

***Categories of AmeriCorps Grants***  
***Script of Presentation***

*Slide one:* Welcome to the AmeriCorps State and National Grant Funding Presentation. This is the fourth in a series of webinars for potential AmeriCorps Grant applicants. This presentation will walk you through the different types of AmeriCorps grant funding that are available to your organization.

*Slide two:* In this session you will learn about:  
The Six Focus Areas for AmeriCorps Funding  
How AmeriCorps Funding Works  
The Different Grant Types for AmeriCorps  
And Additional Resources  
The session will conclude with a brief evaluation

*Slide three:* AmeriCorps State and National aims to focus grant making in six areas identified by the Serve America Act:  
Disaster Services  
Economic Opportunity  
Education  
Environmental Stewardship  
Healthy Futures and  
Veterans and Military Families

Much more information about each of these focus areas and other funding initiatives can be found in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. Please review it carefully.

*Slide four:* Before we discuss the different categories of AmeriCorps Grants, you need to understand the ways in which AmeriCorps funding is awarded to an organization. AmeriCorps grants are 3-year commitments. The grant funds are awarded on an annual basis. In the first year, an applicant submits a full application for review. In year's 2 and 3, as a grantee you will submit your request for funding and members, and a reduced amount of narrative information for review. After the third year, you will have to recompete, submitting another full application for review, if you intend to continue the program. Organizations may apply for a cost-reimbursement grant or a fixed-amount grant.

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

*Slide six:* If you choose to apply for a cost reimbursement grant, you must provide a detailed budget with your application submission. The budget will include program operating cost – such as personnel, training, travel and supplies; member support costs

such as the member living allowance and health insurance; and indirect costs associated with program administration.

Cost reimbursement grants must meet specific match requirements as described in the Notice of Funding Opportunity and the AmeriCorps regulations.

A grantee with a cost reimbursement grant must also submit two financial reports to CNCS annually.

*Slide seven:* AmeriCorps funding can also be awarded on a fixed amount basis. There are a few different types of fixed amount grants, however the following information pertains to all fixed amount programs:

Fixed amount grants provide a specific dollar amount per MSY to an organization.

Programs can access all of the funds provided if they recruit and retain all members supported under the grant based on the MSY level awarded.

Programs are not required to submit budgets or financial reports and there is no match requirement.

*Slide eight:* There are three different types of Fixed Amount grants:

Stipended fixed amount

Professional Corps fixed amount

Education Award fixed amount

*Slide nine:* Organizations applying to operate an AmeriCorps program for the first time are not eligible to apply for a stipended fixed amount grant.

Funding provided to a stipended fixed amount program covers the cost of the member living allowance. Organizations use their own or other resources to cover the remaining costs of the program.

*Slide ten:* The fixed amount for Professional Corps is less than the amount provided to stipended fixed amount programs.

This is because Professional Corps member salaries are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve or some other source. Programs apply for a fixed amount per MSY and enroll only full-time members.

*Slide eleven:* Education Award Programs apply for a small fixed amount per MSY and use their own resources to cover all other program expenses.

Programs are not required to pay a living allowance to less-than-fulltime members and can access all grant funds based on enrolling the full complement of members supported under the grant. This is slightly different than the stipended and professional corps fixed amount which must enroll and retain all members.

*Slide twelve:* To recap what we just discussed, a Cost reimbursement grant = budget, financial reporting, match requirement, and full access to grant funding

Fixed Amount grants = no match, no budget and no financial reporting, however access to all funding is dependent on enrollment and retention of all AmeriCorps members

No matter which grant type you request, you will need to secure additional resources to support program operations.

*Slide thirteen:* Now we will briefly review the different types of AmeriCorps State and National grants. Which grant you apply for can depend on several factors: the type of entity you are representing, the type of program you are designing and where your program will operate.

The Grant Types for AmeriCorps are:

AmeriCorps State

National Direct

Indian Tribes

Education Award Program

Professional Corps Program

Planning Grants

*Slide fourteen:* We discussed single state AmeriCorps programs and state service commissions in the Introduction to AmeriCorps State and National webinar. Please review that webinar for more detailed information.

*Slide fifteen:* AmeriCorps State and National sets aside 1% of our funding to support programs that are developed and administered through federally recognized tribes. This slide provides the definition that CNCS uses to determine eligibility for an AmeriCorps Indian Tribe grant. An Indian Tribe is defined as a federally recognized Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Native village, Regional Corporation, or Village Corporation, as defined under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act that the United States Government determines is eligible for special programs and services provided under federal law to Indians because of their status as Indians. Indian Tribes also include tribal organizations controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by one of the entities described above.

A nonprofit that desires to apply for a grant as a “tribal organization” on behalf of a federally-recognized tribe, or multiple specific federally-recognized tribes, must submit a sanctioning resolution adopted by the Tribal Council (or comparable tribal governing body) of each tribe. The resolution must identify the nonprofit by name as a “tribal organization” and it must authorize the nonprofit organization to act on behalf of and include the tribe in a CNCS grant application for the purpose of conducting the activities and providing the services described in the application.

*Slide sixteen:* Multi-state AmeriCorps programs are also called National Directs. Our definition of national is a program operating in at least 2 states. These applicants submit directly to the Corporation for funding.

*Slide seventeen:* This slide provides a quick reference to help you determine where to submit your AmeriCorps application.

Operating in one state, submit to state commission

Operating in two or more states, apply directly to CNCS

Indian Tribe, apply directly to CNCS

*Slide eighteen:* Education Award Program (EAP) was referenced earlier in this presentation when describing fixed amount grants.

Typically, applicants for education award program grants have additional resources and support for the program operations and request only a certain number of member positions to deliver the service intervention. For all AmeriCorps programs, the resource desired is the AmeriCorps member and not the grant funding. This is most abundantly clear for EAPs.

*Slide nineteen:* Professional Corps was also mentioned during the Fixed Amount Grant conversation. Professional corps applicants can apply for a fixed amount OR cost reimbursement grant.

Regardless of the type of funding requested, the grants are awarded to organizations that propose to operate a Professional Corps program in a single or multiple states. Professional corps programs recruit and place qualified members in positions as teachers, health care providers, police officers, engineers, or other professionals in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals. Applicants are eligible to apply for funding for a portion of program costs. Professional Corps member salaries are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve, and are not included in the budget.

*Slide twenty:* AmeriCorps State and National offers planning grants as well as program grants. The purpose of a planning grant is to support an organization's development of an AmeriCorps program.

Applicants for planning grants must not have received an AmeriCorps program grant in the past.

Planning grants are awards of up to \$50,000 for one year only and do not support AmeriCorps members. During the planning period, the applicant designs an AmeriCorps program which addresses a need in their community or communities.

Planning grants are offered by State Service Commissions and by CNCS for multi-state or tribal programs, however you must review the Notice of Funding Opportunity closely to determine if and how you can apply for a planning grant for the current year's competition.

*Slide twenty-one:* The information in this presentation is provided to assist you in determining the most appropriate AmeriCorps grant for your organization. This presentation alone is not the only thing you need to review. The Notice of Funding Opportunity for AmeriCorps State and National includes more detailed information

about each grant type, including the maximum cost per MSY, reporting requirements, and grant applicant selection criteria.

AmeriCorps State and National also has an online resource to assist you in making the right decision for your program. You can launch the Fit Finder application by using the link on this slide.

This interactive tool will walk you through the different grant types mentioned in this presentation and help you narrow your choice.

[www.americorps.gov/fitfinder/index.html](http://www.americorps.gov/fitfinder/index.html)

*Slide twenty-two:* This concludes the Categories of AmeriCorps Grants presentation. This is the fourth in a series webinars to assist grant applicants in understanding how to apply for AmeriCorps funding. Please review each webinar.

In addition to the webinars, please review the resource sheet. It will point you to helpful tools available on our resource center and web site.

In addition to the various online resources, the AmeriCorps Outreach team will host calls to assist applicants as you complete the application process.

You can find the call schedule here:

[http://www.americorps.gov/for\\_organizations/funding/nofa\\_detail.asp?tbl\\_nofa\\_id=98](http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=98)

*Slide twenty-three:* Thank you for your participation, please complete the session evaluation located here:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACwebinarEval><http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACwebinarEval>

*Slide twenty-four:* If you have questions please contact CNCS via internet or phone at these addresses. Email [AmeriCorpsGrants@cns.gov](mailto:AmeriCorpsGrants@cns.gov) or call 202.606.7508