



Ohio AmeriCorps FY21

Application Overview

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



ServeOhio



- **Ohio's Commission on Service and Volunteerism**
- ***To strengthen Ohio communities through AmeriCorps and volunteer engagement***



What is AmeriCorps?

- National service program, a.k.a. “domestic Peace Corps”
- Engages more than 80,000 Americans every year for a term of national service. www.nationalservice.gov
- AmeriCorps is a federal agency that administers grants to engage more than 4 million Americans in service through AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps Seniors and other initiatives such as the Volunteer Generation Fund

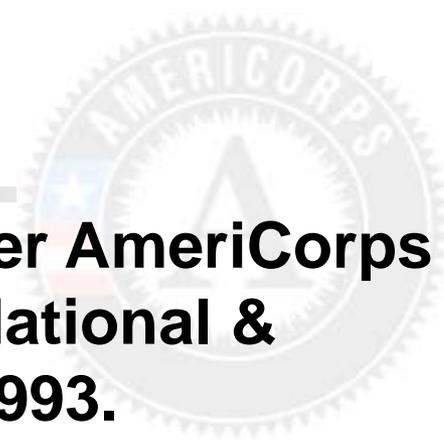


AmeriCorps
Ohio

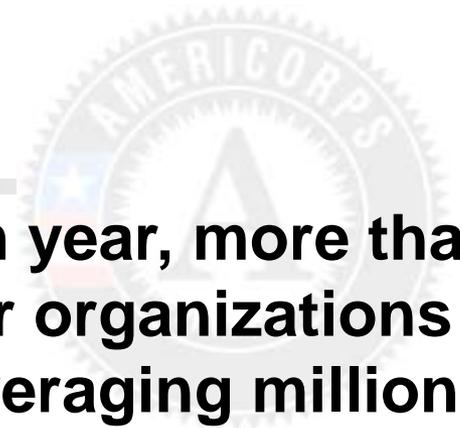


ServeOhio

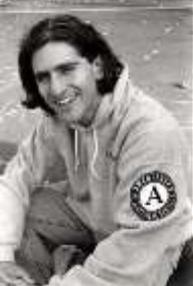
- Purposed specifically to administer AmeriCorps grants in Ohio under the federal National & Community Service Trust Act of 1993.
- Authorized under section 121.40 of the Ohio Revised Code
- Through collaborations and partnerships, administer AmeriCorps funding that targets areas of education, economic opportunity, healthy futures, veterans/military families, environmental stewardship and disaster services



ServeOhio



- In Ohio for the 2020-2021 program year, more than \$8 million is supporting 26 partner organizations and 900 AmeriCorps members leveraging millions in local public and private support.
- Map of all AmeriCorps service locations with program summaries can be found [here](#).



What Can Ohio AmeriCorps Programs Do?

AmeriCorps programs address diverse community needs. For example,

- Health
- Employment
- Education

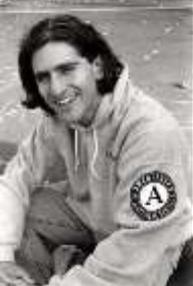
Apex to AmeriCorps programs are the **AmeriCorps members** who provide direct service activities

- “Boots on the ground” and in the community



Who is an Ohio AmeriCorps Member?

- ★ Not a volunteer or a staff person but an individual/member contracted for a term of public 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!



Eligibility for an Ohio AmeriCorps Grant

- ★ Non-profit organizations;
 - ★ institutions of higher education;
 - ★ government entities within states or territories;
 - ★ Indian tribes;
 - ★ and partnerships or consortiums.
-
- ★ Organizations that propose to operate programs solely in Ohio must apply through ServeOhio.
-
- ★ Multi-state applicants must apply directly to [AmeriCorps HQ](#)



Application Documents

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- Application Instructions
- Mandatory Supplemental Instructions
- Intent to Apply
- Financial Management Survey
 - *Required*

All documents on Grants/Funding webpage



FY21 Funding Priorities

- Efforts to help local communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Programs that actively engage in removing structural racial inequities, advancing racial equality, and increasing opportunity to achieve sustainable change in communities.
- Economic Opportunity – program models that increase economic opportunities by preparing people for the workforce.



FY21 Funding Priorities

- Education programs using evidence-based interventions as described on the [AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange](#) as being moderate or strong evidence.
- Healthy Futures – program models that reduce and/or prevent prescription drug and opioid abuse.
- Veterans and Military Families – program models that positively impact the quality of life of veterans and improves military family strength.



FY21 Funding Priorities

- Rural intermediaries - organizations that demonstrate measurable impact and primarily serve rural communities with limited resources and organizational infrastructure.
- Faith-based organizations providing any of the funding priorities.
- Programs that reduce child poverty.
- Environmental stewardship.



FY21 Funding Priorities

- **Economic Mobility Corps – a joint initiative with the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund and Certified Community Development Financial Institutions to provide individuals financial literacy, planning, budgeting, saving, and other financial counseling activities in distressed and underserved areas.**



NOFO Application Elements

Application Review Information

- starts on page 15

A. Executive Summary – use template provided!

B. Program Design

1a. Theory of Change has three primary descriptive elements:

Need

Intervention (i.e. what AmeriCorps members will do)

Outcome/Expected Change

1b. Logic Model is a linear representation of program

- [How to Develop a Program Logic Model](#)
- [AmeriCorps template](#) on the website.

2. Evidence Base of the PROPOSED PROGRAM (see next slide)

3. Notice Priority – minimal response required

4. Member Experience



NOFO Application Elements

B2. Evidence Base - The assessment of an applicant's evidence base on the **same intervention described in the application.**

1. Evidence Tier – identify your program's evidence tier

1. Pre-Preliminary = evidence-informed*
2. Preliminary = Outcome studies on the same intervention in the application
3. Moderate evidence = positive evidence of effectiveness via experimental design with limited generalization (site specific)
4. Strong evidence = positive evidence of effectiveness via experimental design with broader generalizations (region, state, etc.)

2. Evidence Quality is the review of reports and degree to which they support the proposed program design

***Most new programs will be pre-preliminary**



NOFO Application Elements



C. Organizational Capability

1. Organizational background and staffing
2. Compliance and Accountability
3. Culture that Values Learning
4. Member Supervision



NOFO Application Elements

D. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

1. “See Budget” is only required narrative
2. Review Based on Budget Instructions
3. Can use to elaborate on budget elements or line items

E. Evaluation Plan

1. New applicants include Data Collection Plan (pg. 21)

F. Amendment Justification

1. Enter N/A

G. Clarification Information

1. Enter N/A

H. Continuation Changes

1. Enter N/A



NOFO Application Elements

- **Submission of Additional Documents for NEW applicants (pgs. 14-15)**
 - Evaluation Reports, if applicable to Evidence Base section
 - Letters of Support, if applicable
 - Financial Management Survey

Send all additional documents via email to [Mary Cannon](#) by the application deadline.



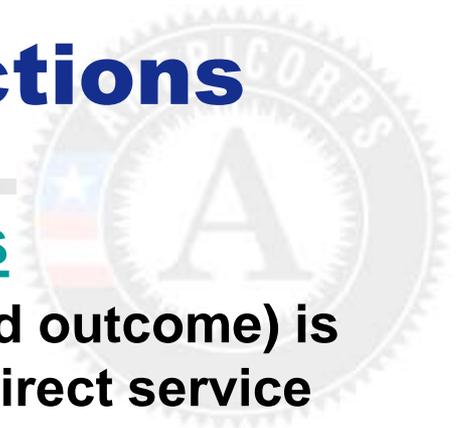
Application Instructions

– Performance Measure Instructions

- One performance measure (output and outcome) is required for your program's primary direct service activity
- Targets for one year
- Attend the October 21 grant workshop

– Detailed Budget Instructions

- Follow the instructions
- Budget for one year
- Attend October 21 grant workshop



Ohio AmeriCorps Grants

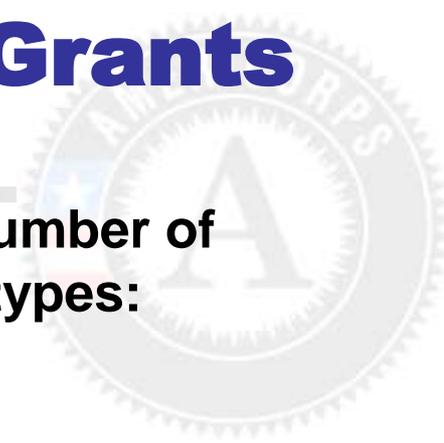
★ Grants include a request for a specific number of AmeriCorps member positions and slot types:

- ★ Full-time: 1 MSY; 1700 hours
- ★ Three Quarter-Time: .70 MSY; 1200 hours
- ★ Half-time: .5 MSY; 900 hours
- ★ Reduced Half-time: .381 MSY; 675 hours
- ★ Quarter-time: .265 MSY; 450 hours
- ★ Minimum-time: .212 MSY; 300 hours
- ★ Abbreviated-time: .056 MSY; 100 hours
- [See NOFO page 11](#)

EXAMPLE: An application requests 1 full-time, 1 half-time, 1 quarter-time and 1 minimum-time.

This is a request totaling 4 members slots and 1.977 MSY**

*****Note: this is not an eligible request!***



Example of a Grant Request

Applications must request a **cost per MSY**
at or below **\$16,300**

Cost Per MSY = Federal Request / Total MSY Request

Request Example = 10 MSY for 20 Half-Time Members:

10 MSY * \$16,300 = \$163,000 Maximum Federal Request

\$163,000 (Federal) + \$51,474 (Your Share) = \$214,474 (Total Grant)

76% + **24%** = **100%**



Cost-Reimbursement Budgets

- Payments made via reimbursements
- 24% matching requirement and require the submission of a budget and financial reports.
- Must abide by Cost per MSY maximum for grant type. [See NOFO page 4](#)
- Funds are directly tied to a specific number of members and are solely for program expenses.
- Funds are not for general organizational expenses.
- **Must request no less than 5 MSY**



Fixed Cost Budgets



- Limited to certain applicants
- No matching requirements
- Funds dependent on member enrollment/retention
- Must abide by Cost per MSY maximum for grant type. [See NOFO page 4](#)
- Funds are directly tied to a specific number of members and are solely for program expenses.
- Funds are not for general organizational expenses.
- **Must request no less than 5 MSY**



IMPORTANT



- Create an [eGrants](#) account
- Must have active [SAM](#) and [DUNS](#) number throughout the entire grant period
- Abide by page limitations, NOFO pg. 8
 - Narrative
 - Logic Model
- Submit grant and additional documents by the deadline.



Application Documents

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- Application Instructions
- Mandatory Supplemental Guidance
 - MSG is a glossary
- Intent to Apply
- Financial Management Survey
 - *Required*

All documents on Grants/Funding webpage



Are we “mission ready?”

What is our capacity?

- Does my organization have the organizational, human resources, technological and fiscal capacity to manage a federal grant?
 - Are Human Resources and Legal departments included in the conversations?
- 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 our organization administer the programmatic and fiscal reporting requirements and attend required meetings?



Are we “mission ready?”



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?
- What is the success in providing the service?

What questions cannot we not answer on the [Intent to Apply/Concept Paper?](#)

- Who should be included in the discussion?
- Are we asking members to conduct [prohibited activities](#)?
- Will members replicate or displace current staff or volunteers?



Are we “mission ready?”

- Can we recruit, manage, retain, train and budget for the requested number of members and MSY?
- Review the [Financial Management Survey Pre-Award Risk Assessment](#). A requirement for new programs.
- At minimum, ServeOhio recommends at least .5 FTE to oversee and administer the program



Why AmeriCorps?

- Why is an AmeriCorps program, i.e. AmeriCorps members, uniquely positioned to meet the described need?
- How will it expand your reach, scale, scope or improve efficiency and effectiveness?



Ohio AmeriCorps Grants

- ★ Expands the capacity of organizations to meet their mission and identified critical community need
- ★ Organizations that receive Ohio AmeriCorps grants are responsible for recruiting, selecting, and supervising AmeriCorps members to serve in their programs.
- ★ All grants have required programmatic and financial reporting.
- ★ Are *not* for individual placements.
- ★ Grants must request at least 5 Member Service Years (MSY).



Application Timeline



- **Grant Workshop**
 - **10.21.20**
 - 12:30-1:30 pm NOFO In-depth review
 - 2:00 – 2:45 pm Budget Instructions
 - 3:00 - 4:30 pm Performance Measures & Resources
- **Intent to Apply –not required**
 - **Submit by 11.2.20 for feedback**
- **Application Deadline**
 - **November 18, 2020**



Additional Information



- <https://www.serveohio.org/Grants-Funding/AmeriCorps-Funding>
- www.nationalservice.gov
- [AmeriCorps Regulations](#)
 - 45CFR, Chapter 25



Contact



www.serveohio.org

Mary.cannon@serveohio.gov

