



Oklahoma
Community
Service
Commission

**Oklahoma Community Service Commission
Request for Proposal (RFP)**

Issued October, 2009

Due Date: January 12, 2010

The Oklahoma Community Service Commission will be accepting applications to begin 2010-2011 AmeriCorps programs in September, 2010. The Oklahoma Commission currently hosts over 400 AmeriCorps members in 11 programs throughout the state. Those members and the volunteers recruited provide many volunteer service hours in their communities giving much needed assistance in areas of education, the environment, public safety, homeland security and other human needs.

The Commission acts as the pass through agency for AmeriCorps*State funding. As such, its role is to administer and account for AmeriCorps funds as required by federal, state, and AmeriCorps program rules and regulations. The Commission funds programs that usually consist of teams of no less than 10 (ten) members.

Competitive funds are available to states to support grant applications. Applicants compete on a state level and successful applicants are forwarded with Commission recommendations and ranking to compete nationally for funding based on their responses to the application guidelines and instructions. The federal agency, the Corporation for National and Community Service, makes final decisions on Competitive grants for national and community service. **Formula** funds are based on a state's population, and formula grants are the decision of the Commission who monitors and oversees both Formula and Competitive AmeriCorps*State grants.

This current Request for Proposals (RFP) is for *new, recompeting and continuing applicants* who will be submitting an application for AmeriCorps*State Competitive and Formula Funds. Any applicants in Oklahoma that are totally new to the AmeriCorps*State grantmaking process are eligible to apply under this competition. Program selections will be made by June, 2010, and the Commission will notify applicants regarding the status of their applications as decisions are made.

Service is a strategy utilized by many communities and organizations to address many priority needs. These activities can be supported locally, as well as with CNCS funding. We encourage applicants to carefully identify ways these activities can be supported with local resources should CNCS funding be reduced or eliminated. Applicants are requested to coordinate application efforts with other existing AmeriCorps programs, as they are creative in their program design. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to new partners and become visionary while making service a solution in communities in Oklahoma.

Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity

Overview

Federal Agency Name: Corporation for National and Community Service

Funding Opportunity Title: AmeriCorps State and National Grants FY 2010

Announcement Type: Initial announcement

CFDA Number: 94.006

On April 21, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act (SAA). The SAA reauthorizes and expands national service programs administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency created in 1993. This *Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity* begins the process of implementing this Act. The provisions in the Act are wide-reaching and complex; we recognize there will be many details to determine, in conjunction with our stakeholders, in the months and years to come.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

What is the purpose of AmeriCorps State and National Grants?

The mission of the Corporation for National and Community Service (the Corporation) is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. In the FY 2010 competition, the Corporation's funding priorities are projects that address compelling, unmet needs in one or a combination of the following five national service priority areas which are described more fully in Section III.B. below.

- **Education**
- **Clean Energy/Environment**
- **Healthy Futures**
- **Veterans**
- **Opportunity**

II. Award Information

How much funding is available?

Subject to the availability of appropriations for fiscal year 2010, the Corporation announces the anticipated availability of approximately \$363 million to award new, re-competing, and continuation AmeriCorps State and National grants. The grant categories are: State Commission and National Competitive including Professional Corps and Fixed-Amount Grants; State and National EAP; States and Territories without Commissions; and Indian Tribes.

III. Eligibility Information

This *Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity (Notice)* should be read together with the AmeriCorps regulations 45 CFR Sections 2520 – 2550 and the Application Instructions.

A. What is the purpose of this funding?

For more than fifteen years, the Corporation for National and Community Service—through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs—has mobilized a new generation of engaged citizens. This year, more than 1.8 million individuals of all ages and backgrounds will serve through these programs. They will help thousands of national and community non-profit organizations, faith-based groups, schools, and local agencies meet local needs

in education, the environment, health, veterans, economic opportunity, and other critical areas.

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations that identify an unmet need in their community that will be addressed by AmeriCorps members that the organization recruits, trains, and manages. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who is enrolled in an approved national service position and engages in community service. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members receive an education award from the National Service Trust. AmeriCorps grant funding is distributed to Governor-appointed State Commissions and multi-state grantees. State Commissions award subgrants to organizations in their states, and the multi-state grantees work through operating sites in more than one state. These organizations recruit AmeriCorps members to respond to local needs.

B. What are priorities for this funding?

In 2010, the Corporation's national service priorities for AmeriCorps State and National are applicants that address:

Education

Unmet educational needs within communities especially those that help children and youth achieve success in school and prevent them from dropping out before high school graduation.

Healthy Futures

Unmet health needs within communities including access to health care, disease prevention and health promotion initiatives, and health literacy.

Clean Energy/Environment

Unmet energy-efficiency and environmental needs within communities

Veterans

Unmet needs of veterans, members of the Armed Forces who are on active duty, and family members of deployed military personnel and engages veterans in service.

Opportunity

Unmet needs relating to economic opportunity for economically disadvantaged individuals within communities including financial literacy, housing assistance, job training, and nutritional assistance.

Performance Measures

The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act requires that the Corporation design and use national performance measures to collect meaningful data on the critical impact of AmeriCorps across the country. These national measures are optional in the 2010 application. The development of national measures will allow for aggregated reporting of impact across the portfolio and contribute to the growth of AmeriCorps envisioned in the Serve America Act. The Corporation is currently developing national performance measures to be released in late 2009.

The Corporation anticipates that at least 15 percent of the funds described in this *Notice* will support applicants that have not received an AmeriCorps State or National operational grant in the last five years. Applicants that have received only a formula operational grant within the last five years will be considered new for purposes of this 15 percent target.

The Corporation will make an effort to allocate not less than 10 percent of the financial assistance and approved national service positions provided through the grants to eligible entities proposing to carry out “enclave service programs” unless the Corporation does not receive a sufficient number of applications of adequate quality to justify making that percentage available to those eligible entities. The term “enclave service program” means a program, carried out by an eligible entity that involves a significant number of participants age 55 or older in the program and that takes advantage of the skills and experience that such participants offer in the design and implementation of the program. The Corporation reserves the right to re-focus program dollars in the event of disaster or other compelling need for service. Additional programs and program models that may receive special consideration in the selection process are described in the AmeriCorps regulations at 45 CFR 2522.450.

C. Who is eligible for this funding?

Public or private nonprofit organizations, including labor organizations, faith-based and other community organizations; institutions of higher education; government entities within states or territories (e.g., cities, counties); Indian Tribes; and partnerships or consortia are eligible. Intermediaries are encouraged to apply. The Corporation encourages organizations that have never received funding from the Corporation or AmeriCorps to apply for the grants described in this *Notice*.

Organizations that propose to operate in one state only must apply through the State Commission for the state in which they will operate. Organizations that propose to operate in more than one state are eligible to apply directly to the Corporation.

Indian Tribes may apply through State Commissions, or directly to the Corporation. Indian Tribe is defined as a federally recognized Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Native village, Regional Corporation, or

Village Corporation, as defined under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. § 1602), that the United States Government determines is eligible for special programs and services provided under federal law to Indians because of their status as Indians. Indian Tribes also include tribal organizations controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by one of the entities described above.

IV. Fixed-Amount Grant Pilot for 2010

The Serve America Act authorizes the Corporation to award fixed-amount grants in 2010. In 2010, these fixed-amount grants are available for programs that enroll full-time members only. Fixed-amount grants allow programs to apply for a fixed dollar amount per member. The fixed amount awarded per member is significantly less than the cost of running an AmeriCorps program and the applicant must raise the additional revenue necessary to operate the program. EAP programs, which have been authorized to receive fixed-amount grants for many years, may continue to enroll less-than-full-time members.

An AmeriCorps program that receives a fixed-amount grant is like any other AmeriCorps program except that, unlike the more typical cost-reimbursement grant, the fixed amount grant does not require:

- Compliance with OMB Cost Principles
- Detailed, line-item budgets
- Corporation Federal Financial Reports
- Match or documentation of match

Approved applicants must agree to participate in evaluations the Corporation conducts to measure success of this pilot. The maximum costs per Member Service Year (MSY) for the full-time fixed-amount pilot are currently being determined and will be released later this fall (one MSY is the equivalent of a full-time term of service). The amount per full-time member requested will be a competitive factor in the Corporation's selection process. Priority will be given in the selection process to organizations that have demonstrated capacity to track and report on performance measures. The Corporation may also prioritize those organizations that adopt specific national performance measures or are aligned with national service priority areas.

V. What are the categories of funding available?

A. State and National Competitive

These grants are awarded to organizations that are put forward to the Corporation by Governor-appointed State or Territory Commissions (in American Samoa and Guam) to participate in a nationwide competition and to organizations that apply directly to the Corporation and propose to operate AmeriCorps programs in more than one state. Applicants are eligible to apply for funding for a portion of the members' living allowance and program costs.

Prior to submission of a grant application to the Corporation, an applicant proposing to operate a program in two or more states is expected to consult with the State Commission of the state in which it intends to operate. Such an applicant must include in its application a description of the manner and extent to which the organization consulted with the State Commission in each state where the applicant intends to operate and the nature of the consultation. The Corporation will solicit the views of State Commissions regarding applications received for programs operating in their states.

B. State and National Professional Corps

These grants are awarded to organizations that propose to operate a Professional Corps program. The Professional Corps program model places AmeriCorps members as teachers, health care providers, police officers, engineers, or other professionals in communities where there is an inadequate number of such professionals. Applicants can apply for up to \$2,500 per MSY. Applicants are eligible to apply for funding for a portion of program costs, and use their own or other resources to pay the members' living allowance and additional member costs.

Applicants may also apply for up to \$50,000 to support start-up costs for a new Professional Corps program that operates in more than one state. An organization proposing a Professional Corps program that operates in more than one state applies directly to the Corporation. A Professional Corps program that operates in only one state must apply for a state and national competitive or

formula grant from the State Commission of the state in which it intends to operate.

C. State and National Education Award Program (EAP)

Organizations nominated by Governor-appointed State Commissions and organizations that operate their AmeriCorps program in more than one state may apply. Grantees are eligible to apply for a small grant and use their own or other resources for the members' living allowance and program costs. Applicants can apply for up to \$800 per MSY. There is no match requirement for EAP grants.

D. Fixed-Amount Pilot

Organizations that are put forward to the Corporation to participate in a nationwide competition by Governor-appointed State or Territory Commissions, organizations that operate their AmeriCorps program in more than one state, Professional Corps, States and Territories without Commissions, and Indian Tribes may apply to receive a fixed-amount grant for a full-time program. There is no match requirement for fixed-amount grants.

The Fixed-Amount Pilot is only available for new and re-competing applicants. Second and third year continuation applicants must submit a new application if they are interested in participating in the Fixed-Amount Pilot.

VI. What are the requirements to apply for these grants? A. What are the matching requirements for these grants?

Program requirements, including requirements on match, are specified in the AmeriCorps regulations, as modified by 2009 appropriations language, and summarized below.

Fixed-Amount Grants

There is no match requirement for fixed-amount grants.

Reimbursable Grants (non-fixed-amount)

A successful applicant is required to match at 24 percent for the first three-year funding period. Starting with the second three-year cycle, match gradually increases every year to 50 percent by year ten, according to the minimum overall share chart found in 45 CFR 2521.60.

Table 1: Match Requirements in the AmeriCorps Regulations Competition	Match Requirement
State and National Competitive, State and National Professional Corps	Minimum grantee share is 24%. Starting in Year 4, overall grantee share of total program costs increases gradually to 50% by the tenth year of funding and any year thereafter.
Fixed-Amount Pilot	There is no matching requirement for fixed-amount grants. Grantees pay all program costs and the Corporation provides a fixed amount, to be determined, per MSY.
State EAP and National EAP Fixed-Amount Grants	There is no matching requirement for fixed-amount grants. Grantees pay all program costs and the Corporation provides up to \$800 per MSY.