

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

**NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

**2017 AmeriCorps State Competitive Grant Competition**

**Summary:**

Serve DC – The Mayor’s Office on Volunteerism announces the availability of AmeriCorps State Competitive funding for Fiscal Year 2017 – 2018 to eligible organizations. Subject to the availability of appropriations for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY2018) 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 \$13,830 per Member Service Year. Applicants must request no less than twenty (20) Member Slots. For Professional Corps, the applicant’s grant request must not exceed \$1,000 per Member Service Year and must request no less than twenty (20) Member Slots.

Serve DC asks *new and recompeting applicants* to submit a logical model 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 **October 21, 2016 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 Competitive 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 both the Competitive process and from consideration for Formula funding. Serve DC anticipates notifying Competitive awardees by early June 2017 and anticipates making Competitive grant awards in the first week of July 2017. 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).

CNCS and Serve DC will give priority consideration to the 2017 AmeriCorps Funding Priorities as outlined in the Request for Application:

- Disaster Services - improving community resiliency through disaster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation
- Economic Opportunity - increasing economic opportunities for communities by engaging opportunity youth, either as the population served and/or as AmeriCorps members
- Education - improving student academic performance in Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics (STEM)
- Environment - 21st Century Service Corps
- Healthy Futures – Reducing and/or Preventing Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse
- Veterans and Military Families -- positively impacting the quality of life of veterans and improving military family strength
- Programming that supports My Brother's Keeper
- Multi-focus intermediaries that demonstrate measureable impact and primarily serve communities with limited resources and organizational infrastructure. i.e. rural and other underserved communities
- Safer communities
- Evidence Based Intervention Planning Grants
- Encore Programs

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.

Glossary is located at:

[http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2016\\_Glossary\\_0.pdf](http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2016_Glossary_0.pdf)

## **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.

### **Alternative Match**

Under certain circumstances, applicants may qualify to meet alternative matching requirements that increase over the years to 35 percent instead of 50 percent as specified in the regulations at 45 CFR §2521.60(b). To qualify, applicants must demonstrate that the proposed program is either located in a rural county or in a severely economically distressed community as defined in the Application Instructions. Applicants that plan to request an alternative match schedule must submit a request by January 5, 2015. State programs submit requests for alternative match to the State Commission.

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%

### **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 except as noted in the Request for Applications RFA.

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: 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	\$12,630	\$24,930
Half-time	900	n/a	\$13,199
Reduced Half-time	675	n/a	\$9,899
Quarter-time	450	n/a	\$6,599
Minimum-time	300	n/a	\$4,400

**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 less than 20 member slots and 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 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 December 5, 2016, 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:

- September 27, 2016 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center, 2000 14th Street, NW, Suite 101, Washington, DC 20009 (Mandatory for new applicants)
- October 6, 2016 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. via Conference call - Conference call information will only be available to those who RSVP.

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

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