

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Federal Agency Name: Corporation for National and Community Service
Funding Opportunity Title: FY 2025 AmeriCorps State and National Grants
Announcement Type: Initial Announcement
CFDA Number: 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.



AmeriCorps.gov/NorthCarolina



Important Dates

Intent to Apply: It is mandatory that all State Formula applicants submit an Intent to Apply for funding to the NC Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (**VolunteerNC**) unless an exception is granted by VolunteerNC. Please submit the Intent to Apply Form (on website) via email to megan.trawick@nc.gov by Friday, **January 31, 2025**.

AmeriCorps State Formula Application (*New, Recompetes, Continuations*): **Due March 6, 2025.**

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A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. Purpose of AmeriCorps Funding

This is an offer of federal funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service, now known as AmeriCorps. 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 (See 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.

Overview of the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service

The mission of VolunteerNC is to promote and facilitate service and volunteering, to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement in the state.

The Commission encourages community service and volunteerism to solve unmet needs in the state and strives to enhance the quality of life for North Carolinians by promoting service as an integral part of the growth of North Carolina. Above all, the VolunteerNC supports national service members and volunteers who impact the lives of others and help meet critical community needs.

VolunteerNC is located in the Office of the Governor. A Commission of appointed members guides VolunteerNC. Commission members are appointed by the Governor and serve three-year terms. They represent the geographic and demographic diversity of the state.

2. AmeriCorps Focus Areas

For this funding opportunity, AmeriCorps and VolunteerNC will prioritize consideration from organizations that:

Serve Communities:

- Serve communities with concentrated poverty, rural communities, tribal communities, and historically underrepresented and underserved individuals.
- Implement programs for or expand access to high-quality youth mental health and substance use recovery services and prepare AmeriCorps members to enter behavioral health careers. These may include individuals with lived experience with substance use and mental health challenges to support youth mental health efforts and continued AmeriCorps work on the opioid epidemic;
- Focus on improving the quality of life for veterans, active-duty members of the Armed Forces, and their families by recruiting veterans, military spouses, and their older children into national service;

- Promote environmental stewardship to help communities to be more resilient by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving land and water, increasing renewable energy use and improving at-risk ecosystems;

Benefit AmeriCorps Members:

- Provide 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.;
- Create career pathways for AmeriCorps members, including deliberate training, professional development, certifications, and hiring preferences or support;
- Enhance and expand services to second chance youth and/or engage those youth as AmeriCorps members;
- Develop and train the next generation of diverse public health leaders through service while addressing pressing community health challenges.

Faith-Based

- Organizations that are faith-based; and

North Carolina's Resilience Service Network

- Please note that applicants may propose projects to be affiliated with the North Carolina Resilience Service Network, a state-based network of programs focused on addressing environmental resilience, particularly in response to disasters, and training young people for the clean energy and environmental resilience workforce. Applicants who are interested must demonstrate that their project funds positions meeting the following criteria:
 - The position has verifiable environmental impact.
 - The position includes skills-based training as part of the program and provides a pathway to employment.
 - The position must receive a living allowance and, in some cases, may receive additional member benefits.

3. Performance Goals or Expected Outcomes

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. See the [Performance Measure Instructions](#) for details about performance measure requirements and selection rules.

VolunteerNC considers the program's ability to meet performance measure goals as a primary indicator in the health and efficacy of the program and expects applicants to take a thoughtful and thorough approach when designing the performance measures. VolunteerNC does not expect applicants to select performance measures to correspond to every potential member activity or community impact. VolunteerNC values the quality of performance measures over the quantity. Programs should select one performance measure that most accurately reflects the impact of the program in the community.

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

1. Estimated Available Funds

VolunteerNC 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.

2. Estimated Award Amount

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

3. Period of Performance

VolunteerNC and the AmeriCorps agency anticipate making three-year grants. Generally, an initial award is made for the first year of the period of performance, based on a one-year budget. 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 the date VolunteerNC awards the grant. VolunteerNC subgrantees 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 an applicant performs prior to the applicant becoming a member in the system of record and the beginning of the member enrollment period. The earliest start date a program may select for this award is July 1, 2025.

4. Type of Award

AmeriCorps Operating Grants: VolunteerNC 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 applicants are ineligible to apply for Cost Reimbursement grants. See the C.1. *Eligible Applicants* section and the Mandatory Supplemental Information for more information. 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 See Sec. D.6.a.2 for further requirements	No Cost Slots
Formula Maximum Cost per MSY ¹	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$800 or \$1,000 ²	\$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
Budget Submission Required	Yes	No ³		No	No
Availability of Funds linked to enrollment and retention of awarded MSYs	No	Yes			No
Grant Types	Cost Reimbursement	Fixed Amount			
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 the organization where member serves and not included in budget.		N/A
Financial Reporting Requirements	Yes	No			
Available to new Applicants	Yes	No	Yes		

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

² 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.

³ Note that VolunteerNC requires programs to submit an unofficial budget to ensure that programs have planned for all expenses required to successfully administer an AmeriCorps program.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. 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, including school districts
- Nonprofit organizations
- States and US Territories

Applicants must have a [valid SAM registration and Unique Entity Identifier](#) to receive an award.

New Applicants

VolunteerNC and the AmeriCorps Agency encourage organizations that have not received prior funding from AmeriCorps to apply.

In some cases, VolunteerNC may award a Planning Grant to State Formula applicants. Planning Grants must be used to develop national service models that seek to integrate members in innovative ways into evidence-based interventions. Programs can use the grant to improve their model and apply for a State Formula grant the following year and to create the operational structure of an AmeriCorps 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 without prior approval.

Types of Applicants

Organizations that propose to operate only in North Carolina must apply through VolunteerNC. National Direct Applicants will apply directly to AmeriCorps under a separate Competitive NOFO published annually. These applicants include:

- *Multi-State*: Organizations that propose to operate AmeriCorps programs in more than one State or Territory.
- *Federally recognized Indian Tribes*: Applicants that are Indian Tribes.

In addition to Indian Tribes as defined in [2 CFR 200.1](#), tribal organizations that are controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by Federally recognized Indian Tribes are also eligible to apply for operating grants or planning grants under separate notices available on the [AmeriCorps website](#).

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 the agency, 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 (for example, tutoring programs: 45 CFR 2522.910-.940), the applicant must describe how the program will meet these requirements.

Other Eligibility Requirements

Under Section 132A(b) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, organizations that have been convicted of a Federal crime 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
- 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 which a Federal agency has considered for suspension or debarment and has determined that suspension or debarment is not necessary to protect the interests of the Federal government.

VolunteerNC shall not disburse financial assistance to any entity that is on the [Suspension of Funding List](#).

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.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Fixed Amount Grants

There is no match 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. Programs will be required to submit an unofficial budget during the pre-award period to VolunteerNC that includes sources of additional funds 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 without prior approval.

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. See Section *D.4. 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 30 percent by year ten.

AmeriCorps Funding Year	Years 1,2, and 3	Years 4,5, and 6	Years 7,8, and 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. Applicants who plan to request a match waiver must submit a request at the time the application is submitted. This request should be sent to Megan Trawick at megan.trawick@nc.gov.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

This *Notice* should be read together with the [AmeriCorps Regulations](#), Mandatory Supplemental Information, Application Instructions, and Performance Measure Instructions which are incorporated by reference. These documents can be found on the [VolunteerNC website](#).

1. Content and Form of Application Submission

Application Content

Complete applications must include the following elements:

- Standard Form 424 (SF-424) Face Sheet: This is 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](#)

Page Limits

There are page limits for the Narratives and Logic Model:

- Narratives
 - Applications **must not exceed 11 double-spaced pages** for the Narratives as the pages print out from eGrants.
 - The application sections that count towards the page limit are the:
 - SF-424 Face Sheet
 - Executive Summary
 - Program Design, Organizational Capability, and Cost-Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy narratives.
 - The application page limit does not include the Budget, Performance Measures, or any required additional documents.
- Logic Model
 - The Logic Model **may not exceed eight (8) 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. **VolunteerNC strongly encourages applicants to print out the application from the “Review and Submit” tab in eGrants prior to submission to confirm that the application does not exceed the page limit.**

VolunteerNC 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.

2. 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. See 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 VolunteerNC. 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 Unique Entity Identifier.

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, and this will apply the information to all applications for the organization.

3. Submission Dates and Times

Notification of Intent to Apply

Submission of the Notice of Intent to Apply form is required for all State Formula applicants unless an exception is granted by VolunteerNC. The form is due by **Friday, January 31, 2025**. The Notice of Intent to Apply can be found on the VolunteerNC [website](#) and should be submitted to megan.trawick@nc.gov by the deadline. All Notifications of Intent to Apply will receive an email response acknowledging receipt.

Concept Paper

All new applicants will be REQUIRED to submit a concept paper to VolunteerNC by Friday, **January 31, 2025**. Continuation and Recompete grantees do not need to submit a concept paper. This form will be submitted electronically. The link to submit a concept paper can be found on the VolunteerNC [website](#). The concept paper is an opportunity to submit information about the organization and the concept for an AmeriCorps grant before completing the full application. Concept papers will be reviewed by VolunteerNC Staff and feedback will be provided in a timely manner.

Application Submission Deadline

Formula applications are due **Thursday, March 6, 2025, by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time**.

VolunteerNC will not consider applications submitted after the deadline, except as noted below. VolunteerNC and AmeriCorps reserve the right to extend the submission deadline and will post a notification in the event of an extended deadline on the [VolunteerNC website](#).

Late Applications

All applications received after the submission deadline published in this Notice 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:
 - the timing and specific cause(s) of the delay
 - the ticket number if a request for assistance was submitted to the AmeriCorps Hotline, if available
 - any information provided to the applicant by the AmeriCorps Hotline
 - any other documentation or evidence that supports the justification
- ensure that VolunteerNC receives the written explanation or justification and any other evidence that substantiates the claimed extenuating circumstance(s), via email to megan.trawick@nc.gov by the initial application date and time.

4. Funding Restrictions

Member Living Allowance

A living allowance is not considered a salary or a 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 for a less than full-time member, it must comply with the maximum limits in the table below. For Cost Reimbursement grants, the 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 in eGrants, 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. Note that all fixed applicants will be required to submit a budget worksheet during the pre-award period if selected for funding.

Table: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1,700	\$22,000	\$40,800
Three Quarter-time	1,200	n/a	\$28,560
Half-time	900	n/a	\$20,400
Reduced Half-time	675	n/a	\$15,504
Quarter-time	450	n/a	\$10,608
Minimum-time	300	n/a	\$8,568
Abbreviated-time	100	n/a	\$2,448

Exceptions to the Living Allowance Requirements

a. Programs existing prior to September 21, 1993 are not required to offer a living allowance. If an applicant chooses to offer a living allowance, it is exempt from the minimum requirement, but not the maximum requirement.

b. 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 above.

c. Professional Corps Grantees must provide members with a living allowance or salary, which must meet the minimum, but may exceed the maximum living allowance set in the Living Allowance Table above. 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).

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.

Table: Maximum Cost per MSY

Grant Program	Maximum
Individual Formula State Program (cost reimbursement)	\$25,000
Professional Corps competitive Fixed Amount Applicants/Grantees	\$1,000*
Formula Fixed Amount Grant	\$25,000
Education Award Program (EAP) Fixed Amount Grant (competitive and formula)	\$800 or \$1,000**

*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, AmeriCorps 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.

VolunteerNC 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.

Indirect Costs

Application budgets may include indirect costs. Based on qualifying factors, applicants may-

- i. use a Federally-approved indirect cost rate,
- ii. use a 15 percent *de minimis* rate of modified total direct costs,
- iii. use the AmeriCorps Fixed Percentage Method (five/ten percent fixed administration cost option) outlined in the AmeriCorps Indirect Cost Guidance, or
- iv. [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 NCSA](#) and AmeriCorps' regulations at [45 CFR 2521.95](#) and [2540.110](#)

The instructions for how to enter the organization's indirect cost rate are available on the [AmeriCorps website](#). 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. The applicant may also obtain instructions and additional information by contacting the email address above.

Pre-Award Costs

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

5. Other Submission Requirements

Electronic Application Submission in eGrants

Applicants must submit applications electronically via [eGrants, AmeriCorps' web-based application system](#). 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 or via [eGrants Questions](#) if they have a problem when they create an account, prepare, or submit the application. AmeriCorps Hotline hours are posted at <https://questions.americorps.gov/app/ask>.

Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the competition 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.

Applicants must be able to provide a ticket number from eGrants if they are unable to submit their application by the deadline due to technical issues with eGrants.

Submission of Additional Documents

Applicants are required to submit the additional documents below by the application submission deadline.

All applicants

1. Labor union concurrence (if applicable)
2. Most recent audit
3. Budget worksheet
4. Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate (if applicable)

Recompete applicants who have previously received three or more years of funding for the same project being proposed:

5. Evaluation plan. Evaluation plans are not scored and will be reviewed but will not be factored in the final funding decision. Please use the [evaluation plan template](#) provided by AmeriCorps.

Recompete applicants who have previously received six or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed:

6. Evaluation report. Please submit the report in Word. The evaluation report should include a title page with the AmeriCorps grant ID for the project that was evaluated, the name of the project, and the date of completion of the report.

Additional documents must be emailed to megan.trawick@nc.gov with the following subject line: “*Legal Applicant Name*” – “*Additional Application Documents.*” Emails should include:

- the legal applicant’s name and its point of contact information
- the application ID number
- a list of documents that are attached to the email by file name, labeling each document type according to the above numbered list
- individually attached files that are clearly labeled, and that include the legal applicant’s name and application ID number 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 send multiple documents in one combined file, and do not 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).”

Failure to submit the required additional documents, following the email instructions in this section, by the deadline and in the format requested above, may have a negative effect on the assessment of your application and/or on the determination of the application’s eligibility to advance for review.

Please do not submit any items that are not requested in this Notice and Guidance. VolunteerNC and AmeriCorps will not review or return them.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Review Criteria

Each applicant must describe a project that will deploy AmeriCorps members effectively to solve a significant community problem. VolunteerNC 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.

Categories/Subcategories	Percentage
Executive Summary	0
Program Design	50

Community and Logic Model	24
Evidence Base and Performance Measures	10
Member Experience	16
Organizational Capability	25
Organizational Background and Staffing	15
Member Supervision	10
Commitment to Civil Rights and Cultural Awareness	0
Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy	25
Member Recruitment	8
Member Travel to Trainings	8
Professional Development	9

Executive Summary (Required - 0 percent)

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

“The [Name of the organization] will have [Number of] AmeriCorps members in [the locations the AmeriCorps members will serve, e.g. – City, State or State(s)]. AmeriCorps members will [service activities the members will do]. 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].

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.”

Program Design (50 percent)

Reviewers will consider the quality of the application’s response to the criteria below.

Community and Logic Model (24 points)

Community Section shall address:

- How the inequities faced by underserved communities may contribute to the problem.
- How the applicant’s intervention(s) will lead to the outcomes identified in the organization’s Logic Model.

The Logic Model shall depict:

- A brief summary of the community problem,
- The inputs or resources that are necessary to deliver the 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 where the intervention is delivered)

- 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:
 - The length of each activity (e.g., the total number of weeks, sessions or months of the intervention)
 - The dosage of each activity (e.g., the number of hours per session and sessions per week)
 - The target population for the intervention (e.g., disconnected youth, third graders at a certain reading proficiency level)
 - Note that all allowable member activities must be included in the logic model. Member activities not included in the logic model will be considered unallowable under the terms of the grant.
- The measurable outputs that result from delivering the intervention (i.e. number of beneficiaries served, types and number of activities conducted, equity gaps closed). If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as output indicators
- Outcomes that demonstrate 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.

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 Theory of Change. The applicant’s performance measures should be consistent with the program’s Theory of Change 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 that exceeds eight pages will not be reviewed.

Evidence Base & Performance Measurement (10 points)

In this two-fold section, the applicant will first briefly discuss the evidence used to inform the program design and interventions. Evidence Base discussion items may include the following:

- Describe the evidence or studies used to inform your program model.
- How did the applicant determine what kind of intervention to select to address the community need/problem?
- Was the proposed program modeled after an existing program? If yes, describe the original program and how similar or different the proposed program will be compared to the original. Discuss community nuances and ways the proposed program may need to be adapted to meet the specific community need identified in the Theory of Change.

- Has the applicant conducted an evaluation or study of this program? If yes, discuss the evaluation results and how the evaluation informed programmatic decisions going forward. The evaluation report should be included with the additional documents submitted to VolunteerNC.

The second part of this section will be a comprehensive discussion of the performance measure & data collection activities the program has designed to indicate success. Please address the following:

- Describe the output and outcome measures the applicant has selected. These can be selected from the National Performance Measures as described in the Performance Measure Instructions, or an applicant-determined measure. If using applicant-determined measures, include a discussion on why the applicant selected this option and thoroughly describe what the applicant will be measuring.
- Describe the output and outcome targets and the rationale for selecting these targets.
- Describe how and when the data collection activities will be conducted, and what role, if any, AmeriCorps members will have in the data collection efforts.
- Describe how the program will aggregate, analyze, and report data.
- Describe how the program will ensure data are compliant with AmeriCorps requirements to be valid, verifiable, and unduplicated counts.

Notice Priority

- The applicant's proposed program fits within one or more of the AmeriCorps/VolunteerNC funding priorities.

Member Experience (16 points)

- Describe how the program will ensure the members have a meaningful and satisfactory experience as a result of their service. Include frequency of member contact with program staff and member peer support groups if applicable.
- Discuss the program's AmeriCorps member training strategy, including how members will have leadership and skill development opportunities.
- Description of how the organization will ensure its project engages members from a broad range of backgrounds.
- Describe any additional member benefits such as job placement assistance, school or work application support, or specialized certifications.

Organizational Capability (25 percent)

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

Organizational Background and Staffing (15 points)

VolunteerNC expects subgrantees to dedicate a minimum of one full-time staff position to serve as Program Director of the AmeriCorps program.

- The applicant details the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the staff that will be implementing, providing oversight, and monitoring the program.
- The applicant describes their organization's experience with managing grants, especially federal or state grants. Include your past performance in meeting:
 - Grant goals and objectives

- Compliance and reporting requirements.

Note: if you do not have experience managing grants, please indicate that.

- 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.

Member Supervision (10 points)

- Describe how AmeriCorps members will receive sufficient guidance and support from their supervisor to provide effective service.
 - Structure for member supervision
 - Cadence and format of supervisor/AmeriCorps member check ins
 - Member and supervisor opportunities to assess strengths and opportunities for growth
 - Member training plan
- Describe the initial and ongoing site supervisor training strategy, including the frequency and length of site supervisor training events, as well as how supervisors will be adequately trained/prepared to follow AmeriCorps and program regulations, priorities, and expectations.
 - Structure for support of supervisors
 - Training plan for supervisors related to supervision and AmeriCorps rules and regulations
 - Cadence and format of AmeriCorps supervisor check ins

Commitment to Civil Rights and Cultural Awareness (0 points)

- The leadership and staff of the organization have similar lived experience as the beneficiary population and/or community being served.
- The applicant's commitment to cultural sensitivity and adherence to the protection of civil rights are demonstrated by the organization (e.g., nondiscrimination in the selection of 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.

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 (8 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 Travel to Trainings (8 points)

- The applicant provides a description of budget expenses to support members attending AmeriCorps program and VolunteerNC trainings throughout the program year.

3. Professional Development (9 points)

- The applicant provides a description of budget expenses to support AmeriCorps member professional development including trainings, career or educational pathway support, etc.

Proposed budgets that contain MSY costs that exceed the maximum cost per MSY and/or less than required match will be considered unresponsive to the application criteria.

Applicants must complete the budget and ensure the following information is in the budget screens:

- Current indirect rate cost rate information if used to claim indirect/administrative costs.
- Identify the non-AmeriCorps funding and resources necessary to support the project, including Fixed Amount applicants.
- Indicate the amount of non-AmeriCorps resource commitments, type of commitments (in-kind and/or cash), the sources of these commitments, and if the commitments are proposed or secured. See example below.

Match Description (Note whether Secured or Proposed)	Amount	Match Classification (Cash or In Kind)	Match Source (Federal, State/Local, Private)
Waynesville Community Foundation (proposed)	\$10,500	Cash	Private

Evaluation Plan (Required for recompeting grantees - 0 percent)

If the applicant has previously received three or more years of funding for the same project being proposed (see the Mandatory Supplemental Information for the AmeriCorps definition of “same project”), the applicant must submit an evaluation plan as an attachment (see the *Submission of Additional Documents* section for more information). If the applicant has previously received six or more years of funding for the 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](#) provided by AmeriCorps to craft their evaluation plans. The template document provides detailed information about the AmeriCorps evaluation requirements (45 CFR 2522.700-710) and specifies the information that must be provided for the evaluation plan to be approved by VolunteerNC.

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.

Amendment Justification (0 percent)

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

Clarification Information (0 percent)

Enter N/A.

Continuation Changes (0 percent)

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

2. Review and Selection Process

VolunteerNC will conduct a Compliance Review to determine if an application meets the compliance requirements published in this Notice and advances to the next stage of the review process.

An application is compliant if the applicant:

- 1) is an eligible organization
- 2) submits a Notice of Intent to Apply Form by submission deadline
- 3) submits a Concept Paper by the deadline (new programs only)
- 4) submits an application by the submission deadline
- 5) submits an application that is complete in that it contains all required elements and follows the instructions provided in this Notice
- 6) submits an application with a minimum of eight (8) AmeriCorps Member Service Years (MSYs)
- 7) submits an application with a Cost per MSY that does not exceed \$25,000

The Compliance Review is intended to ensure that only those applications that are eligible for award are further reviewed. Applicants that are determined to be ineligible will not receive an award.

Internal Review

Each new and recompile (3-year grant ending, submitting a new proposal) application will be reviewed by VolunteerNC staff members. The scores are averaged to come up with an average staff score for each application.

External Review

VolunteerNC's review process involves identifying individuals who will review grant applications and provide feedback to the Commission. Qualifications for peer reviewers include knowledge or some familiarity of national service programs; willingness to read and provide feedback on grant applications; excellent oral and written skills. Reviewers must also submit a signed conflict-of-interest form.

Each new and recompile application (3-year grant ending, submitting a new proposal) will be reviewed by a team of peer reviewers. To ensure the integrity of the review process, no one who is directly involved in the planning and or submission of an AmeriCorps program proposal will be allowed to evaluate an application. Examples of direct or indirect involvement include being a volunteer, staff or board member of an organization submitting a proposal; being a member of a planning group that developed a proposal.

Peer Reviewers are provided training on the application process, criteria of quality programs, and instruction on how to complete the ranking forms, prior to the scheduled peer review. Reviewers are required to read and individually score applications. Commission staff collect the written feedback and written scores.

Applicant Clarification

VolunteerNC may ask an applicant for clarifying information and use this information to make funding recommendations. A request for clarification does not guarantee an award. Applicants may be recommended for funding even if they are not asked for clarifying information. An applicant's failure to respond to a request for clarification adequately and in a timely manner may result in the removal of its application from consideration.

Risk Assessment

VolunteerNC staff may conduct a preliminary evaluation of the financial risks posed by the applicants by conducting due diligence to ensure an applicant's ability to manage federal funds. This evaluation is in addition to the assessment of the applicant's eligibility and the quality of its application based on the Selection Criteria. If VolunteerNC 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.

In evaluating risks, VolunteerNC may consider some of the following criteria:

- financial stability
- financial capability and capacity to manage Federal funds
- quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in applicable OMB Guidance
- applicant's record in managing previous AmeriCorps awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:
 - timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements
 - accuracy of data reported
 - validity of performance measure data reported
 - conformance to the terms and conditions of the previous federal awards
 - ability to meet matching requirements
 - the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards
- information available through OMB-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as:
 - Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)
 - U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services
 - SAM,
 - "Do Not Pay" and/or
 - NC Suspension of Funding List
- reports and findings from single audits performed under Uniform Administrative Guidance and finding of any other available audits or investigations
- IRS Tax Form 990
- applicant organization's annual report
- publicly available information, including information from the applicant organization's website or social media pages
- verification of funding
- amount of funding requested by the organization

VolunteerNC will assess their re-competing subgrantees' past performance. In evaluating programmatic performance, VolunteerNC may consider the following:

- Grantee progress reports – attainment of Performance Measures
- Submission of Grantee Progress Reports and Periodic Expense Reports by stated due dates
- Enrollment and retention
- Compliance with 8-day enrollment and 30-day exit requirements in the AmeriCorps portal
- Unexpended funds
- Site visits or other monitoring findings
- OIG findings (if applicable)
- Significant opportunities and/or risks of the grantee related to national service

Consideration of Integrity and Performance System Information

Prior to making any award that exceeds \$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 (currently FAPIIS) (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, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through FAPIIS and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through FAPIIS.

VolunteerNC and AmeriCorps may consider comments by any applicant, in addition to the 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 the Risk Assessment Evaluation section of this Notice.

Selection for Funding

The review and selection process are designed to:

- identify how well eligible applications are aligned with the application review criteria
- build a diversified portfolio based on the following strategic considerations:
 - AmeriCorps Funding Priorities
 - alignment with the Commission's state service plan

VolunteerNC and AmeriCorps reserve the right to prioritize funding existing awards over making new awards. VolunteerNC and AmeriCorps 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.

VolunteerNC and AmeriCorps reserve the right to adjust or make changes to the review process, if unforeseen challenges or urgent circumstances make it impossible, impracticable, or inefficient to conduct the review process as planned. Any such adjustments or changes will not affect the selection criteria that will be used to assess applications.

Feedback to Applicants

Following grant awards, each applicant will receive summary comments pertaining to their application. Feedback will be based on the review of the original application and may not reflect any information that was provided in response to clarification questions, if any.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Federal Award Notices

VolunteerNC and AmeriCorps will make awards following the selection announcement. AmeriCorps anticipates announcing the results of this funding opportunity by July 2025 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 Award Letter from VolunteerNC is the authorizing document. An awardee may not expend federal funds until the start of the Period of Performance identified on the Award Letter and execution of a Grant Agreement unless it has received a written pre-award cost approval from VolunteerNC.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Uniform Guidance

All awards made under this Notice will be subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), in [2 CFR Parts 200](#) and [2205](#).

Requests for Monitoring or Payment Integrity Information

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

AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions

All awards made under this Notice will be subject to the FY 2025 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, and the FY 2025 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](#).

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.

- In general, 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.
- AmeriCorps strongly encourages applicants to review the [regulations](#) and additional guidance to fully understand how to comply with the requirements.
- VolunteerNC requires funded applicants to utilize the [AmeriCorps approved vendor](#) to conduct the required NSCHCs.
- Failure to conduct a compliant NSCHC may result in significant disallowed costs.
- The cost of conducting NSCHC is an allowable expense under the award and the individual subject to the NSCHC may not be required to cover the cost without being reimbursed.

A NSCHC consists of a check of the:

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.

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

Official Guidance

All 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. These documents are intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

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](#)).

4. Reporting

Recipients are required to submit a variety of reports which are due at specific times during the life cycle of an award. All reports must be accurate, complete, and submitted on time.

Award recipients will be required to report at <https://www.FSRS.gov> on all subawards over \$30,000, and may be required to report on executive compensation for the recipient organization and its subrecipients. Recipients must have the necessary systems in place to collect and report this information. See [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 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.

5. Continuation Funding Information and Requirements

Organizations that have current awards that will be in Year 2 or Year 3 in FY 2025 are considered continuation applicants. Continuation applicants must submit an application in order to be eligible to receive funding for the FY 2025 program year. Continuation applicants must follow the requirements for continuation application content as outlined in the Application Instructions. Requests from existing continuation applicants for increases in the level of funding or number of positions will be assessed using the review criteria published in this *Notice*. The review will also be based on progress reports, the federal financial report, evaluation plans, and VolunteerNC 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. VolunteerNC and AmeriCorps reserve the right to award applications in an amount less than the requested level of funding and will document the rationale for doing so.

H. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Technical Assistance

In addition to consulting the Application Instructions, Mandatory Supplemental Guidance, Performance Measure Instructions, and AmeriCorps regulations as directed in this Notice, applicants are encouraged also to consult the VolunteerNC website for a schedule of technical assistance webinar calls. All new applicants are required to attend a TTA session hosted by VolunteerNC.

2. Re-Focusing of Funding

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

3. Liability, Insurance, Fidelity Bond and Safety Issues

The Subrecipient must always maintain adequate liability insurance coverage for the organization, its employees and Members, including coverage of Members engaged in on- and off-site projects. In addition, the Subrecipient shall obtain a Fidelity Bond or equivalent malfeasance insurance equal to the amount of the total grant award. The Subrecipient shall ensure safe work conditions and implement safeguards as necessary and appropriate to ensure the safety of Members. Members may not participate in projects that pose undue safety risks.

4. Contact Information

For technical questions and problems with the eGrants system, call the AmeriCorps Hotline at (800) 942-2677. AmeriCorps Hotline hours are posted at <https://questions.americorps.gov/app/ask>. Potential applicants can also use this link: [eGrants Questions](#). Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the name of the Notice to which the organization is applying.

In the event of eGrants platform technical problems, applicants must obtain a ticket number to document that the problem was a result of the eGrants platform.

All communication relating to this Notice must be directed to the contact person named below. For questions regarding an AmeriCorps North Carolina application, contact: Megan Trawick, Deputy Director, Megan.Trawick@nc.gov.

I. IMPORTANT NOTICES

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 valid. (See [5 C.F.R. 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.

Privacy Act Statement: The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C 552a) requires that we notify you 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.