

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Federal Agency Name: AmeriCorps
Funding Opportunity Title: Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Days of Service Grants
Announcement Type: Initial Announcement
CFDA Number: 94.014 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service
94.012 - September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance

Disclosures:

Publication of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (Notice) does not obligate AmeriCorps to award any specific number of grants or to commit any particular amount of funding. In September of 2020, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) rebranded its name. Although CNCS remains its legal name, CNCS now operates under the working name of AmeriCorps.

Important Dates

- Applications are due **Thursday, June 30, 2022, by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**
- Successful applicants will be notified in August 2022.

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FULL TEXT OF THE NOTICE

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A.1. Purpose of Days of Service Funding

AmeriCorps brings people together to tackle the country's most pressing challenges through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. AmeriCorps helps make service a cornerstone of our national culture.

AmeriCorps recently released its [2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#) which defines the agency's goals, objectives, and strategies to both meet and exceed the agency's mission to improve lives and strengthen communities. Over the next 5 years, AmeriCorps will support the following goals to better position the agency to respond to national and local needs and help the communities it serves prosper: partner with communities to alleviate poverty and advance racial equity; enhance the experience for AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers; unite Americans by bringing them together in service; effectively steward federal resources; and make AmeriCorps one of the best and most equitable places to work in the Federal government.

Over the next five years, AmeriCorps will invest in existing and new partnerships with non-profit, faith-based, and Tribal organizations, and state service commissions, to get things done for America. We will prioritize investment in the most critical issues of our time – public health, climate and the environment, and education and economic opportunity – within AmeriCorps' Focus Areas (Appendix 1) and we will increase our efforts to ensure our AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Senior volunteers reflect the communities where they serve. We will target our investments toward communities where the need is greatest, particularly those with populations that face racial inequality and poverty. These steps will enable more Americans than ever to strengthen the communities that need it most across the nation through their service.

Days of Service grants include funding for both September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance (September 11th) and Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (MLK). Applicant organizations may apply for either September 11th, MLK, or both. Applicants must submit a separate application for each Day of Service. Applicants may not submit more than one application for each Day of Service.

In 1994 and 2009 respectively, Congress designated AmeriCorps as the federal agency responsible for implementing the [Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service](#) (annually on the 3rd Monday in January) on the federal holiday bearing his name and the [September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance](#). Projects developed for these days of service should occur on or near these days of service and offer ongoing opportunities to serve or volunteer throughout the year.

In addition, for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service we encourage you to honor Dr. King's life example and develop projects that increase economic, environmental, educational, or other forms of equity and that meet an important immediate community need or helps to addresses systemic issues.

For the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance, we encourage you to develop projects that honor and pay tribute to those who lost their lives on September 11,

2001, and those who rose in service in response to that tragedy as well as meet an important immediate community need or helps to addresses systemic issues.

AmeriCorps also expects each project plan to include offering ongoing opportunities to serve and to share information about how to serve with AmeriCorps.

A.2. Performance Goals or Expected Outcomes

- Martin Luther King Day of Service Activities shall be performed on or near January 16, 2023
- 9-11 Day of Service and Remembrance shall be performed on **or near** September 11, 2023

All recipients will be required to provide data on the following indicators in annual Progress Reports:

- Number of volunteers recruited, trained, and committed to one or more future service activities
- Number of organizations engaged and committed to one or more future service activities that honor and reflect MLK Day or September 11th.

AmeriCorps will ask grantees to report not less than one month in advance of the Day of Service activities, locations, and projects being supported with federal funding and to register their projects in a projects registry tool that is discoverable in AmeriCorps' search tool. For MLK Day, those reports will be due at the end of the first week of December. A spreadsheet will be provided for this purpose.

Additionally, recipients must report values for all indicators that are relevant to the activities described in the approved grant application in annual progress reports. AmeriCorps expects the reported values to be reasonably ambitious and to correspond to the activities proposed by the recipient in the application.

A.3. Program Authority

Awards under this Notice are authorized by statute. For September 11th, Section 198(k) of the National and Community Service Act, ([42 U.S.C. § 12653\(k\)](#)). For MLK, Section 198(i) of the National and Community Service Act, ([42 U.S.C. § 12653\(i\)](#)).

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

B.1. Estimated Available Funds

AmeriCorps anticipates approximately \$1,300,000 total for new Days of Service FY 2022 awards. The process for continuation awards will be run separately.

B.2. Estimated Award Amount

AmeriCorps expects to make up to eight individual grant awards between \$100,000 and \$500,000. Applicants that request less than \$100,000 or more than \$500,000 will not advance to the review process.

B.3. Period of Performance

AmeriCorps anticipates making three-year grants. The agency generally makes an initial award for the first year of the period of performance, based on a one-year budget. Continuation awards for subsequent years are not guaranteed; they depend upon availability of appropriations and satisfactory performance.

B.4. Type of Award

Days of Service grants will be awarded on a cost reimbursement basis following a merit review process outlined in section E.2. This Notice allows recipients to act as pass-through entities, subgranting organizations, partnership coordinators, or as the sole entity implementing Days of Service activities.

Pass-through entities must select subrecipients on a competitive basis through a subgrant. Acting as a pass-through entity (subawarding) is not required. Pass-through applicants should clearly describe their plan for subawarding in their application narrative.

Subawards are to be made in annual amounts of \$1,000 or more per year. AmeriCorps encourages Days of Service grant recipients that intend to award larger subawards, to do so to subrecipients that show higher levels of impact and effectiveness. Subrecipients must adhere to all AmeriCorps requirements of prime recipients in addition to any others imposed on the awards from prime recipients.

Recipients should provide sufficient public notice of the availability of Days of Service subawards to organizations within their network and out of their network community. Pass-through entities and subgranting organizations will ensure that the following information is available to all potential applicants:

- the types of organizations that are eligible for funding
- how to obtain and submit an application to the subawarding organization (subapplicants should apply to the Days of Service recipient and not to AmeriCorps)
- the criteria (including appropriate subcriteria) that will be considered in reviewing applications
- any relative percentages, weights, or other means that will be used to distinguish applications
- reporting requirements of subrecipients.

Applicants may also apply to this Notice with a partner organization(s) and a partnership plan. Partners must be named in the application in the Organizational Capability narrative section at the time the application is submitted to AmeriCorps, and the partnership plan should clearly identify how the partnership is structured to carry out the project and grant requirements.

Award recipients will be assigned to an AmeriCorps Portfolio Manager, who will be responsible for assessing recipient performance, providing training and technical assistance, and serving as the agency's primary point of contact.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

C.1. Eligible Applicants

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
- state service commissions
- states and US Territories

In addition to Indian Tribes as defined in 2 CFR 200.1, tribal organizations that are controlled, authorized, or chartered by Federally recognized Indian Tribes are also eligible to apply. If an entity applies for an award as a tribal organization that is controlled or chartered by one or more Indian Tribes, the organization must provide copies of, or links to, documentation which demonstrates that the organization is controlled or chartered by a Federally recognized Indian Tribe. If an entity applies as an organization authorized by a Federally recognized tribe, or multiple specific Federally recognized tribes, it must submit a resolution or other authorization, adopted by the Tribal Council (or comparable tribal governing body) of each Indian Tribe. The resolution(s) must identify the entity applying for an AmeriCorps award by name as a Tribal organization that is authorized by the Indian Tribe(s) for the purpose of applying for AmeriCorps funding (or Federal grant funds generally).

Entities must have a valid SAM registration and Unique Entity Identifier to receive an award. See Section D.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM) for more information.

C.2. Cost Sharing or Matching

For MLK projects only, federal grant funds requested may not exceed 30 percent of the total program budget. Applicants are required to match funds equal to 70 percent of the total program budget. The applicant's match can be cash and/or in-kind contributions matching funds. See section D.6. Funding Restrictions for more information.

For example, if an MLK applicant requests \$100,000 in federal grant funds, then the applicant is required to provide \$233,334 in matching funds for a total program budget of \$333,334.

For September 11th, there is no requirement that the grant applicant provide matching funds.

C.3. Other Eligibility Requirements

Applications that propose to engage in activities that are prohibited under AmeriCorps' statutes, regulations, or the terms and conditions of its awards are not eligible to receive AmeriCorps funding.

Note that under appropriations provisions annually enacted by Congress, if AmeriCorps is aware that any corporation has any unpaid federal tax liability—

- that has been assessed
- for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed
- that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority

responsible for collecting the tax liability— that corporation is not eligible for an award under this Notice. However, this exclusion will not apply to a corporation that a federal agency has considered for suspension or debarment and determined that suspension or debarment is not necessary to protect the interests of the federal government.

Pursuant to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, an organization described in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(4) that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply for AmeriCorps funding.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

This Notice should be read together with the [Application Instructions](#).

D.1. Address to Request an Application Package

All information associated with this funding opportunity is available through the AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities webpage: <https://americorps.gov/partner/funding-opportunities>.

Applicants can also send an email to DaysofService@cns.gov for a printed copy of the Notice and Guidance.

AmeriCorps also offers live text chat at <https://americorps.gov/contact>.

D.2.a Application Content

The application must include the following elements:

- Standard Form 424 (SF-424) Face Sheet: This is automatically generated when applicants complete the data elements in the eGrants system.
- Narrative Sections:
 - Executive Summary: This is a brief description of the proposed program.
 - Program Design
 - Organizational Capability
- Standard Form 424A Budget
- Authorization, Assurances, and Certifications (<https://egrants.cns.gov/cnsmisc/ECERTS.HTM> , and <https://egrants.cns.gov/cnsmisc/EASSUR.HTM>)

Although the application shell in the eGrants system includes fields for Performance Measures, Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy, Amendment Justification, and Continuation Changes, these fields will not be assessed.

Please follow the Performance Measures section of the [Application Instructions](#) for how to complete this module with null information that will allow the application to be submitted.

Please enter N/A into the Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy, Amendment Justification, Clarification Summary, and Continuation Changes fields.

Applicants that advance in the review process may be asked to add responses to the Clarification Summary field at that time. Responses in the clarification summary field will inform funding decisions.

D.2.b. Page Limits

Applications may not exceed **4** double-spaced pages as according to the pages printed out from eGrants. The application sections that count toward the page limit are the:

- SF-424 Face Sheet
- Executive Summary
- Program Design
- Organizational Capability

The application page limit does not include the Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy, Continuation Changes, Amendment Justification, Clarification Summary, Budget, Performance Measures, or any required additional documents.

Please note that the length of the application as a word processing document may differ from the length of the document printed out from eGrants. The character limits in eGrants do not align with page limits set in the Notice. **AmeriCorps strongly encourages applicants to print out the application from the “Review and Submit” tab in eGrants prior to submission in order to confirm that the application does not exceed the page limit.**

AmeriCorps will not consider the results of any alternative printing methods when determining if an application complies with the page limit. Reviewers will also not consider material that is over the page limit, even if eGrants allows applicants to enter and submit additional text.

D.3. 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 to AmeriCorps. The legal applicant’s name and physical address in eGrants must match exactly the applicant’s SAM-registered information.**

AmeriCorps will not make awards to entities that do not have a valid SAM registration and a SAM.gov-generated Unique Entity Identifier. If an applicant has not fully complied with these requirements by the time AmeriCorps is ready to make a Federal award, AmeriCorps may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award.

D.4. Submission Dates and Times

D.4.a. Application Submission Deadline

Applications are due **Thursday, June 30, 2022, by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

AmeriCorps will not consider applications submitted after the deadline, except as noted in Section *D.4.b. Late Applications*. AmeriCorps reserves the right to extend the submission deadline. AmeriCorps will post a notification in the event of an extended deadline on AmeriCorps' website.

D.4.b. Late Applications

All applications received after the submission deadline published in this Notice, **Thursday, June 30, 2022, at 5:00 pm Eastern Time**, are presumed to be non-compliant. To overcome this presumption, the applicant must:

- submit a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstance(s) that caused the delay, including:
 - the timing and specific cause(s) of the delay
 - the ticket number if a request for assistance was submitted to the AmeriCorps Hotline
 - any information provided to the applicant by the AmeriCorps Hotline
 - any other documentation or evidence that supports the justification
- ensure that AmeriCorps receives the written explanation or justification and any other evidence that substantiates the claimed extenuating circumstance(s), via email to LateApplications@cns.gov no later than 24 hours after the application deadline as stated in the Notice.

Communication with AmeriCorps staff, including an applicant's portfolio manager, is not a substitute for a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstance that caused the delay as outlined above. Applicants are required to continue working in [eGrants, AmeriCorps' web-based application system](#), and with the AmeriCorps Hotline to submit the application. AmeriCorps will determine whether or not to accept a late application on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants that do not meet the application submission deadline and do not submit a written explanation or justification or any other evidence to overcome the presumption of non-compliance within the published timeframe will be deemed noncompliant. If AmeriCorps sustains a noncompliant determination, the application will not be reviewed or selected for award.

AmeriCorps will *not* consider an advance request to submit a late application. Please carefully review and follow the guidance in this section and submit your application as soon as possible.

D.5. Intergovernmental Review

This Notice is not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

D.6. Funding Restrictions

D.6.a. Award Funding Requirements

MLK awards under this Notice are subject to cost share or matching requirements. For MLK, the amount of federal funding provided under awards will be limited to 30 percent of the total allowable costs for the funded activity, as determined under [2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E-Cost Principles](#).

There are no cost share or matching requirements for September 11th awards.

There are also limitations on the use of federal funds to recover indirect costs. As provided in [2 CFR 200.306\(c\)](#), unrecovered indirect costs may be included as part of an applicant's cost sharing or matching requirements.

Applicants who will be pass-through entities must include in their subawards terms and conditions that will ensure that the pass-through entity's award under this Notice will comply with the cost share and matching requirements. See [2 CFR 200.332\(a\)\(2\)-\(4\)](#) and [2 CFR 200.1](#).

D.6.b. Indirect Costs

Application budgets may include indirect costs. Based on qualifying factors, applicants may either use a federally-approved indirect cost rate, a 10 percent *de minimis* rate of modified total direct costs, or may claim certain costs directly, as outlined in [2 CFR § 200.413](#). States, local governments, and Indian Tribes may use previously-approved indirect cost allocation plans. All methods must be applied consistently across all federal awards. Applicants that have a federal negotiated indirect cost rate or that will be using the 10 percent *de minimis* rate must enter that information in the Organization section in eGrants.

The instructions for how to enter the organization's indirect cost rate are located here: [eGrants Indirect Cost Rate User Instructions](#). Applicants should not submit documentation addressing the indirect 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 indirectcostrate@cns.gov. The applicant may also obtain instructions and additional information by contacting the email address above.

D.6.c. Pre-Award Costs

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

D.7. Other Submission Requirements

D.7.a. Electronic Application Submission in eGrants

Applicants must submit applications electronically via [eGrants, AmeriCorps' web-based application system](#). AmeriCorps recommends that applicants create an eGrants account and begin the application at least three weeks before the deadline. Applicants should draft the application as a Word document, then copy and paste the text into the appropriate eGrants field no later than 10 days before the deadline.

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

application. A copy of the governing body's authorization for this official representative to sign must be on file in the applicant's office.

Applicants should contact the AmeriCorps Hotline at (800) 942-2677 or via [eGrants Questions](#) if they have a problem when they create an account, prepare, or submit the application. AmeriCorps Hotline hours are also posted.

Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the funding opportunity to which the organization is applying. If the issue cannot be resolved by the deadline, applicants must continue working with the AmeriCorps Hotline to submit via eGrants.

If circumstances make it impossible for an applicant to submit in eGrants, applicants may send a paper copy of the application via overnight carrier below. Applicants must include a written explanation and any other documentation or evidence that support their inability to submit their application electronically.

AmeriCorps
ATTN: Office of Grant Administration (OGA)/Days of Service
Application 250 E Street, SW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20525

Please use a non-U.S. Postal Service carrier to avoid security-related delays. **All deadlines and requirements in this Notice also apply to paper applications. AmeriCorps does not accept applications submitted via fax or email.**

D.7.b. Submission of Additional Documents

No additional documents are required at the time of submission. Do not submit any items that are not requested in this Notice. AmeriCorps will not review or return them.

Applicants that advance in the review process will be asked to provide an [Operational and Financial Management Survey](#) to inform funding decisions.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

E.1. Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following selection criteria using a merit review process:

Executive Summary

Provide a concise, one-paragraph summary of the proposed project. If you are applying for both MLK and September 11th funding, you must submit a separate application for each Day of Service. Use the following template: The [Name of the organization] proposes to have [Number of] volunteers who will [what the volunteers will be doing] in [the locations the Day of Service activities will take place] on [Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service or September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance]. On the [MLK or September 11] Day of Service, [# of] volunteers will be responsible for [anticipated goals of project]. For MLK, the AmeriCorps investment of \$[amount of request] 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.

Program Design

- The planned project(s) is important and meets a compelling need
- The project has a focus that aligns with the purpose and priorities of this Notice
- The project plans are clear and are likely to be successful
 - o Include the number of locations you will engage along with the partners for each location
 - o Include the metrics you will measure (please include for each location if they have different metrics)

Organizational Capability

- The organization will have strong community support and is leading service in underserved communities (especially those facing poverty) and historically underrepresented communities, including communities of color, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities and people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community
- The organization has the staffing, systems and processes, and organizational oversight to ensure success and grants management compliance
- The organization has an effective mechanism in place to report, without delay, any suspected criminal activity, waste, fraud, and/or abuse to both the AmeriCorps Office of Inspector General and AmeriCorps and a plan for training staff and participants on these reporting protocols.
- The organization has sufficient policies, procedures, and controls in place to prevent, detect, and mitigate the risk of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, this can include an assessment of appropriate segregation of duties, internal oversight activities, measures to prevent timekeeping fraud, etc.

Budget

- The budget demonstrates that match requirements will be met (MLK grants only)
- The budget demonstrates that costs are reasonable, allocable, allowable and necessary and conform to the Uniform Guidance

E.2. Review and Selection Process

AmeriCorps will engage Staff Reviewers with relevant knowledge and expertise to assess and provide input on the eligible applications. The review and selection process is intended to produce a diversified set of high-quality programs that represent the priorities described in this Notice. 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:

E.2.a. Initial Application Compliance and Eligibility Review

AmeriCorps will conduct an initial Compliance and Eligibility Review to determine if an application meets the eligibility requirements published in this Notice and advances to the next stage of the review process.

An application is compliant if the applicant:

- is an eligible organization,

- submitted an application by the submission deadline, and
- requested \$100,000 - \$500,000 in Federal Funds

Reviewing for eligibility is intended to ensure that only those applications that are eligible for award are further 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.

E.2.b. Application Review

AmeriCorps Staff Reviewers will assess the applications based on the Program Design, Organizational Capability, and Budget Selection Criteria (E.1). Staff Reviewers will also consider the priorities and strategic considerations detailed in this Notice. AmeriCorps will recruit and select Staff Reviewers on the basis of demonstrated expertise in Days of Service programming, as well as experience assessing applications. All Staff Reviewers will be screened for conflicts of interest.

E.2.c. Applicant Clarification

AmeriCorps may ask applicants for clarifying information during the Clarification Stage of the review process. An [Operational and Financial Management Survey](#) will also be requested at this time. AmeriCorps staff will use this information to make funding recommendations. A request for clarification does not guarantee an award. Applicants may be recommended for funding even if they are not asked for clarifying information. An applicant's failure to respond to a request for clarification adequately and in a timely manner may result in the removal of its application from consideration.

E.2.d. Pre-Award Risk Assessment

AmeriCorps staff will assess the risks posed by applicants to determine an applicant's ability to manage federal funds. This assessment is in addition to those about the applicant's eligibility and the quality of its application on the basis of the Selection Criteria. Results from this assessment will inform funding decisions. If AmeriCorps determines that an award will be made to an applicant with assessed risks, special conditions that correspond to the degree of assessed risk may be applied to the award. Additionally, if AmeriCorps concludes that the reasons for applicants having poor risk assessment are not likely to be mitigated, those applications may not be selected for funding.

In assessing risks, AmeriCorps may consider the following criteria:

Due Diligence:

- federal debt delinquency
- suspension and debarment
- information available through Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as:
 - Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)
 - U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services
 - System for Award Management (SAM)
 - "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
- Public Litigation Records

Operational and Financial Management:

- financial stability

Past Performance:

- an applicant's record in managing previous AmeriCorps awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:
 - timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements
 - accuracy of data reported
 - validity of performance measure data reported
 - conformance to the terms and conditions of previous federal awards
 - applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients
 - timely closeout of other awards
 - meeting matching requirements
 - the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards
 - national service criminal history check (NSCHC) compliance. See section F.2.d. National Criminal History Check Requirements and the NSCHC webpage for more information.

Other Programmatic Risks:

- publicly available information, including from the applicant organization's website

E.2.e. Consideration of Integrity and Performance System Information

Prior to making any award that exceeds the \$250,000, AmeriCorps is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently FAPIIS) (See [41 U.S.C. 2313](#)). Additionally, AmeriCorps may expand upon these requirements and use its discretion to review and consider information about any applicant receiving an award, including those under \$250,000.

Any applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through FAPIIS and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through FAPIIS.

AmeriCorps may consider comments by any applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing its review of risk posed by the applicant under the Risk Assessment Evaluation section of this Notice.

E.2.f. Selection for Funding

The merit review and selection process is designed to:

- identify eligible applicants that are aligned with the application selection criteria (E.1), and
- build a diversified portfolio based on the meaningful representation of organizations that have strong community support and are leading service in underserved communities (especially those facing poverty) and historically underrepresented communities, including communities of color, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities and people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community, based on the quality of response to the first selection criterion in the Organizational Capability section (E.1.).

AmeriCorps will endeavor to select a diverse portfolio of applications based on staff recommendations, alignment with selection criteria, and strategic considerations.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to award applications in an amount other than at the requested level of funding and will document the rationale for doing so.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to adjust or make changes to the review process, if unforeseen challenges or urgent circumstances make it impossible, impracticable, or inefficient to conduct the review process as planned. Any such adjustments or changes will not affect the selection criteria that will be used to assess applications.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

F.1. Federal Award Notices

AmeriCorps will make awards following the grant selection announcement. AmeriCorps anticipates announcing the results of this funding opportunity review process in August. All applicants, successful or not, will be notified of funding decisions via email.

Notification of an award is not an authorization to begin grant activities. The Notice of Grant Award signed by the Office of Grant Administration Grant Award Specialist is the authorizing document for grant activities. An awardee may not expend federal funds until the start of the Period of Performance identified on the Notice of Grant Award.

F.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

F.2.a. Uniform Guidance

All awards made under this Notice 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](#).

F.2.b. Requests for Monitoring or Payment Integrity Information

AmeriCorps will request documentation from recipients in order to monitor the grantee and award to ensure compliance with legal requirements, including the [Payment Integrity](#)

[Information Act of 2019](#). Failure to make timely responses to these requests may result in award funds being placed on manual hold, reimbursement only status, or other remedies may be applied as appropriate.

F.2.c. AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions

All awards made under this Notice will be subject to the FY 2022 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, and the FY 2022 Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for the particular program (when applicable). These Terms and Conditions contain detailed, mandatory compliance and reporting requirements. Current versions of the AmeriCorps General and Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for each of its programs is available at [9/11 Day resources | AmeriCorps](#) and [MLK Day | AmeriCorps](#).

F.2.d. 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. We encourage grantees to minimize barriers to service without putting their program beneficiaries at genuine risk.

- In general, award recipients and subrecipients must conduct an NSCHC for AmeriCorps members, AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers, and staff funded under, or whose salary is reflected as match on, the award.
- AmeriCorps strongly encourages applicants to review the regulations and additional guidance to fully understand how to comply with the requirements.
- AmeriCorps also strongly encourages funded applicants to utilize the two AmeriCorps-approved vendors to conduct the required NSCHCs.
- Failure to conduct a compliant NSCHC may result in significant disallowed costs.
- The cost of conducting NSCHC is an allowable expense under the award and the individual subject to the NSCHC may not be required to cover the cost without being reimbursed.

An NSCHC consists of a check of the:

1. National Sex Offender Public website through NSOPW.gov (nationwide check);
2. State criminal history record repository or agency-designated alternative for the individual's State of residence *and* State of service; and
3. Fingerprint-based check of the FBI criminal history record database through the State criminal history record repository or agency-approved vendor.

All checks must be conducted, reviewed, and an eligibility determination made before the individual begins work or service.

An individual is not eligible to serve or work in a position subject to the NSCHC requirements if:

- the individual refuses to consent to a criminal history check;
- makes a false statement in connection with a criminal history check;
- is registered, or is required to be registered, on a state sex offender registry or the National Sex Offender Registry; or
- has been convicted of murder.

See [45 CFR § 2540.200-§ 2540.207](#) and [National Service Criminal History Check Resources](#) for complete information and FAQs.

F.2.e. Official Guidance

All AmeriCorps active Guidance is available on the agency's Guidance webpage: <https://www.americorps.gov/about/agency-overview/official-guidance>. The contents of these documents do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way unless incorporated into a contract or grant agreement. These documents are intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

F.3. 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 ([2 CFR §200.315](#)).

F.4. Reporting

Recipients are required to submit a variety of reports that are due at specific times during the life cycle of an award. All reports must be accurate, complete, and submitted on time.

Recipients are required to provide annual progress reports and semi-annual financial reports through eGrants, AmeriCorps' web-based grants management system. All recipients must provide quarterly financial reports through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Payment Management System.

In addition, at the end of the award period, a grantee must submit final financial and progress reports that are cumulative over the entire award period and consistent with the close-out requirements. The final reports are due 120 days after the end of the period of performance.

Award recipients will be required to report at <https://www.FSRS.gov> on all subawards over \$30,000, and may be required to report on executive compensation for the recipient organization and its subrecipients. Recipients and subrecipients must have the necessary systems in place to collect and report this information. See [2 CFR Part 170](#) for more information and to determine how these requirements apply.

Once the grant is awarded, recipients will be expected to have in place data collection and data management policies, processes, and practices that provide assurance that they are reporting high quality performance measure data. At a minimum, recipients should have policies, processes, and practices that address the following five aspects of data quality for themselves and for subrecipients (if applicable):

- i. the data measures what it intends to measure
- ii. the data reported is complete
- iii. the recipient collects data in a consistent manner
- iv. the recipient takes steps to correct data errors
- v. the recipient actively reviews data for accuracy prior to submission.

Failure to submit accurate, complete, and timely required reports may affect the recipient's ability to secure future AmeriCorps funding.

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

For more information or a printed copy of related material(s), applicants should email DaysofService@cns.gov. AmeriCorps also offers live text chat at <https://questions.americorps.gov/app/ask>.

For technical questions and problems with the eGrants system, call the AmeriCorps Hotline at (800) 942-2677. National Service Hotline hours are posted at <https://questions.americorps.gov/app/ask>. Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the name of the Notice to which the organization is applying.

H. OTHER INFORMATION

H.1. Re-Focusing of Funding

AmeriCorps reserves the right to re-focus program dollars for this funding opportunity in the event of disaster or other compelling needs.

I. 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. (See 5 C.F.R. 1320.5(b)(2)(i).) The OMB Control Number for the information collection is 3045-0187. It expires on 10/30/2023.

Privacy Act Statement: The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C 552a) requires that we notify you that the information requested under this Notice of Funding is collected pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 12592 and 12615 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 as amended, and 42 U.S.C. 4953 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. In some programs, the information may also be provided to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to determine the existence of any prior criminal convictions. The information may also be provided to appropriate federal agencies and contractors that have a need to know the information for the purpose of assisting the government to respond to a suspected or confirmed breach of the security or confidentiality or information maintained in this system of records, and the information disclosed is relevant and unnecessary for the assistance.
- 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.