Introduction to AmeriCorps State and National

A presentation for AmeriCorps grant applicants

Webinar # 1 of 5

Session Objectives

★ Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

★ AmeriCorps

★ AmeriCorps State & National Grants

★ What AmeriCorps Programs Do

★ How an Organization becomes an AmeriCorps program

★ AmeriCorps Application and Review Process

★ Resources

Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS)

★ Created in 1993 through the signing of the National and Community Service Trust Act

★ Nation's largest grant maker supporting service and volunteering

★ Engages millions of Americans in service each year

★ Promotes United We Serve – www.serve.gov

★ Authorized by the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act of 2009

What is AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps State and National

★ Awards grants to nonprofits, faith & community-based organizations, public agencies, Indian tribes, and institutions of higher education.

★ Provides opportunities for individuals – AmeriCorps members – to serve communities across the country.

★ Since 1994, more than 706,000 men and women have provided service as AmeriCorps members.

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AmeriCorps State and National Grants

★ Provide <u>partial</u> funding to support AmeriCorps projects/programs. Grant recipients must contribute cash or in-kind match funds

★ Solely for program expenses and not for general organizational expenses

★ Include an allotment of AmeriCorps member positions and funds that are directly tied to the number of members

AmeriCorps State and National Grants

Activities are designed for AmeriCorps members that demonstrate an evidence-based approach to creating community impact and solving community problems.

★ Allows an organization to better address community needs by utilizing AmeriCorps resources to build capacity or deepen the impact of the service to individuals or communities

★ Broadens the scope of the service activities to reach previously underserved communities

   NOTE: Funds cannot supplant resources that organically exist in a community.

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What do AmeriCorps State and National Programs Do?

AmeriCorps impact includes:

- Training citizens in disaster preparedness
- Responding to disaster events
- Providing recovery and/or mitigation
- Improving the housing situation for economically disadvantaged people.
- Improving the school readiness of pre-k children
- Improving the academic performance or academic engagement of K-12 students

- Improving the environmental condition of distressed public lands and waterways
- Enhancing the quality of life for homebound OR older adults and individuals with disabilities
- Increasing access to food resources for economically disadvantaged individuals
- Engaging veterans and military families in service or providing service to these individuals.

How does an Organization Become an AmeriCorps State and National Program?

There are 2 ways an organization can become an AmeriCorps program

Apply directly to the Corporation for National and Community Service

OR

Submit an application to a State Service Commission

Single-State AmeriCorps Programs

If your program wishes to address community needs in only one state, your organization must apply to your state's State Service Commission for AmeriCorps funding.

http://www.americorps.gov/about/contact/statecommission.asp

State Service Commissions

★ Comprised of governor appointed boards who oversee the implementation of service and volunteer initiatives in their state.

★ Employ staff that manage, monitor and evaluate the programs.

★ Provide Corporation funding to single-state programs through grant competitions.

★ Provide feedback to the Corporation on the multi-state programs operating in their state.

Multi-State AmeriCorps Programs

★ Address community needs in at least two states

★ Have relationships with entities in different states that will operate the local programs

★ Consult with State Commissions in each of the states where they operate programming

★ Submit grant applications directly to the Corporation

Indian Tribes AmeriCorps Programs

★ Program is developed and administered through federally recognized Indian Tribe

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 (43 U.S.C. § 1602), 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.

★ Submit grant applications directly to the Corporation

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AmeriCorps Grants Applications

★ Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and application instructions are provided by CNCS.

★ Organizations submit grant applications to CNCS via online eGrants system or to their State Service Commission's competition.

http://www.nationalservice.gov/egrants/

★ Applications consist of a narrative, budget, and performance measures.

★ Budgets include costs such as: member living allowance and benefits, member and staff training, personnel costs, supplies, and evaluation.

How AmeriCorps Applications are Processed

Single State	Multi State & Tribes
• Apply to State Commission (deadlines vary) • Commission conducts review of applications • Submit grants to CNCS for funding	• Submit application directly to CNCS

Compliance Check

External Review

Internal Staff Review

Clarification

Award – Early Summer

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Which AmeriCorps Grant Program is Right for You?

www.americorps.gov/fitfinder/index.html

Additional Resources

Webinar Series:

Intro to AmeriCorps State and National

Key AmeriCorps Terms and Concepts

Intro to AmeriCorps Members

Categories of AmeriCorps Grants

AmeriCorps Program Management and Design

Applicant Resources available online: coming soon

Live Topical Calls:

AmeriCorps State & National hosts Q&A calls with potential applicants. You can find the call schedule here: http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=98

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Session Evaluation

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

If you have questions

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