

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

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

2013 AmeriCorps State Competitive Grant Competition

***All Information Subject to Change with Release of the 2013 AmeriCorps State Application
Instructions by the Corporation for National and Community Service***

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 22, 2012 (CONTINUATION APPLICANTS ONLY), WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2012, AND TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2012 (WEBINAR) AND MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2012. 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 2013 – 2014 to eligible organizations. Subject to the availability of appropriations for Fiscal Year 2013 (FY2013) 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 \$2,500 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 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-May 2013 and anticipates making Competitive grant awards in or about the first week of July 2013. 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.

Available AmeriCorps Grant Types

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 re-competing 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%

Member Living Allowance Requirements

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.

While full-time fixed-amount grant applicants don't submit detailed budgets, they are still required to provide a living allowance to members that comply 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 mid to late October 2012 on Serve DC's website at www.serve.dc.gov or in person at Serve DC's office.

The deadline for submission is December 6, 2012, 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:

- **Monday, October 22, 2012**
2:00pm-3:00pm
Conference call ; **continuation applicants only*
- **Wednesday, October 24 or Monday, November 5, 2012**
5:30pm-7:30pm
In-person session, located at:*

Serve DC Office
Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center, Suite 101, First Floor
2000 14th Street, NW, 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.***

- **Tuesday, October 30, 2012**
1:00pm-3:00pm
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:

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