

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

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

AmeriCorps State Competitive Planning 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 Planning grant funding for Fiscal Year 2012 – 2013 to eligible organizations. Subject to the availability of appropriations for Fiscal Year 2012 (FY2012), funds will be made available through Serve DC and the Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS) for AmeriCorps State Planning grants. The actual level of funding will be subject to the availability of annual appropriations, which have not yet been made. CNCS estimates awarding a small number of grants. Applicants may apply for up to a maximum of \$50,000.

What is the purpose of AmeriCorps Planning Grants?

The purpose of the planning grant is to support the development of AmeriCorps programs that will engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based interventions to solve community problems. Planning grant recipients are expected to be better prepared to compete for an AmeriCorps program grant in the following grant cycle. Planning grants may not be used to support AmeriCorps members.

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 the 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 able to apply for AmeriCorps funding from Serve DC for one calendar year. Serve DC anticipates notifying Competitive awardees by mid-May 2012. Applicants considered for Formula funding will follow the Formula application timeline.

The mission of CNCS is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic participation through service and volunteering. For more than fifteen years, CNCS—through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs—has helped to engage millions of citizens in meeting community and national challenges through service and volunteer action.

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 order to carry out Congress' intent and to maximize the impact of the investment in national service, CNCS is 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.

Reporting Requirements: All approved applicants will be required to submit the following reports (and any others per Corporation guidelines and requirements):

- Periodic Expense Reports (Monthly): Identify funds expended during the Reporting Period.
- Federal Financial Reports (Bi-Annually): Identify funds expended to date during the Reporting Period.
- Planning Grant Module Plans (Quarterly): Must submit plans for each module. The four required modules are the Member Plan, Financial Plan, Partnership Plan, and Performance Measure Plan. These modules will be the main component of your planning grant.

Match Requirement: All program costs require at least a 24 percent cash or in-kind match during their planning grant year.

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.**

AmeriCorps State and National Planning Grant applicants must not have previously received an AmeriCorps State or National Grant before. Applicants may have received funding through Lean and Serve America, AmeriCorps NCCC, Senior Corps, or VISTA.

All eligible applicants must meet all of the applicable requirements contained in the request for applications (RFA). The RFA will be available early-October 2011 on Serve DC's website at 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 5:01p.m.

Additionally, applicants are **required** to attend one of the following technical assistance sessions: October 12, 18, or 27, 2011, from 5:30-7:30pm in the Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center, 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.**

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

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