

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

**NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

**2016 AmeriCorps State Formula Grant Competition**

NOTICE: ATTENDANCE AT ONE OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SESSIONS IS **REQUIRED** FOR ALL **NEW** APPLICANTS IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THIS GRANT. NEW APPLICANTS ARE DEFINED AS NOT RECEIVING AMERICORPS FUNDS WITHIN THE LAST THREE YEARS. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SESSIONS ARE SCHEDULED WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2016 AT 4:00PM AND TUESDAY APRIL 12, 2015 AT 4:00PM. 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 2016 – 2017 to eligible organizations. New applicants with high-quality proposals will compete other State programs for Formula funds made available through Serve DC and Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). The total amount of an applicant’s grant request must not exceed \$13,730 per Member Service Year. Applicants must request no more than twenty (20) Member Slots for new and re-competing applicants. For Professional Corps, the applicant’s grant request must not exceed \$2,500 per Member Service Year and must request no more than twenty (20) Member Slots.

Serve DC asks *new and re-competing applicants* to submit a logical model with cover page prior to application submission. Logic Models will be reviewed by the Serve DC Commission. Following the Serve DC Commissions initial review of logic models, a decision will be made as to which programs Serve DC will ask to submit a full application. Please limit your logic model to 3 pages and email them to [pamela.weinberg@dc.gov](mailto:pamela.weinberg@dc.gov) by **April 20, 2015 at 5pm**. Please note: *Continuation applicants do not need to submit a logic model.*

Applicants who submit a full proposal will undergo a peer and staff review. Following this review, Serve DC will recommend programs to the federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) for Formula funding consideration. If rejected at any stage of the application process, applicants will be considered for AmeriCorps Formula funds. Serve DC reserves the right to reject applicants from consideration for Formula funding. Serve DC anticipates notifying Formula awardees by mid-July 2016 and anticipates making Formula grant awards in the first week of August 2016.

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).

CNCS and Serve DC will give priority consideration to the 2016 AmeriCorps Funding Priorities as outlined in the Request for Application:

**2016 AmeriCorps and Serve DC Funding Priorities:**

Serve DC seeks to prioritize the investment of national service resources in:

- Disaster Services - improving community resiliency through disaster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation
- Economic Opportunity - increasing economic opportunities for communities, specifically opportunity youth (see Glossary), both as the population served and as AmeriCorps members.
- Education - improving student academic performance in Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics (STEM).
- Environment - 21st Century Service Corps (see Glossary)
- Veterans and Military Families -- positively impacting the quality of life of veterans and improving military family strength
- Programming that supports My Brother's Keeper (see Glossary)
- Initiatives that support "Safer Stronger DC" and "Pathways to the Middle Class" (see Glossary)

Applicants proposing programs that receive priority consideration are not guaranteed funding. 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.

Glossary is located at: <http://serve.dc.gov/node/111542>

### **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. 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: Education Award Program (EAP):** These grants provide 100% of the program cost and only seek to provide the Segal Education Award for its members.

### **Match Requirements**

**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.

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

**EAP grant:** Applicants are not requesting funding; therefore, are not required to complete a detailed budget. However, they must complete the source of match to identify the sources of the revenue needed to operate the program.

### **What are the requirements regarding member living allowance?**

The proposed budget must include a living allowance for a full-time member is between \$12,530 (minimum) and \$25,060 (maximum) per member.

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**

<b>Service Term</b>	<b>Minimum # of Hours</b>	<b>Minimum Living Allowance</b>	<b>Maximum Total Living Allowance</b>
Full-time	1700	\$12,530	\$25,060
One-year Half-time	900	n/a	\$13,265
Reduced Half-time	675	n/a	\$9,950
Quarter-time	450	n/a	\$6,635
Minimum-time	300	n/a	\$4,420

**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:** Serve DC encourages 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 20 member slots for new grantees. All eligible applicants must meet all of the applicable requirements contained in the Request for Applications (RFA). The RFA is available on Serve DC’s website at <http://serve.dc.gov/service/grant-competitions> or in person at Serve DC’s office.

**The deadline for submission is May 25, 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.

The following technical assistance (TA) sessions are available at the Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center, 2000 14th Street, NW, Suite 101, Washington, DC 20009:

- March 30, 2016 from 4:00-5:30 p.m. Mandatory technical assistance for New Applicants.
- April 6, 2016 from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Optional technical assistance for continuation and re-competing applicants.
- April 12, 2016 from 4:00-5:30 p.m. Mandatory Technical Assistance for New Applicants.

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

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