



**Office of Children
and Family Services**



AmeriCorps
New York

**Commission on National and Community Service
Request For Proposals (RFP) # 1157
New York State AmeriCorps Competitive**

Programmatic and Evidence Info Session

November 8, 2023

AmeriCorps Programmatic Information Overview

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AmeriCorps Overview

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NYS Commission on National & Community Service

- Promotes volunteerism and community service as methods to solve local problems.
- Directs national service policy for the state and administers funding awarded by AmeriCorps to support New York State AmeriCorps programs.
- Awards AmeriCorps grants to nonprofits, faith & community-based organizations, public agencies, Native American tribes, and institutions of higher education that will **operate solely in New York State.**

What is AmeriCorps?

- AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities.
- Each organization uses its AmeriCorps funding to recruit, place and supervise AmeriCorps members, many of whom receive a living allowance and other benefits including an education award upon successful completion of their service term.

AmeriCorps-specific provisions and terms

- Solely for program-related expenses and not for general organizational expenses
- Includes an allotment of AmeriCorps member positions and funds that are directly tied to the number of members
- The requirement that grant recipients must contribute cash or in-kind (match)



Programmatic Documents

NYS Commission on National and Community Service

- Request for Proposal
- Bidder's Notice

Document	RFP 1157
NOFO	Link
Performance Measure Instruction (PMI)	Link
Application Instruction	Link
Mandatory Supplemental Information (MSI)	Link
Bidder's Notice	Link



Calendar of Events

1.2 Calendar of Events

Issuance of Request for Proposals	11/2/2023
Programmatic and Evidence Informational Meeting Session (<i>optional</i>) (see Section 1.3)	11/6/2023 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Technical Informational Meeting Session (<i>optional</i>) (see Section 1.3)	11/6/2023 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Deadline for Submission of Written Questions (see Section 1.4)	11/10/2023 by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time
Responses to Written Questions Posted	On or about 11/20/2023
Recommended Date to Request to Submit Additional Projects (see Section 2.3), and deadline to Prequalify in the Grants Gateway (see Section 3.2)	11/23/2023 by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Deadline for Submission of Proposals in eGrants (see Section 5.5) and New York State Supporting Documents (see Section 1.6)	12/05/2023 by 12:00 a.m. (midnight) Eastern Time



Section 4.1 - Funding Priorities

AmeriCorps Funding Priorities

- Organizations leading service in communities with concentrated poverty, rural communities, tribal communities, and those organizations serving historically underrepresented and underserved individuals, including but not limited to communities of color, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community, people with arrest and/or conviction records, and religious minorities.

Section 4.1 – AmeriCorps Funding Priorities

- Evidence-based interventions on the AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange that are assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence. Please note that many of these interventions have demonstrated effectiveness in improving outcomes for individuals living in underserved communities and that the agency has committed resources to supporting grantees seeking to replicate and evaluate these interventions in similar communities
- Veterans and Military Families, Caregivers, and Survivors – a program model that improves the quality of life of veterans and improves the wellbeing of military and veteran families, caregivers, and survivors

Section 4.1 – AmeriCorps Funding Priorities

- Faith-based organizations
- Programs that provide additional benefits to AmeriCorps members aimed at enhancing member experience and bolstering member recruitment and retention, such as paying more than the minimum living allowance, transportation, housing, food, etc.
- Programs that create workforce pathways for AmeriCorps members, including deliberate training, certifications, and hiring preferences or support



Section 4.1 – AmeriCorps Funding Priorities

- Environmental stewardship, including supporting communities to become more resilient through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve land and water, increase renewable energy use and improve at risk ecosystems, especially in underserved households and communities.



Section 4.1 – AmeriCorps Funding Priorities

New Priorities in PY2024

- Community-based programs that enhance and expand services to second chance youth and/or engage those youth as AmeriCorps members;
- Programs that support civic bridgebuilding programs and projects to reduce polarization and community divisions; and providing training in civic bridgebuilding skills and techniques to AmeriCorps members;
- Programs focused on implementing or expanding access to high- quality early learning and those that prepare Americorps members to enter early learning careers

Section 4.2 - Program Requirements

The Commission has determined that an AmeriCorps program funded under this RFP must propose a minimum of ten (10) Member Service Years (MSYs).

One Member Service Year (MSY) is equivalent to a full-time AmeriCorps position (at least 1,700 service hours.)

AmeriCorps's general practice is to award no more than fifty (50) member positions (slots) to organizations receiving an AmeriCorps grant for the first time



Section 4.2 - Program Requirements

New York State governmental entities approved for AmeriCorps funding will be compensated on a cost reimbursement basis only; please submit your budget accordingly.

Member Living Allowance - The applicant's proposed budget must include an annual living allowance for full-time members.

Section 4.2 – AmeriCorps Cost per MSY

Table: Maximum Cost per MSY

Grant Program	Maximum
Individual Competitive State/Territory Program (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**

Maximum Cost per MSY was \$23,000 for PY2023, which means an increase of \$2,000 for PY2024.



Section 4.2 – AmeriCorps Living Allowance

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-Time	1,700	\$18,700	\$37,400
Three Quarter-Time	1,200	n/a	\$26,180
Half-Time	900	n/a	\$18,700
Reduced Half-Time	675	n/a	\$14,212
Quarter Time	450	n/a	\$9,724
Minimum Time	300	n/a	\$7,854
Abbreviated Time	100	n/a	\$2,244



Section 4.2 - Program Requirements

Maximum Cost per Member Service Year (MSY)

- The maximum cost per MSY is NOT to be confused with the maximum Member Living Allowance
- AmeriCorps cost per MSY is determined by dividing AmeriCorps share of budgeted grant costs by the number of MSYs requested
- All grantees are capped at a maximum cost per MSY

Section 4.2 - Program Requirements

Cost Sharing or “Match” Requirements

- AmeriCorps requires that applicants submit their applications with the required match and any alternate match schedule.
- Match can be non-AmeriCorps cash and/or in-kind contributions
- Match can be either proposed or secured

AmeriCorps-specific provisions and terms

- ASN Cost-Reimbursement Grant Applicants are required to match funds

AmeriCorps Funding Year	1, 2, 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
Grantee Share Requirements	24%	26%	30%	34%	38%	42%	46%	50%

- The applicant's match can be non-AmeriCorps cash and/or in-kind contributions. Applicants must indicate whether the match is proposed or secured.
- Applicants must demonstrate the ability to meet the match requirement at the time of application submission.

AmeriCorps-specific provisions and terms

- Full cost fixed-amount grants also have no matching requirements
- AmeriCorps does not provide all the funds necessary to operate an fixed-amount grant program so organizations should raise the additional revenue required to operate the program



Section 4.2 - Program Requirements

Performance Measures

- All applications must include at least one (1) aligned performance measure (output and outcome) that corresponds to the proposed primary intervention.
- This may be a National Performance Measure, or an applicant determined measure.
- All applicants should use both performance and evaluation data to assess their work and be prepared to make tactical and strategic adjustments to achieve their goals

Section 5.1 – Proposal Content

<https://egrants.cns.gov/>

Applications must not exceed ten (10) pages.

The application sections that count towards the narrative page limit are:

SF-424, Face Sheet; Executive Summary; Program Design, Organizational Capability, and Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy narratives.

Streamlining the NOFO to make it easier for applicants to apply by decreasing the NOFO criteria from 30 criteria to 17 criteria.

The Logic Model may not exceed eighty (8*) pages

*Logic Model used to be three (3) pages maximum in the past.

Application Deadline in eGrants

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

12:00 a.m. (early Midnight) Eastern Time

To be safe, do not click submit proposal in eGrants later than 11:55 pm on Monday December 4 in case eGrants takes a while to load.

Evidence Overview

Evidence Resources

CNCS Evidence Resources & Training

- ASN Mandatory Supplemental Instruction
- Best Practices in Demonstrating Evidence
- CNCS Evidence Exchange



Evidence Resources

2024 Mandatory Supplemental Instruction

Evidence Tiers

Pre-Preliminary

Preliminary

Moderate

Strong



Evidence Resources

CNCS Technical Assistance: Best Practices in Demonstrating Evidence

- Pre-Recorded webinar: <https://youtu.be/SHn-CFvThaM>
 - CNCS' approach to evidence
 - Evidence tiers
 - Evidence quality
 - Tips for applicants
 - Links to additional resources



Evidence Resources

CNCS Knowledge Network

- Evidence Exchange: <https://americorps.gov/about/our-impact/evidence-exchange>



Questions and Answers

- Submit questions no later than the deadline for submission of written questions specified in Section 1.2 Calendar of Events of RFP
- Comprehensive list of questions will be posted on:
 - [NYS Grants Gateway System](#)
 - [OCFS website](#)
 - [Contract Reporter website](#)
 - <https://newyorkersvolunteer.ny.gov/>



QUESTIONS?

Please email to AmeriCorpsRFP@ocfs.ny.gov



THANK YOU!



AmeriCorps
New York



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and Family Services