



Notice of Funding Opportunity  
**AMERICORPS MARYLAND GRANTEES**  
2026-2027

All Competitive applications and required additional documents must be received **no later than**  
**11:59pm February 27, 2026.**

**Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.**

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

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<b>COMMISSION NAME:</b>	Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation
<b>FEDERAL AGENCY:</b>	AmeriCorps
<b>FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TYPES:</b>	Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 AmeriCorps State and National Competitive Grants
<b>CFDA NUMBER:</b>	94.006

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**Summary Statement:** This is a funding opportunity for Institutions of higher education; local governments, school districts; nonprofit organizations; State Service Commissions; States and US Territories; Indian Tribes; and public health departments to apply for AmeriCorps members to strengthen communities through service.

**Disclosure:** Publication of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) does not obligate AmeriCorps to award any specific number of grants or to commit any amount of funding. The actual amount, timing, and process of grant funding will be subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

**Any award made under this Notice may be terminated by the agency if it no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities.**

### Important Dates

- Complete applications are due no later than Friday, February 27th, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.
- Successful applicants should be notified by mid-June 2026.
- Successful applicants should be issued awards by mid-August 2026.

This Notice is for organizations applying for 2026-2027 AmeriCorps Maryland (AmeriCorps State) grants. These grants are awarded to organizations that propose to place AmeriCorps members in service solely within Maryland. Selected organizations will receive grants to support AmeriCorps member positions that engage members in service to meet critical needs in Maryland.

**Disclosure:** Publication of this Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity (Notice or NOFO) does not obligate AmeriCorps State and National (ASN) or the Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation (DSCI) to award any specific number of grants or to commit any amount of funding. The actual amount, timing, and process of grant funding will be subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

AmeriCorps publishes this NOFO solely for the aforementioned purpose and does not consider this NOFO to meet the definition of a rule requiring publication of notice under Congressional Review Act

(CRA) as codified at 5 U.S.C. §§801- 808, and any subsequent notification provided to Congress does not constitute waiver of this position.

**Program Authority:** Awards under this Notice are authorized by the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, (NCSA) (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.).

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## Significant Changes from FY25 Notice of Funding Opportunity

For your convenience, we are providing the following significant changes this year to the Competitive NOFO:

### NOFO Priorities:

- Added a public safety, crime prevention, and partnerships priority
- Added an expanding outdoor recreation for future generations priority
- Added a strengthening families priority

### Other Changes:

- New threshold requirement of **a minimum of 20 AmeriCorps members per application** for new and recompetete competitive applicants. This threshold does not apply to Native Nations or formula applicants.
- Streamlined available slot types from seven to five, **removing Reduced Half Time and Abbreviated Time** for new and recompetete competitive and formula applicants.
- Applicants are approved for pre-award costs for one month prior to the start of their program.
- Changes to Selection Criteria point values for Community and Logic Model, Notice Priority, and Member Supervision.
- Disclosure: Any award made under this Notice may be terminated by the agency if it no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities.
- Disclosure: AmeriCorps and DSCI reserve the right to award applications in an amount less than the requested level of funding.

Remained the same:

Maximum cost per MSY - \$25,000

## IMPORTANT DATES

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	<b>COMPETITIVE</b>	<b>FORMULA</b>
<b>Application Due</b>	February 27, 2026 11:59 pm ET	TBD
<b>Notification of Selection (tentative)</b>	Mid-June 2026	TBD
<b>Budget Period</b>	August 15, 2026 - August 14, 2027	

**Programs that are unsuccessful in the competitive competition may be considered for formula funding.**

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### Competitive Funding Consideration

The Legal Applicant Organization must meet all eligibility criteria as outlined in the Eligibility Information section of this Notice. AmeriCorps State competitive applications are submitted to the DSCI through this application process. Eligible applications are reviewed at the state level and then sent to AmeriCorps (federal level) where they are selected for funding or returned to the state for further consideration under the formula grant process.

### Late Submissions

All applications received after the submission deadline are late. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding. To request consideration of a late application due to extenuating circumstances, an organization must:

- Submit a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstance(s) that caused the delay, including:
  - Timing and specific cause(s) of the delay;
  - Ticket number if a request for assistance was submitted to the AmeriCorps Hotline;
  - Information provided to the applicant by the AmeriCorps Hotline; and
  - Other documentation or evidence that supports the justification.
- Ensure that the GOSV receives the written explanation and any other relevant evidence via email to [gospv.md@maryland.gov](mailto:gospv.md@maryland.gov) no later than 24 hours after the application deadline.

Communication with DSCI staff, including an applicant's Portfolio Officer or the GOSV's general mailbox ([gospv.md@maryland.gov](mailto:gospv.md@maryland.gov)), is not a substitute for a written explanation. Applicants are required to continue working in the web-based system and with the AmeriCorps Hotline to submit the application.

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# I. AmeriCorps Program Description

## A. Purpose of AmeriCorps Funding

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

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations that engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities. An AmeriCorps member is a person who does community service through AmeriCorps. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits. After successful completion of their service, members earn a [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) they can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

## B. Department of Service and Civic Innovation (DSCI): Who We Are

DSCI’s mission is to strengthen Maryland communities by creating pathways for individuals and organizations to engage, connect, and accelerate their impact. The Maryland Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism (GOSV) at Maryland’s Department of Service and Civic Innovation (DSCI) advances this mission by providing grants, leadership, resources, and strategic guidance to support programs that address critical local needs in areas like education, economic opportunity, and capacity building.

## C. Funding Priorities

For this funding opportunity, AmeriCorps has set the priorities below for consideration of their funding decisions.

### **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 to support youth mental health efforts and continued AmeriCorps work on the opioid epidemic;
- Focus on improving the 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.
  - 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 . e.g. paying more than the minimum living allowance, transportation, housing, food, etc.
  - Enhance and expand services to formerly incarcerated and at-risk youth and/or engage those youth as AmeriCorps members.
  - Utilize reports from the [AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange](#) on programs assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence to scale, replicate, or adapt the intervention.
  - Organizations that are faith-based.
- Benefit AmeriCorps Members:**
- Use Evidence:**
- Faith-Based**

*To receive priority consideration, applicants must show that the priority area is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes. Priority consideration does not guarantee funding.*

## II. Federal Award Information

### A. Estimated Available Funds

DSCI and AmeriCorps expect a highly competitive AmeriCorps grant competition. Given limited funding, AmeriCorps may prioritize funding existing grantees instead of making new awards. The actual level of funding will be subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

### B. Estimated Award Amount

Award amounts will be different depending on the scope of the projects.

### C. Project and Award Period

AmeriCorps plans to make three-year grant awards. AmeriCorps generally makes an initial award for the first year of the three-year period of performance. Applicants must submit a one-year budget.

Applicants may propose any project start date that fits their program design. The period of performance may not start before August 15, 2026. Continuation awards for future years are not guaranteed; they depend upon future appropriations and satisfactory performance.

The start date for awarded grants is 08/15/2026. Programming may not occur prior to the date DSCI awards the grant. AmeriCorps members may not enroll prior to the start date of the award (08/15/26).

### D. Grant Award Types

There are two types of grants: cost reimbursement and fixed amount. With either a competitive or formula grant AmeriCorps/ DSCI may award a Cost Reimbursement or a Fixed Amount grant to any successful applicant. Professional Corps programs are ineligible to receive Cost Reimbursement grants.

Grant Types	Cost Reimbursement	Fixed Amount			
		Full-Cost	Education Award Program, EAP	Professional Corps***	No Cost Slots
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			

Grant Types	Cost Reimbursement	Fixed Amount		
Budget Submission Required	Yes	No		
Availability of Funds Linked to Enrollment / Retention of Awarded MSYs	No	Yes		No
Special Requirements	N/A	N/A	Must place qualified professionals in communities with an inadequate # of such professionals. Member salaries / benefits must be paid entirely by organization where member serves	N/A
Financial Reporting Requirements	Yes	No		
Available to New Applications	Yes	No	Yes	

\* Member Service Year (MSY): One MSY is equivalent to a full-time AmeriCorps position, at least 1,700 service hours. Multiple positions 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, [42 U.S.C. § 12581a](#).

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

## III. Who Can Apply

### A. Eligible Applicants

The following Non-Federal organizations are eligible to apply:

- American Indian or Indigenous American Tribes.
- Institutions of higher education.
- Local governments, including school districts.
- Nonprofit organizations.
- States and US Territories (2 CFR §200.90).

*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 [and the organization does not meet any of the other applicant eligibility types], the organization must provide copies or links to documentation that 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 authorization(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).*

*Federally recognized Indian Tribes will also be eligible to apply for operating or planning grants under a separate Notice of Funding Opportunity for Indian Tribes at the [AmeriCorps.gov Funding Opportunities webpage](https://www.americorps.gov/funding-opportunities), with an application deadline in the spring.*

**Applicants must have [a valid SAM registration and Unique Entity Identifier](#) to receive an award.**

### B. Types of Applicants

#### Single-State Applicants

- Organizations that plan to operate only in Maryland must apply through DSCI.
- A single-state application that is submitted directly to AmeriCorps by the applicant rather than DSCI will be considered noncompliant and will not be reviewed.

## National Direct Applicants

- Multi-State: Organizations that plan to operate AmeriCorps programs in more than one state or territory apply directly to AmeriCorps. Multi-State applicants must consult with DSCI for placements in Maryland.
- To be reviewed as a National Direct applicant rather than a Single-State applicant, at least two specific states must be named in the “multi-state operating sites” section of the application at the time of submission. Use the Mandatory Supplemental Information for descriptions of National Direct and Single-State applicants.

## Federally Recognized American Indian Tribes

Applicants that are Indian Tribes apply directly to AmeriCorps.

## New Applicants

Only new applicants with current or previous experience as an AmeriCorps grantee are eligible for this funding opportunity. All other new applicants are not eligible to apply under the competitive funding opportunity.

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

## Recompete Applicants

Recompete applicants are currently in their third year of funding within a grant cycle. Recompete applicants must submit a new application to be eligible to receive funding for the project performance period.

## Continuation Applicants

Continuation requests apply only to programs that will be in their second or third year of operation within a grant cycle. Continuation applicants must submit a continuation application in order to be considered to receive funding for the following year.

To be approved for continuation recipients must be in good standing. 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/Department of Service and Civic Innovation (DSCI) reserves the right to award applications in an amount less than the requested level of funding.

## C. Additional Requirements

Applicants should reflect that they meet the following threshold requirements for the type of grant for which they are applying.

- All AmeriCorps members' service must benefit community members in Maryland. Organizations proposing members serving in multiple states must apply directly to AmeriCorps as a National Direct applicant.
- FY 2026 new and recompeting competitive applicants must submit an application that proposes enrolling a minimum of 20 AmeriCorps members. New and recompetite competitive applications with less than 20 members will be deemed noncompliant and will not be reviewed. The minimum of 20 AmeriCorps members does not apply to FY 2026 continuation competitive applicants in Year 2 or Year 3, Indian Tribe applicants, Tribal organizations that are controlled, authorized, or chartered by Federally recognized Indian Tribes, or formula applicants.
- Professional Corps applicants and/or applicants determined to be a Professional Corps by the DSCI or AmeriCorps 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 tutoring programs, the applicant must describe how these requirements will be met.
- All applicants must propose program designs that are either evidence-based or evidence-informed (*See Application Instructions for additional details*). Applicants rated as insufficient evidence tier are removed from funding consideration. Insufficient evidence is determined by:
  - An applicant is assessed in the pre-preliminary evidence tier and provides inadequate responses to the Evidence Quality review standards below.

## D. Other Eligibility Requirements

Even if an organization is otherwise eligible under C.1, an organization is not eligible if:

- It has violated a federal criminal statute.
- It proposes activities that are not allowed under AmeriCorps' laws, rules, or terms and conditions.
- It has any 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 decides that a suspension or debarment is not necessary.

It is described in [Section 501\(c\)\(4\) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 USC 501\(c\)\(4\)](#) that lobby cannot receive AmeriCorps funding according to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

## E. What We Do Not Fund

AmeriCorps funds cannot be used to fund the following program activities:

- Religious use. AmeriCorps assistance may not be used to provide religious instruction, conduct worship services, or engage in any form of proselytization.
- Political activity. AmeriCorps assistance may not be used by program participants or staff to assist, promote, or deter union organizing; or finance, directly or indirectly, any activity designed to influence the outcome of a Federal, State or local election to public office.
- Contracts or collective bargaining agreements. AmeriCorps assistance may not be used to impair existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements.
- Supplantation. AmeriCorps assistance may not be used to replace State and local public funds that had been used to support programs of the type eligible to receive AmeriCorps support.
- Nonduplication. AmeriCorps assistance may not be used to duplicate an activity that is already available in the locality of a program. AmeriCorps assistance will not be provided to a private nonprofit entity to conduct activities that are the same or substantially equivalent to activities currently provided.
- Nondisplacement. An employer may not displace an employee or position, including partial displacement such as reduction in hours, wages, or employment benefits, because of the use by such employer of a participant in a program receiving AmeriCorps assistance.
  - An organization may not displace a volunteer by using a participant in a program receiving AmeriCorps assistance.
  - A service opportunity will not be created under this chapter that will infringe in any manner on the promotional opportunity of an employed individual.
  - A participant in a program receiving AmeriCorps assistance may not perform any services or duties or engage in activities that would otherwise be performed by an employee as part of the assigned duties of such employee.
  - A participant in any program receiving AmeriCorps assistance may not perform any services or duties, or engage in activities that will supplant the hiring of employed

workers; or are services, duties, or activities with respect to which an individual has recall rights pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement or applicable personnel procedures.

- A participant in any program receiving assistance may not perform services or duties that have been performed by or were assigned to any presently employed worker; employee who recently resigned or was discharged; employee who is subject to a reduction in force or who has recall rights pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement or applicable personnel procedures; employee who is on leave (terminal, temporary, vacation, emergency, or sick); or employee who is on strike or who is being locked out.

**Prohibited Activities – [Full text found here.](#)**

## IV. Award Funding Requirements

### A. Maximum Cost per Member Service Year (MSY)

One Member Service Year (MSY) is the equivalent of one full-time term of service (1700-member service hours). Cost per MSY stands for Cost per Member Service Year and represents the cost of your AmeriCorps program. See *Table 1* below for the MSY value of member position types.

To determine the maximum AmeriCorps (CNCS) share of the budget that you can request, you multiply the number of MSY by the maximum cost per MSY. For example, if you plan to request 20 full-time members, the maximum AmeriCorps (CNCS) share you could request is  $20 \times \$25,000 = \$500,000$ .

The cost per MSY does not include child-care benefits or the cost of the Education Award a member may earn, which are paid for by AmeriCorps outside of our grant award. The maximum amount an applicant may request from AmeriCorps per MSY is determined on an annual basis.

Table 1: Maximum Cost Per MSY

GRANT PROGRAM	MAXIMUM COST PER MSY
Cost Reimbursement	\$25,000
Full-Time Fixed Amount	\$25,000
Education Award Program	\$800 or \$1,000*
Professional Corps	\$1,000**

\*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, 42 U.S.C. § 12581a.

\*\*See Mandatory Supplemental Information (MSI) for further requirements

## B. Cost Sharing or Matching

### Fixed Amount Grants

There is no cost share or match requirement for Fixed Amount grants. AmeriCorps does not provide all the funds necessary to operate the program. Organizations should raise the funds needed to operate the program.

### Cost Reimbursement Grants

Applicants are required to match funds provided by AmeriCorps. The applicant’s match can be non-AmeriCorps cash and/or in-kind contributions. Applicants must show that they can meet the match requirement when they submit the application. Applicants must say in their application if they have already secured the match funding.

A first-time successful applicant is required to match at 24 percent for the first three-year funding period. Starting with year four, the match requirement gradually increases every three years to 30 percent by year ten.

Table 2: Statutory Match Requirements

AmeriCorps Funding Year	1-3	4-6	7-9	10+
Grantee Share Requirements	24%	26%	28%	30%

### C. Member Living Allowance

- A living allowance is not considered a salary or wage.
- Programs are required to provide a living allowance for members serving in full-time terms of service.
- 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 in the budget, either 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 the living allowance amount in the budget.

DSCI will prioritize funding sub applicants that can meet the minimum FT living allowance of \$25,500 which is aligned with other state service opportunities (\$15/hour).

Table 3: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	MSY Value	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Living Allowance
Full-Time (FT)	1,700	1.0	\$25,500	\$40,800
Three Quarter-Time (TQT)	1,200	.70	\$18,000	\$28,560
Half-Time (HT)	900	.50	\$13,500	\$20,400
Quarter-Time (QT)	450	.26455027	\$6,750	\$10,608
Minimum-Time (MT)	300	.21164022	\$4,500	\$8,568

#### Exceptions to the Living Allowance Requirements

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **Professional Corps Grantees** must provide members with 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.

## V. The Maryland Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism (DSCI) Rights and Disclaimer

### **Interpretive Conventions**

Whenever the terms “shall,” “must,” “will,” or “is required” are used in these instructions in conjunction with a specification or performance requirement, the specification or requirement is mandatory. Failure to address or meet any mandatory requirement in a proposal may be cause for the DSCI’s rejection of an application.

Whenever the terms, “can,” “may,” “should,” or “recommended” are used in these instructions in conjunction with a specification or performance requirement, the specification or requirement is desirable, but not mandatory. Accordingly, failure to address or provide any items so referred to will not be the cause for rejection of the proposal but could result in a less favorable evaluation.

### **Cancellation/Partial Award/Non-Award**

Publication of these instructions does not obligate DSCI to award any specific number of grants. DSCI reserves the right to cancel this funding opportunity, to make a partial award, or to make no award if it determines that such action is in the best interest of the State of Maryland.

### **Right to Reject Proposals or Portions of Proposals**

DSCI may, in its discretion, reject all proposals or portions thereof.

## VI. Application Requirements

SAM registration must be renewed annually DSCI requires 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 the grant system must match exactly the applicant's SAM-registered information.

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 Unique Entity Identifier. Applications must also 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.

This Notice and Application Instructions should be read together with the [AmeriCorps Regulations](#), Application Instructions, Performance Measure Instructions, and Mandatory Supplemental Information. *45 CFR 2520 – 2550*

### Ways to Request an Application Package

All information from this funding opportunity is available at [serve.maryland.gov](http://serve.maryland.gov). Applicants can also send an email to [govs.md@maryland.gov](mailto:govs.md@maryland.gov) for a printed copy of the Notice, Guidance, and Application Instructions.

**See FY26 AmeriCorps Maryland Application Instructions.**

## VII. Required Additional Documents

Your application might not receive funding if you do not upload your documents to [Form Assembly](#) by the application deadline or do not correctly label your documents.

In addition to the application submitted in eGrants, applicants are required to submit the following additional documents by the application submission deadline. After you have submitted the documents via the instructions in the Notice, change the status in eGrants from the default "Not Sent" to the applicable status "Sent," "Not Applicable," or "Already on File at AmeriCorps."

The following Additional Documents must be uploaded in [Form Assembly](#) by the Notice's deadline

**\*\*Please do not send multiple documents in one combined file, and do not send a single document in multiple files.\*\***

The file size limit is 35 MB. This limit is inclusive of all attachments associated with each submission. Individual files larger than 35 MB will not be received or reviewed.

*Do not submit any items that are not requested in this Notice or Application Instructions. AmeriCorps will not review or return them.*

*Table 4: Required Additional Documents*

<b>Audience</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Status</b>
All Applicants	1. <b>Evidence documents.</b> Please refer to the Evidence Base section and <a href="#">Mandatory Supplemental Information</a> for detailed instructions by evidence tier. <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted
	2. <b>Evaluation Plan Summary.</b> Applicants must provide a summary of their Evaluation plan using <a href="#">the evaluation plan summary template</a> . If applicable, submit the section in the template for an Alternative Evaluation Approach (AEA) request. Evaluation plans are not scored and will not be assessed. Only AEA requests (if applicable) will be reviewed for approval after funding decisions are made.	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted
	3. <b>Certificate of Good Standing.</b> Applicants must upload a PDF of their <a href="#">Certificate of Good Standing</a> from <a href="#">the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation</a> . <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted
	4. <b>Labor Union Concurrence, if applicable.</b> a. If a program applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Proposes to serve as the placement site for AmeriCorps members; and</li> <li>● Has employees engaged in the same or substantially similar work as that proposed to be carried out by AmeriCorps members; and</li> <li>● Those employees are represented by a local labor organization,-- then the application must include the written concurrence of the local labor organization representing those employees.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

<sup>1</sup> If any of this required information is missing, the applicant may not receive credit for meeting their evaluation requirements.

<sup>2</sup> If an entity (business) is not in good standing with SDA the applicant must notify [govs.md@maryland.gov](mailto:govs.md@maryland.gov) and resolve all issues before purchasing a certificate.

Audience	Item	Status
	5. <b>Operational and Financial Management Survey.</b> <a href="#">Submit electronically using the online form.</a> A PDF copy of the confirmation email must be uploaded in <a href="#">form assembly</a> . Survey responses are sent directly to AmeriCorps and the DSCI does not review responses.	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted
	6. <b>Federally approved indirect cost rate agreement</b> , if used to claim indirect/administrative costs. Applicants applying directly to AmeriCorps that include a state or federally-approved indirect cost rate amount in their budget or using a de minimis rate must enter the current approved indirect cost rate agreement information into eGrants at the same time they submit their application, and must submit via <a href="#">Form Assembly</a> the approved indirect cost rate agreement. See Indirect Cost Rate User Instructions.	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	7. <b>Federal debt delinquency and federal debarment certification</b> via <a href="#">Form Assembly</a> .	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted
	8. <b>Financial Documentation.</b> Most recent audit or independent financial statement with management letter (single audit if organization spends \$750,000 or more of federal assistance).	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted
	9. <b>Non-Profits only:</b> A copy of the Form 990 that was most recently filed as of the date of the submission.	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	10. <b>State Support and Oversight Fee Calculator.</b> <a href="#">Located on the DSCI website.</a> Document must be submitted as an excel document.	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	11. <b>Match Waiver (if applicable).</b> Submitted via via <a href="#">Form Assembly</a> . See Appendix F.	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	12. <b>Training Waiver (if applicable).</b> via <a href="#">Form Assembly</a> . See Appendix J.	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Applicants who have received <b>six or more years</b> of <u>COMPETITIVE</u> funding for the same project being proposed	13. <b>Evaluation Report.</b> Applicants who have received six or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed should also upload an Evaluation report to <a href="#">Form Assembly</a> .  Please submit in Microsoft Word. The evaluation report should include a title page with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the AmeriCorps grant number for the project that was evaluated,</li> <li>○ the name of the project,</li> <li>○ the date of completion of the report,</li> <li>○ the evaluator name(s),</li> <li>○ evaluator organization name and,</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

<u>Audience</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Status</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ evaluator type (internal or external).</li> </ul>	

If any of this required information is missing, the applicant may not receive credit for meeting their application requirements.

**Additional documents for entities applying on behalf of a Federally Recognized Tribe, new and recompeting:**

- Tribal organization [eligibility documentation](#)

*For this section, “program applicant” includes any applicant to AmeriCorps or a State Commission, as well as any entity applying for assistance or approved national service positions through an AmeriCorps grantee or subgrantee.*

## VIII. Review & Selection Process

### A. Selection Criteria

Each applicant must describe a project that will use AmeriCorps members effectively to solve a significant community problem.

Applications must have a well-designed plan with clear justification for the requested funds. Reviewers will assess the quality of applications by using the selection criteria described below and will rate them accordingly.

Before issuance, and annually thereafter, awards will be subject to review by one or more AmeriCorps senior officials, or their designees, according to the process described in [Executive Order 14332, “Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking.”](#)

Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value. See Application Instructions for more details regarding each criterion.

Table 5: Selection Criteria

Categories/Subcategories	Percentage
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Program Design</b>	<b>50</b>
● <b>Community and Logic Model</b>	20
● <b>Evidence Tier</b>	12
● <b>Evidence Quality</b>	8
● <b>Notice Priority</b>	4
● <b>Member Experience</b>	6
<b>Organizational Capability</b>	<b>25</b>
● <b>Organizational Background and Staffing</b>	15
● <b>Member Supervision</b>	10
<b>Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy</b>	<b>25</b>
● <b>Member Recruitment</b>	8
● <b>Member Retention</b>	9
● <b>Data Collection</b>	8
<b>Evaluation Plan Summary</b>	<b>0</b>

DSCI and AmeriCorps will engage reviewers with relevant expertise to assess 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

DSCI staff will review all applications submitted to determine compliance with eligibility, the submission deadline, and completeness. Applications determined to be non-compliant will not be considered for funding. An applicant is compliant if the applicant:

- Is an eligible organization
- Applies by the submission deadline
- Submits an application that is complete in that it contains all required elements and follows the instructions provided in this Notice
- Applies with a minimum required MSYs as outlined in this Notice.
- Applies with a Cost per MSY that does not exceed the maximum for the application type as outlined in this Notice in Table 1: Maximum Cost Per MSY
- Has an active SAM registration

DSCI will screen applications in accordance with the requirements in this Notice to determine if the applicant has met all eligibility and submission requirements. 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

Reviewers will evaluate the applications using the application review criteria and assess the priorities and strategic considerations detailed in the Notice.

Competitive applicants will be reviewed based on the criteria in this Notice. DSCI staff may ask an applicant for clarifying information. An applicant's failure to respond to a request for clarification adequately in a timely manner may result in the removal of its application from the consideration and award process.

GOSV determines if an application is recommended for competitive funding and submitted to AmeriCorps for consideration. The Maryland State Service Commission makes the determination if an application is recommended for formula funding and submitted to AmeriCorps for consideration. Applicants that are submitted for consideration will receive the following review from AmeriCorps:

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

## 3. Risk Assessment Evaluation

DSCI and AmeriCorps will assess the risks posed by each applicant. Results from this assessment will inform funding decisions.

If DSCI and AmeriCorps determine that an award will be made to an applicant with risks, special conditions may be applied to the award. DSCI and AmeriCorps may decide not to fund an applicant based on the level of risk.

In assessing risks, DSCI and AmeriCorps may consider:

1. Due Diligence
  - a. Federal debt delinquency
  - b. Suspension and debarment
  - c. Information available through any Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-designated sources of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as –
    - i. [U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services](#)

- ii. [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#);
      - iii. *Do Not Pay*
    - d. Reports and findings from Single Audits performed under Uniform Grants Guidance and findings of any other available audits or investigations
    - e. IRS Tax Form 990;
    - f. [Oversight.gov](#); and
    - g. Public Litigation Records
  - 2. [Operational and Financial Management](#):
    - a. Financial stability; and
    - b. Operational and Financial Management Survey
  - 3. Past Performance, including:
    - a. Applicant's record in managing previous AmeriCorps awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:
      - i. Timely compliance with applicable reporting requirements
      - ii. Accuracy of data reported
      - iii. Validity of performance measure data reported
      - iv. Conformity to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards
      - v. Ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients
      - vi. Timely closeout of other awards
      - vii. Meeting matching requirements
      - viii. Extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards; and
      - ix. Meeting National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) compliance.
  - 4. Other Programmatic Risks, Financial, Organizational, Compliance, and Fraud:
    - a. Publicly available information, including from the applicant organization's website
    - b. Amount of funding requested by the organization; and
    - c. Other elements, such as keyword searches for prohibited activities

#### **4. Consideration of Integrity and Performance System Information**

Before making any award that exceeds \$250,000, AmeriCorps must consider information about the applicant from the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM.gov.

Any applicant may comment upon information previously entered by another Federal agency in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM.gov.

AmeriCorps may consider applicant comments when completing its review of risk. AmeriCorps may also consider other information about any applicant receiving an award, including those under \$250,000.

## 5. Selection for Funding

The review and selection process are designed to:

- Identify how well eligible applications are aligned with application selection criteria.
- Build a diversified portfolio based on the following strategic considerations:
  - AmeriCorps Funding Priorities
  - Meaningful representation of:
    - rural communities (see definition in Mandatory Supplemental Information)
    - innovative community strategies
    - AmeriCorps CEO discretion to advance strategic goals

AmeriCorps and DSCI reserve the right to adjust or make changes to the review process, if unforeseen circumstances make it impossible, impractical or inefficient to execute the review process as planned.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to refocus program dollars under this Notice in the event of disaster or other compelling needs.

An applicant denied any portion of funding may request reconsideration of a funding decision within 5 business days of receiving notice of their denial. Reconsideration requests must be submitted to the DSCI within 3 business days of receiving a denial notice to ensure the request can be submitted within AmeriCorps' request window.

Reconsideration will only be granted if there is clear and substantial error. Any reconsideration of denied applications is entirely subject to the agency's discretion.

## IX. Award Notification

Applicants will be notified of funding decisions via email. Notification will be sent to the following people listed in the Authorized Representative Form: Legal Authorized Signatory, Primary Program Contact, Primary Fiscal Contact, and Pre-Award or Grant Manager Contact.

### A. Applicant Resolution

After the application review process, 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.

## B. Feedback to Applicants

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

## C. 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 AmeriCorps Funded Grants & [serve.maryland.gov](https://serve.maryland.gov) within 90 business days after all grants are awarded.

Further information about funded grants and subgrants is also available in [USASpending.gov](https://USASpending.gov).

## D. Applicants not selected for Competitive Funding

Competitive AmeriCorps Maryland applicants not selected for competitive funding may be considered for formula funding from DSCI.

More information will be provided to applicants on the formula funding consideration if they are not selected for competitive funding.

# X. Federal Award Administration Information

## A. Federal Award Notices

AmeriCorps will make awards following the grant selection announcement. AmeriCorps anticipates announcing the results of the Competitive competition by notifying DSCI by mid-June 2026, depending on availability of congressional appropriations. All applicants, successful or not, will be notified of funding decisions via email.

## B. Administration and National Policy Requirements

### 1. Uniform Guidance

All awards under this Notice must follow the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, in [2 CFR Parts 200](#) and [2205](#).

### 2. Requests for Monitoring or Payment Integrity Information

AmeriCorps will request information from grantees to ensure compliance with legal requirements, including the [Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019](#). If grantees do not respond promptly to these requests, then their funds may be placed on manual hold, reimbursement only status, or other restrictions as appropriate.

In addition, DSCI and AmeriCorps may, in appropriate circumstances, consider in their funding decisions any previous failures to make timely responses.

### 3. AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions

All grants must follow the FY 2026 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, the 2026 Program-Specific Terms and Conditions and the 2026 DSCI Terms and Conditions. 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 are available on the AmeriCorps Manage Your Grant webpage.

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

## D. Use of Materials

To ensure that materials generated with AmeriCorps funding are available to the public and readily accessible to grantees and non-grantees, 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 [2 CFR §200.315](#).

## XI. Important Notices

These application instructions conform to AmeriCorps' online grant application system, eGrants. All funding announcements by AmeriCorps (ASN) are posted on [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov) and [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). All funding announcements by the DSCI are posted on [serve.maryland.gov](http://serve.maryland.gov).

### 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 form. 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 displayed on page one are current and valid. (see 5 CFR 1320.5(b)(2)(i). 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 Notice:

The Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. §552a, requires that the following notice be provided to applicants: The information requested on the AmeriCorps Application Instructions 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 purpose 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 benefits.

### Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act:

Grant recipients will be required to report at [www.FSRS.gov](http://www.FSRS.gov) on all subawards over \$30,000 and may be required to report on executive compensation for recipients and subrecipients. Recipients 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.

## XII. Other Information

### Technical Assistance

DSCI will host a technical assistance call to answer questions about the funding opportunity and eGrants. Current grantees will be invited to these calls via Basecamp and/or email. Please visit DSCI's website for additional resources: [serve.maryland.gov](http://serve.maryland.gov)

### Re-focusing of Funding

DSCI and AmeriCorps reserve the right to re-focus funding in the event of a disaster or other compelling need for service.

## XIII. Contact Information

All communication relating to this Notice and for questions regarding AmeriCorps Maryland applications, contact [govs.md@maryland.gov](mailto:govs.md@maryland.gov)

All emails will be returned within a reasonable amount of time. Applicants are encouraged to submit their questions well in advance of the deadline as the DSCI is not obligated to respond to questions that are received 48 hours prior to the due date.

Questions regarding multi-state or Indian Tribe applications must be submitted directly to AmeriCorps via email at [AmeriCorpsGrants@americorps.gov](mailto:AmeriCorpsGrants@americorps.gov)

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