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[www.serve.nebraska.gov](http://www.serve.nebraska.gov)

## **2026 AmeriCorps Formula Notice of Funding Opportunity & Application Instructions**



# **AmeriCorps Nebraska**

### **Applications due**

All Competitive applications and required additional documents must be received no later than  
**5:00 pm CT on February 19, 2026**

All Formula Applications and required additional documents must be received no later than  
**5:00 pm CT March 13, 2026**

Important Notice to Applicants: The following documents are necessary to complete a 2026-2027 grant application for AmeriCorps funding. All can be found on the ServeNebraska website: [www.serve.nebraska.gov](http://www.serve.nebraska.gov)

**State Entity Name:** ServeNebraska  
**Funding Opportunity Title:** Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 AmeriCorps State and National Formula Grants  
**Announcement Type:** Initial Announcement  
**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 ServeNebraska 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.

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

AmeriCorps publishes this NOFO solely for the aforementioned purpose and does not consider this NOFO to meet the definition of a rule requiring publication or notice under Congressional Review Act (CRA) as codified at 5 U.S.C. §§801-808, and any subsequent notification provided to Congress does not constitute 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.](#)

## **Important Dates**

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	<b>Competitive</b>	<b>Formula</b>
<b>Application Due</b>	February 19, 2026 Grant applications must be emailed to the <a href="mailto:dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov">dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov</a> by February 19, 2026.	March 13, 2026 Grant applications must be emailed to <a href="mailto:dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov">dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov</a> by March 13, 2026.
<b>Completed applications includes</b>	Application narratives in a Word document Performance Measures Logic Model template Budget	Application narratives in a Word document Performance Measures Logic Model template Budget
<b>Notification of Selection</b>	Mid-June 2026	June 2026
<b>Budget Period Start Date</b>	August 1, 2026, or September 1, 2026	August 1, 2026, or September 1, 2026 New applicants must propose a start date of September 1, 2026

\*AmeriCorps has stated awards will be made by mid-August; therefore, member start dates before mid-August are not guaranteed.

### **Competitive Funding Consideration**

To be considered for Competitive funding, a Legal Applicant Organization must be currently administering an AmeriCorps State grant through ServeNebraska. Additionally, the Legal Applicant Organization must meet all eligibility criteria as outlined in the Eligibility Information section of this Notice. AmeriCorps State competitive applications are submitted to ServeNebraska through this application process. Eligible applications are reviewed at the state level and then sent to AmeriCorps (federal level) where they are selected for funding or returned back to the state for further consideration under the formula grant process.

### **Formula Funding Consideration**

The State of Nebraska receives an annual formula allocation of funds from AmeriCorps. ServeNebraska determines which applications receive formula grants in the state of Nebraska. To be considered for Formula funding under this Notice, a Legal Applicant Organization must meet all eligibility criteria as outlined in the Eligibility Information section of this Notice. An applicant that is not selected for competitive funding may be considered for formula funding

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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 the improvement of communities and those serving.

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations that engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities. AmeriCorps member is a person who does community service through AmeriCorps. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits. After successful completion of their service, members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award they can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

### **B. ServeNebraska: Who We Are**

ServeNebraska mobilizes Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration, and national service programs. ServeNebraska is committed to uniting individuals in service to their communities and achieving demonstrable results by funding AmeriCorps programs that address Nebraska's unmet educational, economic, environmental, health, veterans, and disaster response needs. ServeNebraska receives federal funds from the AmeriCorps Agency to invest in AmeriCorps programs. As the designated state service commission for Nebraska, we award funding to organizations to manage AmeriCorps programs to place AmeriCorps members in addressing a wide variety of issues. ServeNebraska provides training and technical assistance to support organizations in running impactful and compliant AmeriCorps programs.

### **C. AmeriCorps Funding Priorities**

For the Competitive funding opportunity, AmeriCorps will prioritize consideration from organizations that:

#### **Faith-Based:**

- Organizations that are faith-based.

#### **Serve Communities:**

- Serve communities with concentrated poverty, rural communities, tribal communities.
- Implement programs for or expand access to high-quality youth mental health and substance use recovery services and prepare AmeriCorps members to enter behavioral health careers. These may include individuals who have experienced substance use and mental health.
- 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 service 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 service.
- 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 aim to support low-income parents through parenting education, responsible parenting and healthy relationships skills.

#### **Benefit AmeriCorps Members:**

- 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.

- Enhance and expand service to formerly incarcerated and at-risk youth and/or engage those youth as AmeriCorps members.

#### **Use Evidence**

- Utilize reports from the [AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange](#) on programs assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence to scale, replicate, or adapt the intervention;

To receive priority consideration, applicants must show the priority area is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes. Priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

#### **D. NATIONAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

All applications must include at least one aligned performance measure (output and outcome) that corresponds to the proposed primary intervention. This may be a National Performance Measure or an applicant-determined measure. All performance measures must reflect significant program activities whose outputs and outcomes are consistent with the applicant's core theory of change. ServeNebraska defines significant program activities as representing activities of at least 50% of the requested MSY. This may be a National Performance Measure or an applicant-determined measure. For more information, refer to the [National Performance Measure Instructions](#).

#### **E. Program Authority**

Awards under this Notice are authorized by the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, [42 U.S.C. §12501 et seq.](#)

### **II. Federal Award Information**

#### **A. Estimated Available Funds**

ServeNebraska and AmeriCorps expect a highly competitive AmeriCorps grant competition. Given limited funding, AmeriCorps may prioritize funding to 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 vary as determined by the scope of the projects.

#### **C. Project and Award Period**

ServeNebraska plans to make three-year grant awards. AmeriCorps generally makes an initial award for the first year of the three-year period of performance. Applicants must submit a one-year budget. Applicants may propose an August 1, 2026, or September 1, 2026, start date. Continuation awards for future years are not guaranteed; they depend upon future appropriations and satisfactory performance.

The project start date may not occur prior to the date ServeNebraska awards the grant. AmeriCorps members may not enroll prior to the start date of the award. AmeriCorps members may not begin service prior to the beginning of the member enrollment period as designated in the grant award. A program may not certify any hours a member performs prior to the beginning of the member enrollment period.

#### **D. Grant Award Types**

There are two types of grants: cost reimbursement and fixed amount. With either a competitive or formula grant AmeriCorps/ServeNebraska may award a Cost Reimbursement or a Fixed Amount grant to any successful applicant. New applicants are not eligible to apply for Fixed Amount grants, unless they are a Professional Corps program. Professional Corps applicants are ineligible to receive Cost Reimbursement grants.

Grant Types	Cost Reimbursement	Fixed Amount			
<b>Available Subtypes</b>	Traditional	Full-Cost	Education Award Program, EAP	Professional Corps***	No Cost Slots
<b>Maximum Cost per MSY*</b>	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$800 or \$1,000***	\$1,000	\$0
<b>Type of Slots in the National Service Trust</b>	All slot types	All slot types	All slot types	FT Only	All slot types
<b>Matching Funds Required</b>	Yes			No	
<b>Budget Submission Required</b>	Yes			No	
<b>Availability of Funds Linked to Enrollment / Retention of Awarded</b>	No			Yes	No
<b>Special Requirements</b>	N/A		N/A	Must place qualified professionals in communities with an inadequate # of such professionals. Member salaries / benefits must be paid entirely by organization where member serves	N/A
<b>Financial Reporting Requirements</b>	Yes			No	
<b>Available to New Applications</b>	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 the program's enrollees are disadvantaged youth, AmeriCorps may provide \$1,000 per enrollee, , [Per 42 U.S.C. § 12581a](#)

\*\*\*Use the [Mandatory Supplemental Information](#) for more information.

### III. Who Can Apply

#### A. Eligible Applicants

The following non-federal entities (as defined in [2 CFR §200.1](#)) are eligible to apply:

- Indian Tribes
- Institutions of higher education
- Local governments, including school districts.
- Nonprofit organizations
- States and U.S. 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 which 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).

Applicants must have a valid [SAM registration and Unique Entity Identifier](#) and an Employer Identification Number (EIN) to receive an award.

## **B. Types of Applicants**

### **Single-State Applicants:**

- Organizations that plan to operate only in Nebraska must apply through ServeNebraska.
- A single-state application that is submitted directly to AmeriCorps by the applicant rather than ServeNebraska will be considered not compliant 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 ServeNebraska.
- In order 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 Mandatory Supplemental Information for descriptions of National Direct and Single-State applicants.

**New Applicants:** Organizations that have not received funding for an operating AmeriCorps program from ServeNebraska are considered new applicants. New organizations are also eligible for a planning grant to develop an AmeriCorps program, see 2026-2027 Planning Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity.

**Recompete Applicants:** Recompete applicants are currently in their third year of funding within a grant cycle. Recompete applicants must submit a new application in order to be eligible to receive funding for another 3-year cycle.

**Continuation Applicants:** Continuation requests apply only to programs that are currently in their first or second year of operation within a grant cycle. Continuation applicants must submit a continuation application in order to be eligible to receive funding for the following year.

## **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 must serve in Nebraska. Organizations proposing members serving in multiple states must apply directly to AmeriCorps as a National applicant.
- All AmeriCorps Nebraska grant recipients applying under this Notice must request a minimum of Three (3) MSY. Competitive recompete applicants must propose enrolling a minimum of 20 AmeriCorps members.
- FY2026 New and Recompete Competitive and Formula Applicants may propose the following slot types: Full-time, Three-Quarter Time, Half-Time, Quarter-Time, and Minimum-Time. Competitive and Formula continuation applicants may propose any of the previously listed slot types and may propose Reduced Half-time and Abbreviated-Time slot types.
- Professional Corps applicants and/or applicants determined to be a Professional Corps by ServeNebraska 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 [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. Applicants rated as insufficient evidence are removed from funding consideration. Insufficient evidence is determined by:
  - An applicant being assessed as in the pre-preliminary evidence tier AND
  - providing inadequate responses to the Evidence Quality review standards below

#### **D. Other Eligibility Requirements**

An organization is ineligible 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 tax liability that are not being paid through an agreement with the relevant tax authority. However, this does not apply if a federal agency decided that a suspension or debarment is not necessary.
- It is described in the [Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. §501 \(c\)\(4\)](#) and lobbies.

#### **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. And 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 reduction in hours, wages, or employment benefits, as a result of the use by such employer 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 would otherwise be performed by an employee 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.

#### IV. Award Funding Requirements

##### A. Maximum Cost Per Member Service Year (MSY)

One Member Service Year (MSY) is 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  $20 \times \$25,000 = \$500,000$ .

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 on an annual basis.

*Table: Maximum Cost per MSY*

<b>Grant Program</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
<i>Cost Reimbursement</i>	\$25,000
<i>Fixed Amount</i>	\$25,000
<i>Education Award Program</i>	\$800 or \$1,000*
<i>Professional Corps</i>	\$1,000
<i>Full-cost competitive Fixed Amount Grant</i>	\$25,000
<i>Education Award Program (EAP) Fixed Amount Grant (competitive and formula)</i>	\$800 or \$1,000**
<i>All non-EAP formula subgrants</i>	\$25,200***

\*\*For the Education Award Program, AmeriCorps may provide 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

##### Cost Reimbursement Grants

These grants fund a portion of program operating costs and member living allowances with flexibility to use all the funds for allowable costs regardless of whether the program retains all its AmeriCorps members. Traditional Cost Reimbursement grants include a formal match requirement and require the submission of financial budget and financial report. Two types of cost reimbursement grants are available through this funding opportunity: Traditional Cost Reimbursement Grants and Fixed Amount Grants.

##### Traditional Cost Reimbursement Grants

In a traditional AmeriCorps operating grant, all program expenses are based on an approved budget as part of the grant award and are reimbursed through the submission of expense reports to ServeNebraska. Grant funds can only be spent on costs approved in the budget. A cost reimbursement grant provides funding to pay for program costs such as member support, operational costs, and administrative costs associated with the implementation of an AmeriCorps program. An applicant that applies for a cost reimbursement grant must provide and include cash and/or in-kind match

in the budget to support its overall program costs. The minimum match level required varies for applicants depending on the number of years an applicant has received AmeriCorps funding.

#### **Fixed Amount Grants**

These grants provide a fixed amount of funding per Member Service Year that is substantially lower than the amount required to operate the program. Grantees can access all their federal funds, provided they recruit and retain the members supported under the grant based on the MSY level awarded. Successful applicants are not required to enter a detailed budget and there is no specific match requirement. An AmeriCorps program that receives a fixed-amount grant must adhere to all AmeriCorps Regulations and Provisions, including the administrative and programmatic requirements related to the recruitment, placement, training, and management of members, as well as the required documentation.

#### **Full Cost Fixed Amount**

These grants are only available for experienced applicants that propose to enroll all types of member slots. Professional Corps may only have full-time members. New applicants are not eligible for this type of grant. The final grant amount that a fixed-amount grantee may retain under its award is tied to the number of service hours completed by each member. If a member completes their term of service and has earned their education award, the program is entitled to the full amount approved per MSY. If a member did not complete their term of service, the program is entitled to a pro-rated approved amount based on the percentage of hours served. Programs can access all the funds, provided they recruit and retain the members supported under the grant.

#### **Education Award Program**

Applicants apply for a small, fixed amount up to \$800 per Member Service Year (MSY), can enroll less than full-time members, and use their own resources to cover all other costs (e.g. majority of member living allowance, staffing, training, etc.). Successful applicants can access funds under the grant based on enrolling the full complement of members supported under the grant. As with full-time fixed amount grants, there are no specific math or financial reporting requirements for EAP fixed amount grants. Because of the minimal grant amount received, EAP grants are best suited for pre-existing service programs or for organizations with other sources of funding, for whom becoming part of AmeriCorps will add value to their program.

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	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
Grantee Match Requirements	24%			26%			28%		30%	

[42 U.S.C. §12571\(e\)](#) requires grantees that use other Federal Funds as matching funds for an AmeriCorps grant to report those amounts and sources to ServeNebraska on a Federal Financial Report. Grantees must track and be prepared to report on that match separately each year and at closeout.

The legal applicant is the entity responsible for meeting matching funds requirements. The legal applicant may request that partnering organizations provide a share of the match necessary to meet matching fund requirements. Programs may match their share of operating costs through cash or in-kind resources. Matching funds must be verifiable, not be included as match for other federal programs, be necessary and reasonable for the purpose of the proposed program and be allowable under OMB cost principles. Successful applicants are required to maintain the awarded match and support any new costs not included in the grant award through match or its own or other resources.

#### **Match Waiver**

In accordance with 45 CFR §§ 2521.70, applicants may request a full or partial waiver of match requirements. Requests for match waivers must be submitted to ServeNebraska for review and consideration. Every effort will be made to reduce the match requirements to improve accessibility to funding.

#### Fixed Amount Grants

There is no cost share or matching 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.

#### 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 in the budget, either AmeriCorps share or match.
- 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.

**Table: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance for FY2026 New and Recompete Competitive and Formula Applicants**

Slot Types	Minimum # of Hours	Member Service Year (MSY) Value	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1,700	1.0	\$20,400	\$40,800
Three Quarter-time	1,200	.70	n/a	\$28,560
Half-time	900	.50	n/a	\$20,400
Quarter-time	450	.26455027	n/a	\$10,608
Minimum-time	300	.21164022	n/a	\$8,568

**Table: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance for FY 2026 Competitive and Formula Continuation Applicants in Year 2 or Year 3 of Funding**

Slot Types	Minimum # of Hours	Member Service Year (MSY) Value	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1,700	1.0	\$20,400	\$40,800
Three Quarter-time	1,200	.70	n/a	\$28,560
Half-time	900	.50	n/a	\$20,400
Reduced Half-time	675	.3809524	n/a	\$15,504
Quarter-time	450	.26455027	n/a	\$10,608
Minimum-time	300	.21164022	n/a	\$8,568
Abbreviated time	100	.05627705	n/a	\$2,448

#### Exceptions to the Living Allowance Requirements

- **Programs existing prior to September 21, 1993**, are not required to offer a living allowance. If an applicant chooses to offer a living allowance, it is exempt from the minimum requirement but cannot exceed the maximum.

- **Education Award Program (EAP) Grantees** are not required to provide a living allowance. If an applicant chooses to offer a living allowance, it is exempt from the minimum requirement but cannot exceed the maximum.
- **Professional Corps Grantees** must provide members a living allowance or salary, which must meet the minimum, but may exceed the maximum. Professional Corps member salaries and benefits including childcare are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve; and are not included in the budget request to AmeriCorps (Federal share).

#### **D. Pre-Award Costs**

Pre-award costs, where authorized, are allowed after receiving written approval from ServeNebraska.

#### **V. Application Requirements**

All applicants **must** register with the System for Award Management (SAM) (<https://sam.gov/>) and maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete. If an applicant is awarded a grant, it must maintain an active SAM registration throughout the life of the award.

SAM registration must be renewed annually. AmeriCorps suggests that applicants finalize a new registration or renew an existing one at least three weeks 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 to AmeriCorps.**

**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 Identify.

Applications must also include an Employer Identification Number (EIN). The UEI and EIN must be entered by the organization's Grantee Administrator as an organization attribute, and this will apply the information to all applications for the organization.

This *Notice and Application Instructions* should be read together with the AmeriCorps Regulations, Performance Measure Instructions, and Mandatory Supplemental Information.

#### **VI. How to Apply**

##### **A. Submission to ServeNebraska**

Applicants must submit all required documents electronically by the application deadline of Thursday February 19, 2025, by 5:00 p.m. Central Time for a Competitive AmeriCorps application and Friday March 13, 2026, for a Formula AmeriCorps application. This Notice should be read together with the [AmeriCorps regulations, 45 CFR 2520-2550](#). Full regulations are available online at [AmeriCorps.gov Funding Opportunities](#).

1. Download the following documents from the [ServeNebraska](#) website:
  - 2026 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity and Instructions
  - 2026 Mandatory Supplemental Guidance
  - 2026 National Performance Measures instructions
  - 2026 Budget template
  - 2026 Performance Measure Template
  - 2026 Logic Model template
2. Follow the instructions included in this 2026 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity and 2026 AmeriCorps Application Instructions documents for submitting a complete application.
3. Complete applications must include the following elements:

- Standard Form 424 (SF-424) Face Sheet: Automatically generated when applicants complete the data elements in the AmeriCorps grants system when notified by ServeNebraska.
- Narrative Sections:
  - Executive Summary
  - Program Design
  - Organizational Capability
  - Cost-Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy; and
  - Evaluation Summary/Plan
- Performance Measures
- Logic Model
- Standard Form 424A Budget
- Continuation Changes
- Clarification
- Authorization, [Assurances](#), and [Certifications](#).
- Mandatory participation in all ServeNebraska events, program leader meetings, events, and days of service.
  - Monthly Program Leader webinar trainings and meetings.
  - June 2026 – Program Leader Launch
  - October 2026 - Member Kick-off
  - January 2027 – MLK Day of Service
  - March 2027 – Legislative Visits Lincoln
  - March 2027 – AmeriCorps Week
  - April 2027 – National Volunteer Week

\*\*ServeNebraska encourages programs to have members participate in a special project, during days of Service that would enhance the AmeriCorps priorities of Veterans, Fatherhood Initiatives and Programs supporting children.

- ServeNebraska requires programs to have a dedicated program leader identified, appropriate to the size of the program, responsible for operating the AmeriCorps program and manage members.
- Due to recent disaster(s) that have happened across our state, ServeNebraska is requesting that applications provide a one to three sentence narrative on how your agency would respond in times of disaster.
- ServeNebraska elects to retain a 2 percent share of the 5 percent of federal dollars available and budgeted for program year 2026-2027 administrative costs. All applicants are required to budget the maximum allowable federal resources for administrative/indirect costs and spend those administrative resources.
- Programs must select AmeriCorps member(s) as determined by ServeNebraska to participate in Leadership Council.
- ServeNebraska will provide the most updated information on their [website](#) regarding the Notice of Funding Opportunity, grant documents, and technical assistance opportunities. Please submit any questions to [dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov](mailto:dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov).

4. All applications and required supplemental items must be submitted electronically to the ServeNebraska email, [dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov](mailto:dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov), no later than 5:00p.m. CST, February 19, 2026 for Competitive Applications and March 13, 2026 for Formula Applications.
5. Submitted applications must use the following format:
  - Subject Line: Legal Applicant Name.
  - Body of the email: Identify the legal name and point of contact information.

- A list of the attached documents in the email, with each file labeled according to the type indicated in the list above. Ensuring each attachment is identified by its filename. The quantity of each document type.
- Attach each document individually as a single file, clearly and appropriately labeled. Each file name and document heading should include:
  - The legal applicant name.
  - The application ID number

Failure to submit the required additional documents according to the email instructions above and by the deadline may negatively affect the assessment of your application. Please ensure that each document is submitted as a separate file, properly labeled, and avoid sending multiple documents in a single file or sending a single document in multiple files.

After the application deadline, all applicants that have a difference between the number of documents emailed and the number of documents reported will receive an email. This email will request proof that the missing documents were emailed on time to the correct email address. If applicants do not reply to this email, then their evidence documents might not be reviewed.

**Do not submit any items that are not requested in this Notice or Application Instructions. ServeNebraska will not review or return them.**

## **B. Page Limits**

There are page limits that must be adhered to for the Narratives and the Logic Model.

- The Narrative must be in a Word document, 10 pt. font, Calibri. Applications must not exceed 11, double-spaced pages for the Narrative. The Narrative includes:
  - SF-424 Face Sheet (created after awarding of grant funds)
  - Executive Summary
  - Program Design, Organizational Capacity and Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy narratives.

The application page limit does not include:

- Evaluation Plan/Summary
- Clarification Summary
- Continuation Changes
- Budget, Performance Measures; and
- Any required additional documents

- Logic Model
  - The Logic Model may not exceed eight pages when printed.

Note: The length of a document in word processing software may differ from what appears when printed or submitted in the AmeriCorps web-based system. This discrepancy affects both the Application and Logic Model page limits. ServeNebraska will not review any submitted material that exceeds the page limits as printed in the report.

## **C. Supplemental Documents**

The following supplemental documents are not included in the page limits:

- Evaluation briefs, reports, studies. Please refer to the Evidence instructions by evidence tier.
- Organizational Chart
- List of all other Federal grants your organization holds. ( if applicable)
- Labor Concurrence (if applicable)
- Indirect cost rate determination letter (if applicable)

Once your application has been approved by ServeNebraska, direction will be given on how to enter the application into the AmeriCorps web-based system. At that time, you will agree to all assurances and certifications.

**Note: Page counts are determined by the number of pages that print out from the web-based system. ServeNebraska strongly encourages applicants to print out the application from the system prior to submission to ensure that page limits are not exceeded.**

**Re-compete applicants who have received three or more years of formula funding for the same project being proposed must submit:**

- Evaluation plan. Please use the evaluation plan template available on the Notice webpage. Evaluation plans are not scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions are made.

**Re-compete applicants who have received six or more years of funding for the same project being proposed must submit:**

Evaluation report submitted as a Word document. The evaluation report should include a title page that includes:

- AmeriCorps grant number for the project that was evaluated.
- Name of the project
- Date of completion of the report.
- Evaluator name(s)
- Evaluator organization name
- Evaluator type of internal or external

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

**Entities applying on behalf of a federally recognized Tribe (New and Re-competing)**

- Tribal organization eligibility documentation (see III. Who Can Apply A. Eligible Applicants).

**Operational and Financial Management Survey (New and Re-competing)**

- All new and re-competing applicants, regardless of funding level, are required to submit an Operational and Financial Management Survey (OFMS). Submit the OFMS as a Word document. Forms submitted as a PDF, or any other document format may not be accepted.

#### **D. Application Submission Deadline**

Competitive Applications must be submitted electronically to [dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov](mailto:dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov) no later than **Thursday, February 19, 2026, by 5:00pm CST** to be considered.

Formula Applications must be submitted electronically to [dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov](mailto:dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov) no later than **Friday, March 13, 2026, by 5:00pm CST** to be considered.

ServeNebraska will not consider applications received after the deadline. Late applications, below. ServeNebraska reserves the right to extend the submission deadline. Any notice of such extended deadline will be posted at [www.serve.nebraska.gov](http://www.serve.nebraska.gov)

##### **1. Late Applications**

All applications received after the submission deadline specified in this Notice of Funding Opportunity will be considered non-compliant. ServeNebraska may, at its discretion, consider an application received after the deadline, if the applicant provides a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstances that caused the delay. This explanation must include details about the timing and specific cause(s) of the delay, along with any supporting evidence. Any such request must be submitted within one business day following the application deadline specified in the Notice.

## **E. Intergovernmental Review**

This Notice is not subject to [Executive Order 12372](#), “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.”

## **F. Requests for Monitoring or Payment Integrity Information**

ServeNebraska may request documentation from recipients in order to monitor the award or to comply with other legal requirements, such as the [Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019](#). Failure to make timely responses to these requests may result in award funds being placed on manual hold, reimbursement only status, or other remedies may be applied as appropriate.

## **G. Coordination Among State Service Commissions and National Direct Applicants**

Before application submission, ServeNebraska expects new and recompete Commissions and National Direct applicants, to consult and coordinate activities at the local level, as specified in [42 U.S.C. § 12583](#). This consultation aims to ensure the optimal use of national service resources and lead to enhanced coordination. A complete list of Commissions is available on the AmeriCorps [State Service Commissions](#) page.

## **H. Costs Associated with Evidence Building Activities e.g. performance data collection and management, foundational research, program evaluation, etc.**

As noted in [2 CFR § 200.455](#), costs associated with evidence building activities are allowable expenses or match under AmeriCorps grants. This includes costs related to performance data collection and management, foundational research, program evaluation, and related activities.

## **I. Segal AmeriCorps Education Award**

AmeriCorps members who successfully complete a term of service will be eligible for an Education Award from the National Service Trust. The amount of the Education Award is linked to the value of the Pell Grant. A member has up to seven years after their term of service to use the Education Award. Visit the [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) website for more information.

## **B. Indirect Costs**

Application budgets may include indirect costs. Based on qualifying factors, applicants may use a Federally approved indirect cost rate if they have one, use the AmeriCorps-Fixed Percentage method (five/ten percent fixed administrative cost option) outlined in AmeriCorps' [Indirect Cost Guidance](#), or a 15 percent de minimis rate of modified total direct costs, or [may claim certain costs directly](#). However, no more than five percent of award funds may be used to recover indirect costs on AmeriCorps State and National grants under section 121(d) of the [National and Community Service Act of 1990](#), as amended and AmeriCorps' regulations at [45 CFR 2521.95](#) and [2540.110](#).

The agency's [Indirect Cost Guidance](#) provides more information on applicant's options for Indirect Cost Rates. Use the [Indirect Cost Rate \(IDCR\) User Instructions](#) to enter the organization's indirect cost rate. Applicants should not submit documentation addressing the cost rate agreement via email.

Please note: To request a federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, when AmeriCorps is the applicable cognizant agency for an organization's indirect costs, the applicant must submit a request to [IndirectCostRate@americorps.gov](mailto:IndirectCostRate@americorps.gov). The applicant may also obtain instructions and additional information by contacting the email address above.

## **VII. Application Review and Selection Information**

### **A. ServeNebraska Review and Selection Process**

Applications will undergo a multi-stage review process for funding, which includes: ServeNebraska Staff Review, Clarification and Feedback, and final approval by the ServeNebraska Commission. Stages of the review and selection process are detailed below.

The review and selection process are designed to:

- Identify how well eligible applications align with the selection criteria.

- Build a diversified portfolio based on the following strategic considerations:
  - Funding priorities
  - Meaningful representation of:
    - Rural communities
    - Innovative community strategies

### **Eligibility and Compliance Check**

ServeNebraska staff will evaluate all applications to ensure they comply with eligibility criteria, deadlines, and completeness of requirements. (See Section III. A. Eligible Applicant) Applications submitted by eligible organizations by the deadline that meet the minimum compliance requirements will advance to the Staff Review stage. The eligibility and compliance assessment are designed to ensure that only applications meeting the eligibility criteria are reviewed further. However, eligibility determinations can occur at any stage of the review and selection process. Applicants deemed ineligible will not be considered for an award.

### **Staff Review**

Reviewers will evaluate each application against a selection matrix based on Program Design, Organizational Capacity, Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy, and Evidence Selection criteria.

### **Clarification and Feedback**

Applicants may be asked to provide clarifying information and/or make adjustments to their application and/or budget. This information will assist ServeNebraska staff in making funding recommendations. Applications may be recommended for funding even though no clarifications or questions are requested. Failure to respond adequately and promptly to a request for clarification may result in the removal of the application from the award process. ***Please note that a request for clarification does not guarantee funding.***

### **Selection**

Primary consideration in the selection of AmeriCorps programs is based on merit and addresses all clarification issues. ServeNebraska staff will make recommendations to the ServeNebraska Board of Commissioners for final approval.

**ServeNebraska reserves the right to adjust or modify the review process if unforeseen challenges or exigent circumstances render it impossible, impractical, or inefficient to execute as planned. Any adjustments or changes will not impact the selection criteria used to assess applications submitted in response to this Notice.**

### **Applicant Resolution**

Applicants may be requested to provide additional information after receiving notification of competition results to address any issues before an award is finalized. ServeNebraska will require all grantees to provide a written compliance implementation plan, which must include procedures for reporting waste, fraud, and abuse for submission to the AmeriCorps Office of Inspector General. Failure to respond adequately and promptly may result in the removal of the application from the award process.

### **Feedback to Applicants**

Applicants will receive feedback from the ServeNebraska Staff Review on their compliant applications. This feedback will be based solely on the original application and will not take into account any information provided during the clarification process.

### **Post-Review Quality Control**

After the initial review process is complete, AmeriCorps staff will assess the results for fairness and consistency. Some applications may be selected for a Post-Review Quality Control assessment. This additional review will ensure fairness and verify that no application was disadvantaged during the original.

### **Transparency in Grant Making**

ServeNebraska is committed to transparency in grant-making. A list of all approved applications for new and re-competing applications will be published on the ServeNebraska website.

Information about funded grants and subgrants is also available at [USASpending.gov](http://USASpending.gov).

## **B. Selection Criteria**

Each applicant must clearly describe a project that will effectively utilize AmeriCorps members to address a significant community need. ServeNebraska encourages applicants to submit a high-quality application that meticulously follows the guidance in this Notice of Funding and the Application Instructions. The quality of the application will be a key factor in deciding whether an organization will receive funding.

### **1. Pre-Award Risk Assessment**

ServeNebraska staff will evaluate the risks associated with each applicant to assess their ability to manage Federal funds. This evaluation complements the assessments of the applicant's eligibility, and the quality of the application based on the Selection Criteria. The results of this risk assessment will influence funding decisions. If ServeNebraska decides to award funding to an applicant with assessed risks, special conditions corresponding to the level of risk may be applied. Furthermore, if ServeNebraska determines that the issues leading to a poor risk assessment are unlikely to be resolved, those applications may not be selected for funding.

In assessing risks, ServeNebraska may consider factors such as:

- a. Due Diligence, including:**
  - Federal debt delinquency
  - Suspension and debarment
  - Information available through Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-designated sources of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as:
    - Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)
    - [U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services](http://U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services);
    - [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](http://System for Award Management (SAM)); and
    - Do Not Pay"
  - Reports and findings from single audits are performed under Uniform Administrative Guidance and findings of any other available audits or investigations.
  - IRS Tax Form 990
  - [Oversight.gov](http://Oversight.gov)
  - Public Litigation Records
- b. Operational and Financial Management, including:**
  - Financial stability
  - [Operational and Financial Management Survey](http://Operational and Financial Management Survey) (OFMS)
- c. Past Performance, incorporating:**
  - Applicant's record in managing previous AmeriCorps awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards inclusive of:
    - Timely compliance with applicable reporting requirements.
    - Accuracy of data reported.
    - Validity of performance measure data reported.
    - Conformity to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards.
    - Ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients.
    - Timely closeout of other awards.
    - Meeting matching requirements.

- Extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards; and
- Meeting National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) compliance

d. Other Programmatic Risks, Financial, Organizational, Compliance, and Fraud including:

- Publicly available information, including from the applicant organization's website.
- Amount of funding requested by the organization; and
- Other elements, such as keyword searches for prohibited activities.

### **C. Consideration of Integrity and Performance System Information**

ServeNebraska and AmeriCorps, prior to making any award that exceeds \$250,000, must consider information about the applicant from the designated integrity and performance system accessible through [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov).

Any applicant may review and provide comments on information previously entered by another Federal agency in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov).

Applicant comments may be considered, along with other information in the designated integrity and performance systems, when assessing the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and performance record under federal awards during the process.

### **D. Application Scoring Criteria**

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.

Prior to issuance, and annually thereafter, awards will be subject to review by one or more ServeNebraska Program Officers, or their designees, according to the process described in [Executive Order 14332, “Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking”](#).

Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

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

Recommendations for a compelling narrative:

- **Lead from your program strengths and be explicit.** Do not make the mistake of trying to stretch your proposed program description to fit each funding priority and special consideration articulated in the regulations or the *Notice*.
- **Be clear and succinct.** Avoid jargon, boilerplate language, or rhetoric. Describe clearly what you intend to do and how your project responds to the selection criteria. You have limited space to include responses to the required elements, so stick to your main points.
- **Avoid circular reasoning.** The problem you describe should not be defined as the lack of the solution you are proposing.
- **Explain how.** Avoid simply stating that the criteria will be met. Let us know how the proposed project will meet the criteria.
- **Don't make assumptions.** Even if you have received funding from ServeNebraska or AmeriCorps in the past, do not assume your reviewers know anything about you, your proposed program, your partners, or your beneficiaries. Avoid overuse of acronyms and ensure that all acronyms are defined the first time that they are used.
- **Use an impartial proofreader.** Before you submit your application, let someone who is completely unfamiliar with your project read and critique the project narrative.
- **Headings are your friends.** Follow the instructions and discuss each criterion in the order they are presented in the instructions. Use headings to differentiate narrative sections according to criterion.
- Each application must clearly describe a project that will effectively deploy AmeriCorps members to solve a significant community problem. Reviewers will assess your application against the selection criteria below. To best respond to these criteria, we suggest that you include a brief discussion of each bullet point that pertains to your application.

#### **Executive Summary (0 percent):**

Please fill in the blanks of these sentences to complete the Executive Summary. There are two options for the second paragraph; please choose the appropriate language for your application. Do not deviate from this template:

##### **Paragraph 1:**

“The [Name of the organization] will have [Number of] AmeriCorps members in [the locations the AmeriCorps members will serve, e.g. – City, State or State(s)]. AmeriCorps members will [service activities the members will do]. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for [anticipated outcome of project]. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage [number of leveraged volunteers, if applicable] who will be engaged in [what the leveraged volunteers will be doing].

##### **Paragraph 2:**

###### 1. Cost Reimbursement grant applications:

“The AmeriCorps investment will be matched with \$[amount of projected match], \$[amount of local, state, and Federal Funds] in public funding and \$[amount of non-governmental funds] in private funding.”

###### 2. Fixed amount grant applicants e.g., EAP, Full-Cost Fixed, No Cost Slots:

“In addition to the AmeriCorps investment, \$[amount of local, state, and Federal Funds] in public funding and \$[amount of non-governmental funds] in private funding will support the project.”

ServeNebraska will post all Executive Summaries of awarded grant applications on [www.serve.nebraska.gov](http://www.serve.nebraska.gov) in the interest of transparency and Open Government.

#### **Program Design (50 percent):**

In assessing Program Design, reviewers will examine the degree to which the applicant demonstrates how AmeriCorps members and the proposed intervention are particularly well-suited to addressing the identified community problem.

- **Community and Logic Model (20 points)**

Provide a detailed summary of the community problem and an explanation of how the applicant's intervention will lead to the outcomes identified in the Logic Model.

- How the inequities faced by underserved communities may contribute to the problem.
- How the [CDC's Social Vulnerability Index](#) explains the extent of the problem.
- How the applicant's intervention(s) will lead to the outcomes identified in the organization's Logic Model.

The applicant's intervention is likely to lead to the outcomes identified in the organization's Logic Model. No narrative is needed other than what is contained within the logic model.

The applicant must describe in the Logic Model:

- The inputs or resources that are necessary to deliver the intervention, including but not limited to:
  - Locations or sites in which members will provide services.
  - Setting and community condition where the intervention is delivered.
  - Number of AmeriCorps members who will deliver the intervention.
  - Characteristics of AmeriCorps members, including specific knowledge, skills, and abilities required to implement the intervention.
- The core activities that members will deliver, including:
  - Length of each activity (e.g., the total number of weeks, sessions, or months of the intervention)
  - Dosage of each activity (e.g., the number of hours per session or sessions per week)
  - Target population for the intervention (e.g., disconnected youth, third graders at a certain reading proficiency level)
- The measurable outputs that result from delivering the intervention (i.e., number of beneficiaries served, types and number of activities conducted, equity gaps closed). If applicable, identify which [National Performance Measures](#) will be used as output indicators.
- Outcomes that result from the intervention, including meaningful changes in knowledge/skill, attitude, behavior, or condition that occur as a result of the intervention. If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as outcome indicators.

Note: The Logic Model is a visual representation of the applicant's Theory of Change. Programs should include short, medium, or long-term outcomes in the Logic Model. Applicants are not required to measure all components of their Logic Model. The applicant's performance measures should be consistent with the program's Logic Model and should represent significant program activities.

Rationales and justifications should be informed by the organization's performance data (e.g., program data observed over time that suggests targets are reasonable), relevant research (e.g. targets documented by organizations running similar programs with similar populations), or prior program evaluation findings.

Applicants with multiple interventions should complete one Logic Model chart which incorporates each intervention. Logic Model content that exceeds eight pages will not be reviewed.

### **Evidence Base (20 points)**

The assessment of an applicant's evidence base has two parts. First, the applicant will be assigned to an evidence tier (use the [Mandatory Supplemental Information](#)). Second, the quality of the applicant's evidence and the degree to which it supports the proposed program design, including program aligned with the priority areas ([See Funding Priorities, Section I](#)), and how the evidence supports the proposed program.

### **Evidence Tier (12 points)**

An evidence tier will be assessed for each applicant for the purpose of understanding the relative strength of each applicant's evidence base and the likelihood that the proposed intervention will lead to outcomes identified in the Logic Model.

To qualify for the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tier. In order to qualify for consideration, the intervention evaluated in the submitted report(s), applicants may submit up to two evidence documents, plus the evaluation report from their last three-year grant cycle, if applicable. If multiple evidence documents are submitted by the applicant, the most recent – as measured by the date of completion or publication– will be reviewed first, and any documents submitted beyond the allowable number will not be reviewed.

The intervention evaluated in the submitted evidence documents must match the intervention proposed by the applicant in the Community and Logic Model sections of the application. Use the [Mandatory Supplemental Information](#) for a definition of same intervention. Applicants must meet all requirements of an evidence tier to be considered for that tier.

Submitted reports that do not sufficiently match the intervention proposed by the applicant in all of these areas will not be considered applicable and will not be reviewed or receive any points. Submission of additional documents that are not consistent with the guidance and requirements described in the Notice (e.g., advocacy pieces, policy briefs, other narratives that are not research studies or program evaluations) will not be reviewed.

In the Evidence Tier section of the application narrative, applicants must:

- Summarize the study design and key findings of the evidence documents submitted, plus, if applicable, the evaluation report from their last three-year grant cycle; and
- Describe any other evidence that supports their program, including past performance measure data and/or other research studies that inform their program design.

Applicants who submit evaluation reports for consideration must also describe in the Evidence Base section of the application narrative how the intervention described in the submitted reports is the same as the intervention described in the application (use the [Mandatory Supplemental Information](#).)

Applicants should provide citations for the studies they describe.

### **Evidence Quality (8 points)**

Reviewers will score the quality of an applicant's evidence and the extent to which it supports the proposed program design.

Standards for scoring in the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tiers:

Submitted evidence documents:

- Are of satisfactory methodological quality and rigor for the type of evaluation conducted e.g., adequate sample size and statistical power, internal and/or external validity, appropriate use of control or comparison groups, etc.
- Describe evaluations that were conducted relatively recently, preferably within the last six years; and
- Show a meaningful and significant positive effect on program beneficiaries or AmeriCorps members in at least one key outcome of interest.

Standards for scoring in the pre-preliminary evidence tier:

- The applicant uses relevant evidence, including past performance measure data and/or cited research studies, to inform their proposed program design.
- The described evidence is relatively recent, preferably from the last six years; and
- The evidence described by the applicant indicates a meaningful positive effect on program beneficiaries or AmeriCorps members in at least one key outcome of interest.

### **Notice Priority (4 points)**

- Describe whether one or more of the AmeriCorps funding priorities is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes. Refer list of Funding Priorities section as outlined in [Section I, Funding Priorities](#).

### **Member Experience (6 points)**

- Describe how AmeriCorps members will be provided opportunities for skill attainment, personal growth and connection to the community they are serving in support of a lifetime of civic participation.

### **Organizational Capability (25 percent):**

#### **1. Organizational Background and Staffing (15 points)**

- The applicant describes the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the staff that will be implementing and providing oversight of the program.
- The applicant describes their organization's mission and relevant experience in areas such as volunteer recruitment and management, community outreach, overcoming project implementation challenges, etc.
- The applicant describes their organization's experience managing grants, especially federal or state grants. Include your past performance in meeting:
  - Grant goals and objectives.
  - Compliance and reporting requirements.

*Note: if you do not have experience with managing grants, please indicate that.*

- The applicant has facilitated, partnered, or participated in educational, or workforce development programs e.g. work experience or job training programs, etc.

#### **2. Member Supervision (10 points)**

- Describe how AmeriCorps members will receive sufficient guidance and support from their supervisor to provide effective service. That could include but is not limited to structure for member supervision: cadence and format of supervisor/member check-ins, member and supervisor opportunities to assess strengths and opportunities for growth, member training plan, etc.

### **Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 percent):**

#### **1. Member Recruitment (8 points)**

- Provide a description of budget expenses to support recruitment of AmeriCorps members best suited to serve the community.

#### **2. Member Retention (9 points)**

- The applicant provides a description of budget expenses to support retention of AmeriCorps members. E.g., additional member benefits such as paying above the minimum living allowance, supporting workforce pathways, certifications, coaching for members, resume building, individual benefit as well as community building, network building, member recognition, alumni programming, etc.

#### **3. Data Collection (8 points)**

- Provide a description of budget expenses to support retention of AmeriCorps members. E.g., additional member benefits such as paying above the minimum living allowance, supporting workforce pathways, certifications, coaching for members, resume building, individual benefit as well as community building, network building, member recognition, alumni programming, etc.

**Evaluation Plan (Required for recompeting applicants - 0 percent):**

If the applicant has previously received three or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed, the applicant must submit an [evaluation plan summary template \(which includes Alternative Evaluation Approach request if applicable\)](#) Refer to [Additional Documents](#) for instructions for submitting the evaluation plan.

Applicants must use the [evaluation plan](#) summary template found on the Notice webpage to craft their evaluation plans. The evaluation plan will not be scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions have been made.

All applicants enter N/A in the *Evaluation Summary or Plan* field of the Narrative. Any other text entered in this field will not be reviewed.

**Amendment Justification (0 percent):**

Enter N/A. This field will be used if the applicant is awarded a grant and needs to amend it.

**Clarification Information (0 percent):**

Enter N/A. This field will be utilized should an applicant be funded.

**Continuation Changes (0 percent):**

Enter N/A. This field will be used to enter changes in the application narratives in continuation requests.

**Operational and Financial Management Survey (Competitive recompete applicants only)**

Survey responses are sent directly to AmeriCorps and ServeNebraska does not review responses. The person completing the survey will receive a confirmation email that the survey was submitted. Submit the confirmation email to ServeNebraska as part of the additional documents.

**Most Recent Audited Financial Statements (New only)**

- If applicant meets federal funding threshold for a Single Audit, a Single Audit must be submitted
- If applicant does not meet federal funding threshold for a Single Audit, independently audited financial statements must be submitted

**IRS Tax Form 990 (New only)**

Submit the most recent 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N. If your organization is not required to file a 990, explain via email when submitted additional documents to [dhhs@americorps.gov](mailto:dhhs@americorps.gov).

## **VIII. Continuation Instructions**

**The following continuation instructions ONLY apply to programs that are currently in their first or second year of operation within a grant cycle.**

### **A. Continuation Funding Information and Requirements**

Organizations that have current AmeriCorps State and National awards that will be in program Year 2 or Year 3 in FY 2026 are considered continuation applicants. Continuation applicants must submit an application in order to be eligible to receive funding for the FY 2026 program year. Continuation applicants must follow the requirements for continuation application content as outlined in the Application Instructions.

Continuation application review will also be based on progress reports, the federal financial report, evaluation plans, and AmeriCorps 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, as well as compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to award applications an amount less than the requested level of funding and will document the rationale for doing so.

## **Do not modify the original narrative fields.**

AmeriCorps and ServeNebraska expect that programs will maintain a consistent program design for the duration of the three-year project period; however, we recognize that, on occasion, some programmatic changes are necessary. As a result, continuation applicants may request the changes listed below during the continuation process.

### **1. Continuation Changes**

Information should be provided in a word document and emailed to ServeNebraska with subject line **Continuation Changes** narrative field.

- Changes in Operating Sites
- Significant Changes in Program Scope or Design
- Changes to Performance Measures
- Significant Changes to Monitoring Structures or Staffing
- Budget revisions. Applicants may request to reduce **or** increase funding and/or slots during the continuation process. For changes in funding levels, including a change to the cost per MSY, provide justification for change.
- The page limit for the Continuation changes is six pages, as pages printed out as outlined in Submitted Application to ServeNebraska.

### **2. Logic Model**

Continuation applicants do not need to enter content into these fields.

### **3. Performance Measures**

Your performance measures are copied from your previous year's application into your continuation request. If you made changes to your program, such as adding or changing grant-funded activities, or requesting additional slots or MSYs, you may need to revise your performance measures. Continuation applicants whose measures do not align with the current-year Performance Measure Instructions must also revise their measures to conform with the current instructions. If you are proposing to significantly increase or decrease output or outcome targets for existing performance measures, provide a justification for this change. Email the revised performance measures to ServeNebraska with justification.

### **4. Documents**

Continuation applicants must submit the following documents:

- i) Federally approved indirect cost rate agreement, (if applicable)
- ii) Revise your detailed budget for the upcoming year. Incorporate any required AmeriCorps increases, such as an increase to the member living allowance into your budget. Continuation applicants may apply for expansions – dollar, MSY, and/or members. Expansion requests may not exceed the cost/MSY threshold in the notice. Budget summary as found on the ServeNebraska website for your 2026 proposed budget.
- iii) Cost Reimbursement  
Grantees are required to meet an overall matching rate that increases over time. You have the flexibility to meet the overall match requirements in any of the three budget areas, as long as the minimum match of 24% for the first three years, and the increasing minimums in years thereafter are maintained. See 45 CFR §§ 2521.35-2521.90 for the specific regulations.

### **5. Funding/Demographics:**

In the funding/Demographics section, enter the information requested which could include:

- Other revenue funds. Enter the amount of funds that your program uses to run the program that are not CNCS/AmeriCorps share or match.

## **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**

After the application review process, before any grant awards are issued, ServeNebraska/AmeriCorps may ask an applicant for additional information to address any application compliance or risk issues. If an applicant does not respond promptly to these requests, then the applicant may be denied funding.

ServeNebraska/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. Feedback to Applicants**

Each compliant applicant will receive feedback from the review of its application.

### **C. Applicants Not Selected for Competitive Funding**

Competitive AmeriCorps Nebraska applicants who are not selected for competitive funding will be considered for formula funding from ServeNebraska.

Funding decisions will be made based on review of the submitted competitive application, past performance, and available funding. More information will be provided to applicants on the formula funding consideration if they are not selected for competitive funding.

## **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 Competitive competition by notifying ServeNebraska by mid-June 2026, depending on availability of congressional appropriations. All applicants, successful or not, will be notified of funding decisions via email.

#### **Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

##### **Uniform Guidance**

All awards made under this Notice must follow the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, in [2 CFR Parts 200](#) and [2205](#).

#### **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, then their funds may be placed on manual hold, reimbursement only status, or other restrictions as appropriate.

#### **AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions**

All grants must follow the FY 2026 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, and the FY 2026 Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for the particular program (when applicable). These Terms and Conditions contain mandatory compliance and reporting requirements, and applicants should review these instructions prior to any Notice of Grant Award. Current versions of the AmeriCorps General and Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for each of its programs is available on the [AmeriCorps Manage Your Grant webpage](#).

#### **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.

Recipients must complete the following criminal history checks:

1. National Sex Offender Public website through NSOPW.gov (nationwide check).

2. State criminal history record repository or agency-designated alternative for the individual's State of residence and State of service; and
3. Fingerprint-based check of the FBI criminal history record database through the State criminal history record repository or agency-approved vendor.

All checks must be conducted, reviewed, and an eligibility determination made before the individual begins work or service.

An individual is **not eligible** to serve or work in a position subject to the NSCHC requirements if the individual:

- Refuses to consent to a criminal history check.
- Makes a false statement in connection with a criminal history check.
- Is registered, or is required to be registered, on a state sex offender registry or the National Sex Offender Registry; or
- Has been convicted of murder, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 1111.

### **Use of Material**

To ensure that materials generated with AmeriCorps funding are available to the public and readily accessible to recipients and non-recipients, 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](#).

All awards made under this Notice are subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, in [2 CFR Parts 200](#) and [2205](#).

### **Reporting**

Recipients are required to submit a variety of reports that are due at specific times during the life cycle of an award. All reports must be accurate, complete, and submitted on time.

Cost Reimbursement grantees are required to provide quarterly progress reports, monthly periodic expense reimbursement reports, and an internal or external evaluation report as required by the AmeriCorps regulations [45 CFR 2522.500-2522.540](#) and [2522.700-2522.740](#).

Fixed Amount grantees are required to provide quarterly progress reports and an internal or external evaluation report.

Final financial and progress reports must be cumulative over the entire award period and consistent with the closeout requirements. Fixed Amount grantees are exempt from the final financial report requirement.

Once the grant is awarded, recipients will be expected to have in place data collection and data management policies, processes, and practices that provide assurance that they are reporting high quality performance measure data. At a minimum, recipients should have policies, processes, and practices that address the following five aspects of data quality for themselves and for subrecipients (if applicable):

- Data measures what it intends to measure.
- Data reported is complete.
- Grantee collects data in a consistent manner.
- Grantee takes steps to correct data errors.
- Grantee actively reviews data for accuracy prior to submission.

Failure to submit accurate, complete, and timely required reports may affect the recipient's ability to secure future AmeriCorps funding.

## Refocusing of Funding

ServeNebraska reserves the right to re-focus program dollars under this Notice in the event of disaster or other compelling needs.

## XI. IMPORTANT NOTICES

### Public Burden Statement

Public reporting burden for collection of information under this Notice of Funding is estimated to average six hours per submission, including reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing the application and reporting forms. 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 are currently 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 Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974, [5 U.S.C §552a](#), requires that we notify applicants that the information requested under this Notice of Funding 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 information requested is collected for the purposes of reviewing grant applications and granting funding requests. Routine uses may include disclosure of the information to Federal, state, or local agencies pursuant to lawfully authorized requests. In some programs, the information may also be provided to Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to determine the existence of any prior criminal convictions. The information may also be provided to appropriate Federal agencies and contractors that have a need to know the information for the purpose of assisting the government to respond to a suspected or confirmed breach of the security or confidentiality or information maintained in this system of records, and the information disclosed is relevant and unnecessary for the assistance.

**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 federal benefits.

These application instructions conform to the Corporation for National and Community Service's online grant application system, [eGrants](#). All competitive funding announcements by the Corporation for National and Community Service, dba as AmeriCorps, are posted on [www.americorps.gov](#) and [www.grants.gov](#).

**Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act:** Grant recipients will be required to report at [www.FSRS.gov](#) on all subawards that equal or exceed \$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.

**Indirect Cost Rates:** AmeriCorps allows applicants to include indirect costs in application budgets. Based on qualifying factors, applicants have the option of using the AmeriCorps-Fixed Percentage method (five/ten percent fixed administrative cost option), a federally approved indirect cost rate, a 15% de minimis rate of modified total direct costs or may claim certain costs directly as outlined in 2 CFR § 200.413 Direct costs. Applicants who hold a federally negotiated indirect cost rate must use that rate if they have one or use the 15% de minimis rate. Refer to: [AmeriCorps eGrants Indirect Cost Rate \(IDCR\) User Instructions](#).

**Universal Identifier:** Applicants must include a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Applicants must obtain their UEI and register their entity through the System for Award Management (SAM.gov). All grant recipients are required to maintain a valid SAM.gov registration, which must be renewed annually.

### Other Documents

Provide other required documents listed in the *Notice* (if applicable) via the email listed in the *Notice* as part of your application. For example: Evaluations, Labor Union Concurrence, Other

Required Documents, and Explanation of Federal Debt Delinquency, as applicable. The email size limit is 35 MB. This limit is inclusive of all attachments associated with each email. Emails that are larger than 35 MB will not be received or reviewed.

### **Delinquent on Federal Debt**

Any applicant who checks Yes to the question on federal debt delinquency must submit a complete explanation to [AdditionalDocuments@americorps.gov](mailto:AdditionalDocuments@americorps.gov) at the same time they submit their application.

### **XII. Contact Information**

All communication relating to this Notice and for questions regarding AmeriCorps Nebraska Applicants, contact [dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov](mailto:dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov). Updates will be posted to [www.serve.nebraska.gov](http://www.serve.nebraska.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 ServeNebraska is not obligated to respond to questions that are received 48 hours prior to the due date.

Questions regarding multi-state or Indian Tribe applications must be submitted directly to AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps  
Attn: Office of Grant Administration (OGA)/FY 2026 ASN Application  
250 E St. SW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20525  
Email: [americorpsgrants@americorps.gov](mailto:americorpsgrants@americorps.gov)

### **XIII. Resources**

#### **Important Notice**

#### **APPLICATION RESOURCES**

Use these instructions in conjunction with the *Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity (Notice)* and the AmeriCorps Regulations, [45 CFR §§ 2520–2550](#). The *Notice* includes deadlines, eligibility requirements, submission requirements, maximum amount of funding per Member Service Year (MSY),<sup>1</sup> and other information that is specific to the grant competition.

The AmeriCorps regulations include pertinent information (see Table 1, below). The *Notice* can be found on AmeriCorps's website.

The [ServeNebraska website](#) has all documents needed for submission.

The full regulations are available online on the [Code of Federal Regulations website](#).

**Table 1: Requirements in the AmeriCorps Regulations**

Topics	Citation in the AmeriCorps Regulations
Member Service Activities	§2520.20 - §2520.55
Prohibited Activities	§2520.65
Tutoring Programs	§2522.900-2522.950
Matching Funds	§2521.35-2521.90
Member Benefits	§2522.240-2522.250
Calculating Cost Per Member Service Year (MSY)	§2522.485

<sup>1</sup> One MSY is equivalent to at least 1700 service hours, which is a full-time AmeriCorps position. The CNCS cost per MSY is determined by dividing the CNCS share of budgeted grant costs by the number of MSYs requested in the application. It does not include childcare or the cost of the education award.

Performance Measures	\$2522.500-2522.650
Evaluation	\$2522.500-2522.540 and \$2522.700-2522.740
Selection Criteria and Selection Process	\$2522.400-2522.475

If there is any inconsistency between the AmeriCorps Regulations, the *Notice*, and the Application Instructions, the order of precedence is as follows:

1. AmeriCorps Regulations 45 CFR §§ 2520–2550 take precedence over the
2. *Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity/Notice of Federal Funding Availability*, which takes precedence over the
3. Application Instructions.

## **XV. Attached Resources**

### **Located on the ServeNebraska Website**

- 2026 AmeriCorps Formula Notice of Funding Opportunity
- 2026 AmeriCorps Formula Application Instructions
- 2026 Mandatory Supplemental Guidance
- 2026 National Performance Measures Instructions
- 2026 Performance Measure Template
- 2026 Logic Model Template
- 2026 Budget Template