



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
SERVE DC – THE MAYOR’S OFFICE ON VOLUNTEERISM**

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

2014 AmeriCorps State Competitive Grant Competition

NOTICE: ATTENDANCE AT ONE OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SESSIONS IS **REQUIRED** IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THIS GRANT. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SESSIONS ARE SCHEDULED MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2013 (CONTINUATION APPLICANTS ONLY), WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2013, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2013 (WEBINAR) AND TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2013. PLEASE SEE THE REMAINDER OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.

Summary

Serve DC – The Mayor’s Office on Volunteerism announces the availability of AmeriCorps State Competitive funding for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 to eligible organizations. Subject to the availability of appropriations for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY2014) and release of Application Instructions by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), new applicants with high-quality proposals will compete nationally with other State and National programs for Competitive funds made available through Serve DC and CNCS. The total amount of an applicant’s grant request must not exceed \$13,300 per Member Service Year. Applicants must request no less than five (5) Member Service Years and \$66,500. For Professional Corps, the applicant’s grant request must not exceed \$2,000 per Member Service Year and must request no less than five (5) Member Service Years and \$10,000.

Following Serve DC’s initial review of all applications, a decision will be made as to which programs Serve DC will recommend to CNCS for Competitive funding consideration. The remaining applications – and those not selected by CNCS for Competitive funding – will be considered for AmeriCorps Formula funds. Serve DC reserves the right to reject applicants from both the Competitive process and from consideration for Formula funding. Serve DC anticipates notifying Competitive awardees by mid-April 2014 and anticipates making Competitive grant awards in the first week of July 2014. Applicants considered for Formula funding will follow the Formula application timeline.

AmeriCorps is a national service network that provides full- and less than full-time opportunities for participants, called members, to serve their communities and build the capacity of nonprofit organizations to meet local environmental, educational, public safety, homeland security, or other human needs. Within these issue areas, programs may submit proposals that address specific problems of local communities.

On April 21, 2009, President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, the most sweeping expansion of national service in a generation. This landmark law not only expands service opportunities, but also focuses national service on key outcomes; builds the capacity of individuals, nonprofits, and communities to succeed; and encourages innovative approaches to solving problems.

In alignment with the Serve America Act, this AmeriCorps State *Notice of Funding Opportunity* will focus AmeriCorps grant making in six Focus Areas identified by the Act:

- Disaster Services
- Economic Opportunity
- Education
- Environmental Stewardship
- Healthy Futures
- Veterans and Military Families

In order to carry out Congress' intent and to maximize the impact of the investment in national service, CNCS and Serve DC are seeking to fund programs that can demonstrate community impact and solve community problems through an evidence-based approach (e.g. performance data, research, theory of change).

Subject to the release of Application Instructions by CNCS, CNCS and Serve DC will give priority consideration to focus areas as outlined in the Request for Application. CNCS and Serve DC will continue to focus on national service programs that improve academic outcomes for children, youth, and young adults. This focus reflects the extensive experience and past success of national service programs in education, and aligns with the efforts of the Department of Education. In addition, CNCS and Serve DC seek to increase its investment in programs that serve veterans and military families or engage veterans in service. CNCS and Serve DC will also focus investment in programs that increase community resiliency through disaster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation.

Continuation requests for expansion will receive priority consideration and preference in the same manner.

Applicants proposing programs that receive priority consideration are not guaranteed funding. CNCS and Serve DC will pursue a balanced portfolio across the Focus Areas. Furthermore, programs must demonstrate significant program focus, design and impact to receive priority consideration. Applicants are highly encouraged to utilize national performance measures.

What types of AmeriCorps grants are available in this competition?

The types of AmeriCorps grants in this competition are described below. CNCS and Serve DC will not provide more than one grant for the same project in one fiscal year. Also see the AmeriCorps State and National [Fit Finder](http://www.americorps.gov/fitfinder/) to decide which type of grant aligns with the proposed project (<http://www.americorps.gov/fitfinder/>).

1. Competitive: These grants are awarded to fund a portion of program costs and members' living allowance.

2. Professional Corps: These grants are awarded to organizations that propose to operate a Professional Corps program. Professional Corps programs place AmeriCorps members as teachers, health care providers, police officers, engineers, or other professionals in communities where there is a documented shortage of such professionals. Applicants are eligible to apply for funding for a portion of program costs. Professional Corps member salaries are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve, and are not included in the budget.

Match Requirements

1. Cost Reimbursement Grants (non-fixed-amount): 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.

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 at 45 CFR §2521.60(b). 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 that plan to request an alternative match schedule must submit a request. State programs submit requests for alternative match to the State Commission. State Commissions submit on behalf of their state programs and Multi-State Programs (National Direct) submit their requests to ACAlternateMatchScheduleRequests@cns.gov.

Section 121(e)(5) of the National Community Service Act requires that programs that use other federal funds as match for an AmeriCorps grant report the amount and source of these funds to CNCS on the Federal Financial Report.

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

What are the requirements regarding member living allowance?

The proposed budget must include a living allowance for a full-time member is between \$12,100 (minimum) and \$24,200 (maximum) per member except as noted below.

For cost-reimbursement grants, this amount must be included in the proposed budget. The living allowance is not required 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 chart below.

Table 1: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1700	\$12,100	\$24,200
One-year Half-time	900	n/a	\$12,800
Reduced Half-time	675	n/a	\$9,600
Quarter-time	450	n/a	\$6,400
Minimum-time	300	n/a	\$4,260

2014 AmeriCorps Funding Priorities

In the FY 2014 AmeriCorps competition, CNCS seeks to prioritize the investment of national service resources in economic opportunity, education, veterans and military families, disaster services, and the Governor and Mayor Initiative (described more fully below). CNCS will continue to focus on national service programs that improve academic outcomes for children, youth, and young adults. This focus reflects the extensive experience and past success of national service programs in education, and aligns with the efforts of the Department of Education. In addition, CNCS seeks to increase its investment in programs that serve veterans and military families or engage veterans and military families in service. CNCS will also focus investment in programs that increase community resiliency through disaster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation. CNCS will focus investment in programs that increase economic opportunities for community and AmeriCorps members.

Finally, CNCS will focus on summer programming for K-12 students, especially those programs that address the academic “summer slide.” Proposed activities will engage youth and young adults as summer members to help support summer reading, math, science, and environmental learning activities for youth in rural and urban areas most likely at risk of summer learning loss.

Governor and Mayor Initiative

CNCS will be continuing its pilot of the Governor and Mayor Initiative, which will be given priority consideration in Tier 1. CNCS will accept one application per state. The application must address a pressing challenge the Governor wishes to solve in her or his state. A Governor must apply with one Mayor in his or her state and a minimum of two nonprofits. In conjunction with the Mayor, the Governor will be responsible for identifying and selecting those nonprofits that are best able to achieve a demonstrated positive impact on the problem. The application should include letters of commitment from all relevant parties. If the Governor and Mayor have not yet selected partnering nonprofit entities, they should describe the process that the Governor and Mayor will use to select the nonprofit entities.

The application, submitted to the State Commission, will respond to the application criteria and explain how several nonprofits working together, with the Governor’s office serving as a convener, will effectively deploy AmeriCorps members for a collective impact. Only the

Governor, Mayor, their designated government office (but not the state commission), or a public university may apply for grants under the Governor and Mayor initiative. Applications from other entities will be deemed non-compliant and will not be considered under this initiative.

For example, a Governor and a Mayor in a state could conclude the most pressing challenge facing the state is its high school graduation rate. The Governor and/or Mayor would submit one application describing:

- How the partnership will be organized and AmeriCorps resources will be allocated between the partnering entities (State, locality, and nonprofit entities).
- The proposed theory of change and program model.
- How they will utilize an identified consortium of nonprofits that are well positioned to achieve outcomes identified in the theory of change.

If you would like to be considered as a partner for the Governor and Mayor Initiative in DC, please notify Sarah Watkins at sarah.watkins@dc.gov by 5:00 pm on October 25, 2013.

Applicants proposing programs that receive priority consideration are not guaranteed funding. CNCS will seek to build a diversified portfolio across the focus areas, and other considerations. Furthermore, programs must demonstrate significant program focus, design, and impact to receive priority consideration. CNCS will give priority consideration to applicants in the following Tiers, in descending order of preference:

Tier 1: Programs that select:

- Complementary Program Measures in Economic Opportunity (Programs that select O12, O14, O15, O17 must also select an additional Priority or Complementary Program Measure from Tier 1, 2, or 3 that measures community impact), or
- Priority Measures in Veterans and Military Families, or
- Priority Measures in Disaster Services, or
- A Governor and Mayor Initiative

NOTE: CNCS' expectation is that if Tier 1 is selected at least 30% of your MSYs are in the complementary program measures or priority measures above. If that is not the case and Tier 1 has been selected, please explain in the narrative why it was not possible to meet the 30% threshold. Programs that fit these Priority or Complementary Program Measures should use these measures. These measures can be found in Section IX, Tier 1.

Tier 2: Programs that select Priority Measures in:

- Environmental Stewardship, or
- Healthy Futures, or
- Capacity Building

- Education and are not serving 100% in schools that received awards under the School Improvement Grants (SIG) program and are implementing one of the SIG school intervention models and/or Priority Schools identified by a State educational agency (SEA) that has received approval from the Department of Education of its request for Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility, or

Programs that have selected Priority Measures other than those in Tier 1 for:

- Economic Opportunity

NOTE: CNCS' expectation is that if Tier 2 is selected at least 30% of your MSYs are in the priority measures above. If that is not the case and Tier 2 has been selected, please explain in the narrative why it was not possible to meet the 30% threshold. 7

Programs that fit these Priority Measures should use these measures. These measures can be found in Section IX, Tier 1 or 2. Applicants whose members will be serving in schools that received awards under the School Improvement Grants (SIG) program and are implementing one of the SIG school intervention models and/or Priority Schools identified by a State educational agency (SEA) that has received approval from the Department of Education of its request for Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility must check the box on the Performance Measure tab in eGrants "SIG/Priority Schools" to be considered for Tier 1. The "NCES School ID" will need to be entered in the service location information at the time the members are enrolled.

Tier 3: Programs that select Complementary Program Measures. These measures can be found in Section IX. Tier 3.

Tier 4: Programs in the Focus Areas with self-nominated measures.

Tier 5: Programs outside the Focus Areas with self-nominated measures. Continuation requests for expansion will receive priority consideration and preference in the same manner as described above.

Criteria for Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants are local nonprofit organizations and/or state and local units of government. Programs applying to Serve DC for funding *must* operate their program only within the District of Columbia. Organizations that have been convicted of a Federal crime are disqualified from receiving funds. An organization described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(4), that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply, serve as a host site for members, or act in any type of supervisory role in the program. **Individuals are not eligible to apply.**

New Applicants: CNCS and Serve DC encourage organizations that have never received funding from CNCS or AmeriCorps to apply for the grants described in this Notice. New organizations should submit applications commensurate with the community need with the understanding that the general practice is to award no more than 50 member slots for new grantees. All eligible

applicants must meet all of the applicable requirements contained in the Request for Applications (RFA). The RFA will be available in early November 2013 on Serve DC's website at www.serve.dc.gov or in person at Serve DC's office.

The deadline for submission is November 21, 2013, by 5:00 pm. Applications must be entered in to the CNCS eGrants online system and all required hard-copy documents must be submitted to Serve DC. Late applications will not be accepted. An application is considered late at 5:01 p.m. Additionally, applicants are **required** to attend one of the following technical assistance (TA) sessions: October 21, from 2:00-3:00pm, Continuation applicants only (Conference Call); October 23, or November 5, from 5:30-7:30pm in the Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center, Serve DC – The Mayor's Office on Volunteerism, 2000 14th Street, NW, Suite 101, Washington, DC 20009 (**TA sessions will automatically close at 5:45pm. No exceptions will be made and late individuals will not be allowed to enter the office**); or October 24th from 2:00-4:00pm (Webinar). Webinar information will only be available to those who RSVP.

For additional information or to RSVP for one of the technical assistance sessions, please contact by telephone or email:

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