

FY26 Maryland Formula NOFO TTA

April 2026

While we wait to get started,
please say hello in the chat.

Opening

Outcomes-Together we hope to:

- Review key components of the 2026 AmeriCorps Maryland Formula NOFO

Our Facilitators

- Joy McGinnis - Deputy Director, GOSV
- Liz Looney Lorenz - Executive Director, GOSV

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Application Portal
3. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
4. Application Components
 - a. Priority Areas
 - b. Evidence Base
 - c. Budget
5. Tips
6. Resources



Funding Pool

	Details	Key Dates
Formula	State competition for dollars that are available from each State Commission	<p>Application Due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">April 22nd, 2026 11:59 pm ET <p>Notification of Selection (tentative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mid-June <p>Budget Period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">August 15, 2026 - August 14, 2027

Disclosures

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

AmeriCorps reserves the right to award applications in an amount less than the requested level of funding

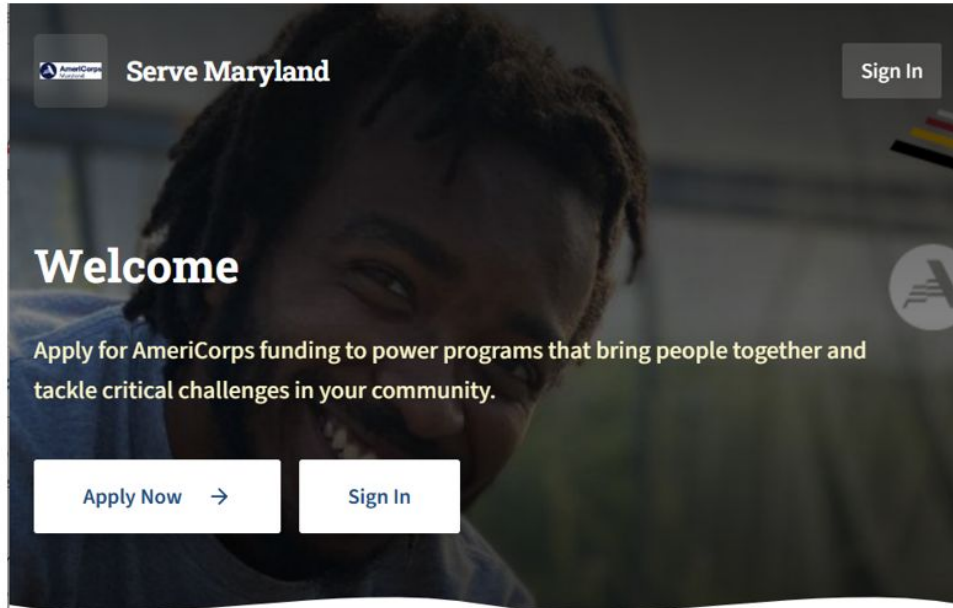


Accessing the Application Portal

<https://grants.americalearns.net/serve-maryland>

<https://grants.americlearns.net/serve-maryland>

You will see the commission's welcome page, which looks like the picture below:



This is the main website where all available grant competitions are listed.

Scroll down the page to see the list of competitions that are currently accepting applications.

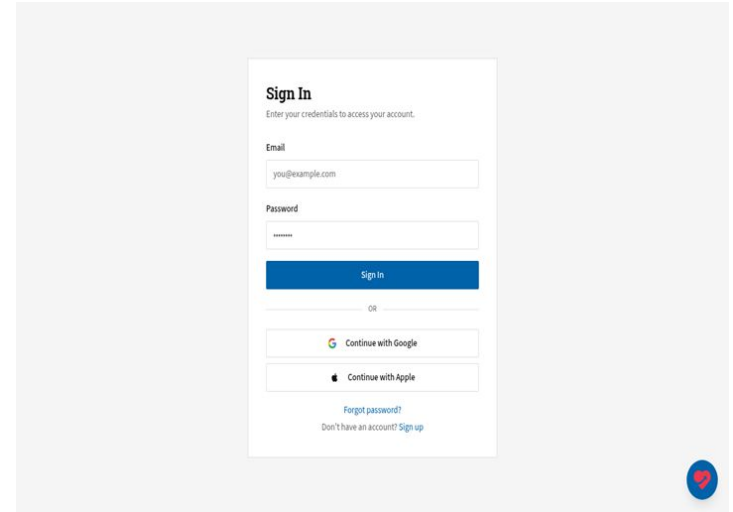
Find the competition you want to apply for and click the blue “Apply” button next to it.

<https://grants.americlearns.net/serve-maryland>

Part 2: Creating Your Personal Account

After you click “Apply,” the system will ask you to sign in. If this is your first time, you will need to create a new account.

1. You will see a Sign In screen. Look at the bottom where it says “Don’t have an account? Sign up.”



Part 3: Setting Up Your Organization

After you verify your email and sign in for the first time, the system will ask you to set up your organization. This is the name of the group or agency that is applying for the grant.

1. You will see a screen titled “Set Up Your Organization.”
2. Type your organization’s full legal name in the box labeled “Organization Name.”
3. If you have a logo for your organization, you can upload it by clicking “Browse” under the logo section. This step is optional — you can skip it if you do not have one.
4. Click the blue “Create Organization & Continue” button.

The system will then take you to the list of available competitions where you can start your application.


<https://grants.americalearns.net/serve-maryland>

Part 4: Adding Team Members to Your Organization


If other people in your organization need to help with the application, you can invite them to join your account. Only Organization Admins can add new members.






Support



Grant Gateway Support



How can we help you today?

-  **I need help**
Ask questions about how Grant Gateway works
-  **Share feedback or ideas**
Submit feature requests, bug reports, or suggestions
-  **System Status**
Check service health and uptime

2026 Maryland Formula NOFO



Important Changes



- Slot Type Changes
- Minimum Living Allowance for ALL Slots
- Priority Funding Areas and Point Allocation
- Data Collection and Quality Plan
- Narrative
 - Overall Changes in what is being requested
 - Revised Point Allocations

Slot Type, Minimum Living Allowance



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

Amendment 1: Member Enrollment Requirements

Removed (Pages 3 & 10)

- 6-month / 9-month enrollment timelines
- “No exceptions or waivers” language

FY26 Impact

- Not in effect for 2026–2027
- Programs proceed without enrollment restrictions



FY 26 Priority Areas

- Notice Priority Section – 4 points
 - 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.
- New and Revised Areas of Priority

FY26 Funding Priorities



New Areas

- public safety, crime prevention, and/or partnerships between law enforcement and the community.
- 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;
- strengthening families, e.g., activities that aim to support low-income parents through parenting education, responsible parenting and healthy relationship skills.

Revised Areas

- 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.

Funding Priorities

NOFO –
pages 7-9



Faith Based	Serve Communities	Benefit AmeriCorps Members	Use Evidence
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Maryland State Strategic Priorities

- Build service-to-career pathways that create structured pipelines from national service to employment, credential attainment, and long-term career advancement in high-demand industries across Maryland.
- Strengthen partnerships across sectors to expand cross-system collaboration among nonprofits, government agencies, educational institutions, and employers, thereby connecting member development opportunities and sustainable community impact.
- Build public health programming that targets young Marylanders' capacity to access critical mental health resources and creates career pathways to help address the national shortage of mental health professionals.

Data Collection and Quality Plan-Appendix F

In accordance with the annual **AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)** and approved grant application, this plan should include descriptions of the following components:

- Procedures and roles for **data collection, tracking, and reporting**
- How the program ensures data is collected and managed **consistently across staff and sites**
- Procedures for **reviewing, correcting, deduplicating, and verifying program data**
- Procedures for maintaining documentation supporting reported performance

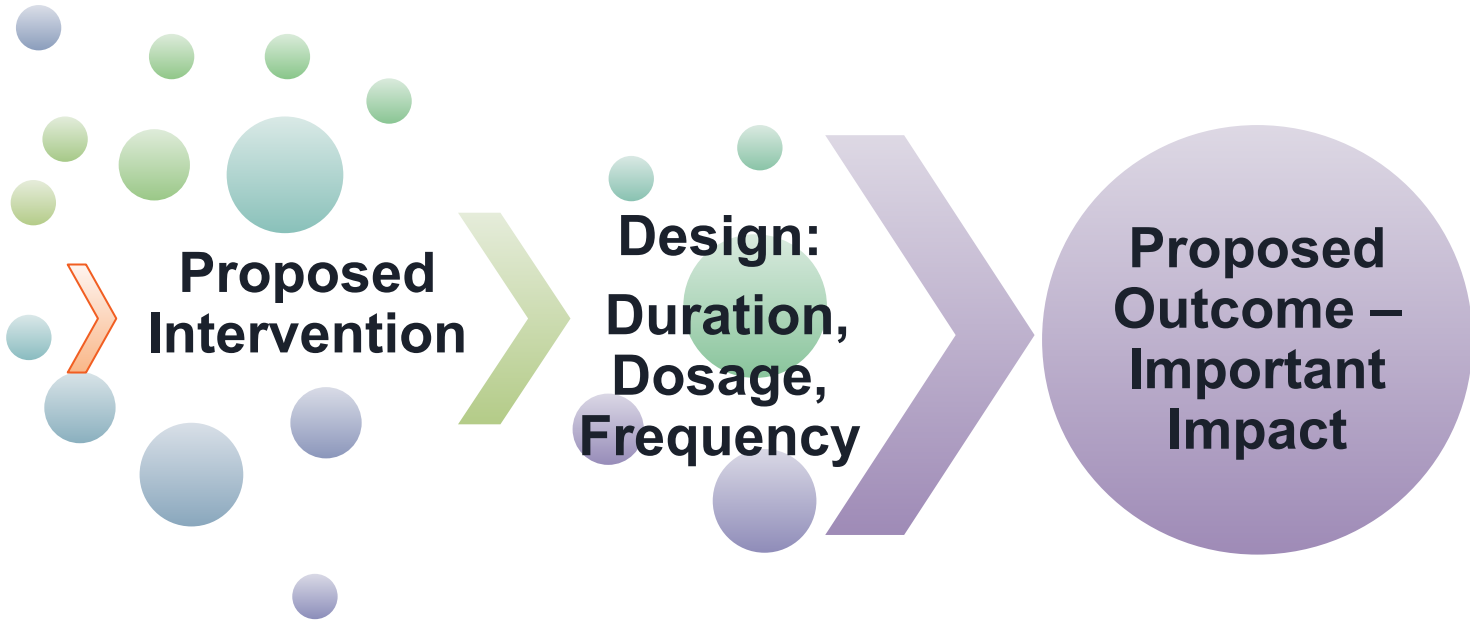
Understanding the AmeriCorps Narrative



Scoring Criteria

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

What Evidence MUST Show



Evidence Levels

Competitive

EVIDENCE LEVEL	FY23	FY24	FY25
STRONG	25%	55%	57%
MODERATE	12%	16%	11%
PRELIMINARY	20%	19%	25%
PRE-PRELIMINARY	43%	11%	7%

RESOURCES | EVIDENCE

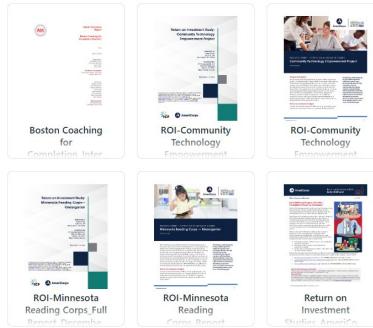
AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange:
Return on Investment Studies

Evaluation Reports

On3Learn: Evidence Series (Free with MDSUB23)

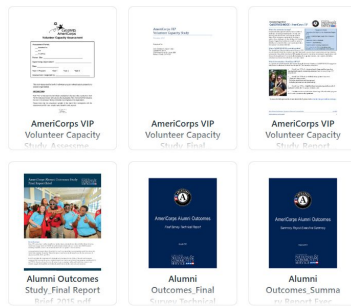
AmeriCorps ROI Studies

Download everything in this folder



AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange

Download everything in this folder



RECOMMENDATIONS | NARRATIVE

- Follow the criteria outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity
- Make your grant easy to read – clear and accurate section headings on new lines
- Write first, cut later
- Lead from your program strengths
- Check spelling (including AmeriCorps)
- Be clear and provide details
- Use an impartial proofreader





Understanding the AmeriCorps Logic Model

LOGIC MODEL

- 7 column document
- Communicates everything about the program design
- Read in concert with the narrative
- Details are important

Criteria required in the input columns:

- Number of AmeriCorps members who will deliver the intervention
- Characteristics of AmeriCorps members, including specific knowledge, skills, and abilities required to implement the intervention
- Locations or sites in which members will provide services
- Setting and community condition where the intervention is delivered



Problem	INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	Outcomes		
				Short-Term	Medium-Term	Long-Term
Community problem that the program activities are designed to address	What we invest	What we do	Direct products from program activities	Changes in knowledge, skills, attitudes, opinions	Changes in behavior or action that result from participants' new knowledge	Meaningful changes, often in their condition or status in life

Understanding the AmeriCorps Performance Measures



Performance Measures

- Required element of your AmeriCorps Grant
- Tell part of the story of your program
- Represent the primary service activity your members do
- Reasonable for you to collect information on
- Help to answer an outcome question
- Share meaningful impact

Requirements

- One aligned set of measures (1 output and 1 outcome)
 - Connected to the primary intervention
 - Numbers and results address the same activity and beneficiaries
- Follow the required selection and design instructions
- Define all terms and requirements

Programs are not required to have a set of measurements for every activity members do.



Understanding the AmeriCorps Budget

Budget

Match Percentage

AmeriCorps Funding Year	1, 2, & 3	4, 5, & 6	7, 8 & 9	10+
Cost Sharing/ Matching Requirements	24%	26%	28%	30%

Match percentage = TOTAL of CNCS share (federal funds) **AND** Grantee share (matching funds).

Budget

Zero-Dollar Line Items

- May be needed to stay within match and cost per MSY limits
- Show the full scope of program resources
- Provide flexibility for future budget adjustments
- Include even if not directly funded to keep budget and narrative aligned

Purpose - Calculation	CNCS Share	Grantee Share	Total Amount
Staff webinars and local training sessions: 5 staff x 2 trainings (topics to include program management, volunteer management, and project-specific skills) x \$100 per training for registration = \$1,000- Daily Rate of 100. Costs covered by outside funding sources.	0	0	0

Budget

Source of Match Funds

- Shows where your match is coming from
- All applicants must complete the match chart
- Total must match the grantee share of your budget (i.e. match)

For each source include:

- Amount
- Source
- Secured or proposed
- Cash or in-kind

Budget

Recommendations

- Check for mathematical errors
- Confirm costs are allowable, reasonable, and allocable to the award
- Submit with adequate information to assess how each line item is calculated
- Double check that the budget complies with instructions
- Confirm that match is submitted with adequate information to support the amount written in the budget
- Ensure budgeted match is equal to or more than the required match for this NOFO



ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Grant Portal

Required:

- Certificate of Good Standing
- Federal Debt Delinquency and Federal Debarment Certification
- Financial Documentation
- State Support and Oversight Fee Calculator
- Data Collection and Quality Plan

If Applicable:

- Form 990 (non profits only)
- Match Waiver
- Training Waiver
- MSY Waiver
- Evidence Documents
- Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate
- Labor Union Concurrence, if applicable

Additional documents **MUST** include the following:

- File naming convention that is clearly labeled and includes application ID number and legal applicant name
- Heading in each document that includes the application ID number and legal applicant name.



QUESTIONS?



Resources

AmeriCorps Resources

<https://www.americorps.gov/funding-opportunity/fy-2026-ameri-corps-state-national-grants>

Technical Assistance Webinars

AmeriCorps has posted recorded technical assistance webinars for applicants to review the funding opportunity and eGrants. AmeriCorps strongly encourages all applicants view these sessions.

Information Sessions

- **AmeriCorps State and National 101:** Overview of AmeriCorps the agency, AmeriCorps State and National the program, and each of the FY 2026 AmeriCorps State and National Notice of Funding Opportunities.
 - [Recording](#)
- **FY 2026 AmeriCorps State and National Competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity:** Overview of the FY 2026 ASN Competitive Notice, how to apply, and application requirements.
 - [Recording](#)
- **FY 2026 AmeriCorps State and National Best Practices for Performance Measures Video:** Overview of Performance Measures, performance measure requirements, and best practices for developing performance measures.
 - [Recording](#)
- **Best Practices in Budget Development:** An overview of the function of an AmeriCorps budget, the budget management process, and the keys for submitting a compliant and competitive AmeriCorps budget and budget narrative.
 - [Cost reimbursement operating grant budget narrative](#)
 - [Recording](#)
- [Active SAM.gov Registration Instructions](#)

On3Learn Resources

2026-2027 NOFO: The AmeriCorps Application (free with MDSUB23)

- [Understanding the Overall Application and Narrative](#)
- [Understanding the AmeriCorps Budget](#)
- [Developing Logic Models](#)
- [Selecting and Developing Performance Measurements](#)



Troubleshooting Contacts

- AmericaLearns: Application portal support
- DSCI: direct support or NOFO questions (gosv.md@maryland.gov)