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

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

2013 AmeriCorps State Formula Grant Competition

Notice: Attendance at one of the technical assistance sessions is required to be eligible to apply for this grant. Technical assistance sessions are scheduled for Thursday, February 28, 2013 (new applicants only); Tuesday, March 12, 2013 (conference call, continuation applicants only, closed to the general public); Wednesday, March 13, 2013 (webinar, new applicants only); Thursday, March 14, 2013 (conference call, competitive formula applicants only); and Wednesday, March 20, 2013 (new applicants only). 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 Formula funding for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 to eligible organizations. Subject to the availability of appropriations for Fiscal Year 2013 (FY2013) new applicants with high-quality proposals will compete with other programs in the District of Columbia for formula funds made available through Serve DC. 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 federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) for formula funding consideration. If rejected, applicants will not be eligible to apply for AmeriCorps State funding from Serve DC for one calendar year. Serve DC anticipates notifying formula awardees by mid-July 2013.

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

On April 21, 2009, President Barack 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 focuses AmeriCorps grant making in six focus areas: disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental Stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and military families.

As the DC Commission on National and Community Service, Serve DC will also focus on AmeriCorps programs that align with local priorities outlined in Mayor Vincent C. Gray's "One City Action Plan," a strategic document that details the administration's vision and plans for addressing city priorities, and the 2013-2015 DC State Service Plan, Serve DC's three-year strategic plan that outlines goals and objectives to meet community needs through volunteer service. These priorities include economic opportunity, education, and sustainability.

To carry out Congress' intent and maximize the impact of the investment in national service, CNCS and Serve DC seek 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).

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 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 AmeriCorps grant types 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"](#) to determine what type of grant aligns with the proposed project.

1. **Formula:** 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 (District of Columbia), including single-state Professional Corps programs. Full-time fixed-amount grants are available for programs that only enroll full-time members. 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 still must raise the additional funds needed to run the program.

   Full-time fixed-amount grants are available only 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 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 do not 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	Min. # of Hours	Min. Living Allowance	Max. 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	$4,260

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 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 late February 2013 on Serve DC's website at www.serve.dc.gov.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS APRIL 11, 2013 BY 5:00 P.M. EST. Applications must be entered in to the CNCS online eGrants 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:**

- February 28, 2013 and March 20, 2013 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
  Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center, 2000 14th Street, NW, Suite 101, Washington, DC 20009
  New applicants only

- March 12, 2013 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.
  Conference call
  Continuation applicants only

- March 13, 2013 from 2:30-4:30 p.m.
  Webinar
  New applicants only

- March 14, 2013 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.
  Conference call
  Competitive-to-formula applicants only

Please Note: Webinar information will only be available to those who RSVP. In-person TA sessions will automatically close at 5:45 p.m. **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 TA sessions, please contact:

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