



Evidence Base, Notice Priority, & Member Experience

Application Completion Series

Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism

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What makes this special?

A strong Evidence Base takes your application to the next level. It validates the good idea; it justifies the intention that your organization has.

Identifying the Notice Priority makes it clear that this project is worthwhile on a local, state and national level.

Clear goals for the member experience shows that your program is not only seeking to benefit from the AmeriCorps grant, but looking to make a purposed and positive impact on the service members that commit to advance your strategic plan.



Evidence Tier (12 points)

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- Evidence Tiers: Strong, Moderate, Preliminary & Pre-Preliminary.
- Interventions evaluated in reports must align with interventions proposed in Program Design & Logic Model
- Must address the characteristics of the beneficiary population, characteristics of the population delivering the intervention, dosage and design of intervention
- The context in which it will be delivered,
- Outcome of the intervention

Evidence Tier (12 points)

Evidence Tier	Definition
Pre-preliminary evidence	means the applicant has not submitted an outcome or impact evaluation of the same intervention described in the application, although the applicant may have collected some performance data on the intervention (e.g., data on intervention outputs and/or outcomes). Applicants in this tier must describe in the Evidence Base section of the application how their program design is evidence-informed (see definition above). Applicants may also cite prior performance measure data if applicable.

Evidence Tier (12 points)

Evidence Tier	Definition
Preliminary evidence	means the applicant has submitted up to two outcome evaluation reports (<u>non-experimental</u>) that evaluated the same intervention described in the application and yielded positive results on one or more key desired outcomes of interest as depicted in the applicant’s logic model. The study design must include pre and post-assessments without a <u>statistically matched</u> comparison group or a post-assessment comparison between intervention and comparison groups. In some cases a retrospective pre-post assessment may be considered, but its use must be justified in the text of the evaluation report.

Evidence Tier (12 points)

Evidence Tier	Definition
Moderate evidence	means the applicant has submitted up to two well-designed and well-implemented evaluation reports that evaluated the same intervention described in the application and identified evidence of effectiveness on one or more key desired outcomes of interest as depicted in the applicant's logic model. The evaluations were conducted by an independent entity external to the organization implementing the intervention.

Evidence Tier (12 points)

Evidence Tier	Definition
Strong evidence	means the applicant has submitted up to two evaluation reports demonstrating that the same intervention described in the application has been tested nationally, regionally, or at the state-level (e.g., multi-site) using a well-designed and well-implemented experimental design evaluation with statistically matched comparison and treatment groups. The evaluations were conducted by an independent entity external to the organization implementing the intervention.



Commitment to Growth

In 2020, the evidence tiers of successful AmeriCorps State and National applicants that were competing were as follows: Strong 26%, Moderate 18%, Preliminary 24%, and Pre-Preliminary 32%. As these figures indicate, CNCS values and funds programs at all points along the evidence continuum and expects programs to progress along the evidence continuum over time. Thus, do not be deterred from applying for funding due to your current evidence level.



Evidence Base (8 points)

For applicants who are assessed as being in the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tiers, reviewers will score the submitted evaluation reports using the following standards:

- The submitted reports are of satisfactory methodological quality and rigor for the type of evaluation conducted (e.g., adequate sample size and statistical power, internal and/or external validity, appropriate use of control or comparison groups, etc.);
- The submitted reports describe evaluations that were conducted relatively recently, preferably within the last six years;
- The submitted reports show a meaningful and significant positive effect on program beneficiaries in at least one key outcome of interest.



Evidence Base cont'd

For applicants who are assessed as being in the Pre-Preliminary evidence tier, reviewers will score the narrative provided in the Evidence Base section of the application using the following standards:

- The applicant uses relevant evidence, including past performance measure data and/or cited research studies, to inform their proposed program design;
- The described evidence is relatively recent, preferably from the last six years;
- The evidence described by the applicant indicates a meaningful positive effect on program beneficiaries in at least one key outcome of interest.

Applicants assessed in the Pre-Preliminary evidence tier who do not provide adequate responses to the Evidence Quality standards will not meet the threshold requirements for this *Notice* and will not be considered for funding.

Notice Priority (0 points)

- COVID- 19
- Economic Mobility Corps Opportunity
- Education
- Healthy Futures
- Evidence Based interventions
- Veterans & Military Families
- Rural Intermediaries
- Faith Based Organizations
- Child Poverty Reduction
- Environmental Stewardship



3. Notice Priority (0 points)

- The applicant proposed program fits within one or more of the AmeriCorps funding priorities as outlined in the *Funding Priorities* section and more fully described in the Mandatory Supplemental Information and the proposed program meets all of the requirements detailed in the *Funding Priorities* section and in the Mandatory Supplemental Information.



Notice Priority (0 points)

“GCSV Specific Priorities”

- Educators in Rural Communities
- Homelessness
- Human Sex Trafficking
- Rural Communities



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- The applicant proposed program fits within one or more of the AmeriCorps funding priorities as outlined in the *Funding Priorities* section and more fully described in the Mandatory Supplemental Information and the proposed program meets all of the requirements detailed in the *Funding Priorities* section and in the Mandatory Supplemental Information.

Member Experience (6 points)

What your Programs offers to Service members

- Career readiness
- Fostering long term civic engagement
- Mentorship & Networking
- & so much more!



4. Member Experience (6 points)

- AmeriCorps members will gain skills as a result of their training and service that can be utilized and will be valued by future employers after their service term is completed.
- The program will recruit AmeriCorps members from the geographic or demographic communities in which the programs operate.
- The applicant will foster an inclusive service culture where different backgrounds, talents, and capabilities are welcomed and leveraged for learning and effective service delivery.

Summary



What your Programs offers to Service members

- Evidence Tier does not determine funding, it provides an opportunity to support your proposed intervention(s) as strongly as possible.
- Notice Priorities clearly define which funding focus area(s) your proposed intervention aligns with
- Member Experience allows for intention consideration on not only how your program will benefit from the AmeriCorps State program, but also how your program is prepared to offer a great service year experience for members.



Thank you

Thanks to your commitment and strong work ethic, we know next year will be even better than the last.

We look forward to working together.

Tatiana Cleveland

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