

**Evidence-Based
Planning Grants**



AmeriCorps
Georgia

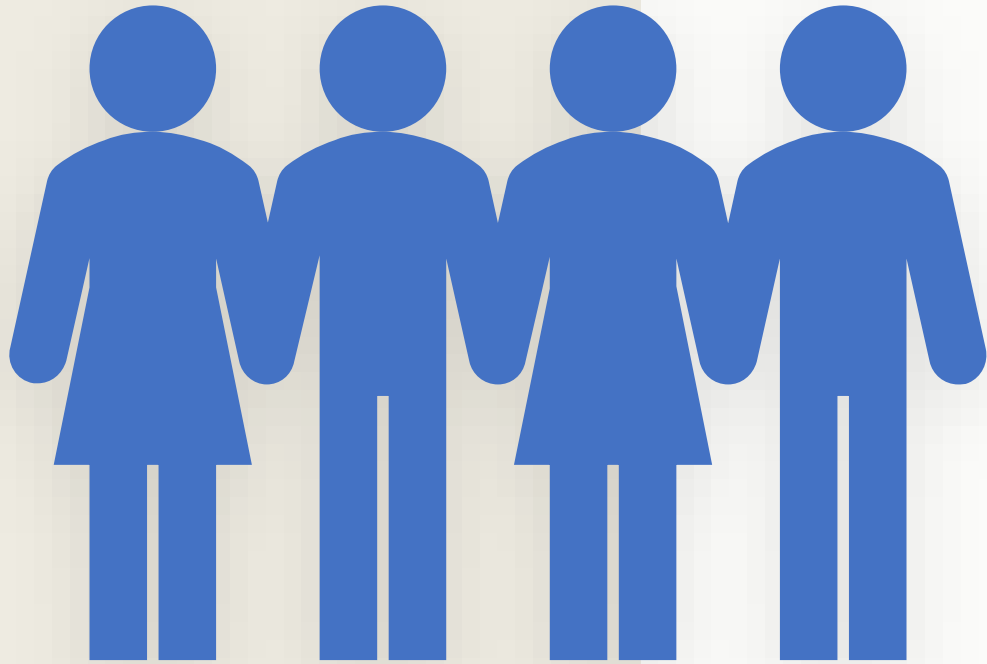
AmeriCorps Grants

- Provides funding to support an **AmeriCorps program**.
- AmeriCorps programs are designed by the applicant organization to address unmet community needs through the assistance of full-time or less-than full-time AmeriCorps Member positions.
- Funds are directly tied to a specific number of AmeriCorps Members and are solely for AmeriCorps program expenses.
- AmeriCorps grants partially cover the expense of operating an AmeriCorps program and do not cover general organizational expenses.
- Grant recipients must contribute matching funds to support the project through cash and/or in-kind.
- Organizations receiving an AmeriCorps grant are responsible for recruiting, selecting, and supervision AmeriCorps Members to serve in their programs.

AmeriCorps Members vs. Volunteers

- AmeriCorps Members are individuals who are enrolled in a program for a specific period of time (300-1700 hours) who provide specific “direct” services and may be eligible to receive a Segal Education Award upon successful completion of that service.
- A “volunteer” is a person who donates their time and service to an organization but is not an AmeriCorps Member and is not eligible to receive an education award.
- Planning grant recipients cannot plan to replace current volunteer positions with AmeriCorps Member positions to do exactly the same type of service they volunteers are currently doing.

AmeriCorps Members vs. Staff



- Staff members are paid employees of an organization.
- Planning grant applicants must not plan to recruit AmeriCorps Members to replace staff.
- AmeriCorps Members are not employees and should not be treated as such.
- AmeriCorps Members must serve a unique role in an organization and must be focused on meeting critical unmet community needs.
- Nondisplacement of employees and volunteers – In general, CNCS refers to the above concepts as “displacement”. Programs are not allowed to replace an existing employee or volunteer position with an AmeriCorps Member position.

What is an AmeriCorps Planning Grant

- One-Time grant
- AmeriCorps Planning Grants are awarded for the purpose of allowing an organization to plan and prepare for applying for an AmeriCorps program grant in the following or next cycle.
- Funding up to \$75,000
- Up to 12 months
- Match is 24%
- Does not count as first year match
- Do not support AmeriCorps Members
- may be used for new organizations to explore the development of an AmeriCorps program.
- may be used with existing organizations if the purpose of the Planning Grant meets CNCS/s definition of a “new program” ...may also include expansion opportunities.

Some Planning Grantee Responsibilities

- Project Design
- Geographical Service Area
- Establishing Priorities
- Collaboration
- Developing strong management systems to support their program
 - Monitoring
 - Financial management
 - Program performance
 - Member activities
 - Operating sites and service locations
 - Training and technical assistance of staff or site organizations
 - Ensuring the recruitment, orientation and training of members
 - Tracking and ensuring the accuracy of member hours and progress toward meeting performance measures
 - Acting as liaison between GAServes (GCSV) and the program or program sites
 - Data Collection and management

AmeriCorps Program Grantees with AmeriCorps Members

Categories/Subcategories	Percentage
Executive Summary	0
Program Design	50
Theory of Change and Logic Model	24
Evidence Tier	12
Evidence Quality	8
Notice Priority	0
Member Experience	6
Organizational Capability	25
Organizational Background and Staffing	9
Compliance and Accountability	8
Culture That Values Learning	4
Member Supervision	4
Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy	25

AmeriCorps Planning Grantees with No AmeriCorps Members

Executive Summary	0
Need	10
Evidence-Based Intervention	30
Planning Process and Timeline	10
Organizational Capability	25
Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy	25

Planning Grant Executive Summary

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.

Need

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.

Planning Process/Timeline

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.

Some questions to ask yourself:

- Why are you applying for a planning grant?
- What do you hope to achieve in a one-year period?
- Do you have formal agreements (Memorandums of Agreement/Understanding) in place and signed?
- Have you conducted asset mapping to determine who/what other assets may be viable to this project?

Organizational Capability

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

Based on what you've learned, will you use funds to identify gaps and to develop systems to fill those gaps?

Budget

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

Performance Measure

Planning Grants do not report a Performance Measure; however, in order to submit your application in eGrants, a placeholder will need to be inserted when completing the Performance Measure module. Please see the instructions below:

Your Performance Measure will be: AmeriCorps Planning Grant

- **Primary Focus Area:** Other Community Priorities
- **Primary Intervention:** Other
- **Problem Statement:** N/A
- **Selected Interventions:** Plan an AmeriCorps program
- **Describe Intervention:** N/A
- **Output (Applicant Determined):** Design and conduct planning process as outlined in the application.
- **Target:** 1
- **Measured By:** Other **Described Instrument:** Other

- **Outcome (Applicant Determined):** N/A
- **Target:** 1 **Measured By:** Other
- **Described Instrument:** Other **Number of MSYs:** 1
- **Number of Members:** 1
- **Note:** Even though you are entering a number here, your planning grant will not engage any AmeriCorps members.

Questions?

