AmeriCorps 101: Serve, Impact, Transform

FY23 AmeriCorps Funding Opportunity
OVERVIEW

I. The Big Picture of AmeriCorps

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

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

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

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

Administers AmeriCorps and National Service programs

Coordinates volunteers and donations before, during, and after disasters

Increases volunteerism through grants, trainings and recognitions

Manages the Volunteer Florida Foundation
AmeriCorps

- AmeriCorps State and National
- AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America)
- AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps)

AmeriCorps Seniors

- AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent
- AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program)
- AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion

volunteerflorida
AmeriCorps State and National engages tens of thousands of individuals in all 50 states, territories and select tribal nations each year at more than 2,000 locations including nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country.

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

Provides members an environment that propels personal development, opens diverse career paths, and promotes lifelong civic engagement.
How can the people power of AmeriCorps move the needle on critical issues in my community?

In other words: What is the direct service that AmeriCorps members will provide that will make a measurable impact in one year?
Link to “What is AmeriCorps” video on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgdRkzLKiPM
AmeriCorps members provide tutoring and mentoring, job training and placement, independent living support, environmental stewardship and so much more.
Focus Areas for National Service

**Education**
Our members and volunteers support students in nearly 12,000 public, private and charter schools across the country. Through our work we improve attendance and engagement, increase high-school graduation rates and expand college enrollment.

**Environmental Stewardship**
We serve on projects that cover thousands of acres of public lands across America — including many with the National Park Service. We help conserve natural habitats, protect clean air and water, and reduce utility bills by improving home energy efficiency.

**Disaster Services**
When disaster strikes, we repair homes, assist survivors, and help restore communities when it matters most. We have deployed thousands of members and volunteers to areas affected by hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and tornadoes.

**Veterans and Military Families**
We provide assistance to nearly 500,000 veterans and military families by connecting them to education opportunities, jobs, and the benefits they have earned. Many veterans also volunteer with us so they can continue to serve their country.

**Economic Opportunity**
Our programs serve as a pathway to employment opportunities and help develop vital work skills. We build and rehabilitate affordable housing, provide financial literacy training, and connect people to jobs.

**Healthy Futures**
We provide independent living services to 365,000 elderly Americans. We also build the capacity of food banks, combat the opioid crisis, tackle homelessness, and address food insecurity.
AmeriCorps Benefits

- Living allowance
- Student loan deferment, loan forbearance
- Segal AmeriCorps Education Award
- Skills based and professional development training
- Health insurance (full time members)
- Child care assistance (full time members)
- Engaged learning and connection to community
- Career opportunities
AmeriCorps Member Eligibility

- Be a United States citizen, U.S. national, or a lawful permanent resident alien of the United States;
- Be at least 17 years of age; and
- Have a high school diploma or GED or work towards obtaining one while in the program. It is a requirement to obtain a high school diploma or GED before one is eligible to use the Education Award.
- Must be clear of any record on the National Sex Offender Public Registry.
- Must have a criminal record clear of any conviction(s) of murder.
AmeriCorps is an **Opportunity**
You can help make the world a better place: help children learn, protect the environment, or bring needed services to a low-income community.

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

**AmeriCorps Offers Tangible Benefits**
Most AmeriCorps members receive student loan deferment, training, a living allowance and health insurance. After you complete your term of service, you will also receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to help pay for college, graduate school, vocational training or to repay student loans.
8 REASONS TO ❤️ AMERICORPS
A program of the Corporation for National & Community Service

- More than 1,000,000 Americans have served since 1994
- Leverages $1 billion in outside resources every year
- 75,000 members serve each year
- Benefiting millions of Americans
- Katrina, Joplin, Sandy, Flint, Florence, Michael, and more: Helps communities recover from disaster
- 21,000+ service locations tackling problems with local solutions
- 79% of alumni plan to be actively involved in their community
- Nearly 450,000 veterans and military families assisted through national service each year
- $3 billion scholarships earned ($1 billion used to repay qualified student loans)
AmeriCorps Members generally commit to serve a full year and can serve:

- **Full-Time:** 1700 Hours
- **Reduced Full-Time:** 1200 Hours
- **Half-Time:** 900 Hours
- **Quarter-Time:** 450 Hours
- **Minimum Time:** 300 Hours
Examples of AmeriCorps Service

• Remove *invasive exotics* from public parks, *restore habitat*, visitor *education*
• **Home repair** and housing units made available to disadvantaged individuals
• Provide *tutoring* and *mentoring* to students
• Provide independent living and *financial literacy* to persons with *disabilities*
• Provide *career coaching* and *job skills* training resulting in *employment*
• Increase *financial literacy* or *health access* services for individuals
• *Disaster preparedness, mitigation* and *recovery*
Volunteer Florida Priorities:
Environmental Stewardship: Resiliency
Economic Opportunity: Housing/Homelessness

(Attachment A, Notice Priority)
AmeriCorps programs are funded through federal grants.

Organizations apply to Volunteer Florida through a competitive process for a grant to support a minimum of the equivalent 10 full time members. Volunteer Florida prefers applications with greater than 10 MSY. Volunteer Florida may consider funding for proposals who commit to increasing to 10 MSY within a three year period.

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

AmeriCorps members are not staff and can not be placed in an administrative function.
Applicants can request the maximum of $28,800 per 1 Member Service Year (MSY).

An applicant requesting 10 full-time members would apply for a $288,000 grant.

1 full-time member = 1 MSY
Cost per MSY = $28,800
10 full-time Members = 10 MSY
10 MSY X $28,800 = $288,000

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

10 full time members:
• Approximately $288K federal request
• Minimum match estimate $91K

Source of Match Type:
Cash or In Kind

20 full time members:
• Approximately $576K federal request
• Minimum match estimate $182K

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

### Section II. Member Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Living Allowance</th>
<th>B. 30 Full-Time Members $8,250.00 each</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Full-Time (1,700 hrs)</td>
<td>$654,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Three Quarter Time (1,200 hrs)</td>
<td>$513,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Reduced Half Time (975 hrs)</td>
<td>$30,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Standard (750 hrs)</td>
<td>$60,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Minimum Time (200 hrs)</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Line A. Subtotal Total Living Allowance</strong></td>
<td>$527,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B. Member Support Costs</th>
<th>C. NSCA for Members</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. ESA for Members</td>
<td>$81,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Health Care</td>
<td>$87,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Line B. Subtotal for Member Support Costs</strong></td>
<td>$148,200.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Section III. Administrative Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Contingencies Fees Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Contingency Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Commission Fixed Amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Commission - Adjusted Indirect Cost Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Line C. Subtotal</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Section IV. Subtotal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Required Match</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Anticipated Revenue</td>
</tr>
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### Budget Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Total Budget Total Percentages</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Cost</td>
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**Sample budget available online:** https://www.volunteerflorida.org/americorps-grant-opportunities/
What Does it Mean to “operate” an AmeriCorps Program?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>The AmeriCorps program becomes yours!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your organization must recruit and manage AmeriCorps members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your organization must manage payment of AmeriCorps member living allowance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your organization will develop local partnerships.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your organization will track and report progress.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your organization will submit monthly cost reimbursement invoices and support documentation.</td>
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Training via Volunteer Florida

- Program Manager as the primary staff person for training and grant needs
- 2-3 multi day in-person trainings annually
- Webinars & training newsletters
- On site technical assistance/monitoring visits

Photo of group of people with Volunteer Florida banners.
Timeline (Anticipated)

- January 23, 2023 – RFP Released
- **Webinars** (recordings available on **January 27**):
  - AmeriCorps 101 Webinar
  - Budget 101 Webinar
  - Creating Strong Narratives Webinar
- **February 1, 2023 10:00 am EST** – Technical Assistance Call for Continuation Applicants
- **February 1, 2023 2:00 pm EST** – Technical Assistance Call for New/Re-Compete Applicants
- **February 3, 2023** – FAQs Posted on website
- **February 27, 2023 by 5:00 pm EST** – Applications due in eGrants and supporting documentation submitted
- **March 3 - March 20, 2023** – External and Internal Review
- **March 29, 2023** – Clarification provided to applicants considered for funding
- **April 18, 2023 by 5:00 pm EDT** – Revised AmeriCorps Applications due
- **May 12, 2023** – Volunteer Florida Commissioner review and approval
- **May 15, 2023** – Submission of funding recommendation to AmeriCorps
- **July 2023** – Funding Notification from AmeriCorps
- **August 1, 2023** – Anticipated contract start date
AMERICORPS PLEDGE

I will get things done for America to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier.

I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.

Faced with apathy, I will take action.

Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.

Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done.
Resources

Volunteer Florida Website
https://www.volunteerflorida.org/americorps-grant-opportunities/

AmeriCorps.gov
https://www.americorps.gov/funding-opportunity/fy-2023-americorps-state-national-grants
Next Steps

• Gather your partners! Decide who is the lead to apply.
• Review the full application – released January 23, 2023
• Contact Volunteer Florida with your questions, americorpsrfp@volunteerflorida.org
• AmeriCorps Application due in eGrants – February 27, 2023
• AmeriCorps Application supplemental documents due in Blackbaud System – February 27, 2023
• Sign up for Volunteer Florida communications (www.volunteerflorida.org)