



# AmeriCorps Mississippi

## NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

<b>Federal Agency Name:</b>	AmeriCorps
<b>Funding Opportunity Title:</b>	Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 AmeriCorps State and National Grants
<b>Announcement Type:</b>	Initial Announcement
<b>Assistance Listing Number:</b>	94.006

**Disclosure:** Publication of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (Notice) does not obligate AmeriCorps to award any specific number of grants or to commit any particular amount of funding. The actual level, timing, and process of grant funding will be subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

### Important Items:

- Competitive Applications are due no later than **Monday, December 4, 2024**, by 5:00 p.m. Central Time. Successful applicants will be notified by **mid-April 2024**.
- Successful applicants will be issued awards by **mid-July 2024**.
- To be considered for Funding, a Legal Applicant Organization must meet all eligibility criteria as outlined in the Eligibility Information section of this Notice.
- Formula Applications are due no later than **Friday, March 8, 2024**, by 5:00 p.m. Central Time. Successful applicants will be notified by **mid-June 2024**.
- Successful applicants will be issued awards by **mid-July 2024**.
- To be considered for Funding, a Legal Applicant Organization must meet all eligibility criteria as outlined in the Eligibility Information section of this Notice.

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# FULL TEXT OF THE NOTICE

## A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### A.1. Purpose of AmeriCorps State and National Funding

AmeriCorps improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. AmeriCorps brings people together to tackle some of the country's most pressing challenges through national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities and those serving. AmeriCorps helps make service a cornerstone of our national culture.

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations (Use Section [C.1. Eligible Applicants](#)) proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions/practices to strengthen communities. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members earn a [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) that they can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

Please use the AmeriCorps Focus Areas in [Appendix I](#).

### A.2. Funding Priorities

AmeriCorps released its [2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#), which defines the agency's goals and objectives to advance the agency's mission to improve lives and strengthen communities. AmeriCorps will execute the following goals to better position the agency to respond to national and local needs and help the communities it serves prosper:

1. Partner with communities to alleviate poverty and advance racial equity
2. Enhance the experience for AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers
3. Unite Americans by bringing them together in service
4. Effectively steward federal resources
5. Make AmeriCorps one of the best and most equitable places to work in the federal government

AmeriCorps will invest in existing and new partnerships with non-profit, faith-based, and Tribal organizations, and State Service Commissions, to get things done for America. The agency will prioritize investment in the most critical issues of our time – public health, climate and the environment, and education and economic opportunity – within AmeriCorps' Focus Areas ([Appendix 1](#)) and will increase its efforts to ensure AmeriCorps members, AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers, and community-based volunteers reflect the communities where they serve. We will target our investments toward communities where the need is greatest, particularly those with populations that face racial inequality and poverty. These steps will enable more Americans than ever to strengthen the communities that need it most across the nation through their service.

AmeriCorps' priorities for this funding opportunity are:

- Organizations leading service in communities with concentrated poverty, rural communities, tribal communities, and those organizations serving historically underrepresented and underserved individuals, including but not limited to communities of color, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community, people with arrest and/or conviction records, and religious minorities;
- Evidence-based interventions on the [AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange](#) that are assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence. Please note that many of these interventions have demonstrated effectiveness in improving outcomes for individuals living in underserved communities and that the agency has committed resources to supporting grantees seeking to replicate and evaluate these interventions in similar communities;
- Veterans and Military Families, Caregivers, and Survivors - a program model that improves the quality of life of veterans and improves the well-being of military and veteran families, caregivers, and survivors;
- Faith-based organizations;
- Programs that provide additional benefits to AmeriCorps members aimed at enhancing member experience and bolstering member recruitment and retention such as paying more than the minimum living allowance, transportation, housing, food, etc.;
- Programs that create workforce pathways for AmeriCorps members, including deliberate training, certifications, and hiring preferences or support;
- Environmental Stewardship, including supporting communities to become more resilient through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve land and water, increase renewable energy use and improve at-risk ecosystems, especially in underserved households and communities;
- Community-based programs that enhance and expand services to second chance youth and/or engage those youth as AmeriCorps members;
- Programs that support civic bridgebuilding programs and projects to reduce polarization and community divisions; and providing training in civic bridgebuilding skills and techniques to AmeriCorps members;
- Programs focused on implementing or expanding access to high-quality early learning and those that prepare AmeriCorps members to enter early learning careers.

To receive priority consideration, applicants must show that the priority area is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes and must include a high-quality program design. Proposing programs that receive priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

### **A.3. Performance Goals or Expected Outcomes**

#### **National Performance Measures**

AmeriCorps expects applicants to use National Performance Measures as part of a comprehensive performance measurement strategy that relies on both performance and evaluation data to learn from their work and make tactical and strategic adjustments to achieve their goals.

All applications must include at least one aligned performance measure (output and outcome) that corresponds to the proposed primary intervention. This may be a National Performance Measure or an applicant-determined measure. For more information, please refer to the [National Performance Measure Instructions](#).

#### **A.4. Program Authority**

Awards under this Notice are authorized by the [National and Community Service Act of 1990](#), as amended, ([42 U.S.C. §12501 et seq.](#))

## **B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION**

#### **B.1. Estimated Available Funds**

AmeriCorps expects a highly competitive AmeriCorps grant competition. AmeriCorps reserves the right to prioritize providing funding to existing awards over making new awards. The actual level of funding is subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

#### **B.2. Estimated Award Amount**

Award amounts will vary as determined by the scope of the projects.

#### **B.3. Period of Performance**

AmeriCorps anticipates making three-year grant awards. AmeriCorps generally makes an initial award for the first year of the period of performance, based on a one-year budget. Applicants must submit a one-year budget. Applicants may propose any program start date that aligns with their program design. The period of performance may not be before July 1, 2024. Continuation awards for subsequent years are not guaranteed; they depend upon availability of future appropriations and satisfactory performance.

#### **B.4. Type of Award**

Award recipients will be assigned to an AmeriCorps Portfolio Manager, who will be responsible for assessing recipient performance, providing training and technical assistance, and serving as the agency's primary point of contact.

AmeriCorps may award Operating Grants, including a Cost Reimbursement or a Fixed Amount grant, to any successful applicant, but the availability of a Full-Cost Fixed Amount grant is limited to certain applicants.

Professional Corps applicants are ineligible to receive for Cost Reimbursement grants. Use the [C.1. Eligible Applicants](#) section and the [Mandatory Supplemental Information](#) for more information, including definitions of terminology. AmeriCorps will not provide both types of grants for the same project in one fiscal year.

Grant Types	Cost Reimbursement	Fixed Amount			
Available Subtypes	Traditional	Full-Cost	Education Award Program (EAP)	Professional Corps Use <a href="#">MSI</a> for further requirements)	No Cost Slots
Maximum Cost per MSY*	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$800 or \$1,000**	\$1,000	\$0
Type of Slots in the National Service Trust***	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT	FT Only	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT
Budget Submission Required	Yes	No		No	No
Availability of Funds Linked to Enrollment and Retention of Awarded MSYs	No	Yes			No
Special Requirements	N/A	N/A	Must place qualified professionals in communities with an inadequate # of such professionals. Member salaries & benefits must be paid entirely by organization where member serves & not included in budget.		N/A
Financial Reporting Requirements	Yes	No			
Available to New Applicants	Yes	No	Yes		

\* Member Service Year (MSY): One Member Service Year (MSY) is equivalent to a full-time AmeriCorps position (at least 1,700 service hours.)

\*\* Per [42 U.S.C. § 12581a](#), the Corporation may provide the operational support under this section for a program in an amount that is not more than \$800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position, or not more than \$1,000 per such individual if at least 50 percent of the persons enrolled in the program are disadvantaged youth.

\*\*\*FT = Full Time, TQT = Three Quarter Time, HT = Half Time, RHT = Reduced Half Time, QT = Quarter Time, MT = Minimum Time, AT = Abbreviated Time

## C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

### C.1. Eligible Applicants

The following non-Federal entities (all defined in [2 CFR 200.1](#)) are eligible to apply:

- Indian Tribes
- institutions of higher education
- local governments, including school districts
- nonprofit organizations
- State Service Commissions
- states and US Territories

Applicants must have valid SAM registration and Unique Entity Identifier to receive award. Use [Section D.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#) for more info.

### New Applicants

AmeriCorps encourages organizations that have not received prior funding from AmeriCorps to apply (e.g. small community based organizations, faith based organizations, etc.).

New applicants are eligible to apply for Cost Reimbursement and Education Award Program (EAP) grants but are not eligible to apply for Full Cost Fixed Amount grants.

### Types of Applicants

#### 1. State and Territory Service Commissions (for Single-State Applicants)

Organizations that propose to operate in only one state must apply through the Governor-appointed State or Territory Commissions. Each Commission administers its own selection process and submits the applications it selects to compete for funding directly to AmeriCorps. Single-State applicants must contact their Commissions to learn about their state or territory processes and deadlines. State deadlines may be significantly earlier than the AmeriCorps deadlines and may have additional requirements. The list of Commissions can be found on the [AmeriCorps.gov State Service Commissions webpage](#). A Single-State application from a State or Territory with a Commission that is submitted directly to AmeriCorps by the applicant rather than the Commission will be considered noncompliant and will not be reviewed. In order to be reviewed as a National Direct applicant rather than a Single-State applicant, at least two specific states must be named in the "multi-state operating sites" section of the application at the time of submission. Use the [Mandatory Supplemental Information](#) for descriptions of National Direct and Single-State applicants.



## 2. National Direct Applicants

*Multi-State:* Organizations that propose to operate AmeriCorps programs in more than one State or Territory apply directly to AmeriCorps.

Although National Direct applicants do not have to apply to Commissions, there are substantial requirements to coordinate with the Commissions for states in which national service programs will operate. Use the [D.7.c. Coordination among State Service Commissions and National Direct Applicants section](#) for information on these important requirements.

*States and Territories without State Service Commissions:* Applicants in South Dakota, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands apply directly to AmeriCorps because this State and these Territories do not have an established Commission.

*Federally recognized Indian Tribes:* Applicants that are Indian Tribes apply directly to AmeriCorps.

In addition to Indian Tribes as defined in [2 CFR 200.1](#), tribal organizations that are controlled, authorized, or chartered by Federally recognized Indian Tribes are also eligible to apply. If an entity applies for an award as a tribal organization that is controlled or chartered by one or more Indian Tribes, the organization must provide copies or links to documentation which demonstrates that the organization is controlled or chartered by a federally recognized Indian Tribe. If an entity applies as an organization authorized by a federally recognized tribe, or multiple specific federally recognized tribes, it must submit a resolution or other authorization, adopted by the Tribal Council (or comparable tribal governing body) of each Indian Tribe. The authorization(s) must identify the entity applying for an AmeriCorps award by name as a tribal organization that is authorized by the Indian Tribe(s) for the purpose of applying for AmeriCorps funding (or federal grant funds generally).

In addition to being eligible to apply under this Notice, Federally recognized Indian Tribes will also be eligible to apply for operating or planning grants under a separate Notice of Funding Opportunity for Indian Tribes at the [AmeriCorps.gov Funding Opportunities webpage](#) with an application deadline in the spring. AmeriCorps may request applicants apply under the Tribal competition, rather than under this Notice.

### **Threshold Issues**

Applications should reflect that they meet the following threshold requirements for the grant type for which they are applying.

- Professional Corps applicants and/or applicants determined to be a Professional Corps by AmeriCorps, must demonstrate that the community in which it will place AmeriCorps members serving as professionals has an inadequate number of said professionals.
- If the proposed service activities require specialized member qualifications and/or training (e.g., tutoring programs: [45 CFR 2522.910-.940](#)), the applicant must describe how the program will meet these requirements.
- In order to be considered for funding, all applicants must propose program designs that are either evidence-based or evidence-informed. Applicants assessed as lower than the Preliminary evidence tier (i.e., Pre-Preliminary) must provide adequate responses to the Evidence Quality review.

## C.2. Cost Sharing or Matching

There is no cost share or matching requirement for Fixed Amount grants. AmeriCorps does not provide all the funds necessary to operate the program, therefore organizations should raise the additional revenue required to operate the program.

New applicants are eligible to apply for Cost Reimbursement and Education Award Program (EAP) grants but are not eligible to apply for Full-Cost Fixed Amount grants.

### Cost Reimbursement Grants

Applicants are required to match funds based on the chart below. The applicant's match can be non-AmeriCorps cash and/or in-kind contributions. Applicants must indicate whether the match is proposed or secured. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to meet the match requirement at the time of application submission. Use Section [D.6. Funding Restrictions](#) for more information.

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](#) and below.

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

[42 U.S.C. §12571\(e\)](#) requires grantees that use other Federal Funds as matching funds for an AmeriCorps grant to report amounts and sources to AmeriCorps on a Federal Financial Report. Grantees must track and report on that match separately each year and at closeout.

### Match Waiver

Please use Match Waiver information for AmeriCorps State and National Grantees located on the AmeriCorps.gov [Manage Your Grant](#) webpage. Programs applying through State Service Commissions must submit requests for alternative match to the Commission, who will submit to AmeriCorps on their behalf. Commissions and National Directs will submit requests via the Alternative Match Request form located on the AmeriCorps.gov Manage Your Grant webpage.

### 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 [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 who plan to request an alternative match schedule should submit a request at the time the application is submitted. Programs applying through State Service Commissions must submit requests for alternative match to the Commission, who will submit it to AmeriCorps on their behalf. Commissions and National Directs will submit requests via the Alternative Match Request form located on the AmeriCorps.gov [Manage Your Grant](#) webpage.

### **C.3. Other Eligibility Requirements**

Under Section 132A(b) of [the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended](#), organizations that have violated a Federal criminal statute may not receive assistance described in this Notice.

Applications that propose to engage in activities that are prohibited under AmeriCorps' statutes, regulations, or the terms and conditions of its awards are not eligible to receive AmeriCorps funding.

Note that under appropriations provisions annually enacted by Congress, if AmeriCorps is aware that any corporation has any unpaid federal tax liability

- that has been assessed;
- for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed; and
- that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability;

that corporation is not eligible for an award under this Notice. However, this exclusion will not apply to a corporation that a federal agency has considered for suspension or debarment and determined that suspension or debarment is not necessary to protect the interests of the federal government.

Pursuant to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, an organization described in the [Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. §501 \(c\)\(4\)](#) that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply for AmeriCorps funding.

## **D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

This Notice should be read together with the [AmeriCorps regulations, Application Instructions, Performance Measure Instructions, and Mandatory Supplemental Information](#). These documents are available online at [AmeriCorps.gov Funding Opportunities webpage](#).

### **D.1. Address to Request an Application Package**

All information associated with this funding opportunity is available through the AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities webpages. Applicants should refer to [AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities](#) for more information and instructions on how to fully respond to this Notice.

Applicants can also send an email to [americorpsgrants@cns.gov](mailto:americorpsgrants@cns.gov) or call (202) 606-7508 for a printed copy of the Notice, Guidance, and Application Instructions.

### **D.2. Content and Form of Application Submission**

Complete applications must include the following elements:

- Standard Form 424 (SF-424) Face Sheet: Automatically generated when applicants complete the data elements in the eGrants system.
- Narrative Sections
  - Executive Summary:
  - Program Design
  - Organizational Capability

- Cost-Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy
- Evaluation Summary/Plan
- Logic Model
- Performance Measures
- Standard Form 424A Budget
- Continuation Changes
- Clarification
- Authorization, [Assurances](#), and [Certifications](#)

### **D.2.b. Page Limits**

There are page limits for the Narratives and Logic Model:

- Narratives
  - Applications must not exceed 10 double-spaced pages for the Narrative or 12 pages for multi-state applications with more than five operating sites as the pages print out from eGrants. AmeriCorps will use the number of locations in the “multi-state operating sites” field in AmeriCorps’ web-based management system to determine whether a multi-state application has more than five operating sites. The “multi-state operating sites” field can be found by clicking on the “operating sites” link in the system. Multi-state applicants that list five or fewer operating sites cannot exceed 10 pages for the Narrative.
  - The application sections that count towards the page limit include:
    - SF-424 Face Sheet
    - Executive Summary
    - Program Design, Organizational Capability, and Cost-Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy narratives
  - The application page limit does not include:
    - Evaluation Summary/Plan
    - Clarification Summary
    - Continuation Changes
    - Budget, Performance Measures
    - Any required additional documents.
- Logic Model
  - The Logic Model may not exceed eight pages when printed with the application from the “Review” tab in AmeriCorps’ web-based management system.

Please note that the length of the application as a word processing document may differ from the length of the document printed out from eGrants. The character limits in eGrants do not align with page limits set in the Notice. **AmeriCorps strongly encourages applicants to print out the application from the “Review and Submit” tab in eGrants prior to submission in order to confirm that the application does not exceed the page limit.**

AmeriCorps will not consider the results of any alternative printing methods when determining if an application complies with the page limit. Reviewers will also not consider material that is over the page limit, even if eGrants allows applicants to enter and submit additional text.

### **D.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)**

All applicants **must** [register with the System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#) and maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete. If an applicant is awarded a grant, it must maintain an active SAM registration throughout the life of the award. Use the [SAM Quick Guide for Grantees for more information](#).

SAM registration must be renewed annually. AmeriCorps suggests that applicants finalize a new registration or renew an existing one at least three weeks before the application deadline, to allow time to resolve any issues that may arise. **Applicants must use their SAM-registered legal name and physical address on all grant applications to AmeriCorps. The legal applicant's name and physical address in eGrants must match exactly the applicant's SAM-registered information.**

Applications must include a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), which is generated as part of the SAM registration process. AmeriCorps will not make awards to entities that do not have a valid SAM registration and UEI.

Applications must include an Employer Identification Number (EIN). The UEI and EIN must be entered by the organization's Grantee Administrator as an organization attribute, and this will apply the information to all applications for the organization.

If an applicant has not fully complied with these requirements by the time AmeriCorps is ready to make a federal award, AmeriCorps may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

### **D.4. Submission Dates and Times**

#### **D.4.a. Application Submission Deadline**

Competitive Applications are due no later than **Monday, December 4, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time**. Formula Applications are due no later than **Friday, March 8, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time**.

AmeriCorps will not consider applications submitted after the deadline, except as noted in [Section D.4.c. Late Applications](#). AmeriCorps reserves the right to extend the submission deadline. AmeriCorps will post a notification in the event of an extended deadline on AmeriCorps' funding opportunities webpage.

#### **D.4.b. Additional Documents Deadline**

Additional documents are due by the submission deadline. Use Sections [D.4.a. Application Submission Deadline](#) and [D.7.b. Submission of Additional Documents](#) for more info.

#### **D.4.c. Late Applications**

All Competitive Applications received after submission deadline published in this Notice, on **Monday, December 4, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time**, are presumed to be non-compliant. Similarly, Formula Applications received after the submission deadline published in this Notice, on **Friday, March 8, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time**, are presumed to be non-compliant.

To overcome this presumption, the applicant must:

- Submit a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstance(s) that caused the delay, including:
  - Timing and specific cause(s) of the delay
  - Ticket number if a request for assistance was submitted to the AmeriCorps Hotline
  - Information provided to the applicant by the AmeriCorps Hotline
  - Other documentation or evidence that supports the justification
- Ensure that AmeriCorps receives the written explanation or justification and any other evidence that substantiates the claimed extenuating circumstance(s), via email to [acms@ihl.state.ms.us](mailto:acms@ihl.state.ms.us) no later than 24 hours after the application deadline as stated in the Notice.

Communication with AmeriCorps staff, including an applicant's Portfolio Manager, is not a substitute for a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstance that caused the delay as outlined above. Applicants are required to continue working in [eGrants, AmeriCorps' web-based application system](#), and with the AmeriCorps Hotline to submit the application. AmeriCorps will determine whether or not to accept a late application on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants that do not meet the application submission deadline and do not submit a written explanation or justification or any other evidence to overcome the presumption of non-compliance within the published timeframe will be deemed noncompliant. If AmeriCorps sustains a noncompliant determination, the application will not be reviewed or selected for award.

AmeriCorps will *not* consider an advance request to submit a late application. Please carefully review and follow the guidance in this section and submit your application as soon as possible.

#### **D.5. Intergovernmental Review**

This Notice is not subject to [Executive Order 12372](#), "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

#### **D.6. Funding Restrictions**

##### **D.6.a. Award Funding Requirements**

##### **1. Member Living Allowance**

A living allowance is not considered a salary or wage. Programs are not required to provide a living allowance 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 maximum limits in the table below. For Cost Reimbursement grants, amount must be included in the proposed budget as either AmeriCorps or grantee share. Exceptions are noted below.

While Fixed Amount grant applicants are not required to submit detailed budgets, they are still required to provide a living allowance to members that complies with the minimum and maximum requirements. Exceptions are noted below. Fixed Amount grant applicants should indicate that amount in the application.

**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	1,700	\$18,700	\$37,400
Three Quarter-time	1,200	n/a	\$26,180
Half-time	900	n/a	\$18,700
Reduced Half-time	675	n/a	\$14,212
Quarter-time	450	n/a	\$9,724
Minimum-time	300	n/a	\$7,854
Abbreviated-time	100	n/a	\$2,244

**Exceptions to the Living Allowance Requirements**

**a. Programs existing prior to September 21, 1993**, are not required to offer a living allowance. If applicant chooses to offer living allowances, it is exempt from minimum requirement, but not maximum requirement set forth in the Living Allowance table herein.

**b. Education Award Program (EAP) Grantees** are not required to provide a living allowance, but if a living allowance is provided, it must comply with the maximum requirements set forth in the Living Allowance Table in this Notice.

**c. Professional Corps Grantees** must provide members a living allowance or salary, which must meet the minimum, but may exceed the maximum living allowance set in the Living Allowance Table in this Notice. Professional Corps member salaries and benefits including childcare are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve; and are not included in the budget request to AmeriCorps (Federal share).

**2. Maximum Cost per Member Service Year (MSY)**

The AmeriCorps cost per MSY is determined by dividing the AmeriCorps share of budgeted grant costs by the number of MSYs requested. It does not include childcare or the value of the education award a member may earn. The maximum amount an applicant may request from AmeriCorps per MSY is determined on an annual basis.

New and re-competing State Service Commission subgrantees/applicants will be held to the maximum cost per MSY for their grant type.

**Table: Maximum Cost per MSY**

<b>Grant Program</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Individual Competitive State/Territory Program (cost reimbursement)	\$25,000
Multi-state competitive (cost reimbursement)	\$25,000
Professional Corps competitive Fixed Amount Applicants/Grantees	\$1,000*
Full-cost competitive Fixed Amount Grant	\$25,000
Education Award Program (EAP) Fixed Amount Grant (competitive and formula)	\$800 or \$1,000**
All non-EAP formula subgrants	\$27,000***

\*AmeriCorps requires **Professional Corps** programs to cover the operating expenses associated with the AmeriCorps program through -non-AmeriCorps resources. AmeriCorps will only consider operating funds of up to \$1,000 per MSY if an applicant is able to demonstrate significant organizational financial need.

\*\* [Per 42 U.S.C. 12581a](#), the Corporation may provide the operational support under this section for a program in an amount that is not more than \$800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position, or not more than \$1,000 per such individual if at least 50 percent of the persons enrolled in the program are disadvantaged youth.

\*\*\*\$18,000 adjusted for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (As of April 2023 CPI was 0.5 percent).

AmeriCorps reserves the right to 1) treat an applicant that meets the statutory requirements of a Professional Corps as such, whether or not they submitted their application as a professional corps program; and 2) determine whether an applicant has demonstrated inability to effectively operate in the absence of AmeriCorps operating funds.

### **3. Segal AmeriCorps Education Award**

AmeriCorps members who successfully complete a term of service will be eligible for an Education Award from the National Service Trust. The amount of the Education Award is linked to the value of the Pell Grant. A member has up to seven years after their term of service to use the Education Award. Use the [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) webpage for more info.

#### **D.6.b. Indirect Costs**

Application budgets may include indirect costs. Based on qualifying factors, applicants may either use a Federally approved indirect cost rate or a 10 percent *de minimis* rate of modified total direct costs, or may claim certain costs directly, as outlined in [2 CFR 200.4133](#) states, local governments, and Indian Tribes may use previously approved indirect cost allocation plans. All methods must be applied consistently across all federal awards. Applicants that have a federal negotiated indirect cost rate, or that will be using the 10% *de minimis* rate, must enter that information in the Organization section in eGrants. However, under section 121(d) of the [National and Community Service Act of 1990](#), as amended and AmeriCorps' regulations at [45 CFR 2521.95](#) and [2540.110](#), no more than five percent of award funds may be used to recover indirect costs on AmeriCorps State and National grants.

Use the [AmeriCorps eGrants Indirect Cost Rate \(IDCR\) User Instructions](#) for how to enter the organization's indirect cost rate. Applicants should not submit documentation addressing the indirect cost rate agreement via email.

Please note: To request a federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, when AmeriCorps is the applicable cognizant agency for an organization's indirect costs, the applicant must submit a request to [IndirectCostRate@cns.gov](mailto:IndirectCostRate@cns.gov). The applicant may also obtain instructions and additional information by contacting the email address above.

#### **D.6.c. Pre-Award Costs**

Pre-award costs, where authorized, are allowed after receiving written approval from AmeriCorps.



## **D.7. Other Submission Requirements**

### **D.7.a. Electronic Application Submission in eGrants**

Applications must be submitted electronically via [eGrants](#). AmeriCorps recommends that applicants create an eGrants account and begin the application at least three weeks before the deadline. Applicants should draft the application as a Word document, then copy and paste the text into the appropriate eGrants field no later than 10 days before the deadline.

The applicant's authorized representative must be the person who submits the application. The authorized representative must use their own eGrants account to sign and submit the application. A copy of the governing body's authorization for this official representative to sign must be on file in the applicant's office. Applicants should contact the [AmeriCorps Hotline](#) at (800) 942-2677 if they have a problem when they create an account, prepare, or submit the application. Information about the AmeriCorps Hotline hours are also posted on the [AmeriCorps Hotline webpage](#).

Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the name of the Notice to which the organization is applying. If the issue cannot be resolved by the deadline, applicants must continue working with the AmeriCorps Hotline to submit via eGrants.

If circumstances make it impossible for an applicant to submit in eGrants, applicants may send a paper copy of the application via overnight carrier below. Applicants must include a written explanation and any other documentation or evidence that support their inability to submit their application electronically.

AmeriCorps - ATTN: OGA/AmeriCorps State & National Application  
250 E Street, SW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20525

Please use a non-U.S. Postal Service carrier to avoid security-related delays. **All deadlines and requirements in this Notice also apply to paper applications. AmeriCorps does not accept applications submitted via fax or email.**

### **D.7.b. Submission of Additional Documents**

All documents must be submitted by Prime Applicants (State Service Commissions or National Directs). Subapplicants cannot submit documentation on behalf of Commission in the Notice.

All applicants:

1. Evaluation briefs, reports, studies. Please refer to the [Evidence Base section](#) and [Mandatory Supplemental Information](#) for detailed instructions by evidence tier. If multiple evaluation briefs/reports/studies are submitted by applicant, the most recent (as measured by date of completion or publication) will be reviewed first, and any documents submitted beyond the allowable number will not be reviewed.
2. Labor union concurrence (if applicable)
3. All applicants regardless of funding level are required to submit an [Applicant Operational and Financial Management Survey](#). Please submit the OFMS using the [online form](#), where applicants will be required to submit their response electronically. Forms submitted as a PDF, or any other document format may not be accepted.

Entities applying on behalf of a Federally Recognized Tribe (New and recompeting)

1. Tribal organization eligibility documentation (*Use Section [C.1 Eligible Applicants](#)*)

Additional documents must be emailed to [acms@ihl.state.ms.us](mailto:acms@ihl.state.ms.us) with the following subject line: "Legal Applicant Name" - "Application ID Number." Emails should include:

- Legal applicant name and its point of contact information
- Application ID number
- List of documents that are attached to the email by filename, labeling each document type according to the above numbered list
- Individually attached files that are clearly labeled, and that include the legal applicant name and application ID number within the file name and heading of each document.
  - To ensure that all required additional documents are considered, provide each document as a separate single file, labeled appropriately. Do not send multiple documents in one combined file or send a single document in multiple files.
  - If the size of an applicant's files requires multiple emails, please also include an ordering system in the subject line, such as "(1 of 3)"
- Prime applicants should send separate emails with each subapplicant's materials, referencing the subapplicant's Application ID

Failure to submit the required additional documents, following the email instructions in this section, by the deadline may have a negative effect on the assessment of an application.

***Do not submit any items that are not requested in this Notice or Application Instructions. AmeriCorps will not review or return them.***

#### **D.7.c. Coordination among State Commissions and National Direct Applicants**

AmeriCorps expects new/recompete Commissions and National Direct applicants to consult and coordinate activities at the local level, as specified in [42 U.S.C. § 12583](#). This consultation is designed to ensure the most effective use of national service resources and lead to enhanced coordination. The list of Commissions can be found on the [AmeriCorps.gov State Service Commissions webpage](#).

To ensure coordination:

National Direct applicants, except Federally recognized Indian Tribes, must:

Before Application Submission:

- Consult with the Commission of each state and/or territory in which the organization plans to operate and describe this consultation in their applications. Contact the Commissions for details about the consultation process. Provide information that connects the proposed activities to the current State/Territory Service plan and/or State Logic Model.

After Award:

- Provide the Commission with contact information for National Direct programs in the state and/or territory and update the information on an annual basis.
- Participate in the Commissions' annual needs assessment and training plan development activities, and in the development of its state/territory service plan, as well as appropriate training and other events.
- Include the Commission on the National Direct's mailing/email distribution lists and invite it to appropriate training and other events.

State/Territory Service Commissions must:

Before Application Submission:

- Consult in a timely manner with the new/recompete National Direct applicants, except Indian Tribes, that contact them prior to application submission.

After Award:

- Consider schedules and needs of National Direct applicants, including Indian Tribes, operating in states when planning annual events and technical assistance activities.
- Include National Direct programs, including Indian Tribes, in their annual needs assessment and training plan development activities, and in the development of their state/territory service plan.
- Add staff of multi-state programs in their state/territory to their mailing/email distribution lists and invite them to appropriate training and other events.

AmeriCorps will solicit Commission input on National Direct applicants, except Indian Tribes, proposing to operate in their state via eGrants. Commissions can select “support,” “do not support,” or “neutral,” and provide comments. Participation by Commissions in providing this input is strongly encouraged. AmeriCorps reviews and considers Commission input on multi-state applicants proposing to operate in their state.

## E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

### E.1. Selection Criteria

Each applicant must describe a project that will deploy AmeriCorps members effectively to solve a significant community problem. AmeriCorps urges applicants to submit high quality applications that carefully follow the guidance in this Notice and in the [Application Instructions](#). The quality of an application will be an important factor in determining whether an organization will receive funding.

Applications should include a well-designed plan with clear and compelling justifications for receiving the requested funds. Reviewers will assess the quality of applications by using the selection criteria described below and will rate them accordingly.

Categories/Subcategories	Percentage
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Program Design</b>	<b>50</b>
• <b>Community and Logic Model</b>	24
• <b>Evidence Tier</b>	12
• <b>Evidence Quality</b>	8
• <b>Notice Priority</b>	0
• <b>Member Experience</b>	6
<b>Organizational Capability</b>	<b>25</b>
• <b>Organizational Background and Staffing</b>	15
• <b>Member Supervision</b>	6
• <b>Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility</b>	4
<b>Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy</b>	<b>25</b>
• <b>Member Recruitment</b>	7

• <b>Member Retention</b>	8
• <b>Data Collection</b>	7
• <b>Budget Alignment to Program Design</b>	3

**E.1.a. Executive Summary (Required - 0 percent):**

Please fill in the blanks of these sentences to complete the Executive Summary. Do not deviate from this template:

“The [Name of the organization] will have [Number of] AmeriCorps members who will [service activities the members will be doing] in [the locations the AmeriCorps members will serve]. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for [anticipated outcome of project]. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage [number of leveraged volunteers, if applicable] who will be engaged in [what the leveraged volunteers will be doing].

The AmeriCorps investment will be matched with \$[amount of projected match], \$[amount of local, state, and Federal Funds] in public funding and \$[amount of non-governmental funds] in private funding.”

Fixed-Amount grant applicants (EAP, Full-Cost Fixed, No Cost Slots) should list their Other Revenue (use the [Mandatory Supplemental Information](#)) in the Executive Summary because they are not required to provide a specific amount of match, but still raise significant additional resources to operate the program.

**E.1.b. Program Design (50 percent):**

Reviewers will consider the quality of the application’s response to the criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value. Please ensure the Community and Logic Model incorporates funding priorities listed above, i.e. supporting communities historically excluded and/or underserved from government services, addressing structural and institutional inequities, or increasing opportunity in order to achieve sustainable change in communities.

**1. Community and Logic Model (24 points)**

The applicant will provide a detailed summary of the community problem, including:

- The role current or historical inequities faced by underserved communities may play in contributing to the problem.
- The community need as it relates to the [CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index](#) and to communicate the severity and prevalence of the problem.

The applicant’s intervention is likely to lead to the outcomes identified in the organization’s Logic Model. No narrative is needed other than what is contained within the logic model.

The applicant will depict in the Logic Model:

- The inputs or resources necessary to deliver intervention, including but not limited to:
  - Locations or sites in which members will provide services
  - Context in which the intervention is delivered (e.g., the setting)
  - Number of AmeriCorps members who will deliver the intervention
  - Characteristics of AmeriCorps members, including specific knowledge, skills, and abilities required to implement the intervention

- The core activities that define the intervention or program model that members will implement or deliver, including:
  - Duration of the intervention (e.g., the total number of weeks, sessions or months of the intervention)
  - Dosage of intervention (e.g., the number of hours per session or sessions per week)
  - Target population for the intervention (e.g., disconnected youth, third graders at a certain reading proficiency level)
- The measurable outputs that result from delivering intervention (i.e., number of beneficiaries served, types and number of activities conducted, equity gaps closed). If applicable, identify which [National Performance Measures](#) used as output indicators.
- Outcomes that demonstrate meaningful changes in knowledge/skill, attitude, behavior, or condition that occur as a result of the intervention. If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as outcome indicators.

Note: The Logic Model is a visual representation of the applicant’s Theory of Change. Programs should include short, medium, or long-term outcomes in the Logic Model. Applicants are not required to measure all components of their Logic Model. The applicant’s performance measures should be consistent with the program’s Logic Model and should represent significant program activities.

Rationales and justifications should be informed by the organization’s performance data (e.g., program data observed over time that suggests targets are reasonable), relevant research (e.g. targets documented by organizations running similar programs with similar populations), or prior program evaluation findings.

Applicants with multiple interventions should complete one Logic Model chart which incorporates each intervention. Logic Model content exceeding 8 pages will not be reviewed.

## **2. Evidence Base (20 points)**

The assessment of an applicant’s evidence base has two parts. First, the applicant will be assigned to an evidence tier (use the [Mandatory Supplemental Information](#)). Second, the quality of the applicant’s evidence and the degree to which it supports the proposed program design, including program aligned with the priority areas (use the [A.2 Funding Priorities section](#)), will be assessed and scored.

### Evidence Tier (12 points)

An evidence tier will be assessed for each applicant for the purpose of understanding the relative strength of each applicant’s evidence base and the likelihood that the proposed intervention will lead to outcomes identified in the Logic Model.

In 2023, the evidence tiers of successful AmeriCorps State and National applicants that were competing were as follows: Strong 25 percent, Moderate 12 percent, Preliminary 20 percent, and Pre-Preliminary 43 percent. As these figures indicate, AmeriCorps values and funds programs at all points along the evidence continuum and expects programs to progress along the evidence continuum over time. Thus, **applicants should not be deterred from applying for funding due to their current evidence level.**

Applicants who have outcome or impact evaluation reports of the same intervention described in application and Logic Model (use [Mandatory Supplemental Information](#) for a definition of “same intervention”) may submit up to two of those reports, plus (if applicable) evaluation

report from their last three-year grant cycle, to qualify for the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tier. To qualify for consideration, the intervention evaluated in the submitted report(s) must match the intervention proposed by the applicant in the following areas, all of which must be clearly described in the Community and Logic Model sections of the application:

- Characteristics of the beneficiary population, including evidence of current or historic inequities facing the population;
- Characteristics of the population delivering the intervention;
- Dosage (frequency and duration) and design of the intervention, including all key components and activities;
- The context in which the intervention is delivered; and
- Outcome of the intervention.

Submitted reports that do not sufficiently match the intervention proposed by the applicant in all of these areas will not be considered applicable and will not be reviewed or receive any points. Submission of additional documents that are not consistent with the guidance and requirements described in the Notice (e.g., advocacy pieces, policy briefs, other narratives that are not research studies or program evaluations) will not be reviewed.

In the Evidence Tier section of the application narrative, applicants must (1) summarize the study design and key findings of any outcome or impact evaluation report(s) submitted and (2) describe any other evidence that supports their program, including past performance measure data and/or other research studies that inform their program design. Applicants who submit evaluation reports for consideration must also describe in the Evidence Base section of the application narrative how the intervention described in the submitted reports is the same as the intervention described in the application (use the [Mandatory Supplemental Information](#).)

Applicants should provide citations for the studies they describe, if applicable; however, reviewers will not review any documents external to the application other than evaluation report(s) submitted in accordance with the Notice instructions.

Applicants must meet all requirements of an evidence tier to be considered for that tier. If evaluation reports submitted by the applicant do not meet the definitions in the Mandatory Supplemental Information, the applicant may be considered for a lower evidence tier.

#### Evidence Quality (8 points)

After the applicant's evidence tier has been assessed, the quality of the applicant's evidence and the extent to which it supports the proposed program design will be assessed and scored. Applicants who are assessed as being in the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tiers, reviewers will score the submitted evaluation reports using the following standards:

- The submitted reports are of satisfactory methodological quality and rigor for the type of evaluation conducted (e.g., adequate sample size and statistical power, internal and/or external validity, appropriate use of control or comparison groups, etc.);
- The submitted reports describe evaluations that were conducted relatively recently, preferably within the last six years;
- The submitted reports show a meaningful and significant positive effect on program beneficiaries or AmeriCorps members in at least one key outcome of interest.

Applicants that are assessed as being in the Pre-Preliminary evidence tier, reviewers will score the narrative provided in Evidence Base section of application using the following standards:

- The applicant uses relevant evidence, including past performance measure data and/or cited research studies, to inform their proposed program design;
- The described evidence is relatively recent, preferably from the last six years;
- The evidence described by the applicant indicates a meaningful positive effect on program beneficiaries or AmeriCorps members in at least one key outcome of interest.

Applicants assessed in the Pre-Preliminary evidence tier that do not provide adequate responses to the Evidence Quality standards will not meet the threshold requirements for this Notice and will not be considered for funding.

### **3. Notice Priority (0 points)**

- The applicant proposed program fits within one or more AmeriCorps funding priorities and meets all requirements within that bullet/section as outlined in the [A.2 Funding Priorities section](#) and more fully described in the [Mandatory Supplemental Information](#).

### **4. Member Experience (6 points)**

- Applicant details how AmeriCorps members will provide an opportunity to be leaders and gain skills during service that will be valued by future employers (e.g., workforce pathways, increasing levels of responsibility and leadership roles for members).
- Details shared on how members are provided a high-quality orientation to community they will serve with an asset-based frame, guided and informed by the community.

### **E.1.c. Organizational Capability (25 percent):**

Reviewers will consider the quality of the application's response to the following criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

#### **1. Organizational Background and Staffing (15 points)**

- The applicant details the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the staff that will be implementing, providing oversight, and monitoring the program.
- The applicant has facilitated, partnered, or participated in educational or workforce development programs (i.e., pre-apprenticeship/registered apprenticeship, work experience and job training programs, etc.)
- The applicant describes their organization's mission and relevant experience in areas such as volunteer recruitment and management, community outreach, overcoming project implementation challenges, etc.

#### **2. Member Supervision (6 points)**

- Applicant details how AmeriCorps members will receive sufficient guidance and support from supervisors to provide effective service (e.g., structure for member supervision: cadence and format of supervisor/AmeriCorps member check-ins, opportunities to assess strengths and for growth, member training plan, etc.).
- The applicant details how AmeriCorps supervisors will be adequately trained/prepared to follow AmeriCorps and program regulations, priorities, and expectations (e.g., structure for support of supervisors, training plan for supervisors related to supervision and AmeriCorps rules and regulations, cadence and format of AmeriCorps supervisors/their supervisors check ins, opportunities to assess strengths and opportunities for growth of supervisors, etc.).

### **3. Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (4 points)**

- The leadership and staff of the organization have similar lived experience as the beneficiary population and/or community being served.
- The applicant's definitions of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility is demonstrated by the organization (e.g., diversity on the Board of Directors, agency staff and leadership, and/or volunteers) and the organization upholds a supportive and safe environment for individuals of diverse backgrounds.

#### **E.1.d. Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 percent):**

Reviewers will assess the quality of the application's response to the following criteria below.

##### **1. Member Recruitment (7 points)**

- The applicant provides a description of budget expenses to support successful recruitment of AmeriCorps members best suited to serve the community, for example from geographic or demographic communities in which the program operates.

##### **2. Member Retention (8 points)**

- The applicant provides a description of budget expenses to support retention of AmeriCorps members (e.g., additional member benefits such as increasing above the minimum living allowance, supporting workforce pathways, certifications, coaching for members, resume building, individual benefit as well as community building, network building, member recognition, alumni programming, etc.).

##### **3. Data Collection (7 points)**

- The applicant provides a description of budget expenses to support data collection, continuous improvement activities, and evaluation in service to evaluating the interventions and impact on the community and the member experience).

##### **4. Budget Alignment to Program Design (3 points)**

- The budget is aligned to the program design outlined in the narrative, meaning activities discussed in the narrative are incorporated in the budget in the agency or applicant share.

#### **E.1.e. Evaluation Plan (Required for recompeting applicants - 0 percent):**

If applicant has previously received three or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed (see the Mandatory Supplemental Information for the AmeriCorps definition of "same project"), applicant must submit an evaluation plan as an attachment (see [D.7.b Submission of Additional Documents section](#) for more information). If applicant has previously received six or more years of competitive funding for same project being proposed, the applicant must submit both an evaluation plan and an evaluation report as attachments.

Applicants should use the evaluation plan template found [here](#) to craft evaluation plans. The template document provides detailed information about AmeriCorps evaluation requirements ([45 CFR 2522.700-710](#)) and specifies information that must be provided for the evaluation plan to be approved by AmeriCorps. The evaluation plan will not be scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions have been made. All applicants should enter "N/A" in the "Evaluation Summary or Plan" field of the Narrative. Any other text entered in this field will not be reviewed.

#### **E.1.f. Amendment Justification (0 percent):**

Enter N/A. This field will be used if the applicant is awarded a grant and needs to amend it.

#### **E.1.g. Clarification Information (0 percent):**

Enter N/A.



### **E.1.h. Continuation Changes (0 percent):**

Enter N/A. This field used to enter changes in application narratives in continuation requests.

## **E.2. Review and Selection Process**

AmeriCorps will engage External Reviewers with relevant knowledge and expertise to assess eligible applications. The review and selection process is intended to produce a diversified set of high-quality programs that represent the priorities and strategic considerations described herein. The determinations made may be different from what the applicant self-determined upon submission of its application. The stages of the review and selection process follow:

### **E.2.a. Initial Application Compliance and Eligibility Review**

AmeriCorps will conduct an initial Compliance and Eligibility Review to determine if an application meets the eligibility requirements published in this Notice and advances to the next stage of the review process.

An application is compliant if the applicant is:

- An eligible organization,
- Is eligible to apply for a Full Cost Fixed Grant,
- Eligible to submit directly to AmeriCorps, and
  - In order to be reviewed as a National Direct applicant rather than a Single-State applicant, at least two specific states must be named in the “multi-state operating sites” section of the application at the time of submission.
- Submitted an application by the submission deadline

Reviewing for eligibility is intended to ensure that only those applications that are eligible for award are further reviewed. However, determinations of eligibility can take place at any point during the application review and selection process. Applicants that are determined to be ineligible will not receive an award.

### **E.2.b. Application Review**

#### **External Review**

External Reviewers will assess applications based on the Program Design, Organizational Capability, Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy, and Evidence Selection Criteria. AmeriCorps will recruit and select reviewers based on demonstrated expertise in AmeriCorps State and National programming and/or the Focus Areas, as well as experience assessing applications. All External Reviewers will be screened for conflicts of interest.

#### **Internal Review**

AmeriCorps will review and assess input from State Service Commissions about National Direct applications. Staff will also assess budget compliance and review prohibited activities.

#### **Post-Review Quality Control**

After the initial review process, AmeriCorps staff will review results for fairness and consistency. Some applications may be selected for a Post-Review Quality Control assessment. This additional level of review will be used to ensure fairness and provide assurances that an application was not disadvantaged in the original review.

### **E.2.c. Pre-Award Risk Assessment**

AmeriCorps staff will assess the risks to the program to determine an applicant's ability to manage Federal Funds. This evaluation is in addition to those about the applicant's eligibility and the quality of its application based on the [E.1. Selection Criteria](#). Results from this assessment will inform funding decisions. If AmeriCorps determines that an award will be made to an applicant with assessed risks, special conditions that correspond to the degree of assessed risk may be applied to the award. Applicants may not be selected for funding if AmeriCorps determines that the applicant's risks cannot be mitigated.

In assessing risks, AmeriCorps may consider the following criteria:

1. Due Diligence, including:
  - Federal debt delinquency
  - Suspension and debarment
  - Information available through Office of Management and Budget (OMB)- designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as:
    - [U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services](#)
    - [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#)
    - "Do Not Pay"
  - Reports and findings from single audits performed under Uniform Administrative Guidance and findings of any other available audits or investigations
  - IRS Tax Form 990
  - [Oversight.gov](#)
  - Public Litigation Records
2. Operational and Financial Management, including:
  - Financial stability
  - [Operational and Financial Management Survey \(OFMS\)](#)
3. Past Performance, including:
  - Applicant's record in managing previous AmeriCorps awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:
    - Timely compliance with applicable reporting requirements
    - Accuracy of data reported
    - Validity of performance measure data reported
    - Conformity to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards
    - Ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients
    - Timely closeout of other awards
    - Meeting matching requirements
    - Extent of any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards
    - National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) compliance (Use section [F.2.d. National Criminal History Check Requirements](#) and the [NSCHC webpage](#))
4. Other Programmatic Risks, Financial, Organizational, Compliance, and Fraud including:
  - Publicly available information, including from the applicant organization's website
  - Amount of funding requested by the organization
  - Other elements, such as keyword searches for prohibited activities

Applicants will find information on pre-award due diligence checks in the AmeriCorps Due Diligence Review Process and Compliance training available on the [Manage Your Grant](#) webpage. This will help applicants obtain due diligence compliance and remain compliant.

### **E.2.d. Consideration of Integrity and Performance System Information**

Prior to making any award that exceeds the \$250,000, AmeriCorps is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through [SAM.gov](#) (See [41 U.S.C. §2313](#)). Additionally, AmeriCorps may expand upon these requirements and use its discretion to review and consider information about any applicant receiving an award, including those under \$250,000.

Any applicant may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through [SAM.gov](#) and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently accessible through [SAM.gov](#). AmeriCorps may consider comments by any applicant, in addition to other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing its review of risk posed by the applicant under [E.2.c. Risk Assessment Evaluation section](#) herein.

### **E.2.e. Selection for Funding**

The review and selection process are designed to:

- Identify how well eligible applications are aligned with [E.1 application selection criteria](#)
- Build a diversified portfolio based on the following strategic considerations:
  - AmeriCorps Funding Priorities (Use [Section A.2. Funding Priorities](#))
  - meaningful representation of
    - rural communities
    - innovative community strategies
  - CEO discretion to advance strategic goals

AmeriCorps will assess an applicant's strategic considerations. Applicants must check relevant boxes in the Program Information tab in eGrants. Applicants should only check the boxes if the strategic consideration is a significant and intentional part of their program design and if implementation strategies are described in the application.

In selecting applicants to receive awards under this Notice, the Chief Executive Officer will endeavor to include a diverse portfolio of applications based on staff recommendations, alignment with selection criteria, and strategic considerations.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to prioritize funding existing awards over making new awards. AmeriCorps also reserves the right to award applications in an amount other than at the requested level of funding and will document the rationale for doing so.

*AmeriCorps reserves the right to adjust to the review process, if unforeseen challenges or urgent circumstances make it impossible, impracticable, or inefficient to conduct the review as planned. Any such adjustments or changes will not affect the [selection criteria \(E.1.\)](#).*

### **E.3. Feedback to Applicants**

Each compliant applicant will receive feedback from the External Review of its application.

### **E.4. Transparency in Grantmaking**

AmeriCorps is committed to transparency in grant-making. A list of all approved applications for new and re-competing applications will be published on [AmeriCorps Funded Grants](#) within 90 business days after all grants are awarded.

Submitted program narratives, executive summaries, a blank template of the external review worksheet, and a list of all external reviewers who completed the review process for successful applications will be available upon request via email to [AmeriCorpsOGA@cns.gov](mailto:AmeriCorpsOGA@cns.gov). Further information about funded grants and subgrants is also available in [USASpending.gov](https://USASpending.gov).

## **F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

### **F.1. Federal Award Notices**

AmeriCorps will make awards following the selection announcement. AmeriCorps anticipates announcing the results of this funding opportunity by mid-April 2024 contingent on the availability of congressional appropriations. All applicants, successful or not, will be notified of funding decisions via email.

Notification of an award is not an authorization to begin activities. The Notice of Grant Award (NGA) signed by the Office of Grant Administration is the authorizing document. An awardee may not expend Federal Funds until the start of the Period of Performance identified on the Notice of Grant Award.

### **F.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

#### **F.2.a. Uniform Guidance**

All awards made under this Notice are subject to Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Federal Award Audit Requirements (Uniform Guidance), in [2 CFR 200](#) & [2205](#)

#### **F.2.b. Requests for Monitoring or Payment Integrity Information**

AmeriCorps will request documentation from award recipients in order to monitor grantee and award to ensure compliance with legal requirements, including the [Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019](#). Failure to make timely responses to requests may result in award funds being placed on manual hold, reimbursement only status, or other remedies may be applied.

#### **F.2.c. AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions**

All awards made under this Notice will be subject to the FY 2024 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, and the FY 2024 Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for the particular program (when applicable). These Terms and Conditions contain detailed, mandatory compliance and reporting requirements. Current versions of the AmeriCorps General and Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for each of its programs is available on the [AmeriCorps Manage Your Grant webpage](#).

#### **F.2.d. National Service Criminal History Check Requirements**

The National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) is a specific screening procedure established by law to protect the beneficiaries of national service. We encourage grantees to minimize barriers to service without putting their program beneficiaries at genuine risk. The law requires grantees to conduct and document NSCHCs on persons (including award-funded staff, national service participant, or volunteer) receiving a salary, living allowance, stipend, or education award through a program receiving AmeriCorps funds. This includes staff that receive part of their salary through a subgrant.

- Award recipients and subrecipients must conduct an NSCHC for AmeriCorps members, AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers, and staff funded under, or whose salary is reflected as match on the award. Limited exceptions are described in [45 CFR 2540.201](#).
- AmeriCorps strongly encourages applicants to review regulation and additional guidance to fully understand how to comply. Use [NSCHC regulations and guidance](#).
- AmeriCorps also strongly encourages award recipients to utilize the two AmeriCorps-approved vendors to conduct the required NSCHCs.
- The cost of conducting NSCHC is an allowable expense under the award and the individual subject to the NSCHC must not be required to cover the cost.
- Failure to comply with NSCHC requirements will result in significant disallowed costs.

Recipients must complete the following criminal history checks:

1. National Sex Offender Public website through [NSOPW.gov](#) (nationwide check);
2. State criminal history record repository or agency-designated alternative for the individual's State of residence and State of service; and
3. Fingerprint-based check of the FBI criminal history record database through the State criminal history record repository or agency-approved vendor.

All checks must be conducted, reviewed, and an eligibility determination made before the individual begins work or service. An individual is **not eligible** to serve or work in a position subject to the NSCHC requirements if the individual:

- Refuses to consent to a criminal history check;
- Makes a false statement in connection with a criminal history check;
- Is registered, or is required to be registered, on a state sex offender registry or the National Sex Offender Registry; or
- Has been convicted of murder, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 1111.

Use [45 CFR 2540.200- 2540.207](#) and [National Service Criminal History Check Resources](#) for complete information and FAQs.

### **F.2.e. Official Guidance**

AmeriCorps active Guidance is available on the [agency's Guidance webpage](#). The contents of these documents do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way unless incorporated into a contract or grant agreement. Documents are intended only to provide clarity to public regarding existing requirements under law or agency policies.

### **F.3. Use of Material**

To ensure that materials generated with AmeriCorps funding are available to the public and readily accessible to all, AmeriCorps reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to obtain, use, modify, reproduce, publish, or disseminate publications and materials produced under the award, including data, and to authorize others to do so ([2 CFR 200.315](#)).

### **F.4. Reporting**

Recipients are required to submit reports that are due at specific times during the life cycle of an award. All reports must be accurate, complete, and timely. Cost Reimbursement grantees must provide annual progress reports and semi-annual financial reports through eGrants and an internal or external evaluation report as required by the AmeriCorps regulations [45 CFR 2522.500-2522.540 and 2522.700-2522.740](#). Fixed Amount grantees must provide annual and final progress reports through eGrants, and an internal or external evaluation report.

In addition, at the end of the award period, a grantee must submit final financial and progress reports that are cumulative over the entire award period and consistent with the closeout requirements. Fixed Amount grantees are exempt from the final financial report requirement. The final reports are due 120 days after the end of the period of performance.

Award recipients will be required to report at [Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act Subaward Reporting System \(FSRS\)](#) on all subawards over \$30,000, and may be required to report on executive compensation for the recipient organization and its subrecipients. Recipients and subrecipients must have the necessary systems in place to collect and report this information. Use [2 CFR Part 170](#) for more information and to determine how these requirements apply.

Once the grant is awarded, recipients will be expected to have in place data collection and data management policies, processes, and practices that provide assurance that they are reporting high quality performance measure data. At a minimum, recipients should have policies, processes, and practices that address the following five aspects of data quality for themselves and for subrecipients (if applicable):

- Data measures what it intends to measure
- Data reported is complete
- Grantee collects data in a consistent manner
- Grantee takes steps to correct data errors
- Grantee actively reviews data for accuracy prior to submission.

Failure to submit accurate, complete, and timely required reports may affect the recipient's ability to secure future AmeriCorps funding.

#### **F.5. Continuation Funding Information and Requirements**

Organizations that have current AmeriCorps State and National awards that will be in program Year 2 or 3 in FY24 are considered continuation applicants. Continuations must apply in order to be eligible to receive funding for the FY24 program year. These applicants must follow requirements for continuation application content as outlined in the Application Instructions.

Please use the [Application Instructions](#) for how to request use of unexpended funds.

Requests by existing continuation applicants for increases in the level of funding or number of positions will be assessed using the [E.1. selection criteria](#) published in this Notice.

Continuation application review will also be based on progress reports, the federal financial report, evaluation plans, and AmeriCorps staff's knowledge of the grant program. To be approved for continuation funding, recipients must demonstrate satisfactory performance with respect to key program goals and requirements, as well as compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to award applications in an amount less than the requested level of funding and will document the rationale for doing so.

## **G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS**

For more information, call (202) 606-7508 or email [AmeriCorpsGrants@cns.gov](mailto:AmeriCorpsGrants@cns.gov).

For technical questions and problems with the eGrants system, call the AmeriCorps Hotline at (800) 942-2677, selecting Option 3. Information about the AmeriCorps Hotline hours are also posted on the [AmeriCorps Hotline webpage](#). Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the name of the Notice to which the organization is applying.

## **H. OTHER INFORMATION**

### **H.1. Technical Assistance**

AmeriCorps will host technical assistance calls to answer questions about the funding opportunity and eGrants. AmeriCorps strongly encourages all applicants to participate in these sessions. Information for these technical assistance calls is available on the [AmeriCorps' Funding Opportunities website](#).

Resources applicants need to effectively manage their grant award, including eGrants instructions, terms and conditions, individual match waiver, pre-award requirements, financial reporting requirements, and training and technical assistance materials are found on the [Manage Your Grant webpage](#).

### **H.2. Re-Focusing of Funding**

AmeriCorps reserves the right to re-focus program dollars under this Notice in the event of disaster or other compelling needs.

## **I. IMPORTANT NOTICES**

### **I.1. Public Burden Statement**

Public reporting burden for collection of information under this Notice of Funding is estimated to average six hours per submission, including reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing the application and reporting forms. AmeriCorps informs people who may respond to this Notice of Funding that they are not required to respond unless the OMB control number and expiration date are current valid. (Use [5 CFR 1320.5\(b\)\(2\)\(i\)](#)) This collection is approved under OMB Control #: 3045-0047, Application Instructions, State and National Competitive, New and Continuation, Expiration Date: September 30, 2023.

### **I.2. Privacy Act Statement**

The Privacy Act of 1974 ([5 U.S.C §552a](#)) requires that we notify applicants that the information requested under this Notice of Funding is collected pursuant to [42 U.S.C. §12592](#) and 12615 of the [National and Community Service Act of 1990 as amended](#), and [42 U.S.C. §4953](#) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 as amended.

Purposes and Uses - The information requested is collected for the purposes of reviewing grant applications and granting funding requests. Routine uses may include disclosure of the information to Federal, state, or local agencies pursuant to lawfully authorized requests. In some programs, the information may also be provided to Federal, state, and local law

enforcement agencies to determine the existence of any prior criminal convictions. The information may also be provided to appropriate Federal agencies and contractors that have a need to know the information for the purpose of assisting the government to respond to a suspected or confirmed breach of the security or confidentiality or information maintained in this system of records, and the information disclosed is relevant and unnecessary for the assistance.

Effects of Nondisclosure - The information requested is voluntary; however, to be a recipient of this grant program, disclosure of personal or sensitive information is required to receive federal benefits.