



## NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### Georgia-Specific 2023 Guidelines for Georgia Serves Cost Reimbursement, Public Health, and Planning Grant Applicants

Federal Agency Name: AmeriCorps  
State Agency Name: Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism  
aka Georgia Serves  
Funding Opportunity Title: Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 AmeriCorps State and National Grants  
Announcement Type: Initial Announcement  
Assistance Listing Number: 94.006

#### Disclosures:

- 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 and state allocations.
- The “Georgia-Specific 2023 Guidelines for Formula, Public Health, and Planning Grant Applicants” is a duplication of the NOFO issued by AmeriCorps, the federal agency. Deadlines and other Georgia-specific criteria has been incorporated in order to relieve the burden of reading multiple NOFOs.
- Basic differences between the formula NOFO and the Public Health NOFO are the “Purpose” statements, performance measures, and funding priorities.
- **FY 2023 Georgia Serves Planning Grants**
  - Applications are due, via eGrants, to the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (Georgia Serves), before or not later than Friday, February 17th, 2023, by 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Successful applicants will be notified by May 31, 2023.
  - Submitted directly to Georgia Serves via eGrants
  - Grant recipients are awarded up to \$75,000 for a 12-month planning period and are encouraged to compete for an AmeriCorps program grant in the following grant cycle if they deem the fit with AmeriCorps to be of use to their community. A planning grant may not be used to support AmeriCorps members.
- **FY 2023 AmeriCorps State and National Cost Reimbursement Grants including Public Health Grants (State)**
  - Applications are due, via eGrants, to the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (Georgia Serves), before or not later than Friday, February 17th, 2023, by 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Successful applicants will be notified by May 31, 2023.

See the document "eGrants NOFO Selection process instructions" for directions on how to access the correct application.

- Successful applicants will be issued awards by mid- August, 2023.
- First time new applicants must apply for a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 MSY.
  - Rural Intermediaries are not bound by this rule.
- No program will be allowed to start prior to August 15, 2023
- All new programs must have the words "AmeriCorps Georgia" in the "Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project" in section 11.a. of the Face Sheet.
- All Georgia Serves planning grant applicants must have the words "AmeriCorps Georgia Planning Grant" in the "Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project" in section 11.a. of the Face Sheet.
- Attending this workshop does not relieve you of the responsibility to review the following which can be found here: <https://www.americorps.gov/funding-opportunity/fy-2023-ameri-corps-state-national-grants>
  - 2023 AmeriCorps State and National Mandatory Supplemental Information
  - 2023 AmeriCorps State and National Application Instructions
  - 2023 AmeriCorps State and National Performance Measure Instructions
  - The Applicant Operational and Financial Management Survey (OFMS) can also be found on this page
  - You will also see additional information and other webinars that you are encouraged to utilize.

## Introduction

**Mission:** Georgia Serves is a catalyst to address critical needs in Georgia by working with AmeriCorps and community partners.

- We create and promote opportunities for Georgians to serve.
- We support organizations that use volunteer service to solve Georgia's community problems.
- We make sure the investment in volunteer service is protected and managed well.

Application workshops are conducted annually. Open dialogue is encouraged to provide attendees the opportunity to ask questions and gain clarity on the NOFO or any of the other supplemental materials. Georgia Serves staff will review the NOFO in its entirety. We want all applicants to be in position to submit strong and viable applications. Each year the application process becomes increasingly competitive as more people become aware of the AmeriCorps opportunity. Only those applications that are of high quality are considered for funding. Applications are scored by both internal and external reviewers. A scoring rubric, based on this NOFO, is utilized to score applications. Once all applications are scored, scores are averaged, based on the number of reviewers, and sorted from highest to lowest. Funding decisions are made based on scores.

## Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION .....	2
A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION .....	5
<b>A.1. Purpose of AmeriCorps State and National Funding (“Formula” aka “Cost Reimbursement”)</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>A.1.1 Purpose of AmeriCorps State and National Public Health AmeriCorps Funding</b> ....	<b>5</b>
<b>A.2. Funding Priorities</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>AmeriCorps’ Priorities for Cost Reimbursement Grants Funding Opportunities:</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Georgia Serves Funding Priorities for Cost Reimbursement Funding Opportunities:</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>AmeriCorps’ Priorities for Public Health funding opportunities:</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>A.3. Performance Goals or Expected Outcomes</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>See Appendix III for Public Health AmeriCorps Performance Measures</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Georgia-Specific Performance Measures</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>A.4. Program Authority</b> .....	<b>9</b>
B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION.....	9
<b>B.1. Estimated Available Funds</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>B.2. Estimated Award Amount</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>B.3. Period of Performance</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>B.4. Type of Award</b> .....	<b>9</b>
C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION .....	12
<b>C.1. Eligible Applicants</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<i>Types of Applicants</i> .....	12
<i>Threshold Issues</i> .....	13
<b>C.2. Cost Sharing or Matching</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<i>Cost Reimbursement Grants</i> .....	14
<i>Public Health AmeriCorps Grants</i> .....	14
<i>Match Waiver</i> .....	14
<i>Alternative Match</i> .....	14
<b>C.3. Other Eligibility Requirements</b> .....	<b>15</b>
D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION .....	15
<b>D.1. Address to Request an Application Package</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>D.2. Content and Form of Application Submission</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<i>D.2.a. Application Content</i> .....	16
<i>D.2.b. Page Limits</i> .....	16
<b>D.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>D.4. Submission Dates and Times</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<i>D.4.a. Application Submission Deadline</i> .....	17
<i>D.4.b. Additional Documents Deadline</i> .....	18
<i>D.4.c. Late Applications</i> .....	18
<b>D.5. Intergovernmental Review</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>D.6. Funding Restrictions</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<i>D.6.a. Award Funding Requirements</i> .....	19
<b>Table: Maximum Cost per MSY (Formula)</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>Table: Maximum Cost per MSY (Public Health AmeriCorps)</b> .....	<b>20</b>

D.6.b. Indirect Costs.....	21
D.6.c. Pre-Award Costs.....	21
<b>D.7. Other Submission Requirements .....</b>	<b>21</b>
D.7.a. Electronic Application Submission in eGrants.....	21
D.7.b. Submission of Additional Documents.....	22
<b>E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>E.1. Selection Criteria.....</b>	<b>23</b>
E.1.a. Executive Summary (Required - 0 percent):.....	24
E.1.b. Program Design (50 percent):.....	24
E.1.c. Organizational Capability (25 percent):.....	28
E.1.d. Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 percent):.....	29
E.1.e. Evaluation Plan (Required for re-competing applicants - 0 percent):.....	30
E.1.f. Amendment Justification (0 percent):.....	30
E.1.g. Clarification Information (0 percent):.....	30
E.1.h. Continuation Changes (0 percent):.....	30
<b>E.2. Review and Selection Process .....</b>	<b>30</b>
E.2.a. Initial Application Compliance and Eligibility Review .....	31
E.2.b. Application Review .....	31
E.2.c. Applicant Clarification.....	31
E.2.d. Pre-Award Risk Assessment.....	31
E.2.e. Consideration of Integrity and Performance System Information.....	32
E.2.f. Selection for Funding.....	33
<b>E.3. Feedback to Applicants.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>E.4. Transparency in Grantmaking .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>F.1. Federal Award Notices .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>F.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements .....</b>	<b>34</b>
F.2.a. Uniform Guidance .....	34
F.2.b. Requests for Monitoring or Payment Integrity Information .....	34
F.2.c. AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions.....	34
F.2.d. National Service Criminal History Check Requirements .....	35
F.2.e. Official Guidance.....	35
<b>F.3. Use of Material .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>F.4. Reporting .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>F.5. Continuation Funding Information and Requirements .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>G. GEORGIA SERVES CONTACT INFO.....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>H. OTHER INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>H.1. Technical Assistance .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>H.2. Re-Focusing of Funding .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>I. IMPORTANT NOTICES .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>APPENDIX I - AMERICORPS FOCUS AREAS .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>AmeriCorps Focus Areas .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>APPENDIX II-PHA - AMERICORPS PUBLIC HEALTH AMERICORPS.....</b>	<b>40</b>

APPENDIX III - ECONOMIC MOBILITY CORPS ..... 41

APPENDIX IV-PHA: PUBLIC HEALTH AMERICORPS PERFORMANCE MEASURES..... 44

CRITERIA FOR EVIDENCE BASED INTERVENTION PLANNING GRANTS ..... 46

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS to submit with application.....47

**FULL TEXT OF THE NOTICE**

**A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**A.1. Purpose of AmeriCorps State and National Funding (“Formula” aka “Cost Reimbursement”)**

AmeriCorps improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps brings people together to tackle some of the country’s most pressing challenges through national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Senior volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. 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.

Please see the AmeriCorps Focus Areas in [Appendix I](#).

**A.1.1 Purpose of AmeriCorps State and National Public Health AmeriCorps Funding**

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.

Public Health AmeriCorps will invest \$400 million, over five years, from the American Rescue Plan Act workforce funding that will enable the recruitment, training, and development of a new generation of public health leaders who are ready to respond to the public health needs of the nation by providing public health service in communities.

Public Health AmeriCorps has two main goals:

- Help meet public health needs of local communities by providing needed capacity and support in state and local public health settings and advancing more equitable health outcomes for communities who are currently or historically underserved.
- Provide pathways to good, quality public health-related careers by providing exposure through onsite experience, training, and more, with a focus on recruiting AmeriCorps members who reflect the communities in which they will serve.

AmeriCorps members will serve primarily in state, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments or in service to public health departments. It is strongly recommended that AmeriCorps members serve in at least teams of two. AmeriCorps has found that placing at least two members at a service site location provides economies of scale and aids in retention of members.

## **A.2. Funding Priorities**

AmeriCorps recently released its [2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#) which defines the agency's goals, objectives, and strategies to both meet and exceed the agency's mission to improve lives and strengthen communities. Over the next 5 years, AmeriCorps will execute the following goals to better position the agency to respond to national and local needs and help the communities it serves prosper: partner with communities to alleviate poverty and advance racial equity; enhance the experience for AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers; unite Americans by bringing them together in service; effectively steward federal resources; and make AmeriCorps one of the best and most equitable places to work in the federal government.

Over the next five years, AmeriCorps will invest in existing and new partnerships with nonprofit, faith-based, and Tribal organizations, and state service commissions, to get things done for America. We will prioritize investment in the most critical issues of our time – public health, climate and the environment, and education and economic opportunity – within AmeriCorps' Focus Areas ([Appendix I](#)) and we will increase our efforts to ensure our AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Senior volunteers reflect the communities where they serve. We will target our investments toward communities where the need is greatest, particularly those with populations that face racial inequality and poverty. These steps will enable more Americans than ever to strengthen the communities that need it most across the nation through their service.

### **AmeriCorps' Priorities for Cost Reimbursement Grants Funding Opportunities:**

- Organizations leading service in communities with concentrated poverty, rural communities, tribal communities, and those organizations serving historically

underrepresented and underserved individuals, including but not limited to communities of color, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community, people with arrest and/or conviction records, and religious minorities;

- Evidence-based interventions on the [AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange](#) that are assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence. Please note that many of these interventions have demonstrated effectiveness in improving outcomes for individuals living in underserved communities and that the agency has committed resources to supporting grantees seeking to replicate and evaluate these interventions in similar communities;
- Veterans and Military Families, Caregivers, and Survivors - a program model that improves the quality of life of veterans and improves the well-being of military and veteran families, caregivers, and survivors,
- Faith-based organizations;
- Programs that provide additional 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.;
- Programs that create workforce pathways for AmeriCorps members, including deliberate training, certifications, and hiring preferences or support; and
- Environmental Stewardship, including supporting communities to become more resilient through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve land and water, increase renewable energy use and improve at-risk ecosystems, especially in underserved households and communities.
- Economic Mobility Corps ([See Appendix II.](#))

### **Georgia Serves Funding Priorities for Cost Reimbursement Funding Opportunities:**

In addition to the above funding priorities, Georgia Serves seeks applications in the following areas:

- Educators in Rural Communities - organizations placing AmeriCorps members as tutors and/or individuals as teachers in rural schools and communities.
- Homelessness - As described in the preamble of the HUD Final Rule Defining Homelessness, the final rule establishes four categories of homelessness. These categories are as follows:
  - Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter, or a place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.
  - Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence;
  - Unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition; or
  - Individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-

threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member.

- Human Sex Trafficking - As defined by the Advocates for Human Rights. Human sex trafficking is a form of slavery and involuntary servitude resulting in grave human rights violations. Sex trafficking involves individuals profiting from the sexual exploitation of others and has severe physical and psychological consequences for its victims.
- Rural Communities - those communities with a population of less than 50,000 and where the poverty percentage is 10% or greater.

### **AmeriCorps' Priorities for Public Health funding opportunities:**

- Efforts to help local communities respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants may propose programming to aid communities in their efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, including public health challenges that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, such as mental health and substance abuse.
- Programs creating pathways to good-quality public health-related careers through onsite experience and training (including pre-apprenticeship or registered apprenticeship programs, work experience and job training programs, and other workforce training and development programs),
- Organizations leading service in communities with concentrated poverty, rural communities, tribal communities, and those organizations serving historically underrepresented and underserved individuals, including but not limited to communities of color, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community, people with arrest and/or conviction records, and religious minorities.

To receive priority consideration, applicants must show that the priority area is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes and must include a high-quality program design. Proposing programs that receive priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

### **A.3. Performance Goals or Expected Outcomes**

#### **National Performance Measures**

AmeriCorps expects applicants to use National Performance Measures as part of a comprehensive performance measurement strategy that relies on both performance and evaluation data to learn from their work and make tactical and strategic adjustments to achieve their goals.

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. For more information, please refer to the National Performance Measures Instructions found [here](#).



## **See Appendix III for Public Health AmeriCorps Performance Measures**

### **Georgia-Specific Performance Measures**

All programs must include 2 Georgia-Specific Performance Measures:

- 1) Volunteer Recruitment and
- 2) CPR and First Aid Training.

NOTE: Do not include these two performance measures in eGrants. This will be fully explained during the Performance Measures Training Module.

### **A.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**

### **B.1. Estimated Available Funds**

AmeriCorps expects a highly competitive AmeriCorps grant competition. AmeriCorps 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.

### **B.2. Estimated Award Amount**

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

### **B.3. Period of Performance**

AmeriCorps anticipates making three-year grant awards. AmeriCorps generally makes an initial award for the first year of the period of performance, based on a one-year budget. Applicants must submit a one-year budget. Applicants may propose any program start date that aligns with their program design. Continuation awards for subsequent years are not guaranteed; they depend upon availability of appropriations and satisfactory performance.

### **B.4. Type of Award**

Award recipients will be assigned to an AmeriCorps Portfolio Manager, who will be responsible for assessing recipient performance, providing training and technical assistance, and serving as the agency's primary point of contact.

AmeriCorps Operating Grants: AmeriCorps 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.

Georgia Serves does not permit New Applicants to apply for Fixed Amount Grants.

Professional Corps applicants are ineligible to apply for Cost Reimbursement grants. See the [C.1. Eligible Applicants](#) section and the Mandatory Supplemental Information found [here](#) for more information, including definitions of terminology. 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 MSI found <a href="#">here</a> for further requirements	No Cost Slots
Maximum Cost per MSY*	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$800 or \$1,000**	\$1,000	\$0
Type of Slots in the National Service Trust***	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT	FT Only	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT
Budget Submission Required	Yes	No		No	No
Availability of Funds linked to enrollment and retention of awarded MSYs	No	Yes			No
Special Requirements	N/A	N/A		Must place qualified professionals in communities with an inadequate # of such professionals. Member salaries & benefits must be paid entirely by organization where member serves & not included in budget.	N/A
Financial Reporting Requirements	Yes	No			
Available to new Applicants	Yes	No	Yes		

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

\*\* 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.

\*\*\*FT = Full Time, TQT = Three Quarter Time, HT = Half Time, RHT = Reduced Half Time, QT = Quarter Time, MT = Minimum Time, AT = Abbreviated Time

## C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

### C.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
- nonprofit organizations
- state service commissions
- states and US Territories

Applicants must have a valid SAM registration and Unique Entity Identifier to receive an award. See [Section D.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#) for more information.

### New Applicants

AmeriCorps encourages organizations that have not received prior funding from AmeriCorps to apply.

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.

### Types of Applicants

#### 1. State and Territory Service Commissions (for Single-State Applicants)

Organizations that propose to operate in only one state must apply through the Governor-appointed State or Territory Commissions. Each commission administers its own selection process and submits the applications it selects to compete for funding directly to AmeriCorps. Single-State applicants must contact their Commissions to learn about their state or territory processes and deadlines. State deadlines may be significantly earlier than the AmeriCorps deadlines and may have additional requirements. The list of Commissions can be found on the [AmeriCorps.gov State Service Commissions webpage](#). A Single-State application from a State or Territory with a Commission that is submitted directly to AmeriCorps by the applicant rather than the Commission will be considered noncompliant and will not be reviewed. See the Mandatory Supplemental Information found [here](#) for descriptions of National Direct and Single-State applicants.

## 2. National Direct Applicants <sup>1</sup>

*Multi-State:* Organizations that propose to operate AmeriCorps programs in more than one State or Territory apply directly to AmeriCorps.

*States and Territories without Commissions:* Applicants in South Dakota, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands apply directly to AmeriCorps because this State and these Territories do not have an established Commission.

*Federally recognized Indian Tribes:* Applicants that are Indian Tribes apply directly to AmeriCorps.

In addition to Indian Tribes as defined in [2 CFR 200.1](#), tribal organizations that are controlled, authorized, or chartered by Federally recognized Indian Tribes are also eligible to apply. If an entity applies for an award as a tribal organization that is controlled or chartered by one or more Indian Tribes, the organization must provide copies or links to documentation which demonstrates that the organization is controlled or chartered by a federally recognized Indian Tribe. If an entity applies as an organization authorized by a federally recognized tribe, or multiple specific federally recognized tribes, it must submit a resolution or other authorization, adopted by the Tribal Council (or comparable tribal governing body) of each Indian Tribe. The authorization(s) must identify the entity applying for an AmeriCorps award by name as a tribal organization that is authorized by the Indian Tribe(s) for the purpose of applying for AmeriCorps funding (or federal grant funds generally).

In addition to being eligible to apply under this Notice, Federally recognized Indian Tribes will also be eligible to apply for operating or planning grants under a separate Notice of Funding Opportunity for Indian Tribes at the [AmeriCorps.gov Funding Opportunities webpage](#) with an application deadline in the spring. AmeriCorps may request applicants apply under the Tribal competition, rather than under this Notice.

### **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.
- All applicants must propose program designs that are either evidence-based or evidence-informed. Applicants assessed as lower than the Preliminary evidence tier

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<sup>1</sup> Although National Direct applicants do not have to apply to Commissions, there are substantial requirements to coordinate with the Commissions for states in which national service programs will operate. See the [D.7.c. Coordination among State Commissions and National Direct Applicants section](#) for information on these important requirements.

(i.e., Pre-Preliminary) must provide adequate responses to the Evidence Quality review criteria in order to be considered for funding.

## **C.2. Cost Sharing or Matching**

There is no cost share or matching 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.

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.

### **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.6. 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 50 percent by year ten, according to the minimum overall share chart found in [45 CFR 2521.60](#) and below.

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

Law requires that grantees that use other Federal Funds as matching funds for an AmeriCorps grant to report those amounts and sources to AmeriCorps on a Federal Financial Report [found in 42 U.S.C. §12571\(e\)](#). Grantees must track and be prepared to report on that match separately each year and at closeout.

### **Public Health AmeriCorps Grants**

There is no cost share or matching requirement per the Interagency Agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which has provided the funding for this program.

### **Match Waiver**

Please see the Match Waiver information for AmeriCorps State and National Grantees located on the AmeriCorps website's [Manage Your Grant](#) webpage.

### **Alternative Match**

Under certain circumstances, applicants may qualify to meet alternative matching requirements that increase over the years to 35 percent instead of 50 percent as specified in [45 CFR 2521.60\(b\)](#). To qualify, applicants must demonstrate that the proposed program is either located in a rural county or in a severely economically distressed community as defined

in the Application Instructions. Applicants who plan to request an alternative match schedule must submit a request at the time the application is submitted. Programs applying through State Service Commissions must submit requests for alternative match to the Commission, who will submit it to AmeriCorps on their behalf. Commissions and National Directs will submit requests via the Alternative Match Request form located on the AmeriCorps.gov [Manage Your Grant](#) webpage.

### **C.3. Other Eligibility Requirements**

Under Section 132A(b) of [the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended](#), organizations that have violated a Federal criminal statute 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; and
- that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability;

that corporation is not eligible for an award under this Notice. However, this exclusion will not apply to a corporation that a federal agency has considered for suspension or debarment and determined that suspension or debarment is not necessary to protect the interests of the federal government.

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.

## **D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

This Notice should be read together with the AmeriCorps regulations, Application Instructions, Performance Measure Instructions, and Mandatory Supplemental Information. These documents are available online at [AmeriCorps.gov Funding Opportunities webpage](#).

### **D.1. Address to Request an Application Package**

All information associated with this funding opportunity is available through the AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities webpages. Applicants should refer to [AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities](#) for more information and instructions on how to fully respond to this Notice. Applicants can also send an email to [americorpsgrants@cns.gov](mailto:americorpsgrants@cns.gov) or call (202) 606-7508 for a printed copy of the Notice and Guidance and Application Instructions. AmeriCorps also offers [live text chat](#).

## D.2. Content and Form of Application Submission

### D.2.a. 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: This is a brief description of the proposed program.
  - 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](#)

### D.2.b. Page Limits

There are page limits for the Narratives and Logic Model:

- Narratives
  - Applications must not exceed 10 double-spaced pages for the Narratives or 12 pages for Multi-State applications with more than five operating sites as the pages print out from eGrants. AmeriCorps will use the number of locations in the “multi-state operating sites” field in AmeriCorps’ web-based management system to determine whether a multi-state application has more than five operating sites. The “multi-state operating sites” field can be found by clicking on the “operating sites” link in the system. Multi-state applicants that list five or fewer operating sites cannot exceed 10 pages for the Narrative.
  - 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 Evaluation Summary/Plan, Clarification Summary, Continuation Changes, Budget, Performance Measures, or any required additional documents.
- Logic Model
  - The Logic Model may not exceed three 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. **AmeriCorps strongly encourages applicants to**



**print out the application from the “Review and Submit” tab in eGrants prior to submission in order to confirm that the application does not exceed the page limit.**

AmeriCorps 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.

### **D.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)**

All applicants **must** register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov/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](#).

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 AmeriCorps. The legal applicant’s name and physical address in eGrants must match exactly the applicant’s SAM-registered information.**

AmeriCorps will not make awards to entities that do not have a valid SAM registration and Unique Entity Identifier. If an applicant has not fully complied with these requirements by the time AmeriCorps is ready to make a federal award, AmeriCorps may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

Applications must include an Employer Identification Number.

Applications must include a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), which is generated as part of the SAM registration process.

### **D.4. Submission Dates and Times**

#### **D.4.a. Application Submission Deadline**

Applications are due not later than **Friday, February 17, 2023, by 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

Commissions’ deadlines may be significantly before the AmeriCorps deadline, so prospective Single-State applicants should contact their respective Commission as soon as possible.

AmeriCorps will not consider applications submitted after the deadline, except as noted in [Section D.4.c. Late Applications](#). AmeriCorps reserves the right to extend the submission deadline. AmeriCorps will post a notification in the event of an extended deadline on AmeriCorps’ funding opportunities webpage.

#### **D.4.b. Additional Documents Deadline**

Additional documents are due by the application submission deadline. See Sections [D.4.a. Application Submission Deadline](#) and [D.7.b. Submission of Additional Documents](#) for more information.

#### **D.4.c. Late Applications**

All applications received after the submission deadline published in this Notice, of **Friday, February 17, 2023, at 5:00 pm Eastern Time**, 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
  - any information provided to the applicant by the AmeriCorps Hotline
  - any other documentation or evidence that supports the justification
- ensure that AmeriCorps receives the written explanation or justification and any other evidence that substantiates the claimed extenuating circumstance(s), via email to [LateApplications@cns.gov](mailto:LateApplications@cns.gov) no later than 24 hours after the application deadline as stated in the Notice.

Communication with AmeriCorps staff, including an applicant's portfolio manager, is not a substitute for a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstance that caused the delay as outlined above. Applicants are required to continue working in [eGrants, AmeriCorps' web-based application system](#), and with the AmeriCorps Hotline to submit the application. AmeriCorps will determine whether or not to accept a late application on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants that do not meet the application submission deadline and do not submit a written explanation or justification or any other evidence to overcome the presumption of non-compliance within the published timeframe will be deemed noncompliant. If AmeriCorps sustains a noncompliant determination, the application will not be reviewed or selected for award.

AmeriCorps will *not* consider an advance request to submit a late application. Please carefully review and follow the guidance in this section and submit your application as soon as possible.

#### **D.5. Intergovernmental Review**

This Notice is not subject to [Executive Order 12372](#), "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

## D.6. Funding Restrictions

### D.6.a. Award Funding Requirements

#### 1. 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 AmeriCorps 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 complies with the minimum and maximum requirements. Exceptions are noted below. Fixed Amount grant applicants should indicate that amount in the application.

**Table: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance**

<b>Service Term</b>	<b>Minimum # of Hours</b>	<b>Minimum Living Allowance</b>	<b>Maximum Total Living Allowance</b>
Full-time	1,700	\$17,600	\$35,200
Three Quarter-time	1,200	n/a	\$24,640
Half-time	900	n/a	\$17,600
Reduced Half-time	675	n/a	\$13,376
Quarter-time	450	n/a	\$9,152
Minimum-time	300	n/a	\$7,392
Abbreviated-time	100	n/a	\$2,112

#### 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 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).

#### 2. 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.

New and re-competing Commission subgrantees/applicants will be held to the maximum cost per MSY for their grant type.

**Table: Maximum Cost per MSY (Formula)**

<b>Grant Program</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Individual Competitive State/Territory Program (cost reimbursement)	\$23,000
Multi-state competitive (cost reimbursement)	\$23,000
Professional Corps competitive Fixed Amount Applicants/Grantees	\$1,000*
Full-cost competitive Fixed Amount Grant	\$23,000
Education Award Program (EAP) Fixed Amount Grant (competitive and formula)	\$800 or \$1,000**
All non-EAP formula subgrants***	\$28,800***

**Table: Maximum Cost per MSY (Public Health AmeriCorps)**

<b>Grant Program</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Individual Competitive State/Territory Program (cost reimbursement)	\$28,800
Multi-state competitive (cost reimbursement)	\$28,800

\*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, 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.

\*\*\*\$18,000 adjusted for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers.

AmeriCorps 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.

### **3. 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 their term of service to use the Education Award.

#### **D.6.b. Indirect Costs**

Application budgets may include indirect costs. Based on qualifying factors, applicants may either use a Federally approved indirect cost rate or 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 AmeriCorps' 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 State and National grants.

The instructions for how to enter the organization's indirect cost rate are located here: [eGrants Indirect Cost Rate User Instructions](#). 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](mailto:IndirectCostRate@cns.gov). The applicant may also obtain instructions and additional information by contacting the email address above.

#### **D.6.c. Pre-Award Costs**

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

### **D.7. Other Submission Requirements**

#### **D.7.a. 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.

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

If circumstances make it impossible for an applicant to submit in eGrants, applicants must include a written explanation and any other documentation or evidence that support their inability to submit their application electronically by 2/14/2023 to [AmeriCorpsGA@dca.ga.gov](mailto:AmeriCorpsGA@dca.ga.gov).

#### **D.7.b. Submission of Additional Documents**

All documents must be submitted by the Prime Applicants (State Service Commissions or National Directs). Prime sub applicants cannot submit documentation on behalf of the commission in the Notice.

All applicants

1. Evaluation briefs, reports, studies. Please refer to the [Evidence Base section](#) and Mandatory Supplemental Information found [here](#) for detailed instructions by evidence tier. If multiple evaluation briefs/reports/studies are submitted by the applicant, the most recent (as measured by the date of completion or publication) will be reviewed first, and any documents submitted beyond the allowable number will not be reviewed.
2. Labor union concurrence (if applicable)
3. All applicants regardless of funding level are required to submit [an Operational and Financial Management Survey \(OFMS\)](#). Please submit the OFMS as a Word document. Forms submitted as a PDF or any other document format may not be accepted.
4. Financial statements
5. Most recent audit
6. Documentation verifying Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate (if applicable)
7. Memorandums of Agreement/Understanding - written confirmation of partnering with other sites or entities
8. [Immigration Affidavit \(O.C.G.A. 50-36-1\(e\)\(1\)\)](#)

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

Evaluation plan. Please use the evaluation plan template found [here](#) available on the Notice webpage. Evaluation plans are not scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions are made.

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

Evaluation report. Please submit in Microsoft Word. The evaluation report should include a title page with the AmeriCorps grant number for the project that was evaluated, the name of the project, and the date of completion of the report. If any of this required information is missing, the applicant may not receive credit for meeting their evaluation requirements.

Entities applying on behalf of a Federally Recognized Tribe (New and re-competing)  
Tribal organization eligibility documentation (See Section [C.1 Eligible Applicants](#))

Additional documents must be emailed to [AmeriCorpsGA@dca.ga.gov](mailto:AmeriCorpsGA@dca.ga.gov) with the following subject line: “*Legal Applicant Name*” - “*Application ID Number*.” Emails should include:

- the legal applicant name and its point of contact information
- the application ID number
- a list of documents that are attached to the email by filename, labeling each document type according to the above numbered list
- individually attached files that are clearly labeled, and that include the legal applicant 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)”
- Prime applicants should send separate emails with each sub-applicant’s materials, referencing the sub-applicant’s Application ID

Failure to submit the required additional documents, following the email instructions in this section, by the deadline may have a negative effect on the assessment of your application.

***Do not submit any items that are not requested in this Notice or Application Instructions. AmeriCorps will not review or return them.***

After Award:

- Provide Georgia Serves with program contact information and update the information on an annual basis.
- Participate in the Georgia Serves training plan development activities, and in the development of Georgia Serves service plan, as well as appropriate training and other events.

## **E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION**

### **E.1. Selection Criteria**

Each applicant must describe a project that will deploy AmeriCorps members effectively to solve a significant community problem. AmeriCorps urges applicants to submit high quality applications that carefully follow the guidance in this Notice and in the Application Instructions found [here](#). The quality of an application will be an important factor in determining whether an organization will receive funding.

Applications should include a well-designed plan with clear and compelling justifications for receiving the requested funds. Reviewers will assess the quality of applications by using the selection criteria described below and will rate them accordingly. They will also consider the weights assigned to each criterion.

Categories/Subcategories	Percentage
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Program Design</b>	<b>50</b>
• <b>Theory of Change and Logic Model</b>	24
• <b>Evidence Tier</b>	12
• <b>Evidence Quality</b>	8
• <b>Notice Priority</b>	0
• <b>Member Experience</b>	6
<b>Organizational Capability</b>	<b>25</b>
• <b>Organizational Background and Staffing</b>	13
• <b>Compliance and Accountability</b>	8
• <b>Member Supervision</b>	4
<b>Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy</b>	<b>25</b>

**E.1.a. 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 who will [service activities the members will be doing] in [the locations the AmeriCorps members will serve]. 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.]

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 (EAP, Full-Cost Fixed, No Cost Slots) should list their Other Revenue (see Mandatory Supplemental Information found [here](#)) because they are not required to provide a specific amount of match, but still raise significant additional resources to operate the program.

**E.1.b. Program Design (50 percent):**

Reviewers will consider the quality of the application’s response to the criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value. Please ensure the Theory of Change and Logic Model incorporates the funding priorities listed above, for example supporting communities historically excluded and/or underserved from government services, addressing structural and institutional inequities, or increasing opportunity in order to achieve sustainable change in communities.



## 1. Theory of Change and Logic Model (24 points)

The Theory of Change shall address:

- The problem is prevalent and severe in communities where the program plans to serve and has been documented with relevant data.
- The proposed intervention is responsive to the identified community problem.
- The applicant's proposed intervention is clearly articulated including the design, dosage, target population, and roles of AmeriCorps members and (if applicable) leveraged volunteers.
- The applicant's intervention is likely to lead to the outcomes identified in the applicant's Theory of Change.
- The expected outcomes articulated in the application narrative and Logic Model represent meaningful progress in addressing the community problem identified by the applicant.
- The rationale for utilizing AmeriCorps members to deliver the intervention(s) is reasonable.
- The service role of AmeriCorps members will produce significant contributions to existing efforts and help develop additional capacity to address the stated problem.

The Logic Model shall depict:

- A summary of the community problem, including the role current or historical inequities faced by underserved communities may play in contributing to the 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
  - Number of AmeriCorps members who will deliver the intervention
- The core activities that define the intervention or program model that members will implement or deliver, including:
  - The duration of the intervention (e.g., the total number of weeks, sessions or months of the intervention)
  - The dosage of the intervention (e.g., the number of hours per session or sessions per week)
  - The target population for the intervention (e.g., disconnected youth, third graders at a certain reading proficiency level)
- 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.

Note: 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.

In the application narrative, applicants should discuss the community need as it relates to the [CDC's Social Vulnerability Index](#).

Also in the application narrative, applicants should discuss their rationale for setting output and outcome targets for their performance measures.

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 three pages will not be reviewed.

## **2. Evidence Base (20 points)**

The assessment of an applicant's evidence base has two parts. First, the applicant will be assigned to an evidence tier (see the Mandatory Supplemental Information add hyperlink.) Second, the quality of the applicant's evidence and the degree to which it supports the proposed program design, including program aligned with the priority areas identified above, will be assessed and scored.

Evidence Tier (12 points):

An evidence tier will be assessed for each applicant for the purpose of understanding the relative strength of each applicant's evidence base and the likelihood that the proposed intervention will lead to outcomes identified in the Logic Model.<sup>2</sup>

Applicants who have outcome or impact evaluation reports of the same intervention described in the application (see Mandatory Supplemental Information found [here](#) for a definition of "same intervention") may submit up to 2 of those reports, plus (if applicable) the evaluation report from their last three-year grant cycle, to qualify for the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tier. In order to qualify for consideration, the intervention evaluated in the submitted report(s) must match the intervention proposed by the applicant in the following areas, all of which must be clearly described in the Program Design and Logic Model sections of the application:

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<sup>2</sup> In 2022, the evidence tiers of successful AmeriCorps State and National applicants that were competing were as follows: Strong 28%, Moderate 15%, Preliminary 25%, and Pre-Preliminary 32%. As these figures indicate, AmeriCorps 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.

- Characteristics of the beneficiary population, including evidence of current or historic inequities facing the population;
- Characteristics of the population delivering the intervention;
- Dosage (frequency and duration) and design of the intervention, including all key components and activities;
- The context in which the intervention is delivered; and
- Outcome of the intervention.

Submitted reports that do not sufficiently match the intervention proposed by the applicant in all of these areas will not be considered applicable and will not be reviewed or receive any points. Submission of additional documents that are not consistent with the guidance and requirements described in the Notice (e.g., advocacy pieces, policy briefs, other narratives that are not research studies or program evaluations) will not be reviewed.

In the Evidence Tier section of the application narrative, applicants must (1) summarize the study design and key findings of any outcome or impact evaluation report(s) submitted and (2) describe any other evidence that supports their program, including past performance measure data and/or other research studies that inform their program design. Applicants who submit evaluation reports for consideration must also describe in the Evidence Base section of the application narrative how the intervention described in the submitted reports is the same as the intervention described in the application (see Mandatory Supplemental Information found [here](#).)

Applicants should provide citations for the studies they describe, if applicable; however, reviewers will not review any documents external to the application other than evaluation report(s) submitted in accordance with the Notice instructions.

Applicants must meet all requirements of an evidence tier in order to be considered for that tier.

If the evaluation reports submitted by the applicant do not meet the definitions in the Mandatory Supplemental Information, the applicant may be considered for a lower evidence tier.

#### Evidence Quality (8 points)

After the applicant's evidence tier has been assessed, the quality of the applicant's evidence and the extent to which it supports the proposed program design will be assessed and scored.

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.

Applicants that 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.<sup>3</sup>

### **3. Notice Priority (0 points)**

- The applicant proposed program fits within one or more of the AmeriCorps funding priorities and meets all of the requirements within that bullet/section as outlined in the [A.2 Funding Priorities section](#) and more fully described in the Mandatory Supplemental Information found [here](#).

### **4. Member Experience (6 points)**

- AmeriCorps members' service will provide them opportunities to develop as leaders.
- 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.
- AmeriCorps members receive additional benefits.
- Description of the demographics of the community served and plans to recruit AmeriCorps members from geographic or demographic communities in which the program operates. This could include but not limited to the following historically underserved, under-represented, and disadvantaged populations of:
  - a. communities of color
  - b. LGBTQI+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning or Intersex) communities
  - c. Individuals with varying degrees of English language proficiency
  - d. Individuals with disabilities
  - e. Veterans and military family members as volunteers
- Description of how the organization will ensure its project engages a diverse and inclusive group of members.
- The applicant's organization and/or program has a diversity, equity, and inclusion council or similar mechanism that seeks to diversity its staff and board and create a supportive and safe environment as well ensure that its programming is culturally and community appropriate.

#### **E.1.c. Organizational Capability (25 percent):**

Reviewers will consider the quality of the application's response to the following criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

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<sup>3</sup> Applicants assessed in the Pre-Preliminary evidence tier that 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.

### **1. Organizational Background and Staffing (13 points)**

- The organization details the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the staff that will be implementing, providing oversight, and monitoring the program.
- The organization 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 leadership and staff of the organization has the same lived experience as the beneficiary population and/or community being served.
- The applicant's (organization's or institution's) definitions of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility demonstrate the organization is engaged in related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. This can include the inclusion of diversity on the Board of Directors, agency staff and leadership, and/or volunteers.

### **2. Compliance and Accountability (8 points)**

- The extent to which the organization has a monitoring and oversight plan to prevent and detect non-compliance and enforce compliance with AmeriCorps rules and regulations including those related to prohibited activities and criminal history checks at the grantee, subgrantee (if applicable), and service site locations.
- The extent to which the organization has an effective mechanism in place to report, without delay, any suspected criminal activity, waste, fraud, and/or abuse to both the AmeriCorps Office of Inspector General and AmeriCorps and a plan for training staff and participants on these reporting protocols.
- The extent to which the organization has sufficient policies, procedures, and controls in place to prevent, detect, and mitigate the risk of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, this can include an assessment of appropriate segregation of duties, internal oversight activities, measures to prevent timekeeping fraud, etc.
- The AmeriCorps-required evaluation report meets AmeriCorps requirements (if applicable).
- The AmeriCorps-required evaluation report is of satisfactory quality (if applicable).

### **3. Member Supervision (4 points)**

- AmeriCorps members will receive sufficient guidance and support from their supervisor to provide effective service.
- AmeriCorps supervisors will be adequately trained/prepared to follow AmeriCorps and program regulations, priorities, and expectations.

#### **E.1.d. Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 percent):**

Reviewers will assess the quality of the application's budget to the following criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

**These criteria will be assessed based on the budget submitted. Do not include narrative in the narrative box except for "See budget".**

#### **1. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 points)**

- Budget complies with the Application Instructions found [here](#) document (Cost Reimbursement Applicants: See Appendix B and C; Fixed Amount Applicants: See Appendix D and E)

- Cost Reimbursement applicant meets match requirements or Fixed Amount applicant proposes sufficient additional revenue to adequately support the program. Applicant identifies sources in the Source of Funds section of the budget
- The cost per MSY is equal to or less than the maximum cost per MSY (See Section D.6.a.2).

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.

Cost reimbursement applicants: Indicate the amount of requested match replacement in the Source of Funds section of the budget. See definition of match replacement in the Mandatory Supplemental Information found [here](#).

**E.1.e. Evaluation Plan (Required for recompeting applicants - 0 percent):**

If the applicant has previously received three or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed (see the Mandatory Supplemental Information add hyperlink for the AmeriCorps definition of “same project”), the applicant must submit an evaluation plan as an attachment (see the [D.7.b Submission of Additional Documents section](#) for more information). If the applicant has previously received six or more years of competitive 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 found [here](#) available on the Notice webpage 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 AmeriCorps. The evaluation plan will not be scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions have been made.

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.

**E.1.f. Amendment Justification (0 percent):**

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

**E.1.g. Clarification Information (0 percent):**

Enter N/A.

**E.1.h. Continuation Changes (0 percent):**

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

**E.2. Review and Selection Process**

AmeriCorps will engage External Reviewers with relevant knowledge and expertise to assess and provide input on the eligible applications. The review and selection process is intended to produce a diversified set of high-quality programs that represent the priorities and strategic considerations described in this Notice. The determinations made by AmeriCorps

reviewers may be different from what the applicant self-determined upon submission of its application. The stages of the review and selection process follow:

### **E.2.a. Initial Application Compliance and Eligibility Review**

AmeriCorps will conduct an initial Compliance and Eligibility Review to determine if an application meets the eligibility requirements published in this Notice and advances to the next stage of the review process.

An application is compliant if the applicant:

- is an eligible organization
- is eligible to submit directly to AmeriCorps
- submitted an application by the submission deadline

Reviewing for eligibility is intended to ensure that only those applications that are eligible for award are further reviewed. However, determinations of eligibility can take place at any point during the application review and selection process. Applicants that are determined to be ineligible will not receive an award.

### **E.2.b. Application Review**

#### **External Review**

Reviewers will assess applications based on the Program Design, Organizational Capability, Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy, and Evidence Selection Criteria. Georgia Serves will screen for conflicts of interest.

#### **Post-Review Quality Control**

After the initial review process is complete, AmeriCorps staff will review the initial results for fairness and consistency. Some applications may be selected for a Post-Review Quality Control assessment. This additional level of review will be used to ensure fairness and provide assurances that an application was not disadvantaged in the original review.

### **E.2.c. Applicant Clarification**

AmeriCorps may ask an applicant for clarifying information after notification of competition results. 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 the award process.

### **E.2.d. Pre-Award Risk Assessment**

Georgia Serves staff will assess the risks to the program posed by each applicant to determine an applicant's ability to manage Federal Funds. This evaluation is in addition to those about the applicant's eligibility and the quality of its application on the basis of the [Selection Criteria \(E.1\)](#). Results from this assessment will inform funding decisions. If AmeriCorps 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. Additionally, if AmeriCorps concludes that the reasons for applicants having poor risk assessment are not likely to be mitigated, those applications may not be selected for funding.

In assessing risks, AmeriCorps may consider the following criteria:

1. Due Diligence, including:
  - Federal debt delinquency
  - suspension and debarment
  - information available through Office of Management and Budget (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](#)
    - [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#)
    - "Do Not Pay"
  - reports and findings from single audits performed under Uniform Administrative Guidance and findings of any other available audits or investigations
  - IRS Tax Form 990
  - [Oversight.gov](#)
  - Public Litigation Records
  
2. Operational and Financial Management, including:
  - financial stability
  - [Operational and Financial Management Survey \(OFMS\)](#)
  
3. *Past Performance, including:*
  - *an applicant's record in managing previous AmeriCorps awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:*
    - *timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements*
    - *conformance to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards*
    - *applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients*
    - *timely closeout of other awards*
    - *meeting matching requirements*
    - *the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards*
    - *national service criminal history check (NSCHC) compliance. See section [F.2.d. National Criminal History Check Requirements](#) and the [NSCHC webpage](#) for more information*
  
4. *Other Programmatic Risks, including:*
  - *publicly available information, including from the applicant organization's website*

Per [§ 200.332\(b\)](#), Commission staff should review for the same types of risks for the applicants they submit.

Commission staff will assess their subgrantees' programmatic past performance using the italicized criteria above and submit those assessments to AmeriCorps.

### **E.2.e. Consideration of Integrity and Performance System Information**

Prior to making any award that exceeds the \$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.

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 [E.2.d. Risk Assessment Evaluation section](#) of this Notice.

### **E.2.f. Selection for Funding**

The review and selection process are designed to:

- identify how well eligible applications are aligned with the [application selection criteria \(E.1\)](#)
- build a diversified portfolio based on the following strategic considerations:
  - AmeriCorps Funding Priorities (See [Section A.2. Funding Priorities](#))
  - meaningful representation of
    - rural communities
    - innovative community strategies
  - CEO discretion to advance strategic goals

AmeriCorps will assess an applicant's strategic considerations. Applicants must check the relevant boxes in the Program Information tab in AmeriCorps' web-based management system. Applicants should only check the boxes if the strategic consideration is a significant and intentional part of their program design and if implementation strategies are described in the application.

In selecting applicants to receive awards under this Notice, the Chief Executive Officer will endeavor to include a diverse portfolio of applications based on staff recommendations, alignment with selection criteria, and strategic considerations.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to prioritize funding existing awards over making new awards.

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.

***AmeriCorps reserves 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 \(E.1.\)](#) that will be used to assess applications.***

### **E.3. Feedback to Applicants**

Each compliant applicant will receive feedback from the External Review of its application.

#### **E.4. Transparency in Grantmaking**

AmeriCorps is committed to transparency in grant-making. A list of all approved applications for new and re-competing applications will be published on [AmeriCorps Funded Grants](#) within 90 business days after all grants are awarded.

Further information about funded grants and subgrants is also available in [USASpending.gov](#).

### **F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

#### **F.1. Federal Award Notices**

AmeriCorps will make awards following the selection announcement. AmeriCorps anticipates announcing the results of this funding opportunity by mid-April 2023 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 Notice of Grant Award signed by the Office of Grant Administration is the authorizing document. An awardee may not expend Federal Funds until the start of the Period of Performance identified on the Notice of Grant Award.

#### **F.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

##### **F.2.a. 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](#).

##### **F.2.b. Requests for Monitoring or Payment Integrity Information**

AmeriCorps will request documentation from award recipients in order to monitor the grantee and award to ensure compliance with legal requirements, including 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.

##### **F.2.c. AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions**

All awards made under this Notice will be subject to the FY 2023 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, and the FY 2023 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](#).

### **F.2.d. 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. See the [NSCHC regulations and guidance](#). AmeriCorps also strongly encourages award recipients to utilize the two AmeriCorps-approved vendors 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.

An 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.

### **Georgia Serves requires all programs to use AmeriCorps approved vendors, Truescreen and Fieldprint to conduct the NSCHC.**

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.

### **F.2.e. 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.

### **F.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](#)).

### **F.4. Reporting**

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

Cost reimbursement grantees are required to provide annual progress reports and semi-annual financial reports through eGrants, AmeriCorps' web-based grants management system and an internal or external evaluation report as required by the AmeriCorps regulations [45 CFR 2522.500-2522.540](#) and [2522.700-2522.740](#). Final financial and progress reports are due 120 days after the end of the agreement.

Fixed Amount grantees are required to provide annual and final progress reports through eGrants, AmeriCorps' web-based grants management system and an internal or external evaluation report.

All grantees, including Fixed Amount grantees, must submit quarterly financial reports to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Payment Management System.

In addition, at the end of the award period, a grantee must submit final financial and progress reports that are cumulative over the entire award period and consistent with the close-out requirements. The final reports are due 120 days after the end of the period of performance.

Award recipients will be required to report at [Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act Subaward Reporting System \(FSRS\)](#) on all subawards over \$30,000, and may be required to report on executive compensation for the recipient organization and its subrecipients. Recipients and subrecipients 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 in place 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.

Failure to submit accurate, complete, and timely required reports may affect the recipient's ability to secure future AmeriCorps funding.

### **F.5. Continuation Funding Information and Requirements**

Organizations that have current AmeriCorps State and National awards that will be in program Year 2 or Year 3 in FY 2023 are considered continuation applicants. Continuation applicants must submit an application in order to be eligible to receive funding for the FY 2023 program year. Continuation applicants must follow the requirements for continuation application content as outlined in the Application Instructions.

Please see the Application Instructions found [here](#) for how to request Match Replacement funds and/or use of unexpended funds.

Requests by existing continuation applicants for increases in the level of funding or number of positions will be assessed using the [E. 1 selection criteria](#) published in this Notice.

Continuation application review will also be based on progress reports, the federal financial report, evaluation plans, and AmeriCorps 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.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to award applications in an amount less than the requested level of funding and will document the rationale for doing so.

## **G. GEORGIA SERVES CONTACT INFO**

Please email [AmeriCorpsGA@dca.ga.gov](mailto:AmeriCorpsGA@dca.ga.gov) with additional questions.

For technical questions and problems with the eGrants system, call the AmeriCorps Hotline at (800) 942-2677. AmeriCorps Hotline hours are also posted. Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the name of the Notice to which the organization is applying.

## **H. OTHER INFORMATION**

### **H.1. Technical Assistance**

AmeriCorps will host technical assistance calls to answer questions about the funding opportunity and eGrants. AmeriCorps strongly encourages all applicants to participate in these sessions. Information for these technical assistance calls is available on the [AmeriCorps' Funding Opportunities website](#). Georgia Serves also will host Application Workshops in November 15-17, go to the [Georgia Serves website](#) for more details.

## H.2. Re-Focusing of Funding

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

## 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 current 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.

# APPENDIX I - AmeriCorps Focus Areas

## **AmeriCorps Focus Areas**

[The National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended by the Serve America Act](#), emphasizes measuring the impact of service and focusing on a core set of issue areas. In order to carry out Congress's intent and to maximize the impact of investment in national service, and to achieve the goals laid out in our [Strategic Plan \(2022-2026\)](#), AmeriCorps has the following Focus Areas:

### **Disaster Services**

Helping individuals and communities prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of disasters and increase community resiliency.

### **Economic Opportunity**

Improving the economic well-being and security of underserved individuals.

### **Education**

Improving educational outcomes for underserved people, especially children. AmeriCorps is particularly interested in program designs that support youth engagement and service learning as strategies to achieve high educational outcomes.

### **Environmental Stewardship**

Supporting communities to become more resilient through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve land and water, increase renewable energy use and improve at-risk ecosystems, especially in underserved households and communities.

### **Healthy Futures**

Supporting for health needs within communities, including mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 and other public health crises, access to care, aging in place, and addressing childhood obesity, especially in underserved communities.

### **Veterans and Military Families**

Improving the quality of life of veterans, military families, caregivers, and survivors.

## **APPENDIX II-PHA - AmeriCorps Public Health AmeriCorps**

About the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) works to protect America from health, safety, and security threats, both foreign and in the U.S. Whether diseases start at home or abroad, are chronic or acute, curable, or preventable, human error or deliberate attack, CDC fights disease and supports communities and citizens to do the same.

CDC increases the health security of our nation. As the nation's health protection agency, CDC saves lives and protects people from health threats. To accomplish its mission, CDC conducts critical science and provides health information that protects our nation against expensive and dangerous health threats and responds when these arise.

The CDC's role includes:

- Detecting and responding to new and emerging health threats
- Tackling the biggest health problems causing death and disability for Americans
- Putting science and advanced technology into action to prevent disease
- Promoting healthy and safe behaviors, communities, and environment
- Developing leaders and training the public health workforce, including disease detectives
- Taking the health pulse of our nation

About Public Health AmeriCorps

Public Health AmeriCorps is a \$400 million investment, over five years, from the American Rescue Plan Act to support a partnership between CDC and AmeriCorps. The program is recruiting and building a workforce ready to respond to the public health needs of the nation and provide public health service in their own communities around the country.

The partnership is leveraging the expertise of both agencies, capitalizing on AmeriCorps' experience managing public service and workforce development programs, while benefitting from CDC's technical expertise as the country's leading public health agency.

Public Health AmeriCorps members are working across the country, helping to improve the health of communities. The program is opening the door of working in public health to a new generation, bringing new talent to conduct public health activities firsthand.

The program also supports [President Biden's Executive Order \(13996\) on Establishing the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board and Ensuring a Sustainable Public Health Workforce for COVID-19 and Other Biological Threats](#) - specifically Section 4. Establishing a Public Health Workforce Program, in which AmeriCorps was named.

While many of today's needs are related to the COVID-19 response, the program will also help communities address broader the public health needs of vulnerable communities that have been exposed and exacerbated by the pandemic. The program will build on expertise, best practices, and lessons learned from existing CDC, AmeriCorps, and other public health programs.



### Who is Eligible for a Public Health AmeriCorps Award

Organizations that meet the AmeriCorps State and National eligibility criteria. Please see [C.1. Eligible Applicants](#) section in the Notice.

### AmeriCorps Member Position Description

Public Health AmeriCorps members will help state, tribal, territory, county, and local public health agencies and nonprofit organizations meet the public health needs of communities, especially those that have been hard hit by COVID-19. AmeriCorps members cannot displace existing employees or volunteers.

Examples of roles that AmeriCorps member activities include:

- Community outreach
- Health education
- Mental health education and awareness, emotional regulation skill building
- Health and social services navigation
- Crisis response (e.g. COVID, Opioids, suicide, mental health)
- Capacity building

### Desired Skills

Public Health AmeriCorps members should possess:

- a desire and ability to work with a diverse group of people, particularly those living in low-income and economically distressed neighborhoods;
- a willingness to learn and serve others;
- an ability to work independently and in a team environment successfully; and
- strong organizational, writing, and oral communication skills, and high attention to detail.

## **APPENDIX III - Economic Mobility Corps**

### **About the CDFI Fund and CDFIs**

The mission of the U.S. Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institution Fund (CDFI Fund) is to expand economic opportunity for underserved people and communities by supporting the growth and capacity of a national network of community development lenders, investors, and financial service providers known as Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs).

CDFIs are community-based financial institutions that have a common goal of filling financing gaps in underserved, low-income areas. As community-based institutions, they possess a keen sensitivity to needs of local residents and businesses, and their creation reflects a bottom-up, rather than a top-down, approach to community investment and revitalization.

Currently, there are more than 1,100 CDFIs that are certified by the CDFI Fund serving urban and rural communities throughout the United States. CDFIs are found in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico. They bridge diverse public and private sector

interests to serve people and places that traditional financial institutions usually do not. CDFIs provide:

- loans for businesses and projects that otherwise would not receive for financing;
- safe, affordable banking services that otherwise would not be available in the community;
- loan rates and terms that are more flexible than those offered by traditional lenders; and
- development services—such as business planning, credit counseling, and homebuyer education—to help their borrowers use credit effectively and build financial strength.

As a result, CDFIs support the creation of small businesses and local jobs, and the development of affordable housing, community facilities, and schools—all in places where economic opportunity is needed most.

### **About the Economic Mobility Corps**

A joint initiative of the CDFI Fund and AmeriCorps, the Economic Mobility Corps (EMC) places full-time AmeriCorps members at Certified CDFIs to enhance their capacity to provide financial literacy, financial planning, budgeting, saving, and other financial counseling activities in distressed and underserved areas. Economic Mobility Corps members will be placed in Certified CDFIs and will receive training on the principles of financial counseling and financial literacy. A Certified CDFI is an entity that the CDFI Fund has officially notified that it meets all CDFI certification requirements. Only Certified CDFI's are eligible to receive EMC members.

This initiative will fund up to 61 full-time members a year for two years.

### **Who is Eligible for an EMC Award?**

Organizations that meet the AmeriCorps State and National eligibility criteria.

Additionally, applicants that are Certified CDFIs and organizations with CDFI Fund awards will be considered ineligible for award if the applicant has:

- a previously executed award agreement(s), as of the date of the Application, (i) the CDFI Fund has determined that such entity is noncompliant or found in default with a previously executed agreement, and (ii) the CDFI Fund has provided written notification that such entity is ineligible to apply for or receive any future CDFI Fund awards or allocations. Such entities will be ineligible to apply for such time period as specified by the CDFI Fund in writing. Applicants that have pending noncompliance issues of any of its previously executed award agreement(s), are eligible to receive an award if the CDFI Fund has not yet made a final compliance determination.
- defaulted on a loan from the CDFI Fund within five years of the application deadline.

Preference will be given to applicants that intend to enroll veterans as AmeriCorps members and/or serve rural areas.

## **AmeriCorps Member Position Description**

Economic Mobility Corps members will strengthen the capacity of Certified CDFIs to provide financial literacy, financial counseling, and financial planning services offered by the Certified CDFIs, to distressed and underserved individuals. Duties include:

- conducting community outreach and recruitment of new clients to the Certified CDFI's counseling and planning services and programs;
- assisting or conducting one-on-one or group orientation sessions for new program clients to explain the Certified CDFI's services, as well as the responsibilities of the client;
- providing financial planning workshops and individual financial counseling to meet the needs of Certified CDFI clients, including conducting group education meetings, and delivering workshops, webinars, and meetings;
- assisting in the development and execution of marketing strategies to promote program client participation in Certified CDFI-sponsored financial counseling and education programs;
- providing program clients with information on the different financial products and services (e.g., loan products, checking/savings accounts, etc.) offered by the Certified CDFI;
- providing program clients with information on local, state, and federal government programs that offer relevant financial assistance;
- conducting scheduled follow-ups with program clients to ask how they are doing, find out if they need additional help, and to help them stay engaged to achieve their plans by established deadlines;
- performing duties that support the Certified CDFI's activities, including but not limited to, coordinating client meetings, preparing presentations, conducting research, reviewing training and outreach materials, reviewing applications for programs and services, and developing material that supports the Certified CDFI's financial counseling and outreach activity; and
- reporting to the Certified CDFI on a regular basis on activities undertaken by the service member.

## **Desired Skills**

Economic Mobility Corps members should possess:

- a desire and ability to work with a diverse group of people, particularly those living in low-income and economically distressed neighborhoods;
- willingness to learn and serve others;
- ability to successfully work independently and in a team environment;
- strong organizational, writing, and oral communication skills, and possess high attention to detail;
- familiarity with community development, financial services, banking and lending terminology, including an understanding of financial planning basics, credit and credit scoring;
- have an interest in finance and/or financial education;
- computer skills, including high-degree of familiarity with Microsoft Excel, or other spreadsheet software; and

- Bachelor’s degree preferred, with coursework in finance, accounting, business, or community development.

## Appendix IV-PHA: Public Health AmeriCorps Performance Measures

Each applicant is required to select at least one aligned performance measure (output paired with outcome) that corresponds to the proposed primary service activity. Each applicant must choose from the following National Performance Measures:

Focus Area	Objective	Selection Rules		Interventions
		Outputs	Outcomes	
Healthy Futures	Access to Care	H4A: Number of individuals served	H17: Number of individuals with increased health knowledge  H18: Number of individuals reporting a change in behavior or intent to change behavior to improve their health  H19: Number of individuals with improved health  H20: Number of individuals with improved access to medical care	Outreach Education/Training Referrals Medical Services Counseling/Coaching Opioid/Drug Intervention/Harm Reduction Navigation of Services COVID Response/COVID Recovery
Capacity Building	Capacity Building & Leverage	G3-3.4: Number of organizations that received capacity building services	G3-3.10A: Number of organizations that increase their efficiency, effectiveness, and/or program reach*  * Each applicant must describe in detail how it will measure the organizational effectiveness, efficiency, or program scale/reach in meeting the public health needs of the	Disaster Preparation Disaster Response Disaster Recovery Disaster Mitigation

			community in the Described Instrument section.	
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Each grantee will also be required to track and report the Performance Data Elements in its annual Grantee Progress Report. The three Performance Data Elements are the number of AmeriCorps members:

- recruited from the geographic or demographic communities the program operates,
- with increased knowledge about public health, and
- who remain in the public health field post-service

# Criteria for Evidence Based Intervention Planning Grants

## 0 Points

**Executive Summary:** The [Name of the organization] proposes to develop an AmeriCorps program serving in [the location(s) the AmeriCorps program will serve] that will focus on the CNCS focus area(s) of [Focus Area(s)]. The CNCS investment of \$[amount of request] will be matched with \$[amount of projected match], \$[amount of local, state, tribal, and federal funds] in public funding and \$[amount of non-governmental funds] in private funding. No AmeriCorps members will be needed to execute this plan.

## 20 Points

**Need:** The community problem is prevalent and severe in communities where the program plans to serve and the problem has been documented with relevant data.

**Evidence-Based Intervention:** The evidence-based intervention has successfully addressed the problem in other communities. The applicant must describe the evidence for the intervention in the application narrative and must submit at least one, and no more than two, randomized controlled trials (RCT) or quasi-experimental design (QED) evaluations of the intervention. If applicable, cite the clearinghouse and rating where the intervention is rated. The studies must be well-designed and well-implemented, must have been conducted by an independent, external evaluator, and must demonstrate, at minimum, evidence of effectiveness (positive findings) on one or more key outcomes that address the community problem/need.

- The key elements of the intervention will be implemented with fidelity to the evidence-based model (e.g., context, target population, content or curriculum, delivery process, training for members).
- AmeriCorps members are well-suited to deliver the evidence-based intervention.

## 20 Points

**Theory of Change/Logic Model** that describes implementation of the evidence-based intervention with fidelity and why the proposed intervention is expected to produce the proposed outcomes.

- Member selection and training plan
- Member supervision plan
- Commitment to AmeriCorps Identity
- Compliance and Accountability
- Securing Match Support for the Program
- The applicant includes development of the following evaluation elements in the planning process/timeline:
  - Assessing fidelity to the evidence-based intervention being replicated, including a detailed accounting of which core components were modified as a result of integrating AmeriCorps members, how they were modified, and which core components were implemented with fidelity without adaptation
  - Assessing outcomes achieved in previous evaluations of the evidence-based intervention
  - Assessing any new outcomes anticipated as a result of integrating AmeriCorps members into the evidence-based intervention

**20 Points**

**Planning Process/Timeline:** The applicant describes a clear and logical planning process, including:

- A detailed description of the planning process and who is leading it.
- A well-developed timeline for planning activities.
- A clear description of how the planning period will be used to develop the necessary components to effectively manage an AmeriCorps program in the future.

**20 Points**

**Organizational Capability**

1. Organizational Background and Staffing

- The applicant has the experience, staffing, and management structure to plan the proposed program.
- The applicant has prior experience in the proposed area of programming.
- The applicant has conducted high-quality process and outcome evaluations and has used evaluation results for organizational learning and continuous improvement

**20 Points**

**Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy** (Same as other AmeriCorps Applications)

E. Evaluation Plan (0 percent) (Same as other AmeriCorps Applications)

**Additional Documents to submit with the application**

These documents are available online at [Georgia Serves](#) application material webpage.

**Operational and Financial Management Survey (OFMS)**

This survey is intended to collect information about the capacity of applicants to manage federal grant funds.

**Immigration Affidavit**

This is required of all applicants for an AmeriCorps grant as referenced in O.C.G.A. § 50-36-1, from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).