

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

**NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

**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 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2011, AND THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2011 FROM 5:30 TO 7:30PM. 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 funding for Fiscal Year 2012 – 2013 to eligible organizations. Subject to the availability of appropriations for Fiscal Year 2012 (FY2012), new applicants with high-quality proposals will compete nationally with other State and National programs for Competitive funds made available through Serve DC and the Corporation for National and Community Service (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 \$2,500 per Member Service Year and must request no less than five (5) Member Service Years and \$12,500.

Following Serve DC’s initial review of all applications, a decision will be made as to which programs Serve DC will recommend to the Corporation for Competitive funding consideration. The remaining applications – and those not selected by CNCS for Competitive funding – will be considered for Formula funds. Serve DC reserves the right to reject applicants from both the Competitive process and from consideration for Formula funding. If rejected, applicants will not be eligible to apply for AmeriCorps funding from Serve DC for one calendar year. Serve DC anticipates notifying Competitive awardees by mid-May 2012 and anticipates making Competitive grant awards in or about the first week of July 2012. 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 grantmaking 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).

In the AmeriCorps competition this year, CNCS and Serve DC especially seek to prioritize investment in three areas of its work. 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. To meet these goals, CNCS and Serve DC will give priority consideration to the following, in descending order of preference:

- **Tier 1:** Programs that select Priority Measures in Education, Veterans and Military Families, and Disaster Services (NOTE: Applicants that have programs that fit these Priority Measures are **required** to utilize these Measures.).
- **Tier 2:** Programs that select Priority Measures in Economic Opportunity, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures and Capacity Building. (NOTE: Applicants that have programs that fit these Priority Measures are **required** to utilize these Measures.)
- **Tier 3:** Programs that select Pilot Measures.
- **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.

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. While use of national performance measures remains optional in 2012, new and re-competing applicants are strongly encouraged to use them in planning programming. Applications that include national performance measures will be given special attention by Serve DC.

### **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.

#### **3. Full-time Fixed-amount Grants (Non-EAP)**

These grants are awarded to organizations operating in a single state (Washington, DC), including single-state Professional Corps programs. Full-time fixed-amount grants are available for programs that enroll full-time members only. Applicants apply for a fixed amount per Member Service Year (MSY), and use their own or other resources for the remaining cost of the program. There is no match requirement for fixed-amount grants, but organizations must still raise the additional funds needed to run the program.

Full-time fixed-amount grants are only available for new and recompeting applications. Second and third-year continuation applicants with cost reimbursement grants must submit a new application if they are interested in a fixed-amount grant. **Serve DC requires prior approval to submit an application for a fixed-amount grant.**

Full-time fixed-amount grant applicants in the Education Focus Area will be required to select either a Tier 1 Education Measure or Tier 3 Education Pilot Measure. Applicants proposing non-Education programs may select from Tiers 1-5. All performance measures will be negotiated prior to grant selection and award. Approved applicants must agree to participate in any relevant evaluations conducted by CNCS.

#### **4. Education Award Program (EAP) Fixed-amount Grants**

These grants are awarded to applicants that apply for a small fixed-amount grant and use their own or other resources for the majority of members' living allowance and program costs. There is no match requirement for EAP grants. Unlike full-time fixed-amount grants, EAPs may enroll less-than-full-time members in addition to full-time members.

## Match Requirements

### 1. Fixed-Amount Grants

There is no match requirement for fixed-amount grants. However, the fixed-amount grant does not cover all costs. Fixed-amount grantees provide the additional resources needed to operate the program, but are not required to track or report on them.

### 2. 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.

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 full-time members that 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.

While full-time fixed-amount grant applicants don't submit detailed budgets, they are still required to provide a living allowance to members that complies with the minimum and maximum requirements. Full-time fixed-amount grant applicants are not required to identify that amount in the application.

**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
Two-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	\$4,300

**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-October 2011 on Serve DC's website at [www.serve.dc.gov](http://www.serve.dc.gov) or in person at Serve DC's office.

**The deadline for submission is November 29, 2011, 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 12, 18, or 27, 2011, from 5:30-7:30pm in the Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center, Serve DC – The Mayor's Office on Volunteerism, 2000 14<sup>th</sup> 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.**

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

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