



AmeriCorps SC Community of Practice: 2025 NOFO Series

September 20, 2024



FY 2025 “A-Z approach & strategy session”

Today we will cover:

- AmeriCorps grant funding + purpose
- SC grant timeline + deadlines
- Supports + resources available to you!
- Initial walkthrough of FY 2025 AmeriCorps Competitive NOFO
- Q & A / Open Forum



Upcoming Sessions

- Fri 9/20, 10am-11am --> FY 2025 "A-Z approach & strategy session"
- Fri 9/27, 10am-11am --> Program Design: Community & Logic Model
- Fri 10/4, 10am-11am --> Program Design: Evidence Performance Measures, Data Collection
- Fri 10/11, 10am-11am --> Member Focus: Experience, Recruitment, Retention
- Fri 10/18, 10am-11am --> Budget: Design, Adequacy and Cost Effectiveness
- Fri 10/25, 10am-11am --> Organization Capability: Background, Staffing, Supervision + APP WRAP-UP!
- Fri 11/1, 10am-11am (**DUE DATE**) --> Last minute Q&A

Types of AmeriCorps Grants



AmeriCorps

- AmeriCorps State and National
- VISTA
- NCCC
- Volunteer Generation Fund



AmeriCorps Seniors

- Foster Grandparents
- RSVP
- Senior Companions

Days of Service Programs



Research and Evaluation Programs

- Research Grants

Purpose of AmeriCorps Grant Funding

AmeriCorps State and National How it Works

Eligible organizations engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed practices to strengthen communities.

An **AmeriCorps Member** is a person who does community service through AmeriCorps.

With an AmeriCorps State and National grant, you identify your communities need, then design and implement an AmeriCorps program that will leverage people power as a solution. You recruit, train and manage AmeriCorps members to deliver those services.

Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. After 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.

Important to note, our programs don't take the place of resources that already exist. Our funds can't be used to duplicate or replace resources that already exist.



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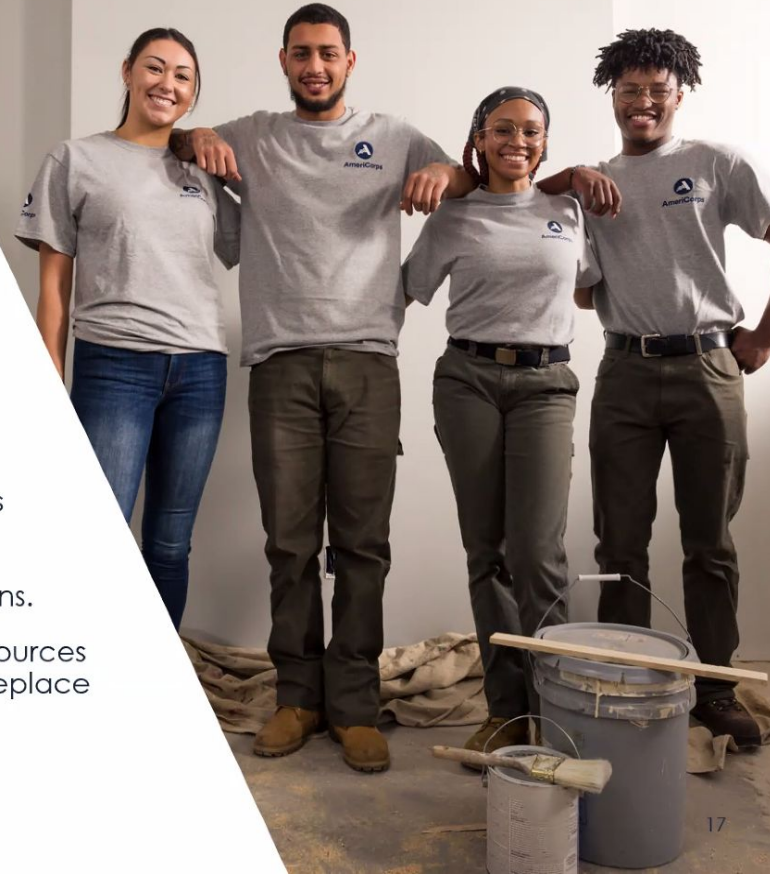
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SC Competitive Grant Timeline + Key Deadlines

- September 3 - [NOFO publicly released](#)
- Now through October - Schedule 1:1 consultations with Emily (optional)
- **October 18 - Deadline to submit your draft application to Emily for complimentary grant review (optional)**
- October 25 - Emily to provide feedback on drafts submitted
- November 1 - Final deadline to submit in eGrants (5pm ET)
- November 15 - December 6th: Hold for clarifications & revisions
- April 2025 - Competitive Grants Announced



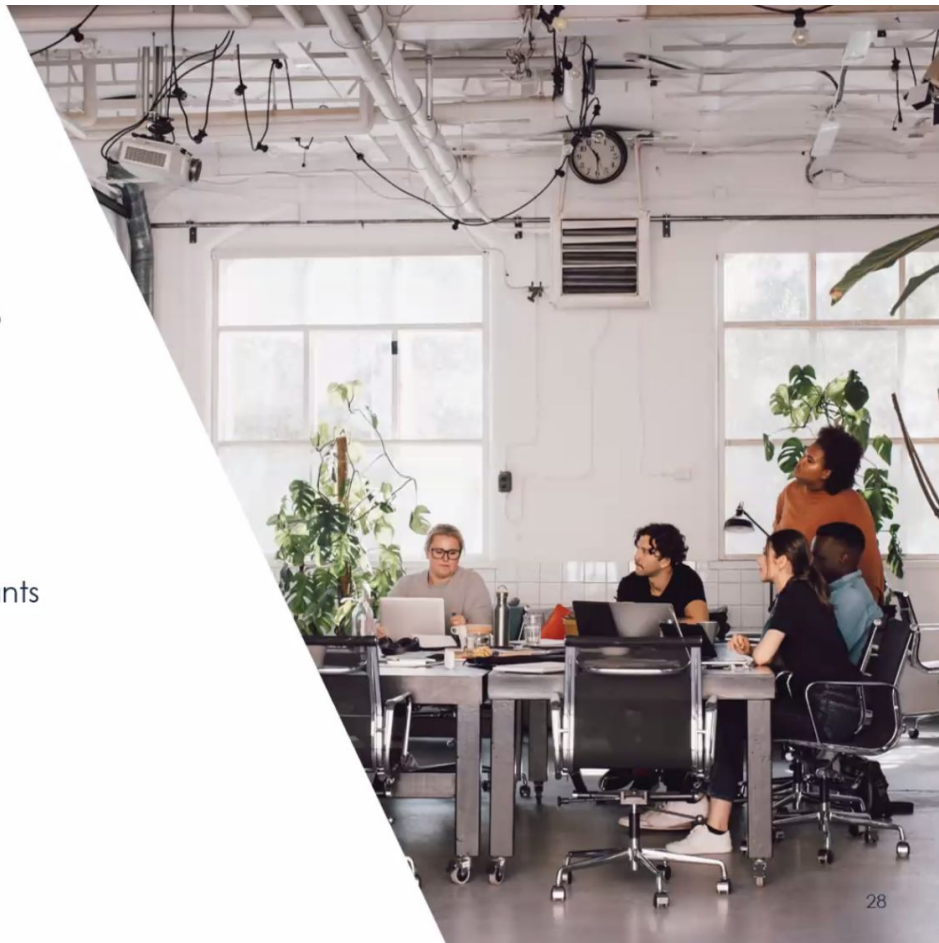
Supports Available to You!

- 1:1 Grant Consultations - [schedule via Emily's Calendly](#)
- Community of Practice Series (every Friday until 11/1) - [register here](#); recordings available to those who register
- Complimentary Grant Review - if submitted to Emily by 10/18
- ASN National Materials + Webinar Recordings - <https://www.americorps.gov/funding-opportunity/fy-2025-amicorps-state-national-grants#funding>

Who is eligible to apply?

AmeriCorps State and National awards grants to eligible, non-Federal organizations, including:

- 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.



Important Dates and Deadlines



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. Single-state applicant deadlines to State Service Commissions may be significantly before the AmeriCorps deadlines. The list of Commissions can be found on the AmeriCorps State Service Commissions' webpage

Award Types

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Cost Reimbursement Grants

Cost Reimbursement grants fund a portion of program operating costs and AmeriCorps member living allowances, with flexibility to use all of the funds for allowable costs regardless of whether or not the program recruits and retains all AmeriCorps members.

Requires matching funds.

Requires budget submission and financial reports.

Fixed Amount Grants

Fixed Amount grants provide a fixed amount of funding per Member Service Year (MSY) that is substantially lower than the amount required to operate the program. Organizations use their own or other resources to cover the remaining costs.

Does **not** require matching funds.

Does **not** require budget submission or financial reports.

Cost Sharing or Matching

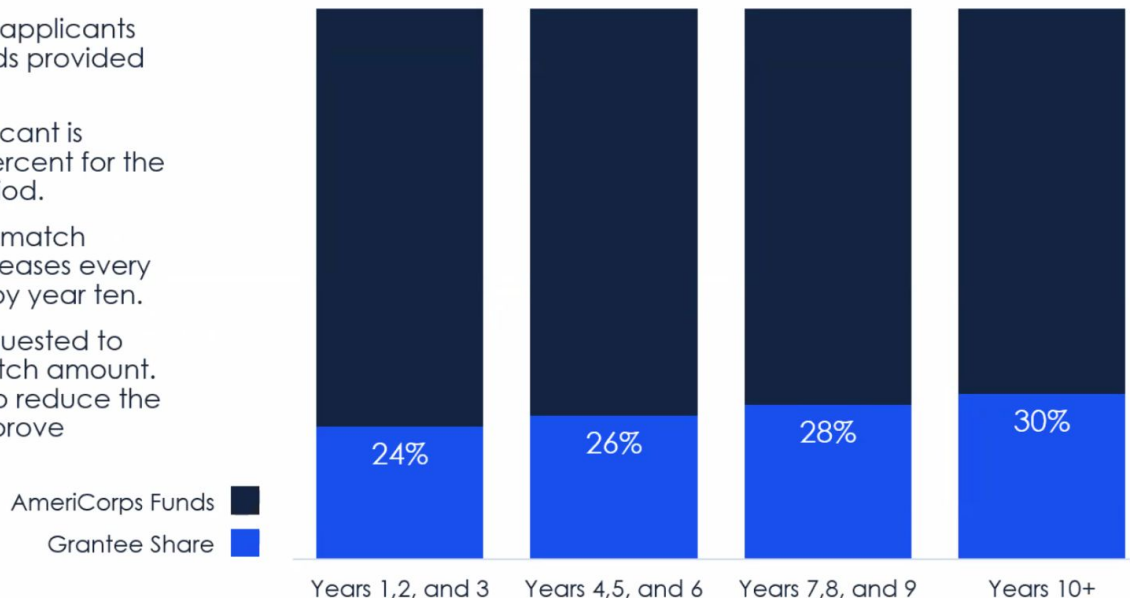
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Cost reimbursement grant applicants are required to match funds provided by AmeriCorps.

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.

Match Waivers can be requested to decrease the required match amount. Every effort will be made to reduce the match requirements to improve accessibility to funding.



Threshold Issues

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Specific types of applicants must meet the following requirements:

- **Professional Corps** must show that the community where it will place AmeriCorps members has a shortage of professionals in the relevant area, e.g., teachers, medical professionals, etc.
- If service activities require **special member qualifications and/or training**, such as tutoring programs, the applicant must describe how these requirements will be met.
- All applicants must propose program designs that are **either evidence-based or evidence-informed**.



Prohibited Activities

Page 9, see 45 CFR 2520.65



Attempting to influence legislation



Engaging in partisan political activities designed to influence the outcome of an election



Providing a direct benefit to a for-profit business, labor union, partisan political organization, etc



Organizing or engaging in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes



Engaging in activities advocating for or against political parties, platforms, candidates, legislation, or elected officials



Conducting a voter registration drive or using Corporation funds to conduct a voter registration drive



Assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing



Engaging in religious instruction, conducting worship services, any form of religious proselytization, etc



Providing abortion services or referrals for receipt of such services



Impairing existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreement

Application Content

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Complete applications must include the following elements:

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

Selection Criteria

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Each applicant must describe a project that will use AmeriCorps members 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 and will rate them accordingly.

Categories/Subcategories	Percentage
Executive Summary	0
Program Design	50
Community and Logic Model	24
Evidence Tier	12
Evidence Quality	8
Notice Priority	0
Member Experience	6
Organizational Capability	25
Organizational Background and Staffing	15
Member Supervision	6
Commitment to DEIA	4
Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy	25
Member Recruitment	8
Member Retention	9
Data Collection	8



Narratives

Application Instructions, page 7

The narrative section of the application, with an 11-page limit, is your opportunity to convince reviewers that your project meets the selection criteria as outlined in the Notice. Below are some general recommendations to help you present your project in a way the reviewers will find compelling and persuasive.

1. Lead from your program strengths and be explicit.
2. Be clear and succinct.
3. Avoid circular reasoning.
4. Explain how.
5. Don't make assumptions.
6. Use an impartial proofreader.
7. Follow the instructions and discuss each criterion in the order they are presented in the instructions.



Walkthrough: FY 2025 AmeriCorps Competitive NOFO

Table: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance

Slot Types	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1,700	\$20,400	\$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, do not have to offer a living allowance. If an organization chooses to offer a living allowance, it does not have to pay its members 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 members the minimum but cannot exceed the maximum.

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

Walkthrough: FY 2025 AmeriCorps Competitive NOFO

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 and 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 March 2024 CPI was 0.4).

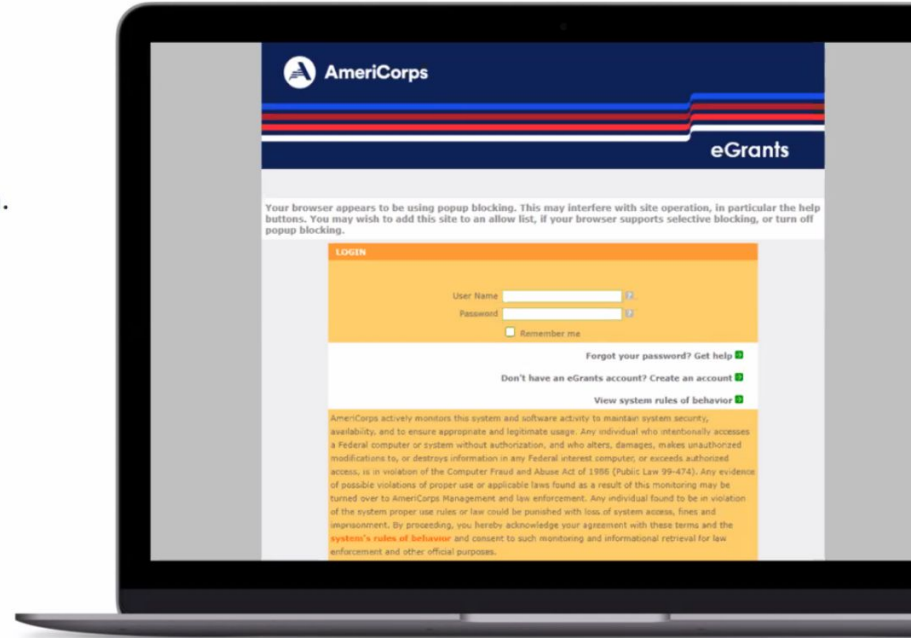
Electronic Application Submission

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Applicants must submit applications electronically via AmeriCorps' web-based application system, eGrants.

Applicants should contact the AmeriCorps Hotline at (800) 942-2677 if they have a problem when they create an account, prepare, or submit the application.

Information about the AmeriCorps Hotline hours are also posted on the AmeriCorps Hotline webpage.





Q & A / Open Forum

Contact me: emily.steinberg@gmail.com
<https://calendly.com/emilyjsteinberg/60min>