



Service as a Solution

State AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities



SERVE **OHIO**
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism



What is AmeriCorps?

- A program of The Corporation for National and Community Service that engages more than 70,000 Americans every year for a term of national service. www.nationalservice.gov
- National & Community Service Trust Act of 1993
- Provides grants to organizations to design and operate AmeriCorps programs to strengthen organizational capacity to meet a compelling community need by directly engaging AmeriCorps members and community volunteers.
- An AmeriCorps project must be in line with an organization's mission and enhance what an organization was able to do before the grant. An AmeriCorps project cannot duplicate or supplant pre-existing activities, staff or volunteers.
- The program should focus on one or more funding priority areas/measures.



Who is ServeOhio?

- Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism
- Mission: Creating Solutions for Ohio through AmeriCorps and Volunteer Engagement.
- ServeOhio operates under authority pursuant to Section 121.40 of the Ohio Revised Code. ServeOhio is purposed specifically to administer grants in Ohio under the federal National & Community Service Trust Act of 1993.
- The largest of these grants is the AmeriCorps program, where Ohio currently has 23 partner organizations and over 700 AmeriCorps members.
- www.serveohio.org



What Can AmeriCorps Programs Do?

AmeriCorps programs address diverse community needs including, but not limited to:

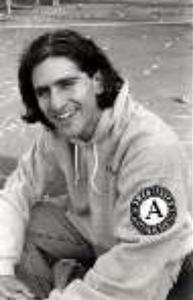
- Reducing youth obesity.
- Increasing number of individuals receiving their GED's.
- Improving school performance and school readiness.
- Reducing homelessness/increasing access to safe & affordable housing.
- Increasing the number of public awareness/education programs around a particular topic (literacy, health, etc.).
- Increasing the number of youth in after-school activities.
- Improving trails and waterways.
- Increasing the number of community volunteers/effective volunteer management practices.
- Improving/increasing access for older adults or individuals with disabilities to services to live independently.



AmeriCorps Members Get Things Done!

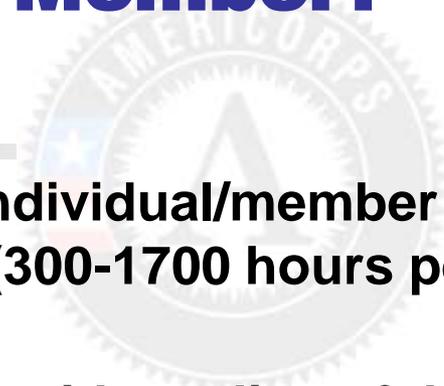
Activities/Services are provided by
AmeriCorps members

Very different resource -
human capital!

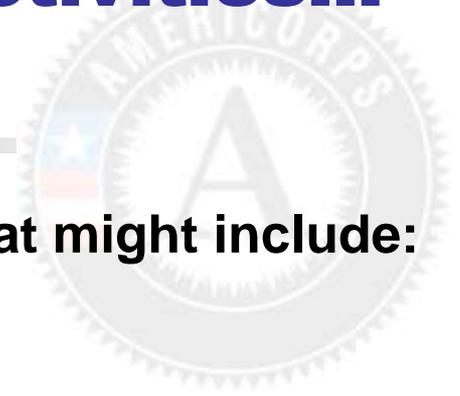


What is an AmeriCorps Member?

- ★ Not a volunteer or a staff person but an individual/member contracted for a term of national service (300-1700 hours per term).
- ★ U.S. citizen, national or legal permanent resident alien of the United States.
- ★ At least 17 years of age with no upper age limit.
- ★ AmeriCorps members receive an Eli Segal Education Award for successful completion of a term of service.
- ★ Most AmeriCorps members receive a modest living allowance, full-time members are eligible for health insurance, and some members may be eligible for childcare.
- ★ Must meet eligibility criteria.
- ★ Someone who gets things done in their community!

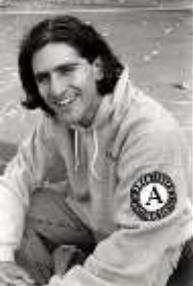


AmeriCorps Member Activities...



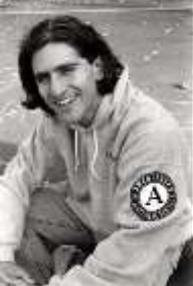
Members provide direct service activities that might include:

- ★ Tutoring/mentoring elementary students.
- ★ Connecting families to adequate healthcare.
- ★ Assisting families with securing safe/affordable housing.
- ★ Assisting veterans with seeking employment.
- ★ Providing educational enrichment programs for youth.
- ★ Developing and conducting environmental education programs.
- ★ Conducting community awareness programs.
- ★ Implementing nutrition and physical activity programs.



Eligibility for an AmeriCorps Grant

- ★ Non-profit organizations; institutions of higher education; government entities within states or territories; Indian tribes; and partnerships or consortia.
- ★ Organizations that propose to operate within only one state must apply through their State Commission.
- ★ Organizations that propose to operate in more than one state apply directly to the Corporation.



Benefits of an AmeriCorps Grant

- ★ Expands the capacity of organizations to meet identified critical community needs.
- ★ Provides funds to support AmeriCorps program administration, access to training and technical assistance resources, and entrance into a national network of organizations.
- ★ Allows organizations to recruit individuals from the community to serve as AmeriCorps members.
- ★ Community members who serve as AmeriCorps members gain skills, experience, and an Education Award to be used to further their education or repay student loans.
- ★ Members and volunteers gain a better understanding of community needs/challenges and how to solve them.



Ohio AmeriCorps Grants

- ★ Grants provide *partial* funding to support AmeriCorps projects/programs; funds are not for general organizational expenses.
- ★ Grant recipients must contribute a portion of the total grant cost to support the project – 24%. Cash and in-kind resources.
- ★ Funds are directly tied to a specific number of members and are solely for program expenses, such as member living allowance and benefits, member and staff training, supervision, supplies, and evaluation.
- ★ Grants include an allotment of AmeriCorps member positions. Ohio AmeriCorps programs must request a minimum of 10 MSY's.
- ★ Organizations that receive grants are responsible for recruiting, selecting, and supervising AmeriCorps members to serve in their programs.
- ★ AmeriCorps grants have required financial and programmatic reporting.



Is AmeriCorps a Right Fit?

Questions to ask prior to applying for an AmeriCorps grant

What is our capacity?

- Does my organization have the organizational, technological and fiscal capacity to manage a federal grant?
- Does my organization have the resources to match the federal funds (cash and in-kind)?
- Does my organization have the resources to manage a program for 30-60 days before receiving reimbursement?
- Can we support (recruit/manage/budget) the requested Member Service Years (MSY)? 1 MSY is equal to 1700 hours of service.
 - [See NOFO for specifics requirements](#)



Additional Questions to Ask

prior to applying for an AmeriCorps grant

Can we secure commitments?

- Receiving commitment letters from organizations willing to partner for an AmeriCorps program

Who are our potential partners?

- Will this program offer services not already offered in the community?
- Are there other community organizations wanting an AmeriCorps program or that already have one? [See our current list of programs](#)

What does the research say?

- Does my organization address compelling needs in one of the priority areas/measures?
- Would this program support my organization's mission and strategic plan or needs?
- What is the success in providing the service?



Why AmeriCorps?

- Why is an AmeriCorps program and member uniquely positioned to meet the described need?



2015 ServeOhio Focus Areas

- ★ **Economic Opportunity** -- focused on career and education plans, both as the population served and as AmeriCorps members.
- ★ **Environment** -- 21st Century Service Corps
- ★ **Governor and Mayor Initiatives**
- ★ **Local or regional consortium** that demonstrate measureable and collective impact and primarily serve communities with limited resources and organizational infrastructure. i.e. rural and other underserved communities.
- ★ **Programming that supports My Brother's Keeper-** milestones #3 and/or #4
- ★ See [Glossary in NOFO](#) for more details.



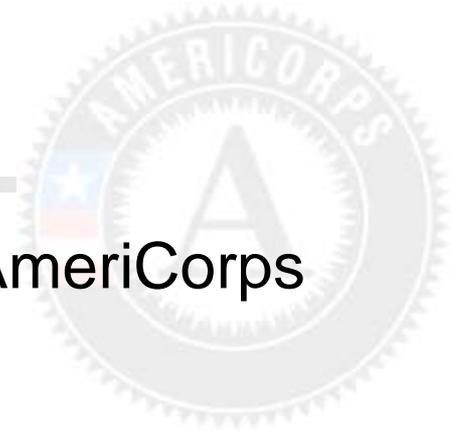
Ohio AmeriCorps Grant Opportunities



- **AmeriCorps State**
 - Planning Grants
 - Operational Grants



Ohio AmeriCorps



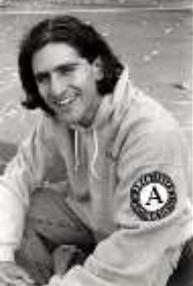
- If you propose to operate a State AmeriCorps program in Ohio
 - Read the [NOFO](#)
 - Read the [Application Instructions](#)
 - [Planning grant has separate instructions.](#)
 - Submit [Intent to Apply](#) by April 15.
 - **Intent to Apply is Required to apply**



Additional Information



- Attend Technical Assistance Session
 - State Library of Ohio on April 23
 - [Planning Grant Session from 9:30-11:30am](#)
 - [Operational Grant Session from 1:00-4:00pm](#)
- Apply to the Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism by **May 13, 2015 by 5:00pm in [eGrants](#)**



For More Information



www.serveohio.org

Mary.cannon@serveohio.gov

or

614.728.5177

