2025 COMPANION APPLICATION INFORMATION to the RFP

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FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

	Cost				
Grant Types	Reimbursement	Fixed Amount			
Available Subtypes	Traditional	Full-Cost	Education Award Program, EAP	Professional Corps***	No Cost Slots
Maximum Cost per MSY*	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$800 or \$1,000**	\$1,000	\$0
Type of Slots in the National Service Trust	All slot types	All slot types	All Slot types	FT Only	All slot types
Matching Funds Required	Yes	No			
Budget Submission Required	Yes	No			
Availability of Funds Linked to Enrollment /Retention of Awarded MSYs	No	Yes No			No
Special Requirements	N/A	N/A		Must place qualified professionals in communities with an inadequate # of such professionals. Member salaries/benefi ts must be paid entirely by organization where member serves.	N/A
Financial Reporting Requirements	Yes	No			
Available to New Applicants	Yes	No	No Yes		

* Member Service Year (MSY): One MSY is equivalent to a full-time AmeriCorps position, at least 1,700 service hours. Multiple position at less than full-time can be combined to equal one MSY.

** For the Education Award Program, AmeriCorps may provide a maximum of \$800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position. If at least 50 percent of a

program's enrollees are disadvantaged youth, AmeriCorps may provide \$1,000 per enrollee, <u>42 U.S.C. § 12581a</u>.

*** Use Mandatory Supplemental Information (MSI) for further requirements.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Applicants

The following non-Federal organizations are eligible to apply:

- Indian Tribes;
- institutions of higher education;
- local governments, including school districts;
- nonprofit organizations;
- State Service Commissions (submit sub-applicants but not operate programs); and
- states and US Territories.

New Applicants

AmeriCorps encourages organizations that have not received funding from AmeriCorps before to apply, e.g., small community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, etc.

New applicants can apply for Cost Reimbursement and Education Award Program (EAP) grants but cannot apply for Full Cost Fixed Amount grants.

Threshold Issues

Specific types of applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Professional Corps must show that the community where it will place AmeriCorps members has a shortage of professionals in the relevant area, e.g., teachers, medical professionals, etc.
- If service activities require special member qualifications and/or training, such as <u>tutoring programs</u>, the applicant must describe how these requirements will be met.
- All applicants must propose program designs that are either evidence-based or evidence-informed. Applicants assessed as lower than the Preliminary evidence tier must provide adequate responses to the Evidence Quality review.

Other Eligibility Requirements

Organizations that have violated a Federal criminal statute may not receive AmeriCorps funds.

Organizations that propose activities that are not allowed by AmeriCorps' laws, rules, or terms and conditions cannot receive AmeriCorps funding.

Organizations that have any unpaid federal tax liability are not allowed to receive an award. AmeriCorps cannot provide funding to any corporation that has unpaid federal taxes that are not being paid through an agreement with the relevant tax authority. However, this does not apply if a federal agency decided that a suspension or debarment for the corporation is not necessary. Organizations that are described in the <u>Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. §501 (c)(4)</u> that lobby cannot receive AmeriCorps funding according to the <u>Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995</u>.

Intergovernmental Review

This RFP is not subject to <u>Executive Order 12372</u>, Intergovernmental Review of Federal *Programs*.

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 follow the limits in the table below. Organizations applying for Cost Reimbursement grants must include the living allowance in the budget, either as AmeriCorps share or match.

Fixed Amount grant applicants must give members a living allowance that follows the minimum and maximum amounts in the chart below and should indicate that amount in the application.

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance					
Full-time	1,700	\$20,400	\$40,800					
Three Quarter-time	1,200	n/a	\$28,560					
Half-time	900	n/a	\$20,400					
Reduced Half-time	675	n/a	\$15,504					
Quarter-time	450	n/a	\$10,608					
Minimum-time	300	n/a	\$8,568					
Abbreviated-time	100	n/a	\$2,448					

Table: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance

Exceptions to the Living Allowance Requirements

a. Programs existing prior to September 21, 1993, do not have to offer a living allowance. If an organization chooses to offer a living allowance, it does not have to pay its members the minimum but cannot exceed the maximum.

b. Education Award Program (EAP) Grantees are not required to provide a living allowance. If an organization chooses to offer a living allowance, it does not have to pay its members the minimum but cannot exceed the maximum.

c. Professional Corps Grantees must provide members a living allowance or salary. Organizations must pay members the minimum and can exceed the maximum. Professional Corps member salaries and benefits including childcare cannot be included in the federal share budget request to AmeriCorps.

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.

Grant Program	Maximum				
Individual Competitive State/Territory Program (cost reimbursement)	\$25,000				
Multi-state competitive (cost reimbursement)	\$25,000				
Professional Corps competitive Fixed Amount Applicants/Grantees	\$1,000*				
Full-cost competitive Fixed Amount Grant	\$25,000				
Education Award Program (EAP) Fixed Amount Grant (competitive and formula)	\$800 or \$1,000**				
All non-EAP formula subgrants	\$25,200***				

Table: Maximum Cost per MSY

*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 show significant organizational financial need.

** For the Education Award Program, AmeriCorps may provide a maximum of \$800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position. If at least 50 percent of a program's enrollees are disadvantaged youth, AmeriCorps may provide \$1,000 per enrollee, <u>42 U.S.C. § 12581a</u>.

***\$18,000 adjusted for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (As of March 2024 CPI was 0.4).

AmeriCorps may 1) treat an applicant as a professional corps if they meet the legal requirements for a professional corps (even if they did not submit a professional corps application); and 2) decide not to provide a grant to an organization that it determines cannot operate effectively without AmeriCorps operating funds.

3. Costs Associated with Evidence Building Activities e.g. performance data collection and management, foundational research, program evaluation, etc.

As noted in <u>2 CFR § 200.455</u>, costs associated with evidence building activities are allowable expenses or match under AmeriCorps grants. This includes costs related to performance data collection and management, foundational research, program evaluation, and related activities.

Indirect Costs

Application budgets may include indirect costs. Based on qualifying factors, applicants may -

- use the AmeriCorps-Fixed Percentage method (five/ten percent fixed administrative cost option) outlined in AmeriCorps' <u>Indirect Cost Guidance</u>;
- use a Federally approved indirect cost rate if they have one;
- use a 15 percent de minimis rate of modified total direct costs; or
- <u>may claim certain costs directly</u>.

All methods must be applied consistently across all Federal awards. No more than five percent of award funds may be used to recover indirect costs on AmeriCorps State and National grants under section 121(d) of the <u>National and Community</u> <u>Service Act of 1990</u>, as amended and AmeriCorps' regulations at <u>45 CFR 2521.95</u> and <u>2540.110</u>.

Use the <u>eGrants Indirect Cost Rate (IDCR) User Instructions</u> to enter the organization's Federal negotiated indirect cost rate or the de minimis rate information. Applicants should not submit documentation addressing the 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 <u>IndirectCostRate@americorps.gov</u>. The applicant may also obtain instructions and additional information by contacting the email address above.

Pre-Award Costs

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

Other Submission Requirements

Electronic Application Submission in eGrants

Applicants must submit final applications electronically via AmeriCorps' web-based application system.

The applicant's authorized representative must be the person who submits the application. The authorized representative must use their own account to sign and submit the application.

Applicants should contact the <u>AmeriCorps Hotline</u> at (800) 942-2677 if they have a problem when they create an account, prepare, or submit the application. Information about the AmeriCorps Hotline hours are also posted on the <u>AmeriCorps Hotline webpage</u>.

When contacting the AmeriCorps Hotline, be prepared to provide the application ID, organization name, and the name of the Notice to which the organization is applying. If the issue cannot be fixed by the deadline, applicants must continue working with the AmeriCorps Hotline to submit via the grant system.

APPLICATION NARRATIVES

Executive Summary (0 percent):

Please fill in the blanks of these sentences to complete the Executive Summary. There are two options for the second paragraph; please choose the appropriate language for your application. *Do not deviate from this template*:

"The [Name of the organization] will have [Number of] AmeriCorps members in [the locations the AmeriCorps members will serve, e.g. - City, State or State(s)]. AmeriCorps members will

[service activities the members will do]. 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].

Cost Reimbursement grant applicants:

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 e.g., EAP, Full-Cost Fixed, No Cost Slots:

In addition to the AmeriCorps investment, \$[amount of local, state, and Federal Funds] in public funding and \$[amount of non-governmental funds] in private funding will support the project."

Program Design (50 percent):

1. Community and Logic Model (24 points)

The applicant will provide a detailed summary of the community problem, including:

- How the inequities faced by underserved communities may contribute to the problem.
- How the <u>CDC's Social Vulnerability Index</u> explains the extent of the problem.
- How the applicant's intervention(s) will lead to the outcomes identified in the organization's Logic Model.

The applicant must describe in the Logic Model

- 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.
 - Setting and community condition where the intervention is delivered.
 - Number of AmeriCorps members who will deliver the intervention.
 - Characteristics of AmeriCorps members, including specific knowledge, skills, and abilities required to implement the intervention.
 - The core activities that members will deliver as part of the intervention including:
 - Length of each activity (e.g., the total number of weeks, sessions, or months of the intervention).
 - Dosage of each activity (e.g., the number of hours per session or sessions per week).
 - 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 <u>National Performance Measures</u> will be used as output indicators.
- Outcomes that result from the intervention, including meaningful changes in knowledge/skill, attitude, behavior, or condition. If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as outcome indicators.

Programs should include short, medium, or long-term outcomes. Applicants are not required to measure all components of their Logic Model. The applicant's performance measures should be consistent with the program's Logic Model and should represent significant program activities.

Applicants with multiple interventions should include the above information for each intervention in the logic model.

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. Second, the quality of the applicant's evidence, how the evidence aligns with <u>funding priorities</u>, and how the evidence supports the proposed program.

Evidence Tier, 12 points

Each applicant will receive an evidence tier assessment. This is based on the relative strength of the applicant's evidence base and the likelihood that the proposed intervention will lead to the outcomes identified in the Logic Model narrative.

AmeriCorps values and funds programs at all points along the evidence continuum and expects programs to progress along the evidence continuum over time. Thus, **applicants should not be deterred from applying for funding due to their current evidence level**. In 2024, the evidence tiers of successful AmeriCorps State and National applicants that were competing were as follows: Strong 55 percent, Moderate 16 percent, Preliminary 19 percent, and Pre-Preliminary 11 percent.

To qualify for the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tier, applicants may submit up to two evidence documents, plus the evaluation report from their last three-year grant cycle, if applicable. If multiple evidence documents 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.

The intervention evaluated in the submitted evidence documents must match the intervention proposed by the applicant in the Community and Logic Model sections of the application. Use the <u>Mandatory Supplemental Information</u> for a definition of same intervention). Applicants must meet all requirements of an evidence tier to be considered for that tier.

Submitted evidence documents that do not sufficiently match the intervention will not be reviewed or receive any points.

In the Evidence Tier section of the application narrative, applicants must:

- Summarize the study design and key findings of the evidence documents submitted, plus, if applicable, the evaluation report from their last three-year grant cycle; and
- Describe any other evidence that supports their program, including past performance measure data and/or other research studies that inform their program design.

Applicants should provide citations for the studies they describe.

Evidence Quality (8 points)

Reviewers will score the quality of an applicant's evidence and the extent to which it supports the proposed program design.

Standards for scoring in the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tiers: Submitted evidence documents:

- 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.;
- Describe evaluations that were conducted relatively recently, preferably within the last six years; and
- Show a meaningful and significant positive effect on program beneficiaries or AmeriCorps members in at least one key outcome of interest.

Standards for scoring in the Pre-Preliminary evidence tier:

- 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; and
- The evidence described by the applicant indicates a meaningful positive effect on program beneficiaries or AmeriCorps members in at least one key outcome of interest.

3. Notice Priority (0 points)

The applicant's proposed program fits within one or more of the AmeriCorps funding priorities.

4. Member Experience (6 points)

- The applicant describes how AmeriCorps members will be provided leadership and skill development opportunities.
- The applicant describes how the organization will provide members an asset-based orientation to the community.

Organizational Capability (25 percent):

1. Organizational Background and Staffing (15 points)

- The applicant describes the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the staff that will be implementing and providing oversight of the program.
- The applicant describes their organization's mission and relevant experience in areas such as volunteer recruitment and management, community outreach, overcoming project implementation challenges, etc.
- The applicant describes their organization's experience with managing grants, especially federal or state grants. Include your past performance in meeting:
 - Grant goals and objectives.
 - Compliance and reporting requirements.

Note: if you do not have experience with managing grants, please indicate that.

• The applicant has facilitated, partnered, or participated in educational, or workforce development programs e.g. work experience or job training programs, etc.

2. Member Supervision (6 points)

- The applicant describes how AmeriCorps members will receive sufficient guidance and support from their supervisor to provide effective service. E.g., structure for member supervision: cadence and format of supervisor/AmeriCorps member checkins, member, and supervisor opportunities to assess strengths and opportunities for growth, member training plan, etc.
- The applicant describes how AmeriCorps supervisors will be adequately trained to follow AmeriCorps and program regulations, priorities, and expectations. E.g., structure for support of supervisors, training plan for supervisors related to supervision and AmeriCorps rules and regulations, cadence and format of AmeriCorps supervisors/their supervisors check ins, opportunities to assess strengthens and opportunities for growth of supervisors, etc.

3. Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (4 points)

- The leadership and staff of the organization have similar lived experience as the beneficiary population and/or community being served.
- The applicant's definitions of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility are demonstrated by the organization. E.g., diversity on the Board of Directors, agency staff and leadership, and/or volunteers. The organization upholds a supportive and safe environment for individuals of diverse backgrounds.

Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 percent):

1. Member Recruitment (8 points)

- The applicant describes budget expenses to support recruitment of AmeriCorps members best suited to serve the community e.g. from geographic or demographic communities in which the program operates.
- The applicant describes how the AmeriCorps member living allowance and other benefits are adjusted within the maximum and minimum living allowance to accommodate for regional variations in contributing to cost of living including: housing, transportation, food, and other expenses. This may vary depending on a program's type of member slots, e.g. FT, PT, RPT, etc.

2. Member Retention (9 points)

• The applicant provides a description of budget expenses to support retention of AmeriCorps members. E.g., additional member benefits such as paying above the minimum living allowance, supporting workforce pathways, certifications, coaching for members, resume building, individual benefit as well as community building, network building, member recognition, alumni programming, etc.

3. Data Collection (8 points)

• The applicant provides a description of budget expenses to support data collection, continuous improvement activities, and evaluation of the interventions and impact on the community and the member experience.

Evaluation Plan (0 percent)

• Required for recompeting applicants:

If the applicant has previously received three or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed, the applicant must upload an evaluation plan in AmeriCorps' web-based application system as part of the application submission.

Applicants must use the <u>evaluation plan template</u> found on the <u>2025 funding opportunity</u> webpage to craft their evaluation plans. The evaluation plan will not be scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions have been made.

All applicants enter N/A in the *Evaluation Summary or Plan* field of the Narrative. Any other text entered in this field will not be reviewed.

Amendment Justification (0 percent):

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

Clarification Information (0 percent):

Enter N/A. This field will be utilized should an applicant be funded.

Continuation Changes (0 percent):

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

Review and Selection Process

AmeriCorps will engage External Reviewers with relevant expertise to assess the eligible applications. 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:

1. Initial Application Compliance and Eligibility Review

Serve Alaska and AmeriCorps will do an initial compliance and eligibility check before reviewing applications. To pass this check, applicants must:

- Be an eligible organization,
- Be eligible to apply for a Full Cost Fixed Grant,
- Be eligible to submit directly to AmeriCorps,
- Have an active SAM registration, and
- Submit an application by the submission deadline.

Eligibility assessment is intended to ensure that only those applications that are eligible for award are 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.

2. Application Review

Serve Alaska Review

Serve Alaska staff and review committee will assess applications based on the Program Design, Organizational Capability, Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy, and Evidence Selection Criteria, as well as the relevancy to Alaskan beneficiaries. Serve Alaska Commission will make the final decision of which applications to forward to AmeriCorps for further review.

External Review

External Reviewers will assess applications based on the Program Design, Organizational Capability, Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy, and Evidence Selection Criteria.

Internal Review

AmeriCorps will review and assess the input from the State Service Commissions about National Direct applications. Staff will also assess budget compliance and review for prohibited activities.

Post-Review Quality Control

AmeriCorps staff will review the initial results for fairness and consistency. Some applications may be selected for a Post-Review Quality Control assessment.

Pre-Award Risk Assessment

Serve Alaska will conduct a pre-award risk assessment regarding financial and organizational capacity to administer federal grants with each new eligible entity submitting an AmeriCorps application for funding.

In assessing risks, AmeriCorps may consider:

- 1. Due Diligence, including:
 - Federal debt delinquency;
 - Suspension and debarment;
 - Information available through Office of Management and Budget (OMB)- designated sources of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as:
 - o <u>U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services;</u>
 - o System for Award Management (SAM); and
 - 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; and
 - Public Litigation Records.
- 2. Operational and Financial Management, including:
 - Financial stability; and
 - Operational and Financial Management Survey (OFMS).
- 3. Past Performance, including:
 - Applicant's record in managing previous AmeriCorps awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:
 - Timely compliance with applicable reporting requirements;
 - Accuracy of data reported;
 - Validity of performance measure data reported;
 - Conformity to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards;
 - Ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients;

- Timely closeout of other awards;
- Meeting matching requirements;
- Extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards; and
- Meeting <u>National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) compliance</u>.
- 4. Other Programmatic Risks, Financial, Organizational, Compliance, and Fraud including:
 - Publicly available information, including from the applicant organization's website;
 - Amount of funding requested by the organization, and
 - Other elements, such as keyword searches for prohibited activities.

Selection for Funding

The review and selection process are designed to:

- Identify how well eligible applications are aligned with the application selection criteria.
- Build a diversified portfolio based on the following strategic considerations:
 - AmeriCorps Funding Priorities;
 - Meaningful representation of:
 - rural communities, and
 - innovative community strategies; and
 - CEO discretion to advance strategic goals.

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

Applicant Resolution

After the application review process but before any grant awards are issued, AmeriCorps may ask an applicant for additional information to address any application compliance or risk issues. If an applicant does not respond promptly to these requests, then the applicant may be denied funding.

AmeriCorps will ask all grantees for a written compliance implementation plan that includes notification of waste, fraud, and abuse to the agency's Office of Inspector General.

Feedback to Applicants

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

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 <u>AmeriCorps Funded Grants</u> within 90 business days after all grants are awarded.

Further information about funded grants and subgrants is also available in <u>USASpending.gov</u>.

FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Federal Award Notices

AmeriCorps will make awards following the selection announcement. AmeriCorps anticipates announcing the results of this funding opportunity by mid-April 2025 depending on the availability of congressional appropriations. All applicants, successful or not, will be notified of funding decisions via email.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Uniform Guidance

All awards made under this Notice must follow the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, in <u>2 CFR Parts 200</u> and <u>2205</u>.

AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions

All grants must follow the FY 2025 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, and the FY 2025 Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for the particular program (when applicable). These Terms and Conditions contain mandatory compliance and reporting requirements, and applicants should review these instructions prior to any Notice of Grant Award. Current versions of the AmeriCorps General and Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for each of its programs is available on the <u>AmeriCorps Manage Your Grant webpage</u>.

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. Use <u>45 CFR</u> <u>2540.200-2540.207</u> and <u>National Service Criminal History Check Resources</u> for complete information and FAQs.

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 per <u>2 CFR 200.315</u>.

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 2025 are considered continuation applicants. Continuation applicants must submit an application to be eligible to receive funding for the FY 2025 program year. Continuation applicants must follow the requirements for continuation application content as outlined in the Application Instructions.

Please use the <u>Application Instructions</u> for how to request 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 selection criteria published in the RFP.

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.

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.

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. Use <u>5 CFR 1320.5(b)(2)(i)</u>. This collection is approved under OMB Control #: 3045-0047, Application Instructions, State and National Competitive, New and Continuation, Expiration Date: September 30, 2026.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974, <u>5 U.S.C §552a</u>, requires that we notify applicants that the information requested under this Notice of Funding is collected pursuant to <u>42 U.S.C. §12592</u> and 12615 of the <u>National and Community Service Act of 1990 as amended</u>, and <u>42 U.S.C. §4953</u> 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.

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.