NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Federal Agency Name:	AmeriCorps
Funding Opportunity Title:	**Fiscal Year (FY) 2027** AmeriCorps State **Formula** Grants
Announcement Type:	Initial Announcement
Assistance Listing Number:	94.006

Summary Statement: This is a funding opportunity for institutions of higher education; local governments, school districts; nonprofit organizations; state service commissions; states and US Territories; Indian Tribes; and public health departments to apply for AmeriCorps Volunteers to strengthen communities through service.

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.

Any award made under this Notice may be terminated by the agency if it no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities.

AmeriCorps publishes this NOFO solely for the aforementioned purpose and does not consider this NOFO to meet the definition of a rule requiring publication or notice under Congressional Review Act (CRA) as codified at 5 U.S.C. §§801- 808, and any subsequent notification provided to Congress does not constitute waiver of this position.

Important Dates

- Formula Applications are due no later than **Friday, January 15, 2027,** by 5:00 p.m. Central Time.
- Application feedback sent to applicants during the **week of February 1, 2027**
- Application revisions due in eGrants **Monday, February 22, 2027,** by 5:00 PM Central Time.
- Final submission due in eGrants **Friday, March 12, 2027,** by 5:00 PM Central Time.
- Successful applicants will be notified in **March 2027**.
- Successful applicants will be issued awards by **April-June 2027**.
- Budget period and Volunteer Term of Service start date **September 1, 2027***

*Earlier start dates will be considered on a case-by-case basis

Note to applicants proposing service in a single state: contact the commission in the state or territory where you intend to apply as early as possible. State service commissions may set their deadlines for single states applicants well in advance of AmeriCorps deadlines. The list of commissions can be found on the AmeriCorps State Service Commissions' webpage AmeriCorps State Service Commissions' webpage.

****NEW APPLICANTS**
Organizations who currently do not manage AmeriCorps State & National Funding are eligible for a Planning Grant only. Exceptions are rare and should be formally requested in writing via email at acms@ihl.state.ms.us.

Contact Information:

Volunteer Mississippi
3825 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, MS 39211
acms@ihl.state.ms.us
https://www.volunteermississippi.org/

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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 grants are awarded to eligible organizations that engage AmeriCorps Volunteers in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities. An AmeriCorps Volunteer is a person who does community service through AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps Volunteers may receive a living allowance and other benefits. After successful completion of their service, AmeriCorps Volunteers earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award they can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

A.2. Funding Priorities

AmeriCorps' priorities for this funding opportunity are:

Faith-Based:

- **Organizations that are faith-based.**

Serve Communities:

- **Serve communities with concentrated poverty**, rural communities, and tribal communities.
- Implement programs for **or expand access to high-quality youth mental health and substance use recovery services** and prepare AmeriCorps Volunteers to enter behavioral health careers. These may include individuals who have experienced substance use and mental health challenges.
- **Focus on improving quality of life for veterans, active-duty members of the Armed Forces, and their families** through models that provide effective interventions or services or are designed to recruit veterans, military spouses, and their older children into national service, e.g., veterans serving in mentorship roles.
- **Focus on public safety, crime prevention, and/or partnerships between law enforcement and the community.**
- **Focus on expanding outdoor recreation opportunities for future generations** by maintaining public lands; supporting wildland fire mitigation and sustainable forest management; and providing reforestation services.
- **Create workforce pathways for AmeriCorps Volunteers**, including deliberate training, such as pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship opportunities, certifications, and hiring preferences or support.
- **Focus on strengthening families**, e.g., activities that aim to support low-income parents through parenting education, responsible parenting and healthy relationship skills.

Benefit AmeriCorps Volunteers:

- **Enhance AmeriCorps Volunteer experience** by providing opportunities for skill attainment, personal growth and connection to the community they are serving in support of a lifetime of civic participation.
- **Enhance and expand services to formerly incarcerated and at-risk youth** and/or engage those youth as AmeriCorps Volunteers.

Use Evidence:

- Utilize reports from the AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange on programs assessed as having moderate or strong evidence to scale, replicate, or adapt the intervention, **or** demonstrate any evidence supporting the performance data described.

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

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, 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. Given limited funding, AmeriCorps may prioritize funding existing partners instead of making new awards. The actual level of funding depends on annual appropriations.

B.2. Estimated Award Amount

Award amounts will be different as determined by the scope of the projects.

B.3. Period of Performance

AmeriCorps plans to make three-year grant awards. AmeriCorps generally makes an initial award for the first year of the three-year period of performance. Applicants must submit a one-year budget. Applicants may propose a project start date that fits their program design. The period of performance may not start before **July 1, 2027**. Continuation awards for subsequent years not guaranteed; dependent on availability of appropriations and performance.

B.4. Type of Award

AmeriCorps makes available different types of grants. The chart below summarizes these grant types and their distinct characteristics.

Grant Types	**Cost Reimbursement**	**Fixed Amount**			
Available Subtypes	Traditional	Full-Cost	Education Award Program, EAP	Professional Corps***	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	All slot types	All slot types	All slot types	FT Only	All slot types
Matching Funds Required	Yes	No			
Budget Submission Required	Yes	No			
Availability of Funds Linked to Enrollment / 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. Ameri-Corps Volunteer salaries / benefits must be paid entirely by organization where AmeriCorps Volunteer serves	N/A
Financial Reporting Requirements	Yes	No			
Available to New Applicants	Yes	No	Yes		

* Member Service Year (MSY): One MSY is equivalent to a full-time AmeriCorps position, at least 1,700 service hours. Multiple positions at less than full-time can be combined to equal one MSY.

** For the Education Award Program, AmeriCorps may provide a maximum of $800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position. If at least 50% of a program's enrollees are disadvantaged youth, AmeriCorps may provide $1,000 per enrollee, 42 U.S.C. § 12581a.

***Use Mandatory Supplemental Information (MSI) for further requirements

B.5. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Reimbursement Grants

Applicants are required to match funds provided by AmeriCorps. The applicant's match can be non-AmeriCorps cash and/or in-kind contributions. Applicants must show that they can meet the match requirement when they submit the application. Applicants must say in their application if they have already secured the match funding.

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 three years to 30 percent by year ten.

AmeriCorps Funding Year	Years 1, 2, & 3	Years 4, 5, & 6	Years 7, 8, & 9	Years 10 +
Grantee Share Requirements	24%	26%	28%	30%

Match Waiver
Please use the Match Waiver information for AmeriCorps State and National grantees located on the AmeriCorps.gov Manage Your Grant webpage. AmeriCorps encourages Tribal Nations to request match waivers to reduce barriers. Every effort will be made to reduce the match requirements to improve accessibility to funding.

Fixed Amount Grants

There is no cost share or matching requirement for fixed amount grants. AmeriCorps does not provide all the funds necessary to operate the program. Organizations should raise the funds needed to operate the program.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

C.1. Eligible Applicants

The following non-Federal entities (all of which are defined in 2 CFR 200.1 or 42 U.S.C. 12511(21)) are eligible to apply:

- Indian Tribes;
- institutions of higher education;
- local governments, including school districts;
- nonprofit organizations;
- State Service Commissions (submit sub-applicants but not operate programs); and
- states and US Territories.

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, and the organization does not meet any of the other applicant eligibility types, 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).

Applicants must have a valid SAM registration and Unique Entity Identifier to receive an award. See Section D.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM) for more information.

New Applicants: AmeriCorps strongly 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, Education Award Program (EAP), and Professional Corps 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 plan to operate in only one state must apply through the state or territory commissions. Each commission has its own state-based selection process and submits applications to compete for funding directly to AmeriCorps.

Volunteer Mississippi *Contact: acms@ihl.state.ms.us / https://www.volunteermississippi.org/*

Threshold Issues
Specific types of applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Professional Corps must show that the community where it will place AmeriCorps Volunteers has a shortage of professionals in the relevant area, e.g., teachers, medical professionals, etc.
- If service activities require special AmeriCorps Volunteer qualifications and/or training, such as tutoring programs, the applicant must describe how requirements will be met.
- All applicants must propose program designs that are either evidence-based or evidence-informed (See section E.1.b (2) Evidence Base). Applicants rated as insufficient evidence are removed from funding consideration. Insufficient evidence is determined by:
    - An applicant being assessed as in the pre-preliminary evidence tier AND
    - providing inadequate response to the Evidence Quality review standards below.
- All FY 2027 State Formula applicants must submit an application that proposes enrolling a **minimum of 20 AmeriCorps Volunteers**. New/recompete and continuation applications with fewer than 20 AmeriCorps Volunteers will be deemed noncompliant and will not be reviewed. The minimum of 20 AmeriCorps Volunteers does not apply to Indian Tribe applicants, Tribal organizations that are controlled,

authorized, or chartered by Federally recognized Indian Tribes, applicants who apply as states or territories without commissions, or formula applicants.

C.2. Other Eligibility Requirements

Even if an organization is otherwise eligible under C.1, an organization is not eligible if:

- It has violated a federal criminal statute.
- It proposes activities that are not allowed under AmeriCorps' laws, rules, or terms and conditions.
- It has any unpaid federal taxes that are not being paid through an agreement with the relevant tax authority. However, this does not apply if a federal agency decided that a suspension or debarment for the corporation is not necessary.
- It is described in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. §501 (c)(4) and lobbies.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

This Notice should be read together with the AmeriCorps regulations, Application Instructions, Performance Measure Instructions, and Mandatory Supplemental Information.

D.1. Ways to Request an Application Package

All information associated with this funding opportunity is available through the AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities webpage. Applicants should refer to FY 2027 AmeriCorps State and National Grants funding opportunity for more information and instructions on how to fully respond to this Notice. Applicants can also send an email to acms@ihl.state.ms.us for additional information of the Notice, Mandatory Supplemental Information, and Application Instructions.

D.2. Content and Form of Application Submission

D.2.a. Application Content

Complete applications must include the following elements:

- Standard Form 424 (SF-424) Face Sheet: Automatically generated when applicants complete the data elements.
- Narrative Sections:
    - Executive Summary;
    - Program Design;
    - Organizational Capability;
    - Cost-Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy
- Performance Measures.
- Logic Model.
- Standard Form 424A Budget.
- Authorization, Assurances, and Certifications.

D.2.b. Page Limits

Page counts are determined by number of pages printed from the America Learns Grants Gateway application portal. Application content which exceeds the page limit for either the narrative or logic model will not be reviewed.

AmeriCorps strongly encourages applicants to print the application from Grants Gateway prior to submission to confirm that the application does not exceed the page limit.

- Narratives
    - Applications must not exceed 15 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 and Budget Adequacy narratives.
    - The application page limit does not include:
        - Evaluation Plan Summary Form;
        - Clarification Summary;
        - Continuation Changes;
        - Budget, Performance Measures; and
        - Any required additional documents.
- Logic Model
    - The Logic Model may not exceed eight pages when printed with the application.

D.3. Unique Entity Identifier & System for Award Management (SAM)

All applicants **must** register with the System for Award Management (SAM) and maintain an active SAM registration from the time of submission 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. See the SAM Quick Guide for Grantees for more information.

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 ensure that their registration will remain active through the intended award date identified in Section F of this Notice. **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. The UEI and Employer Identification Number must be entered by the organization's Grantee Administrator as an organization attribute; this will apply the information to all applications for the organization.

D.4. Submission Dates and Times

D.4.a. Application Submission Deadline

- Initial applications are due no later than Friday, January 15, 2027 by 5:00pm Central Time.

The Commission may extend the submission deadline. If the deadline is extended, then the Commission will post information on the Volunteer Mississippi webpage.

D.4.b. Additional Documents Deadline

Additional documents are due by the application submission deadline.

D.4.c. Late Applications

All applications received after the submission deadline are late. AmeriCorps will determine whether to accept a late application on a case-by-case basis. To request consideration of a late application, an organization 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 request for assistance was submitted to America Learns (AL) support;
  - Information provided to the applicant by the Hotline/AL; and
  - Other documentation or evidence that supports the justification.
- Ensure that Volunteer Mississippi 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 no later than 24 hours after the application deadline.

Communication with the Commission staff, is not a substitute for a written explanation. Applicants are required to continue working in the web-based system and America Learns support to submit the application.

Volunteer Mississippi 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

Notice not subject to Exec. Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

D.6. Funding Restrictions

D.6.a. Award Funding Requirements

1. AmeriCorps Volunteer Living Allowance

A living allowance is not considered a salary or a wage. Programs are not required to provide a living allowance for AmeriCorps Volunteers serving in less than full-time terms of service. If a program chooses to provide a living allowance to a less than full-time AmeriCorps Volunteer, it must follow the limits in the table below. Organizations applying for cost reimbursement grants must include the living allowance in the budget, either as AmeriCorps share or match.

Fixed amount grant applicants must give AmeriCorps Volunteers a living allowance that follows the minimum and maximum amounts in the chart below and should indicate that amount in the application.

Table: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance for FY 2027 Competitive and Formula Applicants

Slot Types	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1,700	$20,954	$41,908
Three Quarter-time	1,200	n/a	$29,336
Half-time	900	n/a	$20,954
Quarter-time	450	n/a	$10,896
Minimum-time	300	n/a	$8,801

Exceptions to the Living Allowance Requirements

a. Programs existing prior to September 21, 1993, do not have to offer a living allowance. If an organization chooses to offer a living allowance, it does not have to pay its AmeriCorps Volunteers the minimum but cannot exceed the maximum.

b. Education Award Program (EAP) Grantees are not required to provide a living allowance. If an organization chooses to offer a living allowance, it does not have to pay its AmeriCorps Volunteers the minimum but cannot exceed the maximum.

c. Professional Corps Grantees must provide AmeriCorps Volunteers a living allowance or salary. Organizations must pay AmeriCorps Volunteers the minimum and can exceed the maximum. Professional Corps AmeriCorps Volunteer salaries and benefits including childcare cannot be included in the federal share budget request to AmeriCorps.

2. Maximum Cost per Member Service Year

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 an AmeriCorps Volunteer may earn.

Table: Maximum Cost per MSY

Grant Program	Maximum
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 & formula)	$800 or $1,000**
All non-EAP formula subgrants	$25,200***

*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 show significant organizational financial need.

** For the Education Award Program, AmeriCorps may provide a maximum of $800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position. If at least 50 percent of a program's enrollees are disadvantaged youth, AmeriCorps may provide $1,000 per enrollee, 42 U.S.C. § 12581a.

***$18,000 adjusted for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (As of May 2026 CPI was 0.5).

AmeriCorps may: 1) treat an applicant as a Professional Corps if they meet the legal requirements for a Professional Corps (even if they did not submit a Professional Corps application); and 2) decide not to provide a grant to an organization that it determines cannot operate effectively without AmeriCorps operating funds.

3. Costs Associated with Evidence Building Activities e.g. performance data collection and management, foundational research, program evaluation, etc.
As noted in 2 CFR § 200.455, costs associated with evidence building activities are allowable expenses or match under AmeriCorps grants. This includes costs related to performance data collection and management, foundational research, program evaluation, and related activities.

Volunteer Mississippi reserves the right to award applications in an amount less than the requested level of funding.

D.6.b. Indirect Costs

Application budgets may include indirect costs. Based on qualifying factors, applicants may use a Federally approved indirect cost rate if they have one and if not, may use either –

i. 15% *de minimis* rate of modified total direct costs outlined in Indirect Cost Guidance;
ii. may claim certain costs directly.

All methods must be applied consistently across all Federal awards. No more than five percent of award funds may be used to recover indirect costs on AmeriCorps State and National grants 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.

Use the eGrants Indirect Cost Rate (IDCR) User Instructions to enter the organization's Federal negotiated indirect cost rate or the *de minimis* rate information. Applicants should not submit documentation addressing the 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@americorps.gov. The applicant may also obtain instructions and additional information by contacting the email address above.

D.6.c. Pre-Award Costs

Applicants funded under this Notice are approved for pre-award costs for 90 days prior to the start of their program where such costs are incurred in anticipation of the award and are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work. See the Mandatory Supplemental Information for more detail.

D.7. Other Submission Requirements

D.7.a. Electronic Application Submission

Applicants must submit applications electronically via America Learns Grants Gateway system.

The applicant's authorized representative must be the person who submits the application. The authorized representative must use their own account to sign and submit the application.

Applicants should contact the **America Learns support** at support@americalearns.net, if they have a problem when they create an account, prepare, or submit the application.

When contacting the America Learns support, be prepared to provide the necessary information associated with the application process. If the issue cannot be fixed by the deadline, applicants must continue working with America Learns support to submit via the America Learns grants gateway system.

Volunteer Mississippi does not accept applications submitted via fax or email.

D.7.b. Submission of Additional Documents

Your application might not receive funding if you do not upload your documents by the application deadline or do not correctly label your documents.

Additional documents for all applicants:

1. Evidence documents. Please refer to the Evidence Base section and Mandatory Supplemental Information for detailed instructions by evidence tier.
2. Labor union concurrence, if applicable.

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=p1D40s6Ns0-nnGhn-VFDEjnkDwxqS6VKilbFvGA_KhFUMFRPWk8xWjZXMlpVUzA3WU9SWjNRV0sxVSQlQCN0PWcu&route=shorturl

Additional documents for applicants proposing projects previously funded by AmeriCorps:

Evaluation Plan Summary.
Existing grantees recompeting for AmeriCorps funds must submit a *summary of their evaluation efforts* in addition to the data collection plan. All Formula applicants should enter data collection plans in the Data Collection Plan tab of the "Performance Measure Module."

*****If you are competing for the first time, provide your data collection plan with the Performance Measures Module.***

Evaluation Report.
Applicants who have received **six or more years** of competitive funding for the same project being proposed should also provide an Evaluation report. Please submit in Microsoft Word. The evaluation report should include a title page with:

- the AmeriCorps grant number for the project that was evaluated,
- the name of the project,
- the date of completion of the report,

- the evaluator name(s),
- evaluator organization name and,
- evaluator type (internal or external).

If any of this required information is missing, the applicant may not receive credit for meeting their evaluation requirements.

Additional documents for entities applying on behalf of a Federally Recognized Tribe, new and recompeting:

- Tribal organization eligibility documentation

Guidance for submitting additional documents:

- All documents must be submitted by the prime applicant (state service commissions or national directs). Subapplicants cannot submit documentation for the commission.

- Additional documents must be uploaded in the **America Learns Grants Gateway system**.
  - Individually attached files that are clearly labeled, and that include legal applicant name within the file name and heading of each document.

  To ensure that all required additional documents are considered, please provide each document as a separate single file, labeled appropriately. Please do not upload multiple documents in one combined file, and do not send a single document in multiple files.

  The email size limit is 35 MB. This limit is inclusive of all attachments associated with each email. Emails that are larger than 35 MB will not be received or reviewed.

  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.

-Do not submit any items that are not requested in this Notice or Application Instructions. Volunteer MS will not review them.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

E.1. Selection Criteria

Each applicant must describe a project that will use AmeriCorps Volunteers effectively to solve a significant community problem.

Applications must have a well-designed plan with clear justification for the requested funds. Reviewers will assess the quality of applications by using the selection criteria described below and will rate them accordingly.

Prior to issuance, and annually thereafter, awards will be subject to review by one or more AmeriCorps senior officials, or their designees, according to the process described in Executive Order 14332, "Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking."

Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

Categories/Subcategories	Percentage
Executive Summary	**0**
Program Design	**50**
• **Community and Logic Model**	20
• **Evidence Tier**	12
• **Evidence Quality**	8
• **Notice Priority**	4
• **AmeriCorps Volunteer Experience**	6
Organizational Capability	**25**
• **Organizational Background and Staffing**	15
• **AmeriCorps Volunteer Supervision**	10
Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy	**25**
• **AmeriCorps Volunteer Recruitment**	7
• **AmeriCorps Volunteer Retention**	10
• **Data Collection**	8

E.1.a. Executive Summary, 0 percent:

Please fill in the blanks of these sentences to complete the Executive Summary. There are two options for the second paragraph; please choose the appropriate language for your application. Do not deviate from this template:

"The [Name of the organization] will have [Number of] AmeriCorps Volunteers in [the locations the AmeriCorps Volunteers will serve, e.g. – City, State or State(s)]. AmeriCorps Volunteers will [service activities the AmeriCorps Volunteers will do]. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps Volunteers will be responsible for [anticipated outcome of project]. In addition, the AmeriCorps Volunteers will leverage [number of leveraged community volunteers, if applicable] who will be engaged in [what the leveraged community volunteers will be doing].

Planning Grant Applicants:
"The [Name of the organization] proposes to develop an AmeriCorps program serving in [the location(s) the AmeriCorps program will serve] that will focus on the AMERICORPS focus area(s) of [Focus Area(s)]. The AMERICORPS investment of $[amount of request] will be matched with $[amount of projected match], $[amount of local, state, tribal, and federal funds] in public funding and $[amount of non-governmental funds] in private funding. No AmeriCorps members will be needed to execute this plan.

Cost Reimbursement grant applicants:
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 e.g., EAP, Full-Cost Fixed, No Cost Slots:
In addition to the AmeriCorps investment, $[amount of local, state, and Federal Funds] in public funding and $[amount of non-governmental funds] in private funding will support the project."

E.1.b. Program Design, 50 percent:

1. Community and Logic Model, 20 points

- The applicant will provide a detailed summary of the community problem, and an explanation of how the applicant's intervention(s) will lead to the outcomes identified in the Logic Model.

  The applicant must describe in the Logic Model
  - The inputs or resources that are necessary to deliver the intervention, including but not limited to:
    - Locations or sites in which AmeriCorps Volunteers will provide services.
    - Setting and community condition where the intervention is delivered.
    - Number of AmeriCorps Volunteers who will deliver the intervention.
    - Characteristics of AmeriCorps Volunteers, including specific knowledge, skills, and abilities required to implement the intervention.
  - The core activities that AmeriCorps Volunteers will deliver as part of the intervention including:
    - Length of each activity (e.g., the total number of weeks, sessions, or months of the intervention).
    - Dosage of each activity (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 the intervention (i.e., number of beneficiaries served, types and number of activities conducted). If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as output indicators.
  - Outcomes that result from the intervention, including meaningful changes in knowledge/skill, attitude, behavior, or condition. If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as outcome indicators.

Programs should include short, medium, or long-term outcomes. 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.

Applicants with multiple interventions should include the above information for each intervention in the logic model.

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. Second, the quality of the applicant's evidence, how the evidence aligns with funding priorities (A.2 Funding Priorities section), and how the evidence supports the proposed program.

Evidence Tier, 12 points

Each applicant will receive an evidence tier assessment. This is based on the relative strength of the applicant's evidence base and the likelihood that the proposed intervention will lead to the outcomes identified in the Logic Model narrative.

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**. In 2026, the evidence tiers of competing applicants recommended for AmeriCorps State and National funding were as follows: 51% Strong, 10% Moderate, 16% Preliminary, 23% Pre-Preliminary.

To qualify for the preliminary, moderate, or strong evidence tier, applicants may submit up to two evidence documents, plus the evaluation report from their last three-year grant cycle, if applicable. If multiple evidence documents are submitted by the applicant, the most recent – as measured by the date of completion or publication– will be reviewed first, and any documents submitted beyond the allowable number will not be reviewed.

The intervention evaluated in the submitted evidence documents must match the intervention proposed by the applicant in the Community and Logic Model sections of the application. (Use the Mandatory Supplemental Information for a definition of same intervention). Applicants must meet all requirements of an evidence tier to be considered for that tier.

Submitted evidence documents that do not sufficiently match the intervention will not be reviewed or receive any points.

In the Evidence Tier section of the application narrative, applicants must:

- Summarize the study design and key findings of the evidence documents submitted, plus, if applicable, the evaluation report from their last three-year grant cycle; and
- Describe any other evidence that supports their program, including past performance measure data and/or other research studies that inform their program design.

Applicants should provide citations for the studies they describe.

Evidence Quality, 8 points

Reviewers will score the quality of an applicant's evidence and the extent to which it supports the proposed program design.

Standards for scoring in the preliminary, moderate, or strong evidence tiers:
Submitted evidence documents:

- 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.;
- Describe evaluations that were conducted relatively recently, preferably within the last six years; and
- Show a meaningful and significant positive effect on program beneficiaries or AmeriCorps Volunteers in at least one key outcome of interest.

Standards for scoring in the pre-preliminary evidence tier:

- 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; and
- The evidence described by the applicant indicates a meaningful positive effect on program beneficiaries or AmeriCorps Volunteers in at least one key outcome of interest.

3. Notice Priority, 4 points

- Describe whether one or more of the AmeriCorps funding priorities is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes. Refer to A.2. for list of Funding Priorities.

4. AmeriCorps Volunteer Experience, 6 points

- Describe how AmeriCorps Volunteers will be provided opportunities for skill attainment, personal growth and connection to the community they are serving in support of a lifetime of civic participation.

E.1.c. Organizational Capability, 25 percent:

1. Organizational Background and Staffing, 15 points

Describe the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the staff that will implement and provide oversight of the program, including but not limited to demonstrating the organization has sufficient policies, procedures, and controls to effectively implement a federal grant.

2. AmeriCorps Volunteer Supervision, 10 points

- Describe how AmeriCorps Volunteers will receive sufficient guidance and support from their supervisor to provide effective service. That could include but is not limited to structure for AmeriCorps Volunteer supervision: cadence and format of supervisor/ AmeriCorps Volunteer check-ins, AmeriCorps Volunteer and supervisor opportunities to assess strengths and opportunities for growth, AmeriCorps Volunteer training plan, etc. Applicants should identify best and/or evidence based practices for successful Volunteer supervision.

E.1.d. Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy, 25 percent:

1. AmeriCorps Volunteer Recruitment, 7 points

- Provide a description of budget expenses to support recruitment of AmeriCorps Volunteers best suited to serve the community. Applicants should identify best and/or evidence based practices for successful Volunteer recruitment.

2. AmeriCorps Volunteer Retention, 10 points

Provide a description of budget expenses to support retention of AmeriCorps Volunteers. E.g., additional AmeriCorps Volunteer benefits such as paying above the minimum living allowance, supporting workforce pathways, certifications, coaching for AmeriCorps Volunteers, resume building, individual benefit as well as community building, network building, AmeriCorps Volunteer recognition, alumni programming, etc. Applicants should identify best or evidence based practices for successful Volunteer retention.

3. Data Collection, 8 points

- Provide a description of budget expenses that support data collection and evaluation, including the process for collecting and maintaining high-quality performance data from your organization and community partners, how data will be analyzed, and how this will ensure timely and accurate reporting to AmeriCorps.

E.1.e. Evaluation Plan Summary, 0 percent:

- **Required for recompeting applicants:**

Existing grantees recompeting for AmeriCorps funds must submit a *summary of their evaluation efforts* in addition to the data collection plan. All Formula applicants should enter data collection plans in the Data Collection Plan tab of the Performance Measure Module."

The evaluation plan summary will not be scored and will not be reviewed unless it includes an Alternative Evaluation Approach request.

All applicants 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. This field will be utilized should an applicant be funded.

E.1.h. Continuation Changes, 0 percent:

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

E.2. Review and Selection Process

AmeriCorps will engage reviewers with relevant expertise to assess the eligible applications. The determinations made by AmeriCorps reviewers 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 do an initial compliance and eligibility check before reviewing applications. To pass this check, applicants must:

- Be an eligible organization,
- Be eligible to apply for a Full Cost Fixed Grant,
- Be eligible to submit directly to AmeriCorps,
- Have an active SAM registration,
- Not be listed on Do Not Pay or the exclusions list in SAM.gov, and
- Submit an application by the submission deadline.

Eligibility assessment is intended to ensure that only those applications that are eligible for award are 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

Review

Volunteer MS will assess applications based on the Program Design, Organizational Capability, Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy, and Evidence Selection Criteria.

Post-Review Quality Control

Volunteer MS staff will review the initial results for fairness and consistency. Some applications may be selected for a post-review quality control assessment.

E.2.c. Pre-Award Risk Assessment

Volunteer MS staff will assess the risks posed by each applicant. Results from this assessment will inform funding decisions. If Volunteer MS determines that an award will be made to an applicant with risks, special conditions may be applied to the award. Volunteer MS may decide to not fund an applicant based on the level of risk.

In assessing risks, Volunteer MS may consider:

1. Due diligence, including:
    - Federal debt delinquency;
    - Suspension and debarment;
    - Information available through Office of Management and Budget (OMB)- designated sources of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as:
        - U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services;
        - System for Award Management (SAM); and
        - *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; and
    - Public Litigation Records.

2. 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 to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards; and
    - Meeting National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) compliance.

3. 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; and
    - Other elements, such as keyword searches for prohibited activities.

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

Before making any award that exceeds $350,000, Volunteer MS must consider information about the applicant from the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM.gov.

Any applicant may comment upon information previously entered by another Federal agency in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM.gov.

Volunteer MS may consider applicant comments when completing its review of risk. AmeriCorps may also consider other information about any applicant receiving an award, including those under $350,000.

E.2.e. Selection for Funding

The review and selection process are designed to:

- Identify how well eligible applications are aligned with the application selection criteria.
- Build a diversified portfolio based on the following strategic considerations:
    - AmeriCorps Funding Priorities;
    - Meaningful representation of:
        - rural communities, and
        - innovative community strategies; and
    - CEO discretion to advance strategic goals.

In selecting applicants to receive awards under this Notice, Volunteer MS will try to include a diverse portfolio of applications based on staff recommendations, alignment with selection criteria, and strategic considerations.

Volunteer MS reserves the right to adjust or make changes to the review process, if unforeseen circumstances make it impossible, impracticable, or inefficient to conduct

the review process as planned. Volunteer MS reserves the right to re-focus program dollars under this Notice in the event of disaster or other compelling needs.

An applicant denied any portion of funding may request reconsideration of a funding decision within 5 business days of receiving notice of their denial. Reconsideration will only be granted if there is clear and substantial error. Any reconsideration of denied applications is entirely subject to the agency's discretion.

E.2.f. Applicant Resolution

After the application review process, before any grant awards are issued, Volunteer MS may ask an applicant for additional information to address any application compliance or risk issues. If an applicant does not respond promptly to these requests, then the applicant may be denied funding.

AmeriCorps/Volunteer MS will ask all partners for a written compliance implementation plan that includes notification of waste, fraud, and abuse to the agency's Office of Inspector General.

E.3. Feedback to Applicants

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

E.4. Transparency in Grantmaking

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

Further information about funded grants and subgrants is also available in USASpending.gov.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

F.1. Federal Award Notices

Volunteer MS will make awards following the selection announcement. All applicants, successful or not, will be notified of funding decisions via email.

Selection notifications are not an authorization to begin performance. The Notice of Grant Award is the document that obligates funds and performance may only begin after the Award is issued and no earlier than the listed Performance Period Start Date. Incurring allowable pre-award costs prior to receiving a Notice of Grant Award is at the applicant's risk.

F.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

F.2.a. Uniform Guidance

All awards made under this Notice must follow the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 2205.

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

Volunteer MS may request information from partners to ensure compliance with legal requirements, including the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019. If partners do not

respond promptly to these requests, then their funds may be placed on manual hold, reimbursement only status, or other restrictions as appropriate.

F.2.c. AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions

All grants must follow the FY 2027 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, and the FY 2027 Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for the particular program (when applicable). These Terms and Conditions contain mandatory compliance and reporting requirements, and applicants should review these instructions prior to any Notice of Grant Award. 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. Use 45 CFR 2540.200– 2540.207 and National Service Criminal History Check Resources for complete information and FAQs.

F.3. Use of Material

To ensure that materials generated with AmeriCorps funding are available to the public and readily accessible to recipients and non-recipients, 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. Continuation Funding Information and Requirements

Organizations that have current AmeriCorps State and National awards that will be in program Year 2 or Year 3 in FY 2027 are considered continuation applicants. Continuation applicants must submit an application to be eligible to receive funding for the FY 2027 program year. Continuation applicants must follow the requirements for continuation application content as outlined in the Application and Budget Instructions.

To be approved for continuation funding, recipients must be in good standing. Continuation application review will also be based on progress reports, the federal financial report and Volunteer MS 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.

Continuation applicants may request an increase in slots and/or MSY over their awarded FY 2026 amounts in FY 2027. Continuation applicants may not request an increase in funding over their awarded FY 2026 amount in FY 2027.

Volunteer MS reserves the right to award applications in an amount less than the requested level of funding.

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

For more information, email Volunteer MS at acms@ihl.state.ms.us.

H. OTHER INFORMATION

H.1. Technical Assistance

AmeriCorps will host technical assistance calls to answer questions about the funding opportunity and the web-based application system. AmeriCorps strongly encourages all applicants to participate in these sessions. Information for these technical assistance calls is available on the AmeriCorps' Funding Opportunities website.

For Volunteer MS specific technical assistance, please contact us via acms@ihl.state.ms.us.

Resources applicants need to effectively manage their grant award 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, 2026.

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. 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.

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