavior or intention to change behavior to better protect the environment	Education/Training Service Learning Climate Change Intervention
Green Jobs	N/A (outputs may be reported as Performance Data Elements on annual Progress Reports)	N/A (outcomes may be reported as Performance Data Elements on annual Progress Reports)	N/A

\*All National Performance Measure outputs may also be paired with an applicant-determined outcome instead or may be used without an associated outcome.

## Healthy Futures

Strategic Plan Objective	Selection Rules		Interventions
	Outputs	Outcomes (if applicable)*	
Aging in Place	H4A: Number of individuals served	H9A: Number of individuals who report improved capacity for independent living  H19: Number of individuals with improved health	Companionship Nutrition/Food Support Legal Services Transportation Medical Services Opioid/Drug Intervention
Obesity & Food	H4A: Number of individuals served	H12: Number of individuals who report increased food security  H17: Number of individuals with increased health knowledge  H18: Number of individuals reporting a change in behavior or intent to change behavior to improve their health  H19: Number of individuals with improved health	Outreach Education/Training Referrals Medical Services Nutrition/Food Support Physical Activities Counseling/Coaching Opioid/Drug Intervention
	H10A: Number of pounds of food provided	Applicant-determined	Nutrition/Food Support
Access to Care	H4A: Number of individuals served	H17: Number of individuals with increased health knowledge  H18: Number of individuals reporting a change in behavior or intent to change behavior to improve their health  H19: Number of individuals with improved health  H20: Number of individuals with improved access to medical care	Outreach Education/Training Referrals Medical Services Counseling/Coaching Opioid/Drug Intervention
Other Healthy Futures	H4A: Number of individuals served	Applicant-determined	Applicant-determined

\*All National Performance Measure outputs may also be paired with an applicant-determined outcome instead or may be used without an associated outcome.

## Veterans and Military Families

Strategic Plan Objective	Selection Rules		Interventions
	Outputs	Outcomes (if applicable)*	
Veterans & Families Served	<p>V1: Number of veterans served</p> <p>V7A: Number of active military members and/or military family members served</p> <p>V8: Number of veteran family members served</p>	<p>O9**: Number of individuals with improved financial knowledge</p> <p>O11**: Number of individuals transitioned into safe/affordable housing</p> <p>O10**: Number of individuals who secure employment</p> <p>O21**: Number of individuals with improved job readiness</p> <p>ED11**: Number of individuals earning a post-secondary degree or technical certification</p> <p>H9A**: Number of individuals who report improved capacity for independent living</p> <p>H12**: Number of individuals who report increased food security</p> <p>H17**: Number of individuals with increased health knowledge</p> <p>H18**: Number of individuals reporting a change in behavior or intent to change behavior to improve their health</p> <p>H19**: Number of individuals with improved health</p> <p>H20**: Number of individuals with improved access to medical care</p>	<p>Financial Literacy Education</p> <p>Housing Unit Development</p> <p>Housing Unit Repair</p> <p>Housing Placement/Assistance</p> <p>Job Training</p> <p>Job Placement</p> <p>GED Education</p> <p>Other Adult Education</p> <p>Tutoring</p> <p>Mentoring</p> <p>Family Involvement</p> <p>Service Learning</p> <p>Summer Learning</p> <p>Companionship</p> <p>Nutrition/Food Support</p> <p>Legal Services</p> <p>Transportation</p> <p>Outreach</p> <p>Referrals</p> <p>Medical Services</p> <p>Physical Activities</p> <p>Counseling/Coaching</p> <p>Opioid/Drug Intervention</p>
Access & Attract	N/A (outputs may be reported as Performance Data Elements on annual Progress Reports)	N/A (outcomes may be reported as Performance Data Elements on annual Progress Reports)	N/A

\*All National Performance Measure outputs may also be paired with an applicant-determined outcome instead or may be used without an associated outcome.

\*\*In the eGrants Performance Measure Module, these measures may appear with the letter “V” at the end when used in the Veterans and Military Families focus area. However, the instructions for these measures are the same regardless of the focus area in which they are used.

CAPACITY BUILDING

**Focus Area Notes**

- Programs should only opt into the Capacity Building performance measures if the measures reflect significant program activities aligned with the applicant’s core theory of change.
- Activities associated with these measures must be carried out by National Service Participants or by volunteers directly recruited and/or supported by National Service Participants.
- Activities associated with these measures must meet the definition of capacity building specified in the “key terms” definition under G3-3.4.
- Programs are not permitted to create applicant-determined outputs in the Capacity Building focus area.

<b>G3-3.4 (output)</b>	Number of organizations that received capacity building services
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Organization:</b> nonprofit or state/local/tribal government entity <b>Capacity building services:</b> a set of activities that expand the scale, reach, efficiency, or effectiveness of programs and organizations. Capacity building activities may also leverage resources (e.g., funding, volunteers, in-kind support, or partnerships) for programs and/or organizations. As a general rule, AmeriCorps considers capacity building activities to be <i>indirect services</i> that enable organizations to provide more, better and sustained <i>direct services</i> . Capacity building activities must (1) be intended to support or enhance the program delivery model, (2) respond to the organization’s goal of increasing, expanding or enhancing services in order to address pressing community needs, and (3) enable the organization to provide a sustained level of more or better direct services after the national service participant’s term of service has ended.
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Tracking mechanism that ensures an unduplicated count of organizations who have received services

<b>G3-3.10A (outcome)</b>	Number of organizations that increased their effectiveness, efficiency, and/or program scale/reach
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Organizations:</b> those counted in G3-3.4 <b>Effectiveness:</b> Improved ability of the organization to achieve outcomes resulting in better success rates or better quality of outcomes achieved <b>Efficiency:</b> Improved outcomes with the same level of resources; improved or consistent quality of services with fewer resources <b>Scale/Reach:</b> The scope of a program’s services. Increased scale/reach can be measured by the number of new people served, new populations served, and/ or new or expanded services.
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Organizational assessment tool or other instrument capable of measuring changes in effectiveness, efficiency, or scale/reach at the organization level. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.

DISASTER SERVICES

**Focus Area Notes**

- Programs should only opt into the Disaster Services performance measures if the measures reflect significant program activities aligned with the applicant’s core theory of change.
- Any other grantees who provide disaster-related services during the program year should report on this activity in the Performance Data Elements in annual Progress Reports and provide a brief description of those services.
- To ensure unduplicated counts, beneficiaries reported under National Performance Measures in the Disaster Services focus area should not also be reported in disaster-related Performance Data Elements in annual Progress Reports.
- Activities associated with these measures must be carried out by National Service Participants or by volunteers directly recruited and/or supported by National Service Participants.
- All individuals counted under these measures must be program beneficiaries, not National Service Participants. National Service Participant outputs and outcomes should be reported in the Performance Data Elements in annual Progress Reports.

<b>D1A (output)</b>	Number of individuals served
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Individuals:</b> recipients of AmeriCorps-supported services related to disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and/or mitigation <b>Served:</b> substantive engagement of individuals with a specific disaster-related goal in mind. Cannot consist solely of mass dissemination of information such as email blasts, social media posts, or distributing pamphlets.
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Tracking mechanism that ensures an unduplicated count of individuals who have received services

<b>D5 (outcome)</b>	Number of individuals reporting increased disaster readiness
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Individuals:</b> those reported in measure D1A <b>Disaster readiness:</b> measures taken to prepare for and reduce the effects of future disasters
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Survey, interview, or other instrument capable of measuring changes in disaster readiness at the individual beneficiary level. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.

<b>D6 (output)</b>	Number of structures protected or restored
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Structures:</b> housing units or public facilities <b>Protected:</b> prepared to more effectively withstand future disasters <b>Restored:</b> repaired from damage sustained during a disaster
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Tracking mechanism that ensures an unduplicated count of structures that received services

<b>D7 (outcome)</b>	Number of structures returned to regular use after a disaster
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Structures:</b> those reported in measure D6 <b>Returned to regular use:</b> able to be used for the same or similar purpose for which they were used prior to the disaster
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Report from structure owner/manager/occupant, or other instrument capable of measuring changes in condition at the individual structure level.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

**Focus Area Notes**

- Programs should only opt into the Economic Opportunity performance measures if the measures reflect significant program activities aligned with the applicant’s core theory of change.
- All individuals counted under these measures must be program beneficiaries, not National Service Participants. National Service Participant outputs and outcomes should be reported in the Performance Data Elements in annual Progress Reports.
- Activities associated with these measures must be carried out by National Service Participants or by volunteers directly recruited and/or supported by National Service Participants.

<b>O1A (output)</b>	Number of individuals served
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Individuals:</b> recipients of AmeriCorps-supported services related to increasing economic opportunity <b>Served:</b> substantive engagement of individuals with a specific goal in mind related to economic opportunity. Cannot consist solely of mass dissemination of information such as email blasts, social media posts, or distributing pamphlets.
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Tracking mechanism that ensures an unduplicated count of individuals who have received services

<b>O4 (output)</b>	Number of housing units developed or repaired
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Housing unit:</b> A single-family home (including a mobile home if permanently placed), an apartment, or a room in a group home for people with disabilities <b>Develop:</b> Build new or substantially rehabilitate housing units that were uninhabitable or soon would have become so. Involves replacing major systems such as the roof, the plumbing, the wiring, the foundation, or elevating the unit as required by a flood plain standard. <b>Repair:</b> A more modest level of physical work on the unit, such as weatherizing, painting, replacing appliances and removing safety hazards
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Tracking mechanism that ensures an unduplicated count of the number of housing units that have received AmeriCorps-supported development or repair services

<b>O9 (outcome)</b>	Number of individuals with improved financial knowledge
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Individuals:</b> those reported in measure O1A, V1, V7A, or V8 <b>Improved financial knowledge:</b> increased knowledge/understanding of financial literacy topics such as credit management, financial institutions including banks and credit unions, and utilization of savings plans
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Survey, interview, or other instrument capable of measuring changes in financial knowledge at the individual beneficiary level. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.

<b>O10 (outcome)</b>	Number of individuals who secure employment
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Individuals:</b> those reported in measure O1A, V1, V7A, or V8 <b>Secure employment:</b> individual is hired in a new job as a result of AmeriCorps-supported services provided; individual may have been previously working in a different job or previously unemployed
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Preferred method is a copy of acceptance letter from employer or copy of first pay stub. Beneficiary self-reports may also be utilized.

<b>O11 (outcome)</b>	Number of individuals transitioned into safe, healthy, affordable housing
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Individuals:</b> those reported in measure O1A, V1, V7A, or V8 <b>Safe, healthy, affordable housing:</b> Grantee certifies that the housing is safe and healthy based on an inspection or other documentation. Grantee defines affordability and certifies that the housing is affordable to the individual(s) transitioned into the unit.
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Preferred method is a proof of residence such as a lease, mortgage, certificate of occupancy, or other verification from an external agency. Beneficiary self-reports may also be utilized.

<b>O20 (outcome)</b>	Number of safe, healthy, affordable housing units made available
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Housing unit:</b> those reported in measure O4 <b>Safe, healthy, affordable housing unit:</b> Grantee certifies that the housing unit is safe and healthy based on an inspection or other documentation. Grantee defines affordability and certifies that the housing unit is affordable. <b>Made available:</b> This count indicates that the work has been completed to make the units available but they may or may not have been occupied.
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Tracking mechanism that ensures an unduplicated count of the number of safe, healthy, affordable housing units that have been made available

<b>O21 (outcome)</b>	Number of individuals with improved job readiness
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Individuals:</b> those reported in measure O1A, V1, V7A, or V8 <b>Improved job readiness:</b> increased knowledge or skills related to seeking, obtaining, or successfully retaining a job.
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Survey, interview, observation, or other instrument capable of measuring changes in job readiness at the individual beneficiary level. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.

## EDUCATION

### Focus Area Notes

- Programs should only opt into the Education performance measures if the measures reflect significant program activities aligned with the applicant's core theory of change.
- All individuals counted under these measures must be program beneficiaries, not National Service Participants. National Service Participant outputs and outcomes should be reported in the Performance Data Elements in annual Progress Reports.
- Activities associated with these measures must be carried out by National Service Participants or by volunteers directly recruited and/or supported by National Service Participants.

<b>ED1A (output)</b>	Number of individuals served
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Individuals:</b> recipients of AmeriCorps-supported services related to education; may include students enrolled in grades K-12, out-of-school youth, preschool age children, and/or individuals pursuing postsecondary education <b>Served:</b> substantive engagement of individuals with a specific education-related goal in mind. Cannot consist solely of mass dissemination of information such as email blasts, social media posts, or distributing pamphlets.
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Tracking mechanism that ensures an unduplicated count of individuals who have received services

<b>ED5A (outcome)</b>	Number of students with improved academic performance
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Students:</b> those reported in ED1A <b>Improved academic performance:</b> an improved demonstration of skill or knowledge in one or more academic subjects
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Standardized test, report card grade, or other instrument capable of measuring changes in academic performance at the individual beneficiary level. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.

<b>ED6 (outcome)</b>	Number of students with increased school attendance
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Students:</b> those reported in ED1A <b>Increased school attendance:</b> higher rate of presence and/or on-time arrival at school as compared to a previous comparable time period
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	School/district/classroom attendance records or other instrument capable of measuring changes in attendance at the individual beneficiary level

<b>ED7A (outcome)</b>	Number of students with decreased disciplinary incidents (referrals, suspensions/expulsions, criminal or gang involvement)
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Students:</b> those reported in ED1A <b>Decreased disciplinary incidents:</b> lower rate of incidents as compared to a previous comparable time period
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	School/district/classroom records, police records, or other instrument capable of measuring changes in disciplinary incidents at the individual beneficiary level

<b>ED9 (outcome)</b>	Number of students graduating from high school on time with a diploma
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Students:</b> those reported in ED1A <b>On Time:</b> Within four years of starting 9th grade
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Preferred method is school/district graduation records for student beneficiaries. Beneficiary self-reports may also be utilized.

<b>ED10 (outcome)</b>	Number of students enrolling in post-secondary education or training
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Students:</b> those reported in ED1A <b>Post-secondary education or training</b> may include two- or four-year college programs or occupational/vocational programs <b>Enrolling:</b> means matriculating as a full-time or part-time student
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Preferred method is registration records that confirm student enrollments. Beneficiary self-reports may also be utilized.

<b>ED11 (outcome)</b>	Number of students earning a post-secondary degree
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Students:</b> those reported in ED1A, V1, V7A, or V8 <b>Degree:</b> may include an associate degree from an accredited academic program or an occupational or vocational program; a bachelor's degree (ex., BA, BS); a master's degree (ex.: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW); a professional school degree (ex.: MD, DDS, DVM); or a doctorate degree (ex.: PhD, EdD)
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Preferred method is registration records that confirm degree was earned. Beneficiary self-reports may also be utilized.
<b>Notes</b>	Programs may only select this measure if they are able to collect data during a one-year grant period.

<b>ED23A (outcome)</b>	Number of children demonstrating gains in school readiness
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Children:</b> those reported in ED1A <b>School readiness:</b> Preparation for Kindergarten which includes multiple indicators assessed across developmental and behavioral domains including but not limited to physical well-being, health and motor development, social and emotional development, approaches to learning, language development, cognitive development, and age-appropriate academic skills and behavior.
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Teacher observation, standardized test, or other instrument capable of measuring changes in school readiness at the individual beneficiary level. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.

<b>ED27C (outcome)</b>	Number of students with improved academic engagement or social and emotional skills
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Students:</b> those reported in ED1A <b>Improved academic engagement or social and emotional skills:</b> A positive change in student skills, attitude, and/or mindset that is likely to contribute to increased educational success. May include increased interest in school, improved perspective on school climate, increased attachment to school and/or increased educational aspirations.
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Survey, observation, or other instrument capable of measuring changes in academic engagement or social and emotional skills at the individual beneficiary level. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.
<b>Notes</b>	Academic or behavioral improvements counted under ED5A, ED6, or ED7A cannot be counted under this measure

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

### Focus Area Notes

- Programs should only opt into the Environmental Stewardship performance measures if the measures reflect significant program activities aligned with the applicant’s core theory of change.
- All individuals counted under these measures must be program beneficiaries, not National Service Participants. National Service Participant outputs and outcomes should be reported in the Performance Data Elements in annual Progress Reports.
- Activities associated with these measures must be carried out by National Service Participants or by volunteers directly recruited and/or supported by National Service Participants.
- AmeriCorps encourages grantees to perform service with the greatest impact versus providing minimal impact to the highest number of acres/miles/individuals

<b>EN1 (output)</b>	Number of housing units or public structures weatherized or retrofitted to improve energy efficiency
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<p><b>Housing unit:</b> a single-family home (including a mobile home if permanently placed), an apartment, or a room in a group home for people with disabilities</p> <p><b>Public structure:</b> Shelter, such as homeless shelter or emergency shelter operated by a nonprofit or government organization; government-owned building</p> <p><b>Weatherization:</b> Modifying a building to reduce energy consumption and costs and optimize energy efficiency. Whole-house weatherization includes the installation of modern energy-saving heating and cooling equipment and looks at how the house performs as a system.</p> <p><b>Retrofit:</b> An energy conservation measure applied to an existing building or the action of improving the thermal performance or maintenance of a building.</p>
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Tracking mechanism that ensures an unduplicated count of units/structures that have received services

<b>EN1.1 (outcome)</b>	Number of housing units or public structures with reduced energy consumption or reduced energy costs
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Housing units or public structures:</b> those reported in EN1
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Utility bill/statement, computer modeling, resident survey, or other instrument capable of measuring changes in energy consumption or energy costs at the individual unit/structure level. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.

<b>EN3 (output)</b>	Number of individuals receiving education or training in environmental stewardship and/or environmentally-conscious practices
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<p><b>Environmental Stewardship and/or environmentally conscious practices:</b> Organized efforts to teach about how natural environments function and, particularly, how human beings can manage their behavior and choices in order to live sustainably within those environments.</p> <p><b>Education or training:</b> substantive engagement of individuals with a specific education goal in mind. Cannot consist solely of mass dissemination of information such as email blasts, social media posts, or distributing pamphlets.</p>
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Tracking mechanism that ensures an unduplicated count of individuals that have received services

<b>EN3.1 (outcome)</b>	Number of individuals with increased knowledge of environmental stewardship and/or environmentally-conscious practices
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Individuals:</b> those reported in EN3
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Survey, test, or other instrument capable of measuring changes in knowledge at the individual beneficiary level. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.

<b>EN3.2 (outcome)</b>	Number of individuals reporting a change in behavior or the intent to change behavior to better protect the environment
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Individuals:</b> those reported in EN3
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Survey, interview, or other instrument capable of measuring changes in behavior at the individual beneficiary level. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.

<b>EN4 (output)</b>	Number of acres of public parks or other public and tribal lands that are treated
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<p><b>Public parks:</b> Park/recreation areas that are designated by national, state, city, or county governments (not trails or rivers; see EN5)</p> <p><b>Other public lands:</b> Other publicly owned lands; land owned by nonprofits for public use or the public good (such as land conservancies); and public easements</p> <p><b>Tribal lands:</b> Same meaning as imparted by the definitions of “Indian Lands” and “Indian Tribes” provided in. SEC. 101. [42 U.S.C. 12511]</p> <p><b>Treated:</b> Removal of invasive species, planting native plants, building riparian buffers, clearing of natural debris (such as fallen trees/limbs, hazardous fuel) and unnatural debris (such as disaster debris and improperly disposed waste). Treatment must go beyond basic trash removal.</p>
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Tracking mechanism that ensures an unduplicated count of acres of land that have received services

<b>EN4.1 (outcome)</b>	Number of acres of public parks or other public and tribal lands that are improved
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<p><b>Acres of public parks or other public and tribal lands:</b> those reported in EN4</p> <p><b>Improved:</b> Renovated to reduce human impact or the negative impact of natural disasters or invasive species, restored native plants and habitat, reduced erosion, protected watersheds, reduced wildfire risk, upgraded or repaired outdoor recreation facilities or signage, increased public safe access, protected flora and fauna. Improvement should be consistent with an accepted natural resource restoration, maintenance or improvement plan.</p>
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Land manager assessment or other instrument capable of measuring changes in land condition at the scale of individual acres. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.

<b>EN5 (output)</b>	Number of miles of public trails or waterways that are treated and/or constructed
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<p><b>Public trails or waterways:</b> owned/maintained by national, state, county, city or tribal governments; nonprofits when for public use or the public good; and public easements</p> <p><b>Treated:</b> Removal of invasive species, planting native plants, building riparian buffers, improving tread/corridor of existing trail or making changes to increase the trail lifespan, implementing safety measures, removal of unsafe trail structures, repair of damage caused by visitor use, changes to increase accessibility, clearing of natural debris (such as fallen trees/limbs and hazardous fuel) and unnatural debris (such as disaster debris and improperly disposed waste). Treatments must go beyond basic trash removal.</p> <p><b>Constructed:</b> Activities designed to make trails newly available such as adding handicapped accessibility, building boardwalks, trail-blazing, converting a railroad bed to a trail, etc.</p>
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Tracking mechanism that ensures an unduplicated count of miles of trail/waterway that have received services

<b>EN5.1 (outcome)</b>	Number of miles of public trails or waterways that are improved and/or put into use
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<p><b>Miles of public trails or waterways:</b> those reported in EN5</p> <p><b>Improved:</b> Restored to reduce human impact or the negative impact of natural disasters or invasive species, restored native plants and habitat, reduced erosion, protected watersheds, increased safe condition or long-term sustainability of trails, increased accessibility, protected flora and fauna. Improvement should be consistent with an accepted natural resource restoration, maintenance or improvement plan.</p> <p><b>Put into use:</b> Established safe and useable trails that are now available for public access</p>
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Land manager assessment or other instrument capable of measuring changes in trail or waterway condition at the scale of individual miles. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.

HEALTHY FUTURES

**Focus Area Notes**

- Programs should only opt into the Healthy Futures performance measures if the measures reflect significant program activities aligned with the applicant’s core theory of change.
- All individuals counted under these measures must be program beneficiaries, not National Service Participants. National Service Participant outputs and outcomes should be reported in the Performance Data Elements in annual Progress Reports.
- Activities associated with these measures must be carried out by National Service Participants or by volunteers directly recruited and/or supported by National Service Participants.

<b>H4A (output)</b>	Number of individuals served
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Individuals:</b> recipients of AmeriCorps-supported services related to improving health-related outcomes <b>Served:</b> substantive engagement of individuals with a specific health-related goal in mind. Cannot consist solely of mass dissemination of information such as email blasts, social media posts, or distributing pamphlets.
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Tracking mechanism that ensures an unduplicated count of individuals who have received services

<b>H9A (outcome)</b>	Number of individuals who report improved capacity for independent living
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Individuals:</b> those reported in H4A, V1, V7A, or V8
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Survey, interview, caseworker assessment, or other instrument capable of measuring changes in independent living capacity at the individual beneficiary level. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.

<b>H10A (output)</b>	Number of pounds of food provided
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Food provided:</b> made available at reduced or no cost to individuals and/or organizations for the purpose of alleviating food insecurity or hunger. May include community garden programs.
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Tracking mechanism that ensures an unduplicated count of pounds of food provided

<b>H12 (outcome)</b>	Number of individuals who report increased food security
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Individuals:</b> those reported in H4A, V1, V7A, or V8 <b>Food security:</b> Access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food security includes at a minimum: (1) the ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, and (2) an assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways (that is, without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing, or other coping strategies). [USDA]
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Survey, interview, caseworker assessment, or other instrument capable of measuring changes in food security at the individual beneficiary level. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.

<b>H17 (outcome)</b>	Number of individuals with increased health knowledge
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Individuals:</b> those reported in H4A, V1, V7A, or V8
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Survey, test, or other instrument capable of measuring changes in knowledge at the individual beneficiary level. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.

<b>H18 (outcome)</b>	Number of individuals reporting a change in behavior or intent to change behavior to improve their health
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Individuals:</b> those reported in H4A, V1, V7A, or V8
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Survey, interview, or other instrument capable of measuring changes in behavior at the individual beneficiary level. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.

<b>H19 (outcome)</b>	Number of individuals with improved health
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Individuals:</b> those reported in H4A, V1, V7A, or V8
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Assessment by a healthcare professional, survey, or other instrument capable of measuring changes in health condition at the individual beneficiary level. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.

<b>H20 (outcome)</b>	Number of individuals with improved access to medical care
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<b>Individuals:</b> those reported in H4A, V1, V7A, or V8
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Survey, interview, caseworker assessment, or other instrument capable of measuring changes in health care access at the individual beneficiary level. When possible, pre-post assessments should be utilized.

## VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

### Focus Area Notes

- Programs should only opt into the Veterans and Military Families performance measures if the measures reflect significant program activities aligned with the applicant’s core theory of change.
- All individuals counted under these measures must be program beneficiaries, not National Service Participants. National Service Participant outputs and outcomes should be reported in the Performance Data Elements in annual Progress Reports.
- Activities associated with these measures must be carried out by National Service Participants or by volunteers directly recruited and/or supported by National Service Participants.

<b>V1 (output)</b>	Number of veterans served
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<p><b>Veteran:</b> a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable [Section 101 of Title 38, 23 United States Code]</p> <p><b>Served:</b> substantive engagement of individuals with specific outcome(s) in mind. Cannot consist solely of mass dissemination of information such as email blasts, social media posts, or distributing pamphlets.</p>
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Tracking mechanism that ensures an unduplicated count of individuals who have received services

<b>V7A (output)</b>	Number of active duty military service members and/or military family members served
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<p><b>Active duty military service member:</b> The term “active duty” means “full-time duty in the active military service of the United States, including active duty or full-time training duty in the Reserve Component” [DOD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms, April 2018]. AmeriCorps considers National Guard members and reservists and wounded warriors sub-groups of active duty military service members for the purposes of grant applications and performance measure reporting.</p> <p><b>Military family member:</b> Immediate family member related by blood, marriage, or adoption to a current member of the U.S. armed forces including one who is deceased.</p> <p><b>Served:</b> substantive engagement of individuals with specific outcome(s) in mind. Cannot consist solely of mass dissemination of information such as email blasts, social media posts, or distributing pamphlets.</p>
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Tracking mechanism that ensures an unduplicated count of individuals who have received services

<b>V8 (output)</b>	Number of veteran family members served
<b>Definition of Key Terms</b>	<p><b>Veteran:</b> a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable [Section 101 of Title 38, 23 United States Code]</p> <p><b>Veteran family member:</b> Immediate family member related by blood, marriage, or adoption to a veteran, including one who is deceased.</p> <p><b>Served:</b> substantive engagement of individuals with specific outcome(s) in mind. Cannot consist solely of mass dissemination of information such as email blasts, social media posts, or distributing pamphlets.</p>
<b>How to Measure/Collect Data</b>	Tracking mechanism that ensures an unduplicated count of individuals who have received services

## Appendix A: Understanding MSY and Member Allocations

### How to Calculate MSY and Member Allocations

In the performance measure module, applicants enter the total share of program resources (MSYs and members) that will be directed to each objective. Member and MSY allocations entered in the application should be the program's best estimate of how member time will be allocated.

The charts below show how a sample program could calculate its MSY allocations for different member types and different percentages of member time spent per objective. In this example, the program has a total of 135 members representing a variety of different slot types. All members spend at least some of their time contributing to the K-12 Success objective. The program's full-time and half-time members also spend time contributing to the School Readiness objective: 50% of their time for full-time members and 20% for half-time members.

Objective #1: K-12 Success							
Type of Member	MSY Multiplier for Type	x	Number of Members for Type	x	% of Member Time for Objective	=	MSY Allocation
FT	1	x	100	x	.50	=	50
TQT	.7	x	0	x	0	=	
HT	.5	x	5	x	.80	=	2
RHT	.3809524	x	10	x	1.00	=	3.81
QT	.26455027	x	10	x	1.00	=	2.65
MT	.21164022	x	10	x	1.00	=	2.17
AT	.05627705	x	0	x	0	=	
<b>Total Members</b>			<b>135</b>	<b>Total MSYs</b>			<b>60.63</b>

Objective #2: School Readiness							
Type of Member	MSY Multiplier for Type	x	Number of Members for Type	x	% of Member Time for Objective	=	MSY Allocation
FT	1	x	100	x	.50	=	50
TQT	.7	x	0	x	0	=	
HT	.5	x	5	x	.20	=	.5
RHT	.3809524	x	10	x	0	=	
QT	.26455027	x	10	x	0	=	
MT	.21164022	x	10	x	0	=	
AT	.05627705	x	0	x	0	=	
<b>Total Members</b>			<b>105</b>	<b>Total MSYs</b>			<b>50.5</b>

### How It Looks on the MSY Tab

The program enters the total number of MSYs and members for each objective on the MSY/Members tab of the performance measures module. The system automatically calculates the percentage of MSYs allocated to each objective.

Home Page Objective **MSY/Members** Performance Measure Data Collection Summary

**Screen Instructions**

On this tab, you will enter information about the allocation of MSYs and members across the focus areas and objectives you have selected. Begin by entering the total MSYs for your program.

Next, enter the number of MSYs your program will allocate to each objective. Only the objectives that were selected on the previous tab appear in the MSY chart. If some of your program's objectives are not represented in the chart, return to the previous tab and select additional objectives. The MSY chart must show how all your program's resources are allocated. If you have selected the Find Opportunity objective (under the Economic Opportunity focus area) and/or the Teacher Corps objective

**Summary**

Program: AmeriCorps

Focus Areas: Education

Objectives: School Readiness, K-12 Success

**Resource Allocation**

\* Enter Total MSYs for the project:

Enter the number of MSYs allocated to each objective. For planning grants, enter 0.

Focus Area	Objective	MSY	% of total MSY	Members
Education	School Readiness	<input type="text" value="50.50"/>	45.44	<input type="text" value="105"/>
Education	K-12 Success	<input type="text" value="60.63"/>	54.56	<input type="text" value="135"/>
Sub Total:		111.13	100.00	240
GRAND TOTAL:		111.13	100.0	240

Save Back Next

*Note: Programs that select the Find Opportunity objective (Economic Opportunity Focus Area) or the Teacher Corps objective (Education Focus Area) must enter 0 MSYs and members for these objectives and allocate their MSYs to other objectives. This is because the MSY allocations are designed to show how programs' resources are allocated to activities that benefit the community. The Find Opportunity and Teacher Corps objectives are focused on benefits to members.*

### How It Looks in the 424 PDF

Table 1 and its corresponding pie chart show the total number of MSYs by Focus Area. Since both the K-12 Success and School Readiness objectives are in the Education Focus Area, Table 1 shows 100% of MSYs in Education.

**MSYs by Focus Area**



Table 1: MSYs by Focus Areas

Focus Area	% MSYs
Education	100%

Table 4 in the PDF report shows the number of MSYs and members allocated to each objective, as seen on the MSY/Members tab:

Table4: No of MSY and Members by Objective

Objectives	No of MSYs	No of Members
K-12 Success	60.63	135
School Readiness	50.50	105
<b>Total</b>	<b>111.13</b>	<b>240</b>

Because some members are performing service related to both K-12 Success and School Readiness, the total number of members listed in this table (240) is greater than the total number of slots the program is requesting (135). This is OK; individual members can be counted more than once if they contribute to more than one objective. In contrast, MSYs cannot be counted more than once, because they represent the amount of member time spent on a particular objective. As a result, the total number of MSYs listed in this table must be equal to the total MSYs the program is requesting (111.13).

Table 2 and its corresponding pie chart show the same MSY information expressed as percentages of the total MSYs:

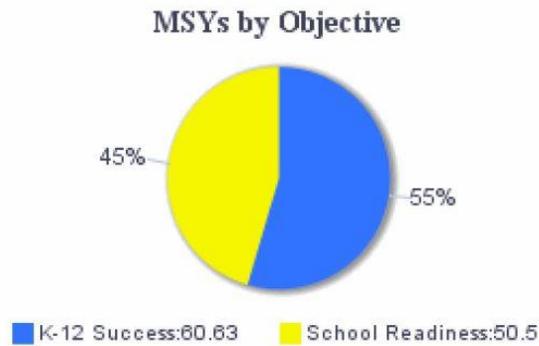


Table2: MSYs by Objectives

Objectives	%MSYs
K-12 Success	55%
School Readiness	45%

### How to Assign MSYs to Performance Measures

When a program creates a performance measure, it must indicate how many MSYs and how many members will contribute to the measure. Based on the MSY allocations already entered for the sample program, the program may allocate up to 60.63 MSYs to K-12 Success performance measures and up to 50.5 MSYs to School Readiness performance measures. However, programs are not required to measure all of their activities, so it is possible that not all of these MSYs will be allocated to performance measures.

Our sample program has three performance measures, one (an aligned measure) under the K-12 Success objective and two (an output-only measure and an applicant determined measure) under the School Readiness objective.

Objective #1: K-12 Success						
Intervention	Performance Measure	Percent of K-12 Success Time Spent on Activities that Contribute to this Measure	x	Total MSYs in Objective	=	MSYs Allocated to Performance Measure
Mentoring*	ED1A, ED27C	.75	x	60.63	=	45.47
Family Involvement	No Performance Measure	.25	x	60.63	=	NA

\*This is the primary intervention

Objective #2: School Readiness						
Intervention	Performance Measure	Percent of School Readiness Time Spent on Activities that Contribute to this Measure	x	Total MSYs in Objective	=	MSYs Allocated to Performance Measure
Other Classroom Support	ED1A	.75	x	50.5	=	37.88
Parent Engagement	Applicant-Determined Measure	.25	x	50.5	=	12.62

### How It Looks in the 424 PDF

Table 3 and its corresponding pie chart in the 424 PDF report shows the percentage of MSYs allocated to National Performance Measures, applicant-determined performance measures, or no performance measures. As seen in the table above, the program has two National Performance Measures (ED1A/27C and ED1A), accounting for 83.35 of the 111.13 total MSYs (75%). The program has one applicant-determined measure accounting for 12.62 MSYs (11%), and the remaining percentage (14%) of program activity is not being measured.

**% of MSY NPM VS Applicant VS Not in ANY**

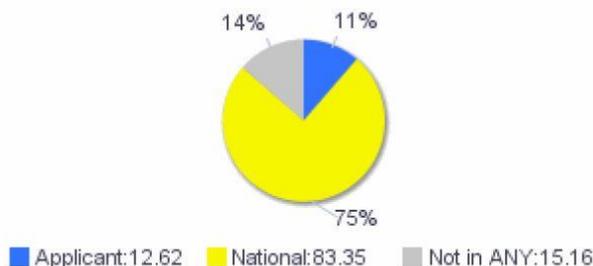


Table3: %MSYs by NPM vs. Applicant vs. Not in ANY

% MSYs	NPM	Applicant	Not in ANY
	75%	11%	14%

The configuration above meets the AmeriCorps requirement to have one aligned performance measure (output + outcome) corresponding to the primary intervention. Programs are not required to allocate 100% of their MSYs and members to National Performance Measures, or to any performance measures at all.

## Appendix B: Performance Measures Checklist

This checklist is used to assess performance measures during the review process. Items on the checklist are common problems that require resolution but do not represent a comprehensive list. Refer to the Performance Measure Instructions for full requirements.

Checklist Item	Primary Aligned Measure (required)	Additional Measure (optional)	Additional Measure (optional)
<b>Resource Allocation</b>			
1	MSY and member allocations to focus areas and objectives are consistent with the application narrative/logic model.		
2	MSY and member allocations to performance measures are consistent with the application narrative/logic model.		
<b>Performance Measure Requirements</b>			
3	The application includes least 1 aligned performance measure (output + outcome) corresponding to the primary intervention.		
4	All performance measures reflect significant program activities whose outputs and outcomes are consistent with the applicant's core theory of change.		
5	Any output-only measures included in the application consist solely of National Performance Measure outputs.		
6	The application does not include applicant-determined measures that duplicate existing National Performance Measures. <i>(Note: Applicant-determined measures are recognizable by the labels OUTPT or OUTCM, followed by numbers. Any applications containing these labels are NOT National Performance Measures, even if the applicant has labeled them like a national measure.)</i>		
<b>Interventions</b>			
7	Interventions are consistent with the program design and contribute directly to the outputs and outcomes.		
8	The application does not include user-defined intervention labels that duplicate existing system-defined intervention categories.		
<b>Output Quality</b>			
9	Outputs clearly specify what is counted.		
10	Outputs count only program beneficiaries, not National Service Participants.		
<b>Outcome Quality and Alignment</b>			
11	Outcomes are logically aligned with the outputs.		
12	Outcomes reflect a meaningful change in knowledge, attitude, behavior or condition for program beneficiaries. <i>(Note: completion of a program would be considered an output, not an outcome.)</i>		
13	Outcomes can be measured during a single grant year.		
<b>Targets</b>			
14	Output and outcome targets are reasonable for the proposed program design.		
15	Targets are expressed as numbers, not percentages.		
<b>Performance Measure Instructions</b>			
16	National Performance Measures conform to selection rules, definitions, and data collection requirements specified in the Performance Measure Instructions.		
17	The application does not include any retired National Performance Measures (e.g., measures that do not appear in the Performance Measure Instructions).		

<b>Data Collection/Instruments</b>				
18	Data collection methods are appropriate for the output/outcome being measured.			
<b>Sampling (if applicable)</b>				
19	If sampling is proposed, the sampling plan is forwarded to AmeriCorps for consideration. (Note: Formula grantees are not permitted to sample.)			

## Appendix C: Frequently Asked Questions

### ***1. How did the AmeriCorps performance measure requirements change in 2019?***

The performance measure requirement for AmeriCorps State and National programs – at least one aligned performance measure (output paired with outcome) that corresponds to the proposed primary intervention – has stayed consistent over many years. However, in 2019 AmeriCorps substantially revised the list of National Performance Measures available for programs to use, and is also requiring all performance measures to reflect the community impact of the program. All applicants, including continuation applicants, must revise their applications to remove or replace any performance measures that do not correspond with the updated Performance Measure Instructions.

### ***2. What should a continuation applicant do if one or more of their National Performance Measures is no longer present in the Performance Measure Instructions?***

All applicants, including continuation applicants, must follow the National Performance Measure selection rules specified in the current Performance Measure Instructions. Applicants must revise their performance measures as needed to conform to the updated instructions.

### ***3. What should a continuation grantee who is measuring a National Performance Measure output or outcome that has a changed definition do in the continuation application?***

If the grantee is unable to measure the output or outcome as defined in the current Performance Measure Instructions, the grantee should choose a different performance measure.

### ***4. What are National Performance Measures?***

AmeriCorps has established six Focus Areas: Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and Veterans and Military Families based on the priorities included in the Serve America Act. Within these Focus Areas, as well as for Capacity Building, AmeriCorps has created National Performance Measures in order to aggregate the results of similar programs and demonstrate the impact across our agency programs and initiatives.

### ***5. What is an aligned performance measure?***

An aligned performance measure is an output paired with an outcome. The paired output-outcome measures may be National Performance Measures, applicant-determined measures, or the combination of a National Performance Measure output and an applicant-determined outcome. Applicant-determined outputs cannot be paired with National Performance Measure outcomes in an aligned performance measure.

### ***6. What is an applicant-determined performance measure?***

An applicant-determined performance measure is one in which the applicant creates the language for the outputs and/or outcomes that will be measured. This is different from the National Performance Measures, where AmeriCorps pre-determines common outputs and outcomes that are available for applicants to use.

### ***7. What is an output-only performance measure?***

An output-only measure is a National Performance Measure output without associated outcome(s). Applicants may select output-only measures if the output measures a significant program activity. These do not fulfill the requirement for an aligned performance measure, but may be selected in addition to the aligned measure(s).

### ***8. What is the definition of "National Service Participant"?***

For AmeriCorps State and National programs, National Service Participant refers to the AmeriCorps members themselves.

**9. *Can I count AmeriCorps members as beneficiaries of service under my performance measures?***

No. Effective starting in 2019 for all applicants (new, recompute, and continuation), AmeriCorps members and other National Service Participants may not be counted as beneficiaries under either National Performance Measures or applicant-determined measures. Some member-focused outputs and outcomes may be reported as Performance Data Elements on annual Progress Reports.

**10. *Do the AmeriCorps members in my program have to be directly providing the service counted in the performance measures?***

The activities associated your performance measures must be carried out either by National Service Participants or by volunteers directly recruited and/or supported by National Service Participants.

**11. *How many performance measures should I propose?***

Each program must have at least one aligned measure (composed of an output and an outcome) reflecting its primary intervention. It is appropriate to have additional performance measures for other significant components of your program, but AmeriCorps values the quality of performance measures more than the quantity. Performance measures reflecting activities that are not central to your program model should not be included in your application and do not need to be reported to AmeriCorps, although you might still collect the data for your own purposes.

**12. *Can I count the same beneficiaries in more than one performance measure output?***

Unless otherwise specified, the same beneficiaries may be counted more than once across different measures for different interventions (services) they may be receiving. For example, if your AmeriCorps members helped one specific individual to both prepare for a disaster and obtain employment, you may count that same individual in both D1A and O1A. However, programs cannot count the same individual more than once within any one specific performance measure. So, for example, an individual who attended two disaster preparation training workshops during a single program year cannot be counted twice under D1A.

**13. *Do all beneficiaries counted under a particular performance measure have to receive the same interventions?***

Yes, the interventions associated with the measure need to be applicable to all of the beneficiaries counted under the measure, even if the details of the intervention (e.g., the exact dosage provided) may vary. If one set of beneficiaries is receiving one type of intervention (e.g., mentoring) and a different set of beneficiaries is receiving a different type of intervention (e.g., tutoring), the two sets of beneficiaries should be counted in separate performance measures even if the expected outcome is the same. In contrast, if all beneficiaries are receiving multiple interventions with the same expected outcome (e.g. all beneficiaries are being both mentored and tutored to improve their academic performance), they can be counted in a single performance measure.

**14. *Can one performance measure output have more than one outcome?***

Yes, there may be more than one outcome measure associated with a single output. Aligned measures should only be configured this way if it is expected that all of the individuals counted in the output will potentially achieve the outcomes indicated. If the outcomes are resulting from different populations being served, they should be counted in distinct performance measures.

**15. *Can I count the same people more than once under one performance measure output or outcome if they receive service in more than one grant year?***

If the individual receives services in more than one grant year, they may be counted as having received services in the output measure for each of the grant years in which they receive services. They may only be counted in the outcome measure for each grant year if they meet the specified level of improvement for the outcome in each year. For example, a student receives tutoring in second and third grade. The program expects that students will improve

their reading score by one grade level each year. If the student is served in both second and third grade and improves by one grade level in each year, the student may be counted in output ED1A and outcome ED5A for both years. If the student improves by ½ grade level in second grade and one grade level in third grade, the student may be counted in ED1A for both years but only in ED5A for the third-grade year.

**16. *Am I allowed to allocate funds for collecting and analyzing data? If so, how much?***

Costs related to measuring the performance of a program are allowable grant expenses. There is no standard recommended amount. As with all grant expenditures, these costs must be reasonable, allowable for the proposed program, and properly allocated across grant activities.

**17. *Is my program expected to monitor member time to ensure that it corresponds to what is entered into the Performance Measures Module for the focus areas and strategic plan objectives?***

Applicants should enter MSYs and members according to the distribution of time that members are expected to engage in each focus area and strategic plan objective. Programs will not be required to report on how the members actually spent their time. MSY allocations in the application should present the program's best estimate.

**18. *On the logic model chart there are three outcome levels (short, medium and long). Should all of these outcomes be entered as performance measures?***

A program may have a theory of change that is based on accomplishing a long-term change in condition that is not measurable in a single program year. However, there may be shorter-term changes that can be linked to this ultimate goal that are strong indicators that the long-term change is likely to happen. While all of these outcomes may be included in the logic model, grantees are not required to measure or report on all of the outcomes. For performance measurement purposes, outcomes must measure changes that can be observed within a single program year.

**19. *The National Performance Measure I want to select doesn't appear in the drop-down menu. What should I do?***

Only performance measures corresponding to objectives selected on the Objectives tab will appear in the drop-down menu. Refer to the Performance Measure selection rules to determine which objective to select for each performance measure. Do NOT create an applicant-determined measure that duplicates a National Performance Measure.

**20. *I want to create an applicant-determined measure, but the Performance Measures Module isn't allowing me to do that. What should I do?***

There are some objectives for which the creation of applicant-determined outputs is not allowed. These include the Capacity Building and Leverage objective (Capacity Building focus area), the Find Opportunity objective (Economic Opportunity focus area), the Teacher Corps objective (Education focus area), the Green Jobs objective (Environmental Stewardship focus area), and the Access & Attract objective (Veterans and Military Families focus area). For the Capacity Building and Leverage objective, only National Performance Measure outputs are allowed to be used. For the Find Opportunity, Teacher Corps, Green Jobs, and Access & Attract objectives, programs are not allowed to create performance measures.

**21. *I am required to have a performance measure associated with my primary intervention, but I am not able to create a performance measure for the primary intervention I have selected. What should I do?***

Since the Find Opportunity, Teacher Corps, Green Jobs, and Access & Attract objectives are member-focused rather than beneficiary-focused, programs are not allowed to create performance measures under these objectives (see FAQ 9). If your primary intervention is connected to one of those objectives, you will need to go back and select a different primary intervention under a different objective. You can retain the member-focused objective as secondary.

***22. Under what circumstances is it ok for grantees to use sampling to measure outputs and outcomes?***

Methodologically speaking, sampling is appropriate for competitive grantees as long as the grantee has a solid plan for ensuring that its sample will be representative. Practically speaking, we would want grantees to use sampling only when they are able to make the case that it is unrealistic to collect data from the whole population. Formula grantees, with rare exceptions granted by AmeriCorps, are not permitted to sample.

***23. When would AmeriCorps not allow sampling?***

AmeriCorps will not allow sampling when it is reasonable to expect a grantee to collect data from the whole population. AmeriCorps will also not allow sampling if the grantee's sampling frame is not sufficient or if the grantee's methodology will not result in a representative sample.

***24. How does a grantee set targets when it is planning to sample?***

In most cases the grantee should be able to set targets based on the population as a whole. If a grantee's sampling methodology is sound and results in a representative sample, then the program can extrapolate their results to report on an outcome for the population as a whole. For example, a program reports an output of 1000 children served. The program selects a representative sample of 200 children. Of these, 180 students (90%) demonstrate the desired change. In this case, the program could report an extrapolated outcome of 900 students.

***25. How do I request permission to sample?***

A detailed sampling plan must be forwarded to AmeriCorps for consideration. Please consult the Notice of Funding Opportunity or your Portfolio Manager for instructions on how to submit additional documents.