



Notice of Funding Opportunity
AMERICORPS MARYLAND FORMULA GRANTS
2026-2027

All formula applications and required additional documents must be received [via the application portal](#) no later than 11:59 pm April 22nd, 2026.

Late or incomplete applications will not be eligible for funding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

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

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.

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 the Congressional Review Act (CRA) as codified at 5 U.S.C. §§801- 808. Any subsequent notification provided to Congress does not constitute a 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.).

Significant Changes for FY26 Notice of Funding Opportunity

Below is a quick summary of key updates for FY 2026. Please review the full NOFO and supplemental guidance for complete details.

New Funding Priorities

Applications are especially encouraged in the following areas:

- Public safety, crime prevention, and partnerships
- Expanding outdoor recreation for future generations
- Strengthening families

Important Application Changes

- **Fewer slot types:**
Two slot types have been removed (Reduced Half-Time and Abbreviated Time).
- **Pre-award costs allowed:**
You may begin certain expenses up to **1 month before** your program start date (if allowable).
- **Updated review criteria:**
Some scoring areas were adjusted including Community & Logic Model, Notice Priority, and Member Supervision.
- **Funding note:**
Applicants may receive awards for **less than the amount requested**.

For Formula Applicants

- The **maximum cost per MSY remains \$25,200**

Member Enrollment Requirements

- Programs must follow updated **enrollment timelines:**
 - Up to **6 months** for most programs
 - Up to **9 months** if 60% or more of slots are less than half-time
- **No exceptions or waivers** will be granted

How Funding is Released (Fixed-Price Grants)

Funds will be distributed in stages:

- **50% at program start**
- **Up to 25%** after enrolling 50% of members
- **Final 25%** after all members are retained

IMPORTANT DATES

FORMULA	
Application Due	April 22nd, 2026 11:59 pm ET
Notification of Selection (tentative)	Mid-June
Budget Period	August 15, 2026 - August 14, 2027

Formula Funding Consideration

The Legal Applicant Organization must meet all eligibility criteria as outlined in the Eligibility Information section of this Notice.

Late Submissions

All applications received after the submission deadline are considered 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 submitted to the AmericaLearns helpdesk.
 - Information provided to the applicant by AmericaLearns; 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 govs.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 (govs.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 improving communities and the people who serve them.

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 performs community service through AmeriCorps. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits. After completing their service, members earn a [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) that they can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply toward qualified student loans.

B. DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE AND CIVIC INNOVATION (DSCI): WHO WE ARE

The mission of Maryland’s Department of Service and Civic Innovation (DSCI) is to mobilize Marylanders to drive community impact, build meaningful careers, and forge stronger bonds across differences through service. The Maryland Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism (GOSV) at 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

To receive priority consideration, applicants must show that the priority area is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes. Applicants should demonstrate how their proposed AmeriCorps program will contribute to measurable outcomes that align with these priorities while addressing documented community needs. Priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

AmeriCorps Strategic Priorities

For this funding opportunity, AmeriCorps has set the priorities below for consideration

Serve Communities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
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	<p>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;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 support low-income parents through parenting education, responsible parenting, and healthy relationship skills.
<p>Benefit AmeriCorps Members:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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.
<p>Use Evidence:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Utilize reports from the AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange on programs assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence to scale, replicate, or adapt the intervention.
<p>Faith-Based</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Faith-based organizations.

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.

II. Federal Award Information

A. ESTIMATED AVAILABLE FUNDS

DSCI and AmeriCorps expect a highly competitive formula grant competition. Given limited funding, DSCI 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

The Department of Service and Civic Innovation plans to make one-year grant awards. AmeriCorps generally makes an initial award for the first year of the three-year performance period.

Applicants must submit a one-year budget. 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 project start date for awarded grants is 08/15/2026. Programming may not occur before the date on which DSCI awards the grant.

AmeriCorps has notified DSCI that Member enrollment periods for National Direct and Native Nations grants, as well as State Commission subgrants, cannot exceed 6 months. Programs with 60% or more of less-than-half-time slot types have enrollment periods limited to a 9-month volunteer period. Further, AmeriCorps has indicated that no waiver to the volunteer enrollment period policy will be provided.

D. GRANT AWARD TYPES

There are two types of grants: cost reimbursement and fixed amount. 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			
Available Subtypes	Traditional	Full-Cost	Education Award Program, EAP	Professional Corps***	No Cost Slots
Maximum Cost per MSY*	\$25,200	\$25,200	\$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			
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 the organization where the 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](#), 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 submitted directly to AmeriCorps by the applicant, rather than through 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 formula 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 for funding during 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 to be considered for funding 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, data collection & quality policies & procedures plans, and AmeriCorps Maryland 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 and compliance with the terms and conditions.

AmeriCorps 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 grant type 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.
- For purposes of programmatic sustainability, the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GOSV) requires that MD State AmeriCorps Sub-Grantee Applicants plan for and maintain program operations for the following minimum/maximum MSY (Member Service Year). See Appendix J in the Application Instructions for guidance.
- 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 as 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 the requirements described above, 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 under an agreement with the relevant tax authority. However, this does not apply if a federal agency has decided that a suspension or debarment is not necessary.
- It is not registered with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) to do business in the State of Maryland or is not in good standing with SDAT.

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 a reduction in hours, wages, or employment benefits, as a result of the employer's use 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 an employee would otherwise perform 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 $20 \times \$25,200 = \$504,000$.

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 annually.

Table 1: Maximum Cost Per MSY Grant Program Maximum Cost per MSY Cost Reimbursement

GRANT PROGRAM	MAXIMUM COST PER MSY
Cost Reimbursement	\$25,200
Full-Time Fixed Amount	\$25,200
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 demonstrate they can meet the match requirement when they submit their 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.

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 either an AmeriCorps share or a match in the budget.
- 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 capable of meeting the minimum FT living allowance of \$25,500, which aligns with other state service opportunities (\$15/hour).

Table 2: 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 before 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 a living allowance or salary. Organizations must pay members at least the minimum and may pay them more. 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 any 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 ten days 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. 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 organization's Grantee Administrator must enter the UEI and EIN as an organization attribute, which will apply this 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^{(b)(1)}

Ways to Request an Application Package

All information from this funding opportunity is available at serve.maryland.gov. Applicants can also email govs.md@maryland.gov to request 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 the application portal by the application deadline or if you do not correctly label them.

In addition, applicants must submit the following documents by the application submission deadline.

The following Additional Documents must be uploaded in the application portal 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 10 MB. Individual files larger than 10 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.

Additional documents for all applicants are located on the [DSCI website](#) unless otherwise noted:

Audience	Item	Status
All Applicants	1. Evidence documents. Please refer to the Evidence Base section and Mandatory Supplemental Information for detailed instructions by evidence tier. ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted
	2. Data Collection and Quality Plan via the application portal. Applicants must submit a Data Collection & Quality Policy describing the systems and procedures the program will use to collect, manage, verify, and report performance measure data. See Appendix F for required template.	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted
	3. Certificate of Good Standing. Applicants must upload a PDF of their Certificate of Good Standing from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation . ²	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted
	4. Labor Union Concurrence, if applicable. If a program applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposes to serve as the placement site for AmeriCorps members; and ○ Has employees engaged in the same or substantially similar work as that proposed to be carried out by AmeriCorps members; and If a local labor organization represents those employees, the application must include the organization's written concurrence.	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	5. Federally approved indirect cost rate agreement , if used to claim indirect/administrative costs. Applicants applying to AmeriCorps that include a state- or federally approved indirect cost rate amount in their budget, or use a de minimis rate, must enter the current approved indirect cost rate agreement information into their budget when submitting their	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

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

² If an entity (business) is not in good standing with SDAT the applicant must notify govs.md@maryland.gov and resolve all issues before purchasing a certificate.

Audience	Item	Status
	application, and must submit the approved indirect cost rate agreement via the application portal. See Indirect Cost Rate User Instructions .	
	6. Federal debt delinquency and federal debarment certification via the application portal.	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted
	7. Financial Documentation. 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
	8. Non-Profits only: 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
	9. State Support and Oversight Fee Calculator. The document must be submitted as a PDF.	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	10. Match Waiver (if applicable). See Appendix K.	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	11. Training Waiver (if applicable) via the application portal. See Appendix I.	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	12. MSY Waiver (if applicable) I. See Appendix J.	<input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

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 reconpeting:

- 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. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

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, in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

SELECTION CRITERIA

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

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

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 submitted applications to determine compliance with eligibility requirements, 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
- Submits an application 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
- Submits an application with a minimum required MSYs as outlined in this Notice.
- Submits an application 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 eligible applications are reviewed. However, eligibility determinations can occur 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.

Formula 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 and promptly may result in the removal of its application from the consideration and award process.

GOSV determines if an application is recommended for formula funding. The Maryland State Service Commission determines if an application is approved for formula funding and submitted to AmeriCorps for consideration.

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 before 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 applicants' comments when completing its risk review. 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 align with the application selection criteria.
- Build a diversified portfolio based on the following strategic considerations:
 - AmeriCorps and Maryland 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 change the review process if unforeseen circumstances make it impossible, impractical, or inefficient to execute it as planned.

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

An applicant who is denied any portion of funding may request reconsideration of the funding decision within 5 business days of receiving notice of the denial. Reconsideration requests must be submitted to the DSCI within 3 business days of receiving notice of denial 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

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. 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 within 90 business days after all grants are awarded.

Further information about funded grants and subgrants is also available in USASpending.gov.

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 Formula competition by notifying the DSCI by mid-June 2026, subject to the availability of congressional appropriations and AmeriCorps's final approval. All applicants, successful or not, will be notified of funding decisions via email.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE 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, their funds may be placed on manual hold, in reimbursement-only status, or subject to other restrictions, as appropriate.

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

3. AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions

All grants must follow the FY 2026 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, the 2026 Program-Specific Terms and Conditions, FY26 Mandatory Supplemental Information, any required AmeriCorps assurance and certification, and the 2026 DSCI Terms and Conditions. These Terms and Conditions contain mandatory compliance and reporting requirements; applicants should review them before any Notice of Grant Award is issued. 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

All funding announcements by AmeriCorps (ASN) are posted on www.nationalservice.gov and www.grants.gov. All funding announcements by the DSCI are posted on serve.maryland.gov.

Public Burden Statement:

The public reporting burden for the collection of information under this Notice of Funding is estimated to average 6 hours per submission, including reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the required data, 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 requested information is collected to review grant applications and fund requests. Routine uses may include disclosure of information to federal, state, or local agencies in response 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 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. Current grantees will be invited to these calls via Basecamp and/or email. Please visit DSCI's website for additional resources: serve.maryland.gov

XIII. Contact Information

All communication relating to this Notice and for questions regarding AmeriCorps Maryland applications, contact 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 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

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