State of Alaska
Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
Division of Community and Regional Affairs
Serve Alaska, State Service Commission

FY 2026 FORMULA FUNDED AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL

PLANNING GRANTS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

SOLICITATION NUMBER: 26AC-F
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Program Description

This Serve Alaska RFP is an overview of the process for submitting AmeriCorps applications in Alaska to the state service commission, Serve Alaska. This document is to be read and followed, along with the Budget Instructions, Cost Reimbursement Budget Workbook, and Application Form.

Purpose of AmeriCorps Funding
AmeriCorps improves lives, strengthens communities, fosters civic engagement, and brings people together to tackle some of the country's most pressing challenges through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities and those serving.

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations 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. AmeriCorps members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, AmeriCorps members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award that they can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

Serve Alaska Funding Priorities
A prime focus of Serve Alaska, as directed by the Serve Alaska State Service Commission, is to address the unmet needs of underserved communities. Current Serve Alaska priorities include education, mental health, workforce development, conservation, senior support services, veterans and military families, homelessness and housing, tribal organizations, public safety and criminal justice, bridge building, and missing/murdered indigenous people.

AmeriCorps Funding Priorities

AmeriCorps' priorities for this funding opportunity are:

- **Faith-Based**
  - Organizations that are faith-based.
- **Serve Communities**
  - Serve communities with concentrated poverty, rural communities, and tribal communities.
  - Implement programs for or expand access to high-quality youth mental health and substance use recovery services and prepare AmeriCorps members to enter behavioral health careers. These may include individuals who have experienced substance use and mental health challenges.
  - Focus on improving quality of life for veterans, active-duty members of the Armed Forces, and their families through models that provide effective interventions or services or that are designed to recruit veterans, military spouses, and their older children into national service, e.g., veterans serving in mentorship roles.

- Focus on public safety, crime prevention, and/or partnerships between law enforcement and the community.
- Focus on expanding outdoor recreation opportunities for future generations by maintaining public lands; supporting wildland fire mitigation and sustainable forest management; and providing reforestation services.
- Create workforce pathways for AmeriCorps members, including deliberate training, such as pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship opportunities, certifications, and hiring preferences or support;
- Focus on strengthening families, e.g., activities that aim to support low-income parents through parenting education, responsible parenting and healthy relationship skills.

- **Benefit AmeriCorps Members**
  - Enhanced member experience by providing opportunities for skill attainment, personal growth and connection to the community they are serving in support of a lifetime of civic participation.
  - Enhance and expand services to formerly incarcerated and at-risk youth and/or engage those youth as AmeriCorps members.

Federal Award Information

Estimated Available Funds
The actual level of funding is subject to the availability of annual appropriations. Awards are usually made in amounts ranging from $50,000 to $60,000.

Period of Performance
Serve Alaska anticipates making 12-month pass-through grants.

The project start date may not occur prior to the date AmeriCorps awards the grant. Serve Alaska recommends a starting date of **January 1, 2027** or later to ensure that awards are made prior to project start.

Types of Grants
Funding available with this RFP is for AmeriCorps program planning grants.

Planning Grant Applications: These types of grants are for organizations interested in applying for AmeriCorps program funding in the next 1-2 years and would like assistance in developing their program. These grants last for no longer than 12 months and applicants will fill out the planning grant application form and budget workbook.

Eligibility Information
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
- States and US Territories

Applicants must have a valid SAM registration and Unique Entity Identifier to receive an award. Serve Alaska staff can assist with this if applicant is unsure of status.

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

Cost Sharing or Matching
A first-time successful applicant is required to match the federal award at 24 percent for the first three-year funding period. The applicant's match can be non-AmeriCorps cash and/or in-kind contributions. Applicants must indicate in their budget workbook whether the match is proposed or secured. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to meet the match requirement at the time of application submission.

Section 121(e)(5) of NCSA (42 U.S.C. §12571(e)) requires grantees that use other Federal funds as matching funds for an AmeriCorps grant to report those amounts and sources. Grantees must track and be prepared to report federal funds as match separately each year and at closeout. Serve Alaska will provide a form for grantees to report this match.

Match Waiver
In accordance with 45 CFR 2521.70, applicants may request a full or partial waiver of match requirements. To qualify for a match waiver, grantees must demonstrate **ONE** of the following:

- Initial difficulties in developing local funding sources during the first three years of operations;
- An economic downturn, natural disaster, or similar event in the grantee's service area that severely restricts or reduces sources of local funding support;
- The unexpected discontinuation of local support from one or more sources that a project has relied on for a period of years; or
- An organizational revenue of less than $500,000.

Applicants who plan to request a match waiver should submit a request at the time the application is submitted. Programs applying through Serve Alaska must submit requests for alternative match to Serve Alaska, who will submit it to AmeriCorps on their behalf.

RFP and Application Requirements

State of Alaska Contact Person:
All correspondence having to do with this RFP shall be sent to:

Lily Tegner, Grant Administrator II
Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
Division of Community and Regional Affairs, Serve Alaska
550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1640
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3569
Serve.Alaska@alaska.gov
Phone: (907) 269-4537

Application Process

For the first review period, applicants will NOT enter their application in eGrants, the official AmeriCorps application and grants management online portal. Applicants will fully complete the application form; a budget workbook; and submit all additional documents via email. All documentation included in this RFP is mandatory to review and consult before applying to ensure that all applications are filled out completely and correctly.

Application Submission
The deadline for the applications is **Tuesday, December 1, 2026,** by **5:00 pm via email to** Serve.Alaska@alaska.gov.

Application Contents

- Planning Grant Application Form
- Budget Workbook
- Required Additional Documents:
  - Most recent single audit report or financial statements,
  - IRS Form 990

Timeline and Deadlines

Timeline for 2026-27 Planning Grant Funding	Dates
Serve Alaska RFP Published	Monday, November 2, 2026
Application Submission to Serve Alaska by 5pm	Tuesday, December 1, 2026
Serve Alaska Commission Decision on Funding	Tuesday, December 8, 2026
Applicants Notified of Status	Thursday, December 10, 2026
Funding Appeals Due by 5pm	Thursday, December 17, 2026

Deadlines
Deadlines listed in this RFP must be followed. If a deadline cannot be met, applicants must submit an email prior to the deadline explaining the extenuating circumstance causing the delay. Such notice must be sent to Serve Alaska via email to Serve.Alaska@alaska.gov. If email is not available, use the phone number listed above in the Contact Person section. Missed deadlines are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Any exceptions/approval of extension requires written approval by Serve Alaska.

Application Review Process

Each applicant must describe a project that will deploy AmeriCorps members effectively to solve a significant community problem. Serve Alaska urges applicants to submit high quality applications that carefully follow the guidance in this RFP. The quality of an application will be an important factor in determining whether an organization will receive funding.

Pre-Award Risk Assessment
Risk assessments are a requirement under 2 CFR 200.206 regulations. The information contained in the risk assessment is intended to help the Serve Alaska Commission understand the agency/organization and evaluate its overall operational and financial controls.

Serve Alaska will conduct a pre-award risk assessment regarding financial and organizational capacity to administer federal grants with each new agency/organization submitting an AmeriCorps application for funding. While not part of the official application process, Serve Alaska will review all risk assessments prior to awarding a grant. If Serve Alaska determines that an applicant's operational and financial controls are deficient, it may postpone the grant award until sufficient corrective action is completed or may refrain from awarding the grant altogether. Monitoring timelines will be created in consideration of pre-award risk assessment results.

Federal Award Administration Information

Awards under this RFP are authorized by the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, by the Serve America Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.)

Administrative and National Policy Requirements
All awards made under this RFP 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. This RFP should be read together with the AmeriCorps Regulations 45 CFR 2520–2550.

Documents that Govern the Federal Award
The AmeriCorps Notice of Grant Award incorporates the approved sub-application as part of a binding commitment under the grant as well as the AmeriCorps regulations and provisions. Serve Alaska RFP and passthrough Grant Agreement are also included in the governing documents.

AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions
All awards made under this formula planning grant funding will be subject to the FY 2026 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, and the FY 2026 AmeriCorps State and National Terms and Conditions. These Terms and Conditions contain detailed mandatory compliance and reporting requirements. Current versions of the AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions and the AmeriCorps State and National Terms and Conditions are available at the Manage Your Grant AmeriCorps webpage: https://www.americorps.gov/grantees-sponsors/manage-your-grant.

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.**

Applications must include a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), which is generated as part of the SAM registration process. AmeriCorps will not make awards to entities that do not have a valid SAM registration and UEI.

Applications must include an Employer Identification Number (EIN). The UEI and EIN must be entered by the organization's Grantee Administrator as an organization attribute, and this will apply the information to all applications for the organization.

Appeal Process

In the event the Serve Alaska Commission does not recommend funding an application, or a deadline has been missed without prior approval, the following appeal procedure must be followed for an appeal to occur. All correspondence must be sent to the contact person listed above.

The appeal procedure of Serve Alaska is as follows:

Missed Deadline:

- A request for appeal of a missed deadline must be made prior to the due date.
- Appeals must be sent via email to Serve.Alaska@alaska.gov.

Funding:

Serve Alaska will notify proposal applicants of the Application Review results and potential funding recommendations.

- If the applicant has substantive objections to the results of the Application Review and/or the Serve Alaska Commission decision, the applicant may request an appeal.
- A request for appeal must be made to Serve Alaska by the due date noted in this RFP.
    - Appeals must be sent via email to Serve.Alaska@alaska.gov.
- If a request for an appeal is made, Serve Alaska shall hear such additional information as may be deemed appropriate and pertinent to the matter involved. A delegation of not more than three representatives of the requesting applicant may present such additional information. In its discretion, Serve Alaska may invite discussion or comments from others knowledgeable in the matter being appealed.
- Serve Alaska shall send to the applicant and others as deemed appropriate, its written determination pursuant to the request for appeal.
- If an application, which has previously been rejected by Serve Alaska, is submitted for future funding in a substantially altered condition, Serve Alaska shall treat this grant as a new grant request, and all policies and procedures relating to a new grant will apply.

Appendix 1 – AmeriCorps Focus Areas

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, AmeriCorps has the following Focus Areas:

Disaster Services
When disaster strikes, AmeriCorps members repair homes, assist survivors, and help restore communities, having deployed thousands of members to affected areas.

Economic Opportunity
AmeriCorps programs serve as a pathway to employment opportunities and help develop vital work skills.

Education
AmeriCorps members support students, improve attendance and engagement, increase high-school graduation rates, and expand college enrollment.

Environmental Stewardship
AmeriCorps helps conserve natural habitats, protects clean air and water, reduces utility bills by improving home energy efficiency, and more.

Healthy Futures
AmeriCorps members help improve the physical and mental well-being of Americans, supporting healthy futures programs.

Veterans and Military Families
AmeriCorps assists veterans and military families, connecting them to education opportunities, jobs, and the benefits they have earned.