



2019 California For All AmeriCorps Funding Opportunity Overview

August 28, 2019



Technical Assistance Webinar Series

- Funding Opportunity Overview
 - Wednesday, August 28th 1pm-2pm
- Program Management and Design
 - Friday, August 30th 1pm-2pm
- Developing Performance Measures
 - Wednesday, September 4th 10am-11am
- Selection Criteria
 - Monday, September 9th 1pm-2pm
- Developing an AmeriCorps Budget
 - Wednesday, September 11th 10am-11am



In-Person Technical Assistance Opportunities

- Program Design Workshop
 - Thursday, September 5th 10am – 5pm
 - Location TBD based on registrants



Session Objectives

- Understand AmeriCorps State grants
- Understand CV's role and grantee responsibilities
- Understand key funding components & requirements
- Know how to apply for AmeriCorps funding



California Volunteers (CV)

- Administers AmeriCorps State Grants in CA
- Competitive process to award AmeriCorps grants
- Federally funded through Corporation for National and Community Service
- Programs are a subgrant of CaliforniaVolunteers
- Deeply invested in program success



CaliforniaVolunteers is the State Service Commission in California, responsible for increasing service and volunteerism in the state.

One of the ways we do this is through AmeriCorps grants which we administer at the state level, including running a competitive process to award AmeriCorps grants. These grants are federally funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Grants awarded through this process are technically a sub-grant of CaliforniaVolunteers. We are responsible for monitoring and supporting our programs to ensure grants are administered responsibly and that programs are having the intended impact on their communities. As such, we are deeply invested in your success.

What is AmeriCorps

- **VISTA**
 - Full-time member, capacity building focused on ending poverty
- **National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC)**
 - Team of members for short-term service projects
- **State and National**
 - Funds programs of members to provide direct service to meet community needs



AmeriCorps is an umbrella that consists of 3 distinct programs: AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps or NCCC, and AmeriCorps State and National.

AmeriCorps VISTA provides full-time AmeriCorps members to non-profits, faith-based and other community organizations, as well as public agencies, to create and expand programs that bring low income individuals and communities out of poverty.

AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time residential program for men and women, ages 18-24 who engage in short-term service projects across the country. NCCC operates on a regional basis, with five campuses in different parts of the country. NCCC AmeriCorps members serve on teams and complete projects in the geographic region served by their NCCC campus.

AmeriCorps State and National is the largest of the 3 AmeriCorps programs. Involving hundreds of organizations and reaching all states and US territories, State and National provides grants to eligible organizations to meet community needs through service.

This opportunity is for AmeriCorps State, for programs proposing to operate solely in California.

The Corporation for National and Community Service manages the AmeriCorps VISTA, NCCC, and National programs. If you are interested in applying for a VISTA member, a NCCC project, or for a multi-state AmeriCorps grant, you will need to contact CNCS directly. You can find more information at nationalservice.gov.

AmeriCorps State Grants

- Provide partial funding to support AmeriCorps programs.
- Solely for program expenses, not general organizational expenses
- Includes allotment of AmeriCorps member positions (minimum 20 full-time)
- Funds directly tied to the number of members



AmeriCorps State Grants provide partial funding to support AmeriCorps programs. Grant recipients must contribute match funding to support program costs beyond the federal share.

AmeriCorps grants are solely for program expenses and cannot be used for general organizational operating expenses. You will need to have systems in place for tracking all activities and expenditures.

AmeriCorps grants include an allotment of AmeriCorps member positions and the funds are directly tied to the specific number of members awarded. This is referred to as the cost per Member Service Year, which we will get into later.

AmeriCorps State Grants

- Evidence-based member service activities
- Enables an organization to build capacity or deepen impact to individuals or communities
- Broadens the scope to reach previously underserved communities
- Cannot duplicate or supplant pre-existing activities, staff or volunteers



AmeriCorps grantees design activities for AmeriCorps members that demonstrate an evidence-based or evidence-informed approach to strengthening communities and solving community problems.

With an AmeriCorps State grant you can more effectively address community needs by using AmeriCorps resources to support existing programs. Or, you can reach previously underserved communities and expand activities beyond what was possible without AmeriCorps.

It is important to remember that AmeriCorps funds cannot be used to duplicate, displace, or supplant resources that exist in a community. AmeriCorps members or grant funds can help meet unmet needs or can expand your ability to better address community needs, but they cannot take the place of community resources that already exist.

Grantee Responsibilities

- Secure Match Funding
- Member Enrollment Requirements
 - Grantee responsible for recruitment, selection, and placement of members in communities
- Retention Requirements
 - Grantee responsible for member training and ongoing support and supervision
- Compliance with all OMB and AmeriCorps rules, regulations, and requirements



As an applicant, you are responsible for identifying sources of match for your AmeriCorps program. As a grantee, you will be responsible for securing that funding and tracking and reporting it like any other expenditure.

Grantees are responsible for recruiting, selecting, and finding placement sites for AmeriCorps members to serve in their program.

While members are serving, grantees are responsible for providing member training and ongoing support and supervision.

All grantees are responsible for ensuring compliance with all OMB and AmeriCorps rules, regulations, and requirements. These are described or referenced in the Request for Applications. These are a lot to digest, but part of CaliforniaVolunteers' commitment to our programs' success is to support you in navigating these requirements. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions.

Eligibility

- Eligible organizations
 - Nonprofit organizations
 - Institutions of higher education
 - Local government/public agencies
 - State government agencies
 - Indian Tribes within the state of California
- Target counties
 - Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare
- Target focus areas
 - Economic Opportunity, Healthy Futures, Education, Youth Development



Organizations eligible to apply for an AmeriCorps State grant include nonprofits, institutions of higher education, local government or public agencies, state government agencies, or Indian Tribes within the state.

To be eligible for this opportunity, you must proposed to operate in any of the counties in the San Joaquin Valley, including Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare. In addition, you must proposed activities in at least one of the focus areas of Economic Opportunity, Healthy Futures, Education, or Youth Development.

Eligibility

- Community Partnership Requirements
 - Must demonstrate partnership with at least three independent entities that include one public and one private partner
- DUNS Number and SAM Registration
 - Applicants must include a DUNS number and have active registration on SAM.gov by due date
 - Active SAM.gov registration must be maintained throughout grant



All applicants must engage a partnership with at least three independent entities that include one public and one private partner.

All applicants must have a DUNS number and have active registration on SAM.gov by the due date, November 20th. Active SAM.gov registration must be maintained throughout the grant. This is very important since it will result in an applicant's disqualification if registration is not active. The process to get registered on SAM.gov can be long, so please start that process as soon as possible if you are planning on applying for this or any federal grant.

Grant Types

- **Implementation Grant**
- Planning Grant



This opportunity includes two grant types: Implementation Grants and Planning Grants. You may apply for an Implementation Grant by itself or for a combined Planning Grant and Implementation Grant. Each grant type has specific parameters that we will go over, starting with Implementation Grants

Award Period

- Support programming beginning January 2020
- Any exception to this start date must be requested as part of your Program Narrative
- Program must allow 12 months for Fellows to complete a term of service



Implementation Grants support programming beginning in January of 2020. This date can be adjusted to accommodate a planning grant.

Any exception to the start date must be requested as part of your Program Narrative by including something along the lines of “We are proposing to have AmeriCorps fellows begin service in March of 2020” or something along those lines. There is also a field in the Program Summary to enter your proposed start date.

Programs must allow up to 12 months for AmeriCorps Fellows to complete their term of service.

Cost Per MSY Requirements

- Federal (CNCS Dollars): \$7,920
- State (CV Dollars): \$20,000
- Special requirements for existing grantees
 - Existing grantees proposing to expand into the San Joaquin Valley must apply for a separate grant at the above Cost per MSY
 - New FY19 grantees with members in San Joaquin Valley may request up to \$7,920 per MSY in State funds (no Federal)



AmeriCorps Grant awards are based on the number of full-time equivalent member positions, known as MSYs, that are requested. There are cost limits per MSY requested. This opportunity includes both federal and state dollars with different limits for each. You may request up to \$7,920 per MSY in federal dollars in addition to \$20,000 per MSY in state dollars.

MSY Conversion

- Full-Time
 - 1700 hours = 1 MSY
- Half-Time
 - 900 hours = .5 MSY
- Quarter Time
 - 450 hours = .26455027 MSY
- Three-Quarter Time
 - 1200 hours = .7 MSY
- Reduced Half-Time
 - 675 hours = .3809524 MSY
- Minimum Time
 - 300 hours = .21164022 MSY



When we talk about MSY, 1 MSY is equal to one full-time AmeriCorps fellow position. This slide includes the conversion factor for the other slot types. MSY and cost per MSY are automatically calculated in the Budget, so please refer to that for figuring those numbers.

Award Amount

- Depends on MSY requested
- Examples:
 - Requesting 20 full-time fellows (20 MSY)
 - $(\$20,000 \text{ state dollars per MSY} \times 20 \text{ MSY}) + (\$7,920 \text{ federal dollars per MSY} \times 20 \text{ MSY}) = \$558,400$ in total requested funds
 - Requesting 40 half-time and 5 full-time fellows (25 MSY)
 - $(\$20,000 \text{ state dollars per MSY} \times 25 \text{ MSY}) + (\$7,920 \text{ federal dollars per MSY} \times 25 \text{ MSY}) = \$698,000$ in total requested funds
- At least 15% must be matched by Grantee



Total award amount depends on the MSY requested.

For example, if you are requesting 20 full-time fellows, you could request up to \$20,000 in state dollars and \$7,920 in federal per MSY for a total request of \$558,400.

If you requested 40 half-time and 5 full-time fellows, which would be 25 MSY, your request could be up to \$698,000.

As part of your request, you are required to provide a match of 15% on the Grantee Share of the budget. This percentage automatically calculates as you enter costs in each share, so make sure that percentage is at least 15 as you finalize your budget.

Living Allowance

- Required for full-time Fellows

Term of Service	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Living Allowance
Full Time	1,700	\$13,992	\$27,984
Three-Quarter Time	1,200	n/a	\$19,753
Half Time	900	n/a	\$14,815
Reduced Half Time	675	n/a	\$11,111
Quarter Time	450	n/a	\$7,408
Minimum Time	300	n/a	\$4,938



You are required to provide a living allowance of at least \$13,992 to all full-time AmeriCorps fellows. A living allowance for all other slot type is not required, but is encouraged. All living allowances must be below the maximum for that slot type.

Education Award

- Federal award paid for by the National Service Trust
- State award only available for full-time members

Term of Service	Minimum # of Hours	Federal Education Award	State Education Award
Full Time	1,700	\$6,095.00	\$3,905
Three-Quarter Time	1,200	\$4,266.50	n/a
Half Time	900	\$3,047.50	n/a
Reduced Half Time	675	\$2,321.90	n/a
Quarter Time	450	\$1,612.43	n/a
Minimum Time	300	\$1,289.95	n/a



This opportunity includes two education awards, one paid federally for all slot types and a supplemental education award for full-time members paid by the state. Neither education award is included in your budget, but these are the amounts that fellows can expect if they successfully complete their terms of service.

Other Restrictions

- Minimum Program Size
 - 20 MSY (full-time equivalent positions)
- Minimum Number of Fellows Per Service Site
 - At least two fellows placed per service site



Other restrictions include the minimum program size and the minimum number of fellows per service site. Applicants may request at least 20 MSY and must place at least two fellows per service site location. Exceptions to these requirements may be considered if justified in the Narrative.

Grant Types

- Implementation Grant
- **Planning Grant**



Now let's talk about Planning Grants.

Planning Grants

- Award Period
 - Up to 12 months
- Grant Amount
 - Up to \$75,000
- Matching Requirements
 - 24% of total cost (roughly \$24,000 for a \$75,000 grant)



The Award Period for a planning grant is up to 12 months as necessary. You may request up to \$75,000 to support planning activities, but you must include a match of at least 24% of total costs. This roughly equates to the \$24,000 for a \$75,000 grant request.

Allowable Planning Grant Activities

- Staff or consultant(s) to facilitate project planning
- Outreach and establishment of community partnerships
- Convene stakeholder meetings (materials, space, travel, etc.)
- Develop planning grant deliverables
- Develop match funding strategies beyond year 1
- Travel to visit current AmeriCorps programs



These are some examples of allowable planning grant activities that can be included in the budget.

Planning Grant Staffing Requirements

- Substantial staff time needed to be successful
- CV highly recommends full-time staff person
- All time spent on the grant must be tracked using functional timesheets that allow for time allocation
- All staff must have National Service Criminal History Checks completed before they can spend time on the grant



Staffing requirements for planning grants.

Substantial staff time is needed for planning grants to be successful. CV highly recommends a full-time staff person be dedicated to the planning process.

All time spent on the grant must be tracked using functional timesheets that allow for time allocation across projects, and all staff must have a compliant National Service Criminal History Check completed before they can spend time on the grant.

How to Apply

- Download and follow Application Guidance Documents
- Attend the Technical Assistance Webinar Series and In-Person Workshop
- Complete Notice of Intent to Apply by September 19th
- Submit hardcopy application and electronic submission by October 2nd
- Planning Grants must include a separate Planning Grant Narrative and Budget



If this all sounds great and you are interested in applying, begin by downloading the Application Guidance Documents from our website.

You are already on the right path in attending the Technical Assistance Webinars being held this week and over next two weeks, but be sure to also attend the In-Person Workshop next week.

Complete the Notice of Intent to Apply by the deadline of September 19th and submit your hardcopy and electronic applications by October 2nd.

If you are interested in applying for a planning grant, be sure to complete the separate Planning Grant Narrative and Budget in addition to the other application materials.

Application Guidance Documents

- Request for Applications
- Mandatory Supplemental Guidance
- Application Instructions
- Application Forms
- National Performance Measure Instructions



Key Dates

September 19, 2019	Notice of Intent to Apply due to CV
October 2, 2019	Applications due to CV
October 3-4, 2019	Compliance Review & Response Period
October 7-18, 2019	Application Review Period
October 21-25, 2019	Application Clarification & Selection Period
October 28, 2019	Approved applications submitted electronically to eGrants
November 2019-January 2020	Contracting Process and Program Launch



Thank you!

Send questions to funding@cv.ca.gov

