



SERVE DC NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Federal Agency Name: Corporation for National and Community Service
District Pass-Through Agency: Serve DC, Mayor’s Office on Volunteerism and Partnerships
Funding Opportunity Title: FY 2021 AmeriCorps State and National Grants
Announcement Type: Initial Announcement
Assistance Listing Number: 94.006

Disclosure: Publication of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (Notice) does not obligate the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to award any specific number of grants or to commit any particular amount of funding. The 2021 President’s Budget proposed the elimination of CNCS. The actual level, timing, and process of grant funding will be subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

Important Dates

- Logic Models for New and Re-competing applicants are due to Serve DC **Wednesday, October 7, 2020** by 5:00pm Eastern Time.
- Full Applications are due to Serve DC **Monday, November 2, 2020** by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time to CNCS.
- Logic Models and Full Applications will be submitted through [ZoomGrants](#) and CNCS’s web-based management system, eGrants. The application will be live in [ZoomGrants](#) no later than **Wednesday, September 30, 2020**; and available in eGrants no later than **Friday, October 2, 2020**.
- Successful applicants will be notified by **mid-May 2021**.

Estimated Available Funds

Serve DC – The Mayor’s Office on Volunteerism and Partnerships announces the availability of AmeriCorps State Competitive Grant funding for Fiscal Year 2021 to eligible organizations subject to the availability of appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021. New applicants will compete nationally with other State and National programs for Competitive funds made available through Serve DC and CNCS. Grant award amounts vary – both in the level of operating funds and in the type and amount of AmeriCorps member positions – as determined by the scope of the projects.

Project and Award Period



CNCS anticipates making three-year grants. CNCS generally makes an initial award for the first year of operation, based on a one-year project period. Continuation awards for subsequent years are not guaranteed; they depend upon availability of appropriations and satisfactory performance.

The project start date may not occur prior to June 1, 2020. AmeriCorps members may not enroll prior to the start date of the award. AmeriCorps members may not begin service prior to the beginning of the member enrollment period as designated in the grant award. A program may not certify any hours a member performs prior to the beginning of the member enrollment period.

Program Authority

CNCS's legal authority to award these grants is found in the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, (NCSA) (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.)

CNCS Funding Priorities

CNCS seeks to prioritize the investment of national service resources in:

- **Efforts to help local communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic** – Applicants may propose programming in any CNCS focus area to aid communities as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Racial Inequity** – Programs that actively engage in removing structural racial inequities, advancing racial equality, and increasing opportunity in order to achieve sustainable change in communities.
- **Economic Opportunity** – A program model that increases economic opportunities for communities by preparing people for the workforce.
- **Education** – See sixth bullet.
- **Healthy Futures** – A program model that reduces and/or prevents prescription drug and opioid abuse.
- **Evidence-based interventions on the CNCS Evidence Exchange** (<https://www.nationalservice.gov/impact-our-nation/evidence-exchange>) that are assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence.
- **Veterans and Military Families** – A program model that positively impacts the quality of life of veterans and improves military family strength.
- **Rural intermediaries** – Organizations that demonstrate measurable impact and primarily serve rural communities with limited resources and organizational infrastructure.
- **Faith-based organizations.**
- **Programs that reduce child poverty.**
- **Environmental stewardship.**
- **Economic Mobility Corps** – A joint initiative with the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund to place national service members at Certified Community Development Financial Institutions to enhance their capacity to provide financial literacy,



financial planning, budgeting, saving, and other financial counseling activities in distressed and underserved areas

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.

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. Additional performance measures, including output-only National Performance Measures, may also be included if desired; however, all performance measures must be consistent with the program's Theory of Change and represent significant program activities. CNCS does not expect applicants to select performance measures to correspond to each and every potential member activity or community impact. CNCS values the quality of performance measures over the quantity of performance measures.

CNCS expects applicants to use National Performance Measures as part of their comprehensive performance management strategy if the National Performance Measures are part of the applicant's Theory of Change. Applicants should use both performance and evaluation data to learn from their work as well as make tactical and strategic adjustments to achieve their goals. For more information, please refer to the [National Performance Measure Instructions](#).

Type of Award

AmeriCorps Operating Grants: CNCS may award 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 are not eligible to apply for Cost Reimbursement grants.

See the Eligible Applicants section and the Mandatory Supplemental Information for more information. CNCS 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	No Cost Slots
Maximum Cost per MSY	\$16,300	\$16,300	\$800 or \$1,000*	\$1,000	\$0
Type of Slots in the National Service Trust	Full-Time, Three Quarter-Time, Half-time, Reduced Half-Time, Quarter-Time, Minimum-Time, Abbreviated-Time	Full-Time, Three Quarter-Time, Half-Time, Reduced Half-Time, Quarter-Time, Minimum-Time, Abbreviated-Time	Full-Time, Three Quarter-Time, Half-Time, Reduced Half-Time, Quarter-Time, Minimum-Time, Abbreviated-Time	Full-Time only	Full-Time, Three Quarter-Time, Half-Time, Reduced Half-Time, Quarter-Time, Minimum-Time, Abbreviated-Time
Budget Submission Required	Yes	No		Yes, if requesting operating funds	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 number of such professionals. Member salaries and benefits must be paid entirely by organization where member serves and not included in budget.	N/A
Financial Reporting Requirements	Yes	No			
Available to new Applicants	Yes	No	Yes		



*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.

Professional Corps

A Professional Corps is a program model composed of AmeriCorps members serving as professionals; i.e. teachers, health care providers, police officers, engineers, attorneys, or other professionals. The programs recruit and place qualified members in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals. Professional Corps applicants and/or applicants determined to be a Professional Corps by CNCS must demonstrate that the community in which it will place AmeriCorps members serving as professionals has an inadequate number of said professionals.

Professional Corps members' salaries/compensation, including childcare, are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve, and are not included in the budget request to CNCS. The living allowance or salary provided to AmeriCorps members in Professional Corps programs does not count toward the matching requirement. CNCS requires Professional Corps programs to cover the operating expenses associated with the AmeriCorps program through non CNCS resources. CNCS will only consider operating funds of up to \$1,000 per MSY if an applicant is able to demonstrate significant organizational financial need based on the materials reviewed by the Office of Grant Management/Grant Administration. These grants are fixed price grants.

Applicants may propose any authorized program type. In the case that a proposed program fits more than one program type (e.g., a program could be either a professional corps or a traditional program). CNCS staff will make a determination as to program type that will be considered for funding. The determination will be based on data provided within the application and supplemental materials submitted with the application. The determination may be different from the program type proposed by the applicant.

CNCS reserves the right to determine whether an applicant (whether or not the applicant has applied as a Professional Corps) has sufficiently demonstrated that they cannot effectively operate an AmeriCorps program without receiving CNCS operating funds. There may be specific circumstances where CNCS determines that a legal applicant has not demonstrated the need for operational grant funds due to other funding resources. Where CNCS's due diligence review of an application shows that the applicant has a historically high level of support from non-CNCS



sources, and as a result has levels of unrestricted funding that is in excess of the requested level of CNCS funding, CNCS may choose to not provide operational grant funding.

Education Award Grants (EAP) Fixed Amount Grant

Programs that apply for a small fixed amount per MSY, can enroll less than full-time members, and use their own resources to cover all other costs. Programs can access funds under the grant based on enrolling the full complement of members supported under the grant. As with full-time fixed amount grants, there are no specific match or financial reporting requirements for EAP fixed amount grants.

Eligible Applicants

The following non-federal entities (all of which are defined in 2 CFR 200.1) are eligible to apply:

- Indian Tribes
- Institutions of higher education
- Local governments
- Nonprofit organizations
- States

Entities must have a valid SAM registration and [DUNS and/or 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

CNCS encourages organizations that have not received prior funding from CNCS to apply. The general practice is to award no more than 50 member positions (slots) to organizations receiving an AmeriCorps grant for the first time.

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

Continuation Applicants

Organizations that have current AmeriCorps awards that do not end in FY21 must submit an application in order to be eligible to receive funding for the following year.

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 CNCS 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 (for example, tutoring programs: 45 CFR 2522.910-.940), the applicant must describe how the program will meet these requirements.
- 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 criteria in order to be considered for funding.

Other Eligibility Requirements

Under section 132A(b) of the NCSA, organizations that have been convicted of a federal crime may not receive assistance described in this RFA.

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

Note that under appropriations provisions annually enacted by Congress, if CNCS is aware that any corporation has any unpaid Federal tax liability which—

- 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 RFA. However, this exclusion will not apply to a corporation which a federal agency has considered for suspension or debarment and has made a determination that suspension or debarment is not necessary to protect the interest of the federal government.

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

