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[CaliforniaVolunteers.CA.GOV](https://californiavolunteers.ca.gov)

2021 AmeriCorps State Funding Opportunity



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications due October 27, 2020

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO APPLICANTS: The following documents are necessary to complete a 2021-22 operating grant application for AmeriCorps funding. All can be found on the California Volunteers website, <https://californiavolunteers.ca.gov/grants/ameri-corps/>.

- (1) 2021 AmeriCorps State Funding Opportunity Request for Applications (RFA)
- (2) 2021 AmeriCorps State Funding Opportunity Mandatory Supplemental Guidance
- (3) 2021 AmeriCorps State Funding Opportunity Application Instructions
- (4) 2021 AmeriCorps State Grant Application Forms
- (5) 2021 CNCS National Performance Measures Instructions

NOTE FOR CONTINUATION PROGRAMS: If you are currently funded by CaliforniaVolunteers (CV) and need to apply for year two or three of continuation funding, this RFA does **not** apply to you. Instructions will be e-mailed directly to you by CV.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

This Request for Applications (RFA) is available on the California Volunteers (CV) AmeriCorps funding webpage at californiavolunteers.ca.gov/grants/ameri-corps.

California Volunteers is committed to providing the most current information available to all applicants. We will rely primarily upon our website to keep applicants aware of changes. Please check our website frequently for updates and information on technical assistance opportunities.

Please submit questions about this funding opportunity to Funding@cv.ca.gov. Responses will be included in a list of **Frequently Asked Questions** (FAQs) that we will update periodically on the CV AmeriCorps funding webpage. Applicants are encouraged to submit their questions well in advance of the application deadline as CV is not obligated to respond to questions that are received 48 hours prior to the application due date.

For questions regarding multi-state or Indian Tribes applications submitted directly to the Corporation for National and Community Service, please contact:

Corporation for National and Community Service

Phone: (202) 606-7508

TTY: (202) 606-3472

Email: americorpsnational@cns.gov



OVERVIEW

State Entity Name:	California Volunteers
Funding Opportunity Title:	2021 AmeriCorps State Grants
Announcement Type:	Initial Announcement
CFDA Number:	94.006

Disclosure: Publication of this Announcement of AmeriCorps State Grant Funding Opportunity (RFA) does not obligate California Volunteers (CV) to award any specific number of grants or to obligate any particular amount of funding. The actual level and timing of grant funding will be subject to the availability of annual federal appropriations.

Funds requested under this opportunity are subject to applicable federal laws, rules, and regulations. References to specific regulations will be linked to e-CFR at www.ecfr.gov.

Important Dates:

- **Deadline:** The **Complete Application** is due to CV by **5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Tuesday, October 27, 2020**.
- **Application Notification:** Applicants will be notified of their status in December 2020. Final funding decisions will be made in May 2021. See section [IV. Application Review Information A. California Volunteers Review and Selection Process](#) for more information.

Our Purpose: California Volunteers, as part of the Office of the Governor, addresses state and community challenges by investing in high impact service solutions, while leveraging public, private, and nonprofit partnerships and resources. CV invests nearly \$40 million annually in AmeriCorps grants to support effective community service solutions.

The *2021 AmeriCorps State Funding Opportunity* awards AmeriCorps grants to eligible community partnerships that will engage AmeriCorps members in *evidence-informed* or *evidence-based* interventions/practices (see *Mandatory Supplemental Guidance*) to strengthen communities. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award from the National Service Trust that members can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

This *2021 AmeriCorps State Funding Opportunity* should be read together with the AmeriCorps regulations 45 CFR Sections 2520-2550. The following documents are necessary to complete the application for 2021-2022 AmeriCorps Funding:

- (1) 2021 AmeriCorps State Funding Opportunity Request for Applications (RFA)
- (2) 2021 AmeriCorps State Funding Opportunity Mandatory Supplemental Guidance (Mandatory Supplemental Guidance)
- (3) 2021 AmeriCorps State Funding Opportunity Application Instructions (Application Instructions)
- (4) 2021 AmeriCorps State Grant Application Forms
- (5) 2021 National Performance Measures Instructions

Note for Continuation Programs: If you are currently funded by CV and need to apply for year two or three continuation funding, this RFA does not apply to you. Instructions will be e-mailed directly to you by CV for both competitive and formula continuation programs at a later time.



APPLICATION TIMELINE

This timeline is subject to change due to federal announcements and other events.

October 27, 2020	Applications due to CV in eGrants by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time*
October 28 – November 30, 2020	Application Review Period
December 1, 2020	Applicants Selected for Competitive Submission, Formula Waitlist, or Release Notified
December 1 - 11, 2020	Competitive Applicant Clarification and Strengthening Period**
December 14 - 18, 2020	Competitive Electronic Application Review/Final Edits ***
May 2021	Final funding decisions announced
July-October 2021	Contracting process and program launch

* Applicants should give themselves ample time ahead of the deadline to submit their application in eGrants.

** Applicants and their partnership representatives must be available during this timeframe to respond to CVs' clarification requests and feedback to strengthen their application.

*** During this period, applicants must have appropriate staff available to enter and submit application into CNCS's web-based management system.



I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Funding Program Description

California Volunteers

As the State Service Commission for California, California Volunteers (CV) is tasked with engaging Californians in service, volunteering, and civic action to tackle our State's most pressing challenges while lifting up all communities. Josh Fryday, State of California Chief Service Officer, leads the agency in consultation with a 25-member Commission appointed by the Governor. The Commission develops and adopts policies that guide the State's AmeriCorps grantmaking process.

California Volunteers receives federal funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to support AmeriCorps programs. CNCS's mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. Through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and the Volunteer Generation Fund, CNCS has helped to engage millions of citizens in community and national challenges through service and volunteer action.

Purpose of AmeriCorps Funding

AmeriCorps is a national service program that provides opportunities for Americans each year to serve their country as AmeriCorps members by engaging in intensive results-driven service that addresses community problems. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. AmeriCorps members are recruited, trained, supervised, and managed by the funded organization, and may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, AmeriCorps members are eligible to receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award from the National Service Trust that they can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans. Members must be: U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals or Lawful Permanent Residents of the United States, at least 17 years of age (no upper age limit), high school graduates or GED recipients (or working towards this goal), and are subject to criminal history checks. AmeriCorps Programs may add program-specific requirements. For more information on member eligibility requirements, please visit: http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/ready/eligibility.asp.

AmeriCorps grants are awarded on a competitive basis to eligible organizations that engage members in *evidence-based or evidence-informed* interventions to strengthen communities (see *Mandatory Supplemental Guidance*). AmeriCorps grants include an allotment of AmeriCorps member positions and provide partial funding to support AmeriCorps projects and programs. Grants are solely for program expenses and cannot be used for general organizational operating expenses. **AmeriCorps members or grant funds can help meet unmet needs or can expand an organization's ability to better address community needs, but cannot be used to duplicate, displace or supplant resources that already exist in a community.**

California Volunteers AmeriCorps Values

As home to the largest and most diverse population in the country, California faces many challenges that need our attention. California Volunteers is seeking to invest AmeriCorps resources in programs that are:

Targeted at solving a critical challenge facing California. While there are a large number of issues that are identified as "challenges," CV is most interested in those that have been publicly labeled as concerns for California's long-term quality of life by state government leaders as well as key civic and research institutions. While CV will generally view programs and initiatives addressing statewide challenges as more compelling, CV will also give consideration to those that are designed to tackle problems faced by a particular locality or region of the state. Issues that have been addressed in the past include low academic achievement, unemployment, child welfare, and many others.



Using national service as an appropriate strategy. California Volunteers is committed to continuing to demonstrate that service is a powerful strategy to address community challenges. Successful program designs clearly identify those directly impacted by the challenges, identify an intervention proven to address the need, and clearly articulate why the efforts of AmeriCorps members are an appropriate strategy to deliver the intervention. This includes demonstrating how AmeriCorps member service activities will enhance or expand an organization's ability to better address a community problem, and how the AmeriCorps program will not duplicate, displace or supplant resources that already exist to address the stated problem.

Applying an evidence informed or evidence-based approach. California Volunteers expects those seeking an investment from AmeriCorps to demonstrate that their proposed intervention is guided by the best available research evidence that supports its effectiveness. This includes demonstrating that the proposed intervention will lead to the desired outcomes and providing strong evidence that the proposed intervention is effective for the target population and community challenge identified. CV is particularly interested in programs that directly involve leading experts from the relevant subject area in the design and/or evaluation of the program. CV values programs that can demonstrate the intervention is implemented with fidelity across sites and that apply performance data and evaluation findings to continuously strengthen their model.

Based on a well-aligned logic model and focused on measurable outcomes. California Volunteers values strong program designs built to address community needs by logically connecting all program components and services back to these needs. Programs funded through AmeriCorps are expected to achieve results that can be quantifiably measured and reported on program impacts annually. (See *Grant Application Forms; California Performance Measurement Worksheets*)

Dedicated to quality. California Volunteers seeks to invest in programs that are committed to making a difference and incorporate quality management practices to oversee the program and ensure appropriate investment of public funds. California Volunteers values programs that can successfully implement the program design by assuring that the systems and processes necessary for managing and assessing the effectiveness of the program model are in place prior to operation. This includes adequate oversight in the management of each component to assure that the program design and systems are implemented and assessed, the capacity to collect data and report on program effectiveness, and that stakeholder feedback leads to continuous improvement.

B. National Service Focus Areas

The National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended by the Serve America Act, emphasizes measuring the impact of service and focusing on a core set of issue areas. In order to carry out Congress's intent and to maximize the impact of the investment in national service, AmeriCorps grants support the following focus areas:

1. **Disaster Services**— Grants will provide support to increase the preparedness of individuals for disasters, improve individuals' readiness to respond to disasters, help individuals recover from disasters, and/or help individuals mitigate disasters.
2. **Economic Opportunity**— Grants will provide support and/or facilitate access to services and resources that contribute to the improved economic well-being and security of economically disadvantaged people; help economically disadvantaged people to have improved access to services that enhance financial literacy; transition into or remain in safe, healthy, affordable housing; and/or have improved employability leading to increased success in becoming employed.
3. **Education**— Grants will provide support and/or facilitate access to services and resources that contribute to improved educational outcomes for economically disadvantaged children; improved school readiness for economically disadvantaged young children; improved educational and behavioral outcomes of students in low-achieving elementary, middle, and high schools; and/or



support economically disadvantaged students prepare for success in post-secondary educational institutions.

4. **Environmental Stewardship**— Grants will support responsible stewardship of the environment, while preparing communities for challenging circumstances and helping Americans respond to and recover from disruptive life events: programs that conserve natural habitats; protect clean air and water; maintain public lands; support wildland fire mitigation; cultivate individual and community self-sufficiency; and provide reforestation services after floods or fires.
5. **Healthy Futures**— Grants will provide support for activities that will address the opioid crisis; improve access to primary and preventive health care for communities; increase seniors' ability to remain in their own homes with the same or improved quality of life for as long as possible; and/or increase physical activity and improve nutrition in youth with the purpose of reducing childhood obesity.
6. **Veterans and Military Families**— Grants will positively impact the quality of life of veterans and improve military family strength; increase the number of veterans, wounded warriors, military service members, and their families served by CNCS-supported programs; and/or increase the number of veterans and military family members engaged in service through CNCS-supported programs.

Capacity Building: In addition to the above core focus areas, grants can provide support for capacity building activities provided by AmeriCorps members. CV considers capacity building activities to be *indirect services* that enable CV-supported organizations to provide stronger, expanded, and sustained *direct services* in the six focus areas. Capacity building activities cannot be solely intended to support the administration or operations of the organization. Examples of capacity building activities include:

- Recruiting and/or managing community volunteers.
- Implementing effective volunteer management practices.
- Completing community assessment that identifies goals and recommendations.
- Developing new systems and business processes (technology, performance management, training, etc.) or enhancing existing systems and business processes.

C. Funding Priorities

Funding priorities for CV are informed by federal funding priorities established by CNCS and the interests and priorities of our Governor-appointed Commission. In the 2021 AmeriCorps grant competition, CV will prioritize the investment of grant resources in the following areas:

- Efforts to help local communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, including meeting food insecurity needs. Applicants may propose programming in any national service focus area to aid communities as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Programs that engage Californians in taking actions to address climate change and environmental stewardship (see Attachment A).
- Programs that actively engage in removing structural racial inequities, advancing racial equality, and increasing opportunity in order to achieve sustainable change in communities.
Economic Opportunity – a program model that increases economic opportunities for communities by preparing people for the workforce.
- Evidence-based interventions on the CNCS Evidence Exchange (<https://www.nationalservice.gov/impact-our-nation/evidence-exchange>) that are assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence.
- Healthy Futures – a program model that reduces and/or prevents prescription drug and opioid abuse.
- Veterans and Military Families – a program model that positively impacting the quality of life of veterans and improving military family strength.
- Rural intermediaries – organizations that demonstrate measurable impact and primarily serve rural communities with limited resources and organizational infrastructure.
- Programs that reduce child poverty.



In addition, California Volunteers seek to support programs that address unmet needs in any of the following communities or geographic areas:

- The bottom five California neighborhood clusters with the lowest American Human Development Index for California¹:
 - Tulare County: Visalia, Tulare, and Porterville
 - Los Angeles County: Huntington Park, Florence-Graham and Walnut Park
 - Kern County: Bakersfield
 - Los Angeles County: Los Angeles City (Southeast/East Vermont)
 - Los Angeles County: South Central/Watts
- Counties that currently have no AmeriCorps state presence²:
Amador, Kings, Lassen, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Sierra, Sutter

In order to receive priority consideration, applicants must demonstrate that the priority area is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes; and must include a high-quality program design. Proposing programs that receive priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

D. Estimated Funds Available Funds

The actual level of funding will be subject to the availability of annual federal appropriations, which has yet to be determined for FY 2021. Generally, CV receives AmeriCorps grant funding from CNCS through two federal pots of money: **formula** and **competitive** funds. California Volunteers receives formula funds from CNCS through a population-based allocation. Competitive funds are awarded to CV to support a select number of programs that have competed successfully in both the state grant competition administered by CV and the national grant competition administered by CNCS. All applicants first apply for funding through CV to receive a state ranking and then CV selects which applications are submitted to the CNCS AmeriCorps State and National competition for competitive funding consideration. Applications submitted to the national competition are not guaranteed funding at any level. CNCS makes final award decisions for competitive funds; those applicants approved for competitive grant awards are considered grantees of CV. Unsuccessful applicants submitted to the CNCS national grant competition will return to a rank-order list for consideration of formula funds based on results from the CV state grant review process.

In making formula funding decisions, CV will award funds in the following order: continuation programs followed by successful new/recompeting applicants in rank order.

E. Estimated Award Amount

Grant awards have two components: operating funds and AmeriCorps member positions. Grant award amounts vary – both in the level of operating funds and in the type and amount of AmeriCorps member positions - as determined by the scope of the program. CV will review applications and determine the final award amount based on availability of funds. Award amounts may vary from the requested amounts.

F. Performance Measurement Requirements

Applicants are required to develop a set of performance measures using the California Performance Measurement Worksheets (PMWs) that addresses requirements described in the *Application Instructions*. Each applicant will need to complete at least three PMWs, titled as follows:

- Primary Needs and Service Performance Measurement Worksheet—Applicants must have at least one aligned performance measure (output and outcome) that corresponds to the proposed primary program intervention. Applicants proposing program service activities beyond the primary intervention are required to include additional aligned performance measures for those activities.

¹ The American Human Development Index for California measures three fundamental human development dimensions: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and a decent standard of living. The index combines, health, education, and income indicators into a composite measure expressed on a scale of 0 to 10. The identified neighborhood clusters have HDI scores less than 3. Source: [Lewis, K. Burd-Sharps, S. \(2014\). The Measure of America Series: A Portrait of California 2014-2015.](#)

² Counties with no AmeriCorps presence based on partnership information reported by programs funded in the most recent complete program year (2017-18).



Please note that CV values the quality of performance measures over the quantity of performance measures. Applicants should focus member service hours in service activities that are significant to the program's theory of change and intended outcomes.

- *Common Member Development Worksheet*—Applicants must have an aligned output and outcome that reflects the knowledge and skills members will gain through the program.
- *Common Strengthening Communities Worksheet*—Applicants must track the number of volunteers recruited by AmeriCorps members and service hours contributed by those volunteers to expand the impact and reach of the program in the communities served.

All three PMWs combined must account for all member service hours requested. Applicants should use both performance and evaluation data to learn from their work as well as make tactical and strategic adjustments to achieve their goals. CV values the quality of performance measures over the quantity of measures. For more information, see the *Application Instructions* for specific requirements for each required performance measurement area.

Performance Measures Module in eGrants

In addition to the Performance Measurement Worksheets, applicants are required to enter their Primary Needs and Service PMW into the Performance Measures Module in eGrants. The Common Member Development Worksheet and the Common Strengthening Communities Worksheet are not entered into eGrants. All required Performance Measurement Worksheets must be submitted as Additional Documents. Please see the *Application Instructions* for more information.

National Performance Measures

National Performance Measures are developed by CNCS for each focus area. CV expects applicants to use National Performance Measures as part of their comprehensive performance measurement strategy if the National Performance Measures are part of the applicant's theory of change. The National Performance Measures can be found in the *2021 National Performance Measures Instructions*. This document provides definitions, requirements, and guidelines that will help applicants determine which measures best apply to their program. All requirements for any National Performance Measures selected must be clearly included in the Performance Measurement Worksheets. Providing performance measures information elsewhere in the narrative cannot be in lieu of providing full information in the PMWs. Successful applicants will be required to report on the measures they select.

F. Authority

These funds are available under authority of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1990, as amended, (NCSA) (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.).



II. ELIGIBILITY

A. Eligible Applicants

Typically, the following non-federal entities (as defined in [2 CFR §200.69](#)) that propose to operate only within California who have DUNS numbers and are registered in System for Award Management (SAM) are eligible to apply for AmeriCorps funding through California Volunteers:

- Nonprofit organizations ([2 CFR §200.70](#))
- Institutions of higher education ([2 CFR §200.55](#))
- Local government/public agencies ([2 CFR §200.64](#))
- State government agencies ([2 CFR §200.90](#))
- Indian Tribes within the state of California ([2 CFR §200.54](#))

Note: Organizations that propose to operate AmeriCorps programs in more than one State or Territory apply directly to CNCS. Federally-recognized Indian Tribes may also apply directly to CNCS.

Other Requirements

Under section 132A(b) of the National & Community Service Act, organizations that have been convicted of a federal crime may not receive assistance described in this RFA.

Note that under section 745 of Title VII, Division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, if CNCS is aware that any corporation has any unpaid Federal tax liability which—

- 1) Has been assessed,
- 2) For which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and
- 3) That is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, that corporation is not eligible for an award under this RFA. A similar restriction may be enacted with the appropriation which will fund awards under this RFA.

Pursuant to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, any organization described in Section 501 (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(4) that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply for funding.

B. Community Partnerships Requirements

In order to maximize community involvement in the AmeriCorps program, all applicants are required to develop partnerships with at least three independent entities that include *one public and one private* partner (nonprofit or for-profit entity). Partners should have a significant role in planning, operating, and sustaining the program (e.g. match contribution, training resources, continuous improvement assessment, etc.).

C. Dun and Bradstreet University Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management System (SAM)

All applicants **must** register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/> 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. See the SAM Quick Guide for Grantees at: https://sam.gov/SAM/transcript/Quick_Guide_for_Grants_Registrations.pdf.

SAM registration must be renewed annually. CV 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 address on all grant applications.**

CNCS will not make awards to entities that do not have a valid SAM registration and DUNS or Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). If an applicant has not fully complied with these requirements by the time CNCS is



ready to make a Federal award, CNCS may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

The Federal government is implementing Unique Entity Identifiers (UEI) as part of the SAM registration process to eventually replace DUNS numbers. CNCS may ask applicants to add the UEI to their application as part of the clarification or pre-award process. CNCS is adding a field to capture the UEI in eGrants. If you already have a UEI and the UEI field is available in eGrants, you can enter it at the time you submit your application.

Applicants can obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling the DUNS number request line at (866) 705-5711 or by applying online at the [DUNS Request Service](#). CNCS recommends registering at least 30 days before the application due date, if applicants do not yet have their UEI.



III. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

A. Project and Award Period

The project period is generally one year. The grant award covers a three-year project period unless otherwise specified. Applications must include proposed activities and a detailed proposed budget for the first year of operation. California Volunteers expects that programmatic activities for the second and third years of operation will build upon and be similar in scope to those of the first year. Continuation funding for subsequent years is not guaranteed and shall be dependent upon availability of appropriations and satisfactory performance. California Volunteers reserves the right to adjust the amount of a grant award for subsequent years, or elect to discontinue funding for subsequent years.

Grants awarded through this funding opportunity will support programming beginning in late summer of 2021. Successful applicants must start member service activities no later than mid-October 2021 and allow up to 12 months for members to complete a term of service. Any exception to this start date expectation must be included in the application. Additionally, the program may not start prior to the execution of the program's contract with CV, which means AmeriCorps members may not begin service, certify any member hours, or accrue costs on the CNCS share of the budget prior to the conclusion of the contracting process. More information on the contracting process will be provided at funding notification.

B. Cost per Member Service Year (MSY)

Applicants request for the number and types of AmeriCorps member positions that are needed to address the community need stated in their application. Types of member positions available are Full-time (1,700 hour service term), Three-Quarter-time (1,200 hours), Half-time (900 hours), Reduced Half-time (675 hours), Quarter-time (450 hours), Minimum-time (300 hours), and Abbreviated-time (100 hours).

A 1700-hour (Full-time) AmeriCorps member position is designed for one service year; hereafter referred to as one Member Service Year (MSY). The MSY is similar to a Full Time Equivalent (FTE), measuring positions as a fraction of full-time, so a full-time member is 1 MSY and a half-time member is .5 MSY. An AmeriCorps grant is based on the cost per the number of MSYs that a grantee will support.

An applicant's federal or CNCS cost per MSY is determined by dividing the total CNCS share of budgeted grant costs by the number of MSYs requested. It does not include child care or the value of the education award a member may earn—these benefits are provided directly to members outside of the grant. Successful applicants are required to maintain their awarded cost per MSY throughout the grant period. The cost per MSY is matched by funding secured by the legal applicant to supplement the costs of the program which can include member living allowance, staff salaries, and other program expenses.

For example, a request of \$325,000 to support 25 MSYs would have a cost per MSY of \$13,000 ($\$325,000 \div 25 \text{ MSY}$). The average cost per MSY for CVs' 2020-21 AmeriCorps programs is \$13,662.

Table 1 below sets the maximum cost per MSY amount an applicant may request for each grant type. See below for more information on each grant type.

Table 1: Maximum Cost per MSY

Grant Program	Maximum
Cost reimbursement	\$16,300*
Full-Cost Fixed Amount Grant	\$16,300
Professional Corps Fixed Amount Applicants	\$1,000**
Education Award Program Fixed Amount Grant	\$800 or \$1,000***

*Cost reimbursement programs operating in rural communities (as defined in the Mandatory Supplemental Guidance) and cost reimbursement programs that recruit opportunity youth as AmeriCorps



members may request up to \$16,800 cost per MSY for the AmeriCorps members who will be serving in rural areas or who are opportunity youth.

Applicants applying for **Professional Corps grants are required to cover the operating expenses associated with the AmeriCorps program through non CNCS resources. CV will only consider operating funds of up to \$1,000 per MSY if an applicant is able to demonstrate significant organizational financial need based on the materials reviewed by CV.

*** Per 42 U.S.C. 12581a, the Corporation may provide the operational support under this section for a program in an amount that is not more than \$800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position, or not more than \$1,000 per such individual if at least 50 percent of the persons enrolled in the program are disadvantaged youth.

For purposes of fundamental fairness, CV may review an application which meets the statutory characteristics of a professional corps as a professional corps, regardless of whether the organization applied as a professional corps program. CV reserves the right to determine whether an applicant (whether or not the applicant has applied as a **Professional Corps**) has sufficiently demonstrated that they cannot effectively operate an AmeriCorps program without receiving CV operating funds. There may be specific circumstances where CV determines that a legal applicant has not demonstrated the need for operational grant funds due to other funding resources. Where CV's due diligence review of an application shows that the applicant has a historically high level of support from non-CNCS sources, and as a result has levels of unrestricted funding that is in excess of the requested level of CNCS funding, CV may choose to not provide operational grant funding.

C. Types of Grants

AmeriCorps grants can be awarded on a Cost Reimbursement or Fixed Amount basis. CV will not provide both types of grants for the same program in one fiscal year. Applicants will need to select and indicate which type of grant they are applying for in their application. The following types of AmeriCorps grants are offered through this funding opportunity. The chart below provides a summary of each grant type available through this RFA: Please see the *Mandatory Supplemental Guidance* for detailed explanations of each grant type.



Grant Types	Cost Reimbursement	Fixed Amount			
		Full-Cost	Education Award Program (EAP)	Professional Corps	No Cost Slots
Available Subtypes	Traditional	Full-Cost	Education Award Program (EAP)	Professional Corps	No Cost Slots
Maximum Cost per MSY	\$16,300	\$16,300	\$800 or \$1,000*	\$1,000	\$0
Type of Slots in the National Service Trust	All slot types	All slot types	All slot types	Full-time only	All slot types
Budget Submission Required at time of Application	Yes	Yes		Yes, if requesting operating funds	No
Availability of Funds linked to enrollment and retention of awarded MSYs	No	Yes			No
Special Requirements	N/A	N/A		Must place qualified professionals in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals. Member salaries and benefits must be paid entirely by organization where member serves and not included in budget.	N/A
Financial Reporting Requirements	Yes	No			
Available to new Applicants	Yes	No	Yes		

*Per 42 U.S.C. § 12581a, the Corporation may provide the operational support under this section for a program in an amount that is not more than \$800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position, or not more than \$1,000 per such individual if at least 50 percent of the persons enrolled in the program are disadvantaged youth.



D. Cost Sharing or Matching

Program requirements, including requirements on match, are located in the AmeriCorps regulations and summarized below.

Table 2: Match Requirements in the AmeriCorps Regulations

Grant Type	Match Requirement
Cost Reimbursement Grants (Traditional and Non Fixed Amount Professional Corps)	Minimum grantee share is 24% of program costs for the first three years. Overall grantee share of total program costs increases gradually beginning in Year 4 to 50% by the tenth year of funding and every year thereafter.
Fixed Amount Full-Cost	There are no specific match requirements for fixed-amount grants. Grantees pay all program costs over the cost per MSY awarded.
Fixed Amount EAP Grants	There are no specific match requirements for fixed-amount grants. Grantees pay all program costs over \$800 per MSY awarded.
Fixed Amount Professional Corps Grants	There are no specific match requirements for fixed-amount grants. Grantees pay all program costs over the cost per MSY awarded.
No-Cost Slots	Grantees pay all program costs.

Cost Reimbursement Grants

A first-time successful applicant is required to provide a single overall match of 24 percent for the first three-year funding period. Starting with year four, the match requirement gradually increases every year to 50 percent by year ten, according to minimum overall share chart found in [45 CFR § 2521.60](#) and below:

AmeriCorps Funding Year	1,2,3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
Match Requirements	24%	26%	30%	34%	38%	42%	46%	50%

Section 121(e)(5) of the National Community Service Act (42 U.S.C. 12571(e)) requires that programs that use other federal funds as match for an AmeriCorps grant report the amount and source of these funds to CV and CNCS on the 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 funds 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 must demonstrate matching funds are secured before CV can issue the grant award. Additionally, 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.

Alternative Match

Under certain circumstances, applicants may qualify to meet alternative matching requirements that increase over the years to 35 percent instead of 50 percent as specified in the regulations at [45 CFR §2521.60\(b\)](#). To qualify, applicants must demonstrate that the proposed program is either located in a rural county or in a severely economically distressed community as defined in the Application Instructions. Applicants that plan to request an alternative match schedule must submit a request at the time the application is submitted.

Fixed Amount Grants (EAP, Full-Cost, Professional Corps, No-Cost Slots)

There is no specific match requirement for Fixed Amount Grants. CV does not provide all the funds necessary to operate the program; therefore, organizations should raise any additional revenue required.



E. Indirect Costs

Applicants are allowed to include indirect costs in application budgets. Based on qualifying factors, applicants will either use a federally approved indirect cost rate, a 5/10 percent fixed option, a 10% *de minimis* rate of modified total direct costs, or may claim certain costs directly as outlined in [2 CFR § 200.413](#) Direct costs. States, local governments and Indian Tribes may use approved cost allocation plans. All methods must be applied consistently across federal awards. Applicants that have a federal negotiated indirect cost rate or that will be using the 10% *de minimis* rate must include the agreement in the application. However, under section 121(d) of the NCSA and CNCS's regulations at [45 CFR 2517.710](#), no more than five percent of award funds may be used to recover indirect costs on AmeriCorps grants, of which up to two percent may be allocated to cover CV share of indirect costs. See *Grant Application Instructions* for more information on calculating indirect costs.

F. Minimum Program Size

The minimum program size funded by CV is 20 MSY (full-time equivalent member positions). California Volunteers believes this MSY requirement is necessary to provide members in quantities that make a substantial difference in meeting community needs. Applicants requesting less than the minimum required MSY level must include a compelling rationale with the application in order for the application to not be disqualified.

G. Maximum Grant Size

Applications being considered by CV for competitive funds do not have a maximum limit. Applicants who are unsuccessful in securing competitive funding will be considered for formula funding, based on their state ranking. Such programs may be subjected to a reduced budget up to \$850,000.

H. Minimum Number of Members per Service Site

To ensure strong program design and to provide members with at least a minimal mutual support network, successful applicants must place a minimum of two AmeriCorps members at each service location as part of their program design. Exceptions to this requirement must be supported by compelling rationale in the application and receive approval from CV.

I. Living Allowance

The proposed budget must include a living allowance for full-time members that are within the required range per member (except as noted below). A living allowance is not considered a salary or a wage. Programs are prohibited from comparing the member living allowance to an "hourly wage" in any recruitment materials, member handbooks, etc.

Programs are not required to provide a living allowance for members who serve 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 comply with the maximum limits in the table below. The amount must be included in the proposed budget as either CNCS or grantee share.

Table 3: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance

Term of Service	MSY Equivalence	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Living Allowance
Full Time	1.00	1,700	\$15,100	\$30,200
Three-Quarter Time	.700	1,200	n/a	\$21,318
Half Time	.500	900	n/a	\$15,988
Reduced Half Time	.3809524	675	n/a	\$11,991
Quarter Time	.26455027	450	n/a	\$7,994
Minimum Time	.21164022	300	n/a	\$5,329
Abbreviated Time	.05627705	100	n/a	\$1,776



In most instances, the grant received by an applicant will not cover the full amount of the living allowance provided to members and the applicant must use its own or other resources to supplement member living allowance. Because the minimum living allowance may not fully cover the actual living expenses of members, programs may wish to offer living allowances in excess of the minimum requirements.

Exceptions to 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 not the maximum requirement.

EAP Grantees are not required to provide a living allowance, but if but if a living allowance is provided, it must comply with the maximum requirements set forth in the Living Allowance Table above.

Professional Corps Grantees must provide members a living allowance or salary, which must meet the minimum, but may exceed the maximum living allowance set in the Living Allowance Table above. Professional Corps member salaries are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve, and are not included in the budget request (CNCS or grantee share).

J. Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards

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 his or her term of service to use the Education Award. CV will provide the updated Education Award amounts at the time of grant award. Learn more about the Education Award here: <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/amicorps/segal-amicorps-education-award>

K. Enrollment Requirements

Enrollment rates ultimately effect the total number of AmeriCorps members awarded to California for service in California communities. Grantees are expected to enroll all MSYs awarded in the grant and may not use unexpended funds resulting from not fully enrolling members for any other purpose in the operating budget. Grantee budgets will be adjusted as needed to maintain awarded/contracted cost per member MSY. Successful applicants that do not fully enroll may be subject to a reduction in grant award amount and are likely to receive a decrease in funding in subsequent years.

L. Retention Requirements

Retention rates are an indicator of the grantee's ability to properly design and manage an AmeriCorps program that results in achieving the outcomes contracted. We expect grantees to pursue the highest member retention rate possible. Retention rates will have a direct bearing on the number of slots and the size of awards approved in the continuation and recompetete processes. Successful applicants that do not retain members are likely to receive a decrease in funding in subsequent years.

M. Evaluation Requirements

California Volunteers strongly encourages grantees to use evaluation as a tool to continuously improve programs and demonstrate impact and effectiveness. In doing so, programs will have the opportunity to test their program delivery model, adjust services to best meet community needs, and collect trustworthy data to support their work. In turn, these data and program improvements will strengthen the evidence base for the impact of national service as well as inform strong funding and technical assistance decisions.

New Applicants

New applicants competing for the first time are required to submit a data collection plan as part of the Narratives in their application. Data Collection Plans must not exceed 10,000 characters and must include the following:

- A description of the applicant's data collection system and how it is sufficient to collect high-



quality performance measurement data during the first three years of the grant. If the applicant does not yet have a data collection system, describe the plan and timeline for developing a high-quality system.

- A description of how the applicant will use performance data (including CNCS performance measures and other process and outcome measures if applicable) to improve its program in the first three years of funding.

Recompeting Applicants (both previously funded Formula and Competitive programs)

All recompeting programs are required to submit an evaluation plan as part of the Narratives in their application. Evaluation Plans must not exceed 10,000 characters and must include as much information as possible for each of the following (see Frequently Asked Questions: Evaluation, available at <http://www.nationalservice.gov/resources/evaluation/cnsc-evaluation-policies>):

- A short description of the theory of change - why the proposed intervention is expected to produce the proposed results
- Outcome of interest - clear and measurable outcomes that are aligned with the theory of change and will be assessed during the evaluation
- Research questions to be addressed by the study - concrete research questions (or hypotheses) that are clearly connected to the outcomes
- Proposed research design for the evaluation including a rationale for the design selected, an assessment of its strengths and limitations, and a description of the main components;
- Description of the data sources, sampling methods, measurement tools, and data collection procedures that will be used in the intervention
- Analysis plan that clearly describes the methodology/ies that will be used to analyze the collected data
- A timeline for the evaluation that describes how the evaluation will cover at least one year of CNCS-funded activity and will be completed within the three-year timeframe of the grant
- Qualifications needed for the evaluator
- The estimated budget.

For more information about evaluation plans visit the CNCS Knowledge Network's Evaluation Resources: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/resources/evaluation/planning-evaluation>.

Recompeting Competitive Applicants

In addition to submitting an evaluation plan for the next three year period, recompeting competitive programs that are applying for their third three-year grant period and beyond will need to submit the report of their evaluation conducted during their current three-year grant period.

The evaluation requirements for competitive grantees (successful applicants funded through the national competition) differ depending on the amount of the grant, as described in [45 CFR §2522.710](#):

- If a competitive program's average annual CNCS program grant is \$500,000 or more, it must arrange for an external evaluation of the program, and it must submit the evaluation with any subsequent application to CNCS for competitive funds as required in [§2522.730](#) of this subpart.
- If a competitive program or an Education Award Program's average annual CNCS program grant is less than \$500,000, it must conduct an internal or an external evaluation of the program, and it must submit the evaluation with any subsequent application to CNCS for competitive funds as required in [§2522.730](#) of this subpart.

For purposes of compliance with evaluation plan and report requirements, an application will be considered a recompeting application if it has previously been funded competitively for at least three years for the same project (see Mandatory Supplemental Information for the CNCS definition of "same project").

- If the applicant has received competitive funding for the same project for at least three years, it will be required to submit an evaluation plan.



- If the applicant has received at least six years of competitive funding for the same project, the applicant will be required to submit an evaluation report as well as an evaluation plan for the upcoming 3-year grant. If the applicant does not satisfy the definition of recompeting, it will not be required to submit an evaluation plan or completed evaluation report.

Alternative Evaluation Approach

Grantees with an average annual CNCS program grant of \$500,000 or more that are recompeting for funds are eligible to apply for approval of an alternative evaluation approach. Grantees requesting approval of an alternative evaluation approach should submit a request for approval of an alternative evaluation approach along with their evaluation plan. The request should clearly explain:

- (a) the evaluation constraints faced by the program,
- (b) why the proposed approach is the most rigorous option feasible, and
- (c) how the proposed alternative approach will help the grantee build their evidence base.

Evaluation plans should include, at a minimum, the required elements listed in this *RFA*. The evaluation plan must be consistent with the information submitted in the funding application and in the request for approval of an alternative evaluation approach. More information on alternative evaluation approaches can be found at:

https://www.nationalservicerresources.gov/files/guidance_for_grantees_approval_of_alternative_evaluation_approach.pdf.



IV. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. California Volunteers Review and Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed and selected for funding using an intensive multi-stage process that includes CV Staff Review, Clarification and Feedback, and CV Commission approval. The 2021 grantmaking process follows the policies adopted by the Commission, available on the CV website at californiavolunteers.ca.gov. California Volunteers' review and selection process will occur in several stages as follow.

Compliance Check

California Volunteers staff will review all applications to determine compliance with eligibility, deadline, and completeness requirements. Applications that are submitted by eligible organizations by the deadline and that address any compliance issues within 24 hours will advance to Staff Review. See the *Application Instructions* and *Application Forms* to ensure submission of a compliant grant application. Applications that have noncompliant issues identified may be disqualified or have points deducted from the application's total raw score.

Staff Review

In Staff Review, reviewers will evaluate each application against assessment criteria outlined in this RFA and the accompanying Application Instructions. Staff will review applications in teams of at least three and come to a consensus score for each criteria. Applications that do not meet the minimum score threshold will be released from consideration.

Clarification Period

The application review process for this grant competition will include a Clarification Period. During the Clarification Period, applicants may be asked for clarifying information regarding issues of significance in the application and budget. This information is used by CV in making final funding recommendations. Applications may be recommended for funding even if they are not asked clarification questions. A request for clarification does not guarantee a grant award. Failure to respond to a request for clarification adequately and in a timely manner may result in the removal of its application from consideration.

NOTE: Applicants selected for competitive submission may need to respond to another round of clarification from the Corporation for National and Community Service as part of their national grant application review process. This is scheduled to occur between March and April. CNCS will send clarification to CV during that time, which will then be forwarded to the applicant with instructions for submission.

Risk Assessment Evaluation

CV staff will evaluate the risks to the program posed by each applicant, including conducting due diligence to ensure an applicant's ability to manage federal funds and the applicant's past performance (if applicable.) This evaluation is in addition to the evaluation of the applicant's eligibility for funding and the quality of its application on the basis of the Selection Criteria. Results from this evaluation will inform funding decisions. If CV determines that an award will be made, special conditions that correspond to the degree of risk assessed may be applied to the award. In evaluating risks, CV may consider the following, but not limited to:

- Financial capability and capacity to manage Federal funds
- Quality of financial management systems and ability to meet the administrative standards prescribed in applicable OMB Guidance
- History of performance as reflected in the applicant's record in managing previous CNCS awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:
 - Timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements,
 - If applicable, meeting matching requirements, and
 - If applicable, the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards



- Information available through any OMB-designated repositories 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
 - Dun and Bradstreet, or
 - “Do Not Pay”
- Reports and findings from single audits performed under Uniform Administrative Guidance (formerly OMB Circular A-133) and findings of any other available audits
- IRS Tax Form 990
- An applicant organization's annual report
- Publicly available information including information from an applicant organization's website
- Any other information listed in 45 CFR § 2522.140
- The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.
- Past Performance

Applications submitted to the national grant competition will be subjected to a similar Risk Assessment Evaluation conducted by CNCS.

CV will assess re-competing programs' past performance and submit those assessments to CNCS. This assessment is in addition to the evaluation of the applicant's eligibility for funding or the quality of its application on the basis of the Selection Criteria. Results from this assessment will inform funding decisions for both formula and competitive grant selection. In evaluating programmatic performance, CV will consider the following for applicants that are current formula and competitive grantees:

- Grant progress reports – attainment of Performance Measures
- Enrollment and retention
- Site visit or other monitoring findings (if applicable)
- OIG findings (if applicable)
- Significant opportunities and/or risks of the grantee related to national service

Additionally, CV/CNCS may use the results of the review of the risk assessment evaluation in determining which applications to fund. If CV/CNCS concludes that the reasons for applicants having poor risk assessment evaluations are not likely to be mitigated, those applications may not be selected for funding.

Selection

The primary consideration in the selection of AmeriCorps programs is merit. Applicants must meet a minimum score threshold **and** satisfactorily address all clarification issues in order to be considered for funding. In lieu of a three-year operating grant, California Volunteers may award an application a limited-term “planning” or “program development” grant. A planning grant provides funds to support the development of an AmeriCorps program design and infrastructures needed to operate the program. A program development grant provides funds to support one year of implementation; where continued funding would be subject to available funds and satisfactory performance. Applicants not selected for competitive submission may be placed on the formula waitlist. Applicants will be notified at the time of Clarification if they have been conditionally approved for competitive submission, placed on the formula waitlist, or if they are being recommended for a planning grant or program development grant.

To help achieve a balanced portfolio for the State of California, final selections will be made with consideration of the following:

- California Volunteers' Statewide Geographic Distribution Policy, in which the Commission will seek to ensure a minimum of 40 MSYs are placed in the Los Angeles region and 20 MSYs are placed in the remaining eight regions as determined by the California's Economic Strategy Panel. In order to achieve geographic parity, a program in an already represented region may be skipped, and another program may be selected. Under no circumstances will the Commission provide formula funding to an applicant that receives a score that is 10 or more points below the applicant it may displace.



- Ensure a minimum amount of funding for programs led by non-profit and non-state governmental organizations as required by AmeriCorps regulations.
- Ensure CV maintains a statewide cost per member average at or below the established federal limit.

The Commission reserves the right to bypass an applicant’s state ranking on a case-by-case basis under the following circumstances:

- An applicant has multiple national service funding opportunities available;
- The Commission has constrained resources; and/or
- The legal applicant presents serious concerns around grant performance and/or fiduciary responsibilities discovered after rankings have been completed.

Results of the grant review process are presented to the Commission, which makes final approval of funding decisions. Funding decisions are final—there is no appeal process.

Feedback to Applicants

Applicants selected to proceed to the federal competition will receive feedback to strengthen their application at the time of Clarification. California Volunteers will work with applicants to shore up their application to ensure maximum viability at the national level. California Volunteers will provide feedback to all other applicants when funding decisions are announced.

CV reserves the right to adjust or make changes to the review process, in the event that unforeseen challenges or exigent circumstances make it impossible, impractical or inefficient to execute the review process as planned. Any such adjustments or changes will not affect the selection criteria that will be used to assess applications submitted to CV in response to this RFA.

B. Assessment Criteria

Each application must clearly describe a project that will effectively deploy AmeriCorps members to address a significant community problem. We urge all applicants to submit a high-quality application which carefully follows the guidance in the RFA and in the *Application Instructions*. The quality of an application will be an important factor in determining whether an organization will receive funding.

Categories/Subcategories	Percentage
Program Design	50
Theory of Change and Logic Model	24
Evidence Tier	12
Evidence Quality	8
Notice Priority	0
Member Experience	6
Organizational Capability	25
Organizational Background and Staffing	9
Compliance and Accountability	8
Culture That Values Learning	4
Member Supervision	4
Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy	25

Program Design (50 percent)

Reviewers will consider the quality of the application’s response to the following criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

1. Theory of Change and Logic Model (24 points)

The Theory of Change shall address:

- The proposed intervention is responsive to the identified community problem.



- The applicant's proposed intervention is clearly articulated including the design, dosage, target population, and roles of AmeriCorps members and (if applicable) leveraged volunteers.
- The applicant's intervention is likely to lead to the outcomes identified in the applicant's theory of change.
- The expected outcomes articulated in the application narrative and logic model represent meaningful progress in addressing the community problem identified by the applicant.
- The rationale for utilizing AmeriCorps members to deliver the intervention(s) is reasonable.
- The service role of AmeriCorps members will produce significant contributions to existing efforts to address the stated problem.

The Logic Model shall depict:

- A summary of the community problem.
- 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
 - Number of AmeriCorps members who will deliver the intervention
- The core activities that define the intervention or program model that members will implement or deliver, including:
 - The duration of the intervention (e.g., the total number of weeks, sessions or months of the intervention)
 - The dosage of the intervention (e.g., the number of hours per session or sessions per week)
 - The 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.) If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as output indicators
- Outcomes that demonstrate 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 may include short, medium or long-term outcomes in the logic model. Applicants are not required to measure all components of their theory of change. The applicant's performance measures should be consistent with the program's theory of change and should represent significant program activities.

In the application narrative, applicants should discuss their rationale for setting output and outcome targets for their performance measures.

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 three pages will not be reviewed.

2. 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 (see the *Mandatory Supplemental Guidance*.) Second, the quality of the applicant's evidence and the degree to which it supports the proposed program design will be assessed and scored.



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.

In 2020, the evidence tiers of successful AmeriCorps State and National applicants that were competing were as follows: Strong 26%, Moderate 18%, Preliminary 24%, and Pre-Preliminary 32%. As these figures indicate, CV along with CNCS value and fund programs at all points along the evidence continuum and expects programs to progress along the evidence continuum over time. Thus, do not be deterred from applying for funding due to your current evidence level.

Applicants who have outcome or impact evaluation reports of the same intervention described in the application (see *Mandatory Supplemental Guidance* for a definition of "same intervention") may submit up to 2 of those reports, plus (if applicable) the evaluation report from their last three-year grant cycle, to qualify for the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tier. In order to qualify for consideration, the intervention evaluated in the submitted report(s) must match the intervention proposed by the applicant in the following areas, all of which must be clearly described in the Program Design and Logic Model sections of the application:

- Characteristics of the beneficiary population
- Characteristics of the population delivering the intervention
- Dosage (frequency, duration) and design of the intervention, including all key components and activities
- The context in which the intervention is delivered
- Outcomes of the intervention

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 RFA (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 (1) summarize the study design and key findings of any outcome or impact evaluation report(s) submitted and (2) 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 (see *Mandatory Supplemental Guidance*).

Applicants should provide citations for the studies they describe, if applicable; however, reviewers will not review any documents external to the application other than evaluation report(s) submitted in accordance with the Application Instructions.

Applicants must meet all requirements of an evidence tier in order to be considered for that tier.

If the evaluation reports submitted by the applicant do not meet the definitions in the *Mandatory Supplemental Guidance*, the applicant may be considered for a lower evidence tier.

Evidence Quality (8 points)

After the applicant's evidence tier has been assessed, the quality of the applicant's evidence and the extent to which it supports the proposed program design will be assessed and scored.

For applicants who are assessed as being in the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tiers, reviewers will score the submitted evaluation reports using the following standards:



- The submitted reports 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.);
- The submitted reports describe evaluations that were conducted relatively recently, preferably within the last six years;
- The submitted reports show a meaningful and significant positive effect on program beneficiaries in at least one key outcome of interest.

For applicants who are assessed as being in the Pre-Preliminary evidence tier, reviewers will score the narrative provided in the Evidence Base section of the application using the following standards:

- 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;
- The evidence described by the applicant indicates a meaningful positive effect on program beneficiaries in at least one key outcome of interest.

Applicants assessed in the Pre-Preliminary evidence tier who do not provide adequate responses to the Evaluation Quality standards will not meet the threshold requirements for this Funding Opportunity and will not be considered for competitive funding.

All applicants, including new grantees, are required to provide additional information in the Data Collection Plan/Evaluation Plan; however, information provided in the Data Collection Plan/Evaluation Plan will not be scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions have been made.

3. Funding Priority (0 points)

- The applicant proposed program fits within one or more of the 2021 AmeriCorps funding priorities as outlined in the Funding Priorities section of the RFA and more fully described in the Mandatory Supplemental Guidance and the proposed program meets all of the requirements detailed in the Funding Priorities section of the RFA and in the Mandatory Supplemental Guidance.

4. Member Experience (6 points)

- AmeriCorps members will gain skills as a result of their training and service that can be utilized and will be valued by future employers after their service term is completed.
- The program will recruit AmeriCorps members from the geographic or demographic communities in which the programs operate.
- The applicant will also foster an inclusive service culture where different backgrounds, talents, and capabilities are welcomed and leveraged for learning and effective service delivery.

Organizational Capability (25 percent)

Reviewers will consider the quality of the application's response to the following criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

1. Organizational Background and Staffing (9 points)

- The organization details the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the staff that will be implementing the AmeriCorps program as well as providing oversight and monitoring for the program.

2. Compliance and Accountability (8 points)

- The organization has a monitoring and oversight plan to prevent and detect non-compliance and enforce compliance with AmeriCorps rules and regulations including those related to prohibited and unallowable activities and criminal history checks at the grantee, subgrantee (if applicable), and service site locations.



3. Culture that Values Learning (4 points)

- The applicant's board, management, and staff collect and use information, including performance data, for learning and decision making.

4. Member Supervision (4 points)

- AmeriCorps members will receive sufficient guidance and support from their supervisor to provide effective service.
- AmeriCorps supervisors will be adequately trained/prepared to follow AmeriCorps and program regulations, priorities, and expectations.

Cost Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy (25%)

Reviewers will assess the quality of the application's budget to the following criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

These criteria will be assessed based on the budget submitted. No narrative should be entered in the narrative field except for "See budget."

1. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 points)

- Budget is submitted without mathematical errors and proposed costs are allowable, reasonable, and allocable to the award.
- Budget is submitted with adequate information to assess how each line item is calculated.
- Budget is in compliance with the budget instructions.
- Match is submitted with adequate information to support the amount written in the budget.
- The budgeted match is equal to or more than the required match for the given program year.
- The cost per MSY is equal to or less than the maximum cost per MSY.

Proposed budgets that contain MSY costs that exceed the maximum cost per MSY and/or less than required match will be considered unresponsive to the application criteria.

Applicants must complete the budget and ensure the following information is included:

- Current indirect rate cost if used to claim indirect/administrative costs.
- Identify the non-CNCS funding and resources necessary to support the project, including for Fixed Amount applicants.
- Indicate the amount of non-CNCS resource commitments, type of commitments (in-kind and/or cash), the sources of these commitments, and if the commitments are proposed or secured.

C. Threshold Issues

Applications should reflect that they meet the following threshold requirements for the grant type for which they are applying.

- All applicants should request at least 20 MSY. Applicants requesting less than 20 MSYs must include a compelling rationale as part of the program narrative or their application will be deemed noncompliant and will not be reviewed.
- Professional Corps applicants and/or applicants determined to be a Professional Corps by CV must demonstrate that the community in which it will place AmeriCorps members serving as professionals has an inadequate number of said professionals.
- If the proposed service activities require specialized member qualifications and/or training (for example, tutoring programs: [45 CFR §2522.910-940](#)), the applicant must describe how the program will meet these requirements.
- All applicants must propose program designs that are either evidence-based or evidence-informed. Applicants assessed as lower than the Preliminary evidence tier (i.e., Pre-Preliminary) must provide adequate responses to the Evidence Quality review criteria in order to be considered for funding.



D. Consideration of Integrity and Performance System Information

Prior to making any award that exceeds \$150,000, CNCS is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently FAPIIS) (see 41 U.S.C. 2313);

Any applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM;

CNCS will consider any comments by any applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing its review of risk posed by the applicant under this section.

E. Potential Change to RFA Guidelines and Supplemental Guidance

This *Request for Applications* was created in good faith and based on the most recent federal guidance available. The amount of funds available for AmeriCorps, as well as new grant limits and requirements, are contingent on final federal appropriations and CNCS's final allocation of formula funds. These and other factors may require changes to the guidance and to this RFA. As necessary, CV will issue all updates and supplemental materials at the earliest possible date. All supplemental materials and updates will be available on the CV website at CaliforniaVolunteers.ca.gov. **Applicants are advised to check the website at least weekly.**

This RFA provides a broad overview of AmeriCorps guidance, highlighting many basic components and rules to provide a general understanding of the complexities and intricacies of AmeriCorps programming and requirements.

The full AmeriCorps regulations, [45 CFR § 2520-2550](http://www.ecfr.gov), are available online at www.ecfr.gov. Successful applicants will be required to comply with these regulations, AmeriCorps provisions, and federal and state policies. Federal funds provided under this grant are identified by the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 94.006.

The AmeriCorps regulations include federal criteria used to select applicants for funding and other pertinent information (Table 4).

Table 2: Program Requirements in the AmeriCorps Regulations

Requirements and Selection	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
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



V. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Submission to California Volunteers

Applicants must submit their application **electronically through eGrants**, the Corporation for National and Community Service's web-based application system.

To complete the application, please:

1. Download the following documents from the CV website at <https://californiavolunteers.ca.gov/grants/amerikorps/>:
 - a. *2021 AmeriCorps State Funding Opportunity Request for Applications* (this document),
 - b. *2021 AmeriCorps State Funding Opportunity Mandatory Supplemental Guidance*,
 - c. *2021 AmeriCorps State Funding Opportunity Application Instructions*,
 - d. *2021 AmeriCorps State Grant Application Forms*,
 - e. *2021 CNCS National Performance Measures Instructions*
2. Follow the instructions included in this document for preparing an application.
3. Submit a complete Application in eGrants.
4. Submit all required Additional Documents by email to Funding@cv.ca.gov.

CV recommends that applicants create an eGrants account and begin the application at least two weeks before the deadline. Applicants should draft the application as a Word document, then copy and paste the text into the appropriate eGrants field no later than 5 days before the deadline.

The applicant's authorized representative must be the person who submits the application. The authorized representative must use his or her own eGrants account to sign and submit the application. A copy of the governing body's authorization for this official representative to sign must be on file in the applicant's office.

Applicants should contact the National Service Hotline at (800) 942-2677 or via [eGrants Questions](https://questions.nationalservice.gov/) if they have a problem when they create an account, prepare, or submit the application. National Service Hotline hours are posted at <https://questions.nationalservice.gov/>

Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the competition to which the organization is applying. If the issue cannot be resolved by the deadline, applicants must continue working with the National Service Hotline to submit via eGrants.

If circumstances make it impossible for an applicant to submit in eGrants, applicants may send a paper copy of the application via overnight carrier to the address below. Applicants must include a written explanation and any other documentation or evidence that support their inability to submit their application electronically. Due to office closures during the COVID-19 pandemic, applicants in this situation must coordinate with California Volunteers to ensure their application is received on time.

California Volunteers
ATTN: AmeriCorps 2020
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please use a non-U.S. Postal Service carrier to avoid security-related delays. **All deadlines and requirements in this RFA also apply to paper applications. CV does not accept applications submitted via fax or email.**



Page Limits

Applications must not exceed 10 double-spaced pages for the Narratives. This limit does not include other aspects of the application (e.g. the budget, logic model, performance measures, or program diagram), though individual documents may have their own limits. The application sections that count towards the page limit are the:

- SF-424 Face Sheet
- Executive Summary
- Program Design, Organizational Capability, and Cost-Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy narratives.

The other documents with page, word, or character limitations are as follows:

- Logic Model may not exceed 3 pages
- Data Collection Plan/Evaluation Plan (as applicable) may not exceed 10,000 characters
- Request for Alternative Match Schedule (if applicable) may not exceed 4 double-spaced pages

B. Application Submission Deadline

Applications (both the eGrants submission and the Additional Documents) must be received no later than **Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time** in order to be considered.

CV will not consider applications received after the deadline, except when noted below. CV reserves the right to extend the submission deadline and any notice of such extended deadline will be posted on the funding opportunity website.

Late Applications

All applications received after the submission deadline published in this RFA are presumed to be non-compliant. CV may, at its discretion, consider an application received after the deadline, but only if the applicant submits a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstance(s) that caused the delay, including the timing and specific cause(s) of the delay and any evidence that substantiates the claimed extenuating circumstance(s) via email to funding@cv.ca.gov. The written explanation and evidence must be received no later than one business day after the application deadline stated in the RFA. CV determines whether or not to accept a late application for review on a case-by-case basis.

Communication with CV staff, including program officer of a current grantee, is not a substitution for the above protocol. Applicants that do not submit a justification or any other evidence to overcome the presumption of non-compliance within the required timeframe will not be reviewed or selected for award.

Please note: CV will not consider an advance request to submit a late application. Applicants are encouraged to continue working on their application until it is submitted. If you are experiencing technical difficulties, please carefully review and follow the guidance above, and submit your application as soon as possible.



VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Governing Documents

A grantee's fully executed AmeriCorps contract incorporates the approved application as part of a binding commitment under the grant as well as the AmeriCorps regulations (45 CFR Sections 2520-2550), CNCS General and Specific Terms and Conditions, and California Volunteers Policies and Requirements.

B. CNCS Terms and Conditions

All awards made under this RFA will be subject to the 2021 CNCS General Terms and Conditions, and the 2021 Specific Terms and Conditions for the particular program (when applicable.) These Terms and Conditions contain detailed, mandatory compliance and reporting requirements. Current versions of the CNCS General and Specific Terms and Conditions for each of its programs is available at <https://www.nationalservice.gov/resources/terms-and-conditions-cnsc-grants>.

C. Uniform Guidance

All awards under this RFA are subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), now consolidated in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 2205.

D. Reporting Requirements

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

Once the grant is awarded, grantees will be expected to have data collection and data management policies and practices that provide reasonable assurance that they are providing CV with high-quality performance measure data. At a minimum, grantees should have policies and practices which address the following areas of data quality:

- The data measures what it intends to measure;
- The grantee collects data in a consistent manner;
- The grantee takes steps to correct data errors;
- The grantee ensures that the data reported is complete; and
- The grantee actively reviews data prior to submission.

In addition to reporting of progress toward the grant's approved performance measure outputs and outcomes, additional demographic and narrative data must be reported annually (as applicable), including the number of applicants for AmeriCorps positions and the number of volunteers recruited and/or supported by members.

Failure to submit accurate, complete, and timely required reports may affect the grantee's ability to secure future AmeriCorps funding. For further guidance and training resources see – [CNCS Performance Measure Resources](#).

E. National Service Criminal History Check Requirement

The National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) is a screening procedure established by law to protect the beneficiaries of national service. The law requires recipients to conduct and document NSCHCs on any person (including award-funded staff, AmeriCorps members, or volunteers) receiving a salary, living allowance, stipend or education award through a program receiving CNCS funds (through either federal or grantee share of the budget). An individual is ineligible to serve in a position that receives such CNCS funding if the individual is registered, or required to be registered, as a sex offender or has been convicted of murder.

The cost of conducting NSCHCs is an allowable expense under the award. Applicants are required to budget on the CNCS share at least \$54 plus the cost of a state criminal history check per covered individual (both staff and members).



California Volunteers' National Service Criminal History Check policy is that all "Covered Positions"³ (staff and AmeriCorps applicants) listed on the awarded and/or contracted program budget, whether grant or match funded, must have all required Criminal History Check Components conducted and any results considered according to Program, CNCS and CV policy, with the individual cleared prior to the start of service and/or time on the grant. **Required Criminal History Check Components** are defined as follows:

1. Nationwide name-based National Sex Offender Public Registry Check using *True Screen**; **and**
2. Statewide Criminal History Registry Check in the State of residence⁴ **and** in the State where the individual will serve or work (California)* using *True Screen AND*
3. FBI National Fingerprint-based Check using *Fieldprint*

In addition, California Volunteers requires that the legal applicant:

1. Follow all CNCS requirements outlined in 45 CFR §§ 2540.200 – 2540.207 and CNCS' most recent *NSCHC and COVID 19 FAQs*; and
2. Follow CVs' stricter requirement that all covered staff and potential AmeriCorps members must complete the **State, FBI and NSOPW** checks; and
3. Ensure all required checks are completed as outlined above, prior to becoming an AmeriCorps member eligible to earn hours and/or a staff person beginning work on an AmeriCorps grant; and as of January 1, 2020 use the two approved CNCS vendors, True Screen and Fieldprint to conduct the checks.
4. Appropriately document the checks process using the *CV National Service Criminal History Check Verification Form* and retain printouts from True Screen and Fieldprint in each staff/member file;
5. Has a written policy and procedures in place, which at a minimum addresses requirements 1-5; and
6. Ensure one staff member be trained annually in National Service Criminal History Checks using CNCS' training module and maintain the resultant training certificate (per AC Terms and Conditions).

***Note:** True Screen is not able to obtain a California check. However, conducting the required Criminal History Check Components as outlined above assures that the legal applicant meets the federal requirements required by CNCS. If your program requires additional checks through the Cal DOJ to meet selection criteria, you may perform them and charge the grant, but do not have to report results to CV.

F. Requests for Improper Payment Information

At the request of CNCS, CV may, from time to time, request documentation from grantees in order to monitor the award or to comply with other legal requirements, such as the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002, as amended. Failure to make timely responses to these requests may result in award funds being placed on temporary manual hold, reimbursement only, or other remedies as appropriate. In

³ A "covered position" is a position in which an individual serving or employed receives a living allowance, stipend, national service education award, or salary through a program receiving a grant under the national service laws. **Coverage is not dependent on the type of service the individual is performing, the individual's access to vulnerable populations, or whether the grantee or sub-grantee programs are using federal share or grantee matching share funds to pay the individual, including salary or stipends which may be counted as matching contributions [as defined by CNCS in most recent FAQs]. If they are included in your budget, they must have all checks done.** See 45 CFR § 2540.201 http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/resource/fedregister_final_rule_oct_5_2012.pdf.

⁴ The State where a candidate "resides" is the location where the individual has made a home which he/she considers to be his/her place of residence at the moment in time that he/she applied to serve or work. College students must be handled differently. An individual applying to serve or work who is an enrolled full-time college student is deemed to be residing in the state where he/she lives for the purpose of attending the school without regards to whether or not that home is on- or off-campus, and whether or not that home is in the same state as the college is located. Programs may not opt to use any other basis for identifying the student's residence state, e.g., such as the student's family home. The state to check does not change because a student is on semester or summer breaks temporarily residing elsewhere, and there is no test needed to measure duration of residence while attending school [as defined by CNCS in most recent NSCHC FAQs].



addition, CV/CNCS may, in appropriate circumstances, consider in its funding decisions any previous failures to make timely responses.

G. Use of Material

To ensure that materials generated with CNCS funding are available to the public and readily accessible to grantees and non-grantees, CV and CNCS 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 ([2 CFR §200.315 \(b\)](#)).

H. Reallocation of Funding

California Volunteers reserves the right to re-focus program dollars in the event of disaster or other compelling need for service.



California Climate Action Corps

Meeting the Moment

“California has invested more in wildfire prevention than any time in our history. Enacted bold climate policies. But it’s not enough. We must do more. We need action at EVERY level. California cannot do this alone.”

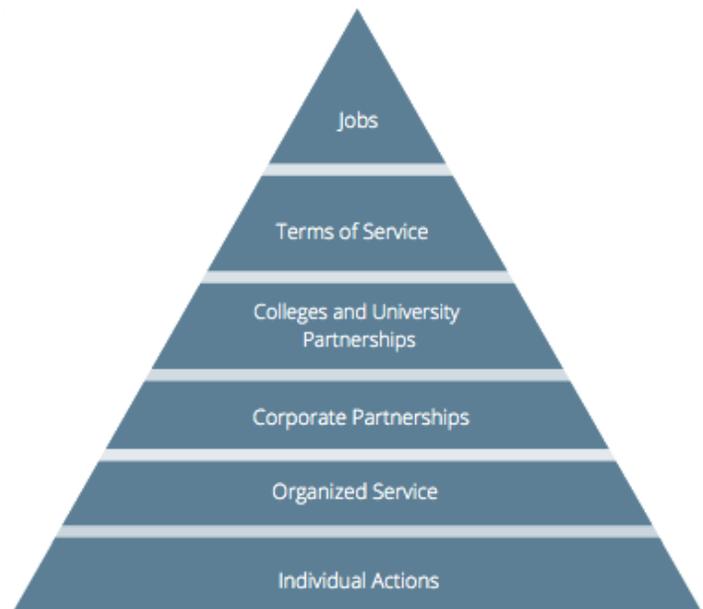
-- Governor Newsome

As a part of California’s comprehensive strategy to address the climate crisis, California Volunteers is creating the country’s first statewide Climate Action Corps: to empower all Californians to take meaningful action to safeguard the climate.

Launching California Climate Action Corps

Designed by California Volunteers, California Climate Action Corps will deploy a “Service Pyramid” model to create opportunities for **all** Californians to engage in meaningful climate action. Climate Action Corps will build opportunities over time that will create:

- Professional development opportunities for Corps members
- Full-time service positions to organize climate projects and create volunteer opportunities in communities around the state
- Corporate sponsored ‘Days of Service’ and other activities with corporate employees
- Semesters and Summers of Service with university and schools partnerships to organize students around the state
- Statewide online hub of organizations and projects individuals can join to take climate action in their communities
- Top climate actions every individual can take, which will be tracked for statewide impact



Catalyzing CCAC -- Year One Activity

Developing Statewide Service Infrastructure for Climate Action

California Climate Action Corps is partnering with VolunteerMatch to create a statewide platform for environmental and climate organizations to post volunteer opportunities that will engage over 50,000 Californians in cities and towns across the state.

Individual Actions

California Volunteers will also be signing up individuals to commit to separate climate actions, led by a 'Top Ten' list in partnership with CalRecycle, California Public Utilities Commission, CalFire, and leading nonprofits. The goal is to sign up at least 10,000 individual commitments, which will be tracked cumulatively over the course of the year for measuring statewide impact.

Climate Action Fellows

In January 2021, California Climate Action Corps will deploy 50+ AmeriCorps service Fellows located in five pilot cities: San Jose, Stockton, Fresno, Los Angeles, and Redlands. During the summer, the Corps aims to bring on over 200 fellows for summer of service terms, and in September will deploy at least 80 new additional full-time fellows throughout the state.

Fellows will be placed with state and local government agencies, grassroots organizations, and universities and colleges where they will focus on developing and implementing climate action projects with a strong emphasis on volunteerism and community engagement.

The Climate Action Corps will focus on projects that mobilize climate actions to protect our most vulnerable communities, with a focus on:

- [Urban tree planting](#) initiatives that reduce greenhouse gasses, while lowering home energy bills in low income communities and also protecting against extreme heat.
- Accelerating [food rescue programs](#) that conduct outreach to recover edible food that would otherwise be disposed from producers, restaurants, grocery stores and households. These programs reduce emissions by preventing landfill waste and the donated food helps food banks address our state's severe hunger crisis.
- Enhancing [home hardening](#) and [defensible space](#) support programs that protect high-risk neighborhoods while also reducing toxic wildfire-related air pollution. Recent fires have shown hardening homes and keeping a 5-foot buffer around households from flammable materials greatly improves the chance of it surviving a fire.



The Value of Partnering on a Climate Action Corps Project

Each selected host partner will receive the support of 7-12 months of full-time service from at least two emerging leaders who are addressing climate issues through service projects that focus on building community engagement for climate action. In addition to their direct support for community project implementation, partners will also receive:

- Overall programmatic support for recruiting, supporting, and training Fellows in appropriate activities and practices.
- Connections with a community cohort of other host organizations who are implementing related projects through regular activities, service events, and cohort check-ins.
- Attention and support from state agencies tasked with this work, with particular partnership from the California Natural Resources Agency, California Air Resources Board, and the State's Strategic Growth Council.
- A platform to share and celebrate successes to build lasting momentum.
- Connections with other participating cities, and network-building through the broad array of projects led by Fellows throughout the State through the network of Fellow projects.
- The voice and reach of the California Governor's Office, which is focused on lifting up service and volunteerism as a key tool in the fight to address not just climate change, but a whole host of challenges facing this generation.

What is Required to Host Climate Action Corps Fellows?

Each project should have a defined set of projects for the Climate Action Corps Fellows that include or combine at least the following elements:

- Defined and measurable climate pollution reduction, resiliency benefits, or disaster recovery activities (e.g. projected GHG reductions, wildfire risk reduction, flood protection, increased green space, etc.)
- Community engagement and volunteerism components that provide community members a way to directly take action on climate change issues and can capture their actions.
- An element that addresses local environmental, climate, public health vulnerabilities. Ideally, projects should focus on communities with overlapping demographic, geographic, and environmental vulnerabilities.
- A community climate capacity component that builds resources, tools, knowledge, or relationships between local stakeholders, including local government, community-based organizations, and individuals, while providing tangible "products" for ongoing use.



Further, the program will prioritize projects that include these additional elements:

- Have a principle focus on under-resourced communities and/or addressing climate-related inequities.
- Are co-located or coordinated with other hosting partners (e.g. working on shared initiatives within a community or sharing resources and activities).
- Specifically include any of three key initiative climate actions as a major project focus:
 - Urban tree planting.
 - Edible food recovery.
 - Home hardening and creating defensible spaces around households.
 - A history of and commitment to mentorship and leadership development.

As a Host Partner you will support your project and Fellow success by:

- Supervising the Fellows project activities (onboarding, and at least 1hr/week check-ins) and supporting their professional development through training, assessments, coaching, and engagement in their goals.
- Providing opportunities for fellows to coordinate volunteers, community events, or public engagement.

