

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
SERVE DC – THE MAYOR’S OFFICE ON VOLUNTEERISM AND PARTNERSHIPS
NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

FY 2020-2021 AmeriCorps State Competitive Grant Competition

Serve DC – The Mayor’s Office on Volunteerism and Partnerships announces the availability of AmeriCorps State Competitive Grant funding for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 to eligible organizations. Subject to the availability of appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY2020) by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), new, re-competing, and continuing applicants with high-quality proposals will compete locally with other State and National programs for Competitive funds made available through Serve DC and CNCS. The total amount of an applicant’s grant request must not exceed \$15,479 per Member Service Year (MSY). For Professional Corps, the applicant’s grant request must not exceed \$1,000 per MSY and for Education Award Programs, the applicant’s grant request must not exceed \$800 per MSY.

Serve DC requires *new and re-competing applicants* to submit a Logic Model prior to application submission. Logic Models will be reviewed by the Serve DC Commission and outside peer reviewers. Following the initial review of Logic Models, Serve DC will invite applicants with quality Logic Models that demonstrate a strong theory of change to submit a full application. Please follow the Logic Model template provided in eGrants – the web based grants management system.

New applicants need to establish an eGrants account by accessing this link: <https://egrants.cns.gov/espan/main/login.jsp> and selecting “Don’t have an eGrants account? Create an account.”

Limit your Logic Model to 3 pages and email it to americorps@dc.gov by **October 8, 2019 at 5pm, EST**. *Please note: Continuation applicants do not need to submit a Logic Model.*

Applicants who submit a full proposal will undergo peer and staff review. Following this review, Serve DC will recommend programs to CNCS for consideration for Competitive funding. Serve DC reserves the right to reject applicants at any stage of the application process from Competitive grant funding consideration.

Serve DC anticipates announcing grant awards in the first week of May 2020.

AmeriCorps is a national service network that provides full- and less than full-time opportunities for participants, called members, to serve their communities and build the capacity of nonprofit organizations to meet local environmental, educational, public safety, homeland security, or other human needs. Within these issue areas, programs may submit proposals that address specific problems of local communities.

The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act expanded service opportunities, and focuses national service on key outcomes; builds the capacity of individuals, nonprofits, and

communities to succeed; and encourages innovative approaches to solving problems. In alignment with the Serve America Act, this AmeriCorps State Notice of Funding Opportunity will focus AmeriCorps grant making in six Focus Areas identified by the Act:

- Economic Opportunity
- Education
- Healthy Futures
- Veterans and Military Families
- Rural Intermediaries
- Faith-based Organizations

In order to carry out Congress' intent and to maximize the impact of the investment in national service, CNCS and Serve DC are seeking to fund programs that can demonstrate community impact and solve community problems through an evidence-based approach (*e.g. performance data, research, theory of change*).

Serve DC will give priority consideration to the 2020 AmeriCorps Funding Priorities as outlined in the Request for Application:

- Economic Opportunity – Evidence-based interventions on the CNCS Evidence Exchange. In order to qualify for this priority, the applicant must be assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence by the reviewers.
OR increasing economic opportunities for communities by preparing people for the workforce.
- Education – Evidence-based interventions on the CNCS Evidence Exchange. In order to qualify for this priority, the applicant must be assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence by the reviewers.
- Healthy Futures – Evidence-based interventions on the CNCS Evidence Exchange. In order to qualify for this priority, the applicant must be assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence by the reviewers.
OR
Reducing and/or preventing prescription drug and opioid abuse.
- Veterans and Military Families – Positively impacting the quality of life of veterans and improving military family strength.
- Rural intermediaries – Organizations that demonstrate measurable impact and primarily serve rural communities with limited resources and organizational infrastructure.
- Faith-based organizations.

Applicants proposing programs that receive priority consideration are not guaranteed funding. Serve DC will pursue a balanced portfolio across the Focus Areas. Furthermore, programs must demonstrate significant program focus, design and impact to receive priority consideration.

Mandatory Supplemental Guidance is located at: <https://serve.dc.gov/service/grant-competitions>.

Match Requirements

Fixed Amount Grants: There is no match requirement for Fixed Amount grants. CNCS does not provide all the funds necessary to operate the program, therefore organizations should raise the additional revenue required to operate the program.

Cost Reimbursement Grants: Applicants are required to match funds based on the chart below. The applicant’s match can be federal or non-federal cash and/or in-kind contributions. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to meet the match requirement at the time of application submission.

A first-time successful applicant is required to match at 24 percent for the first three-year funding period. Starting with year four, the match requirement gradually increases every year to 50 percent by year ten, according to the minimum overall share chart found in 45 CFR 2521.60.

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

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 to 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 CNCS or grantee share. Exceptions are noted below.

While Fixed Amount grant applicants are not required to submit detailed budgets, they are still required to provide a living allowance to members that comply with the minimum and maximum requirements. Exceptions are noted below. Fixed Amount grant applicants are not required to indicate that amount in the application and should request those positions as “without living allowance” in the budget.

Table: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1,700	\$14,279	\$28,558
Three Quarter-time	1,200	n/a	\$20,159
Half-time	900	n/a	\$15,119
Reduced Half-time	675	n/a	\$11,339
Quarter-time	450	n/a	\$7,559
Minimum-time	300	n/a	\$5,040

Exceptions to the Living Allowance Requirements

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.

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.

Professional Corps Grantees must provide members a living allowance or salary, which must meet the minimum, but may exceed the maximum living allowance set in the Living Allowance Table above. Professional Corps member salaries and benefits including child care are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve, and are not included in the budget request to CNCS (federal or matching share.)

Maximum Cost per Member Service Year (MSY)

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

Segal AmeriCorps Education Award

AmeriCorps members who successfully complete a term of service will be eligible for an Education Award from the National Service Trust. The amount of the Education Award is linked to the value of the Pell Grant. A member has up to seven years after his or her term of service to use the Education Award. CNCS will provide the updated Education Award amounts at the time of grant award.

Indirect Costs

Application budgets may include indirect costs. Based on qualifying factors, applicants may either use a federally-approved indirect cost rate, a 10 percent *de minimis* rate of modified total direct costs, or may claim certain costs directly, as outlined in 2 CFR § 200.413. States, local governments, and Indian Tribes may use previously-approved indirect cost allocation plans. All methods must be applied consistently across all federal awards. Applicants that have a federal negotiated indirect cost rate or that will be using the 10 percent *de minimis* rate must enter that information in the Organization section in eGrants. However, under section 121(d) of the NCSA and CNCS's regulations at 45 CFR 2521.95 and 2540.110, no more than five percent of award funds may be used to recover indirect costs on AmeriCorps grants.

Criteria for Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are local nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and/or state and local units of government. Programs applying to Serve DC for funding must operate their

program only within the District of Columbia. Organizations that have been convicted of a Federal crime are disqualified from receiving funds. An organization described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(4), that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply, serve as a host site for members, or act in any type of supervisory role in the program. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

New Applicants

Serve DC encourages organizations that have never received funding from CNCS or AmeriCorps to apply for the grants described in this RFA. New organizations should submit applications commensurate with the community need with the understanding that the general practice is to award no more than 50 member slots for new grantees. All eligible applicants must meet all of the applicable requirements contained in the Request for Applications (RFA). The RFA is available on Serve DC's [website at https://serve.dc.gov/service/grant-competitions](https://serve.dc.gov/service/grant-competitions) or in person at Serve DC's office.

The deadline for submission is December 20, 2019, by 5:00 pm, EST. Applications must be entered in to the CNCS eGrants online system and all required hard-copy documents must be submitted to Serve DC. Late applications will not be accepted. An application is considered late at 5:01 pm, EST.

New and re-competing applicants are required to attend one of the following technical assistance (TA) sessions:

- **October 2, 2019** from 2:00-3:30 pm via webinar <https://zoom.us/j/3633298579/>
- **October 24, 2019** from 2:00-3:30 pm via webinar <https://zoom.us/j/3633298579/>

For additional information or to RSVP for one of the technical assistance sessions, please contact by telephone or email:

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