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

2023 Public Health AmeriCorps Funding Opportunity



AmeriCorps

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications due November 18, 2022

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO APPLICANTS: The following documents are necessary to complete a 2022-23 operating grant application for AmeriCorps funding. All can be found on the California Volunteers website, <https://californiavolunteers.ca.gov/grants/ameriCorps/>.

- (1) Request for Applications (RFA)
- (2) Mandatory Supplemental Guidance
- (3) Application Instructions
- (4) Application Forms
- (5) National Performance Measures Instructions

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 AmeriCorps, please contact:

AmeriCorps
Phone: (202) 606-7508
TTY: (202) 606-3472
Email: americorpsnational@cns.gov

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OVERVIEW

State Entity Name:	California Volunteers
Funding Opportunity Title:	2023 AmeriCorps State and National Public Health AmeriCorps 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 Friday, November 18, 2022**.
- **Application Notification:** Applicants will be notified of their status in December 2022. Final funding decisions will be made in mid-April 2023.

A.1. Purpose of AmeriCorps State and National Public Health AmeriCorps Funding

California Volunteers is the Governor-appointed State Commission for the State of California responsible for administering competitive grant competitions to select single-state applicants that will operate in California only and submit those applications to compete for federal AmeriCorps funding. Acting in this capacity and in response to the *FY 2023 AmeriCorps State and National Public Health AmeriCorps Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity*, California Volunteers is issuing the ***FY 2023 Public Health AmeriCorps Request for Applications*** to select California grant applicants and submit the applications it selects to compete for funding directly to AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations (See Section [C.1 Eligible Applicants](#)) proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions/practices 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](#) that they can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

To be eligible to serve in an AmeriCorps program, an individual must be:

- U.S. Citizen;
- U.S. National or Lawful Permanent Resident of the United States;
- At least 17 years of age (no upper age limit); and
- High school graduate or GED recipients (or working towards this goal).

Additionally, selected candidates must meet criminal history check requirements.

Public Health AmeriCorps will invest \$400 million, over five years, from the American Rescue Plan Act workforce funding that will enable the recruitment, training, and development of a new generation of public health leaders who are ready to respond to the public health needs of the nation by providing public health service in communities.

Public Health AmeriCorps has two main goals:

- Help meet public health needs of local communities by providing needed capacity and support in state and local public health settings and advancing more equitable health outcomes for communities who are currently or historically underserved.
- Provide pathways to good, quality public health-related careers by providing exposure through onsite experience, training, and more, with a focus on recruiting AmeriCorps members who reflect the communities in which they will serve.

AmeriCorps members will serve primarily in state, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments or in service to public health departments. It is strongly recommended that AmeriCorps members serve in at least teams of two, which provides economies of scale and aids in retention of members.

This *2023 Public Health AmeriCorps 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 2023-2024 Public Health AmeriCorps Funding:

- (1) 2023 Public Health AmeriCorps Funding Opportunity Request for Applications (RFA)
- (2) 2023 Public Health AmeriCorps Funding Opportunity Mandatory Supplemental Guidance (Mandatory Supplemental Guidance)
- (3) 2023 Public Health AmeriCorps Funding Opportunity Application Instructions (Application Instructions)
- (4) 2023 Public Health AmeriCorps Grant Application Forms
- (5) 2023 National Performance Measures Instructions

APPLICATION TIMELINE

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

November 18, 2022	Applications due to CV in eGrants, Additional Documents due in Salesforce by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time*
November 20 – December 2, 2022	Application Review Period
December 2022	Applicants Selected for Competitive Submission, Formula Waitlist, or Release Notified
December 9 - 16, 2022	Competitive Applicant Clarification and Strengthening Period**
December 17, 2022 – December 23, 2022	Competitive Electronic Application Review/Final Edits ***
April 2023	Final funding decisions announced
September - November 2023	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 AmeriCorps's web-based management system.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A.1 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. By supporting more than 4,000 AmeriCorps State members annually, California Volunteers aims to inspire the next generation of civic leaders, create a pathway to debt-free college, and build a culture of service. 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 funds to support service programs in California from AmeriCorps, the federal agency improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. AmeriCorps brings people together to tackle some of the country's most pressing challenges through national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities and those serving. AmeriCorps helps make service a cornerstone of our national culture. Learn more at AmeriCorps.gov.

A.2. Public Health AmeriCorps Funding Priorities

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the urgent need to further enhance public health resources across the country. This effort starts with investing in a future workforce to help local communities respond to and recover from COVID-19. Public Health AmeriCorps will invest \$400 million, over five years, from the American Rescue Plan Act workforce funding that will enable the recruitment, training, and development of a new generation of public health leaders who are ready to respond to the public health needs of the nation by providing public health service in communities.

Public Health AmeriCorps has two main goals:

- Help meet public health needs of local communities by providing needed capacity and support in state and local public health settings and advancing more equitable health outcomes for communities who are currently or historically underserved.
- Provide pathways to good, quality public health-related careers by providing exposure through onsite experience, training, and more, with a focus on recruiting AmeriCorps members who reflect the communities in which they will serve.

AmeriCorps members will serve primarily in state, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments or in service to public health departments. It is strongly recommended that AmeriCorps members serve in at least teams of two, which provides economies of scale and aids in retention of members.

AmeriCorps' priorities for this funding opportunity are:

- Efforts to help local communities respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants may propose programming to aid communities in their efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, including public health challenges that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, such as mental health and substance abuse.
- Programs creating pathways to good-quality public health-related careers through onsite experience and training (including pre-apprenticeship or registered apprenticeship programs, work experience and job training programs, and other workforce training and development programs).
- Organizations leading service in communities with concentrated poverty, rural communities, tribal communities, and those organizations serving historically underrepresented and underserved

individuals, including but not limited to communities of color, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community, people with arrest and/or conviction records, and religious minorities.

To receive priority consideration, applicants must show 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.

A.3. Performance Goals or Expected Outcomes

National Performance Measures

AmeriCorps expects applicants to use National Performance Measures as part of a comprehensive performance measurement strategy that relies on both performance and evaluation data to learn from their work and make tactical and strategic adjustments to achieve their goals.

All applications must include a set of performance measures that assesses impact on the beneficiary population(s) served, the member experience, and community engagement as follows:

- At least one aligned performance measure (output and outcome) that corresponds to the proposed primary intervention. All applications must include Public Health AmeriCorps determined performance measures. Please see [Appendix III](#) for the performance measures. Applicants proposing more than one program activity must include at least an output for each additional program activity proposed, provided that the output measures a significant program activity.

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

- One output and corresponding outcome that measures the knowledge and/or skills gained by AmeriCorps members because of their participation in the program.
- Two output measures that track the number of volunteers recruited by AmeriCorps members Community to expand the impact and reach of the program in the communities served and the number of hours contributed by those volunteers.

Please see the California Performance Measurement Worksheets (PMWs) additional details and instructions.

A.4. Program Authority

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

FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

B.1. Estimated Available Funds

Applicants selected by California Volunteers will be submitted to compete for federal funds through the AmeriCorps State and National Public Health AmeriCorps grant competition administered by AmeriCorps (the agency). California Volunteers expects a highly competitive AmeriCorps grant competition at the national level.

Successful applicants will receive federal funding from the American Rescue Act provided by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through an Interagency Agreement with AmeriCorps and CDC. AmeriCorps reserves the right to prioritize providing funding to existing awards over making new awards. The actual level of funding is subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

B.2. 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. Award amounts may vary from the requested amounts.

B.3. Period of Performance

For this competition, AmeriCorps anticipates making two-year grant awards. AmeriCorps generally makes an initial award for the first year of the period of performance, based on a one-year budget. Applicants must submit a one-year budget. Applicants may propose any program start date that aligns with their program design. Continuation awards for subsequent years are not guaranteed; they depend upon availability of appropriations and satisfactory performance.

Grants awarded through this funding opportunity will support programming beginning in September of 2023. Successful applicants must start member service activities no later than mid-November 2023 and allow up to 12 months for members to complete a term of service. Additionally, the program may not start prior to the execution of the program's contract with California Volunteers, which means AmeriCorps members may not begin service, certify any member hours, or accrue costs on the federal 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.4. Type of Award

Award recipients will be assigned to a California Volunteers AmeriCorps Program Specialist, who will be responsible for assessing recipient performance, providing training and technical assistance, and serving as the agency's primary point of contact.

AmeriCorps Operating Grants: AmeriCorps may award a Cost Reimbursement grant to any successful applicant.

	Cost Reimbursement
Maximum Cost per MSY*	\$28,800
Type of Slots in the National Service Trust**	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT
Budget Submission Required	Yes

Availability of Funds linked to enrollment and retention of awarded MSYs	No
Financial Reporting Requirements	Yes
Available to new Applicants	Yes

* Member Service Year (MSY): One Member Service Year (MSY) is equivalent to a full-time AmeriCorps position (at least 1,700 service hours.)

**FT = Full Time, TQT = Three Quarter Time, HT= Half Time, RHT = Reduced Half Time, QT = Quarter Time, MT = Minimum Time, AT = Abbreviated Time

ELIGIBILITY

C.1. Eligible Applicants

Typically, the following non-federal entities (as defined in [2 CFR §200.69](#)) that propose to operate only within California who have UEI 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](#))

Applicants proposing to operate only within California must apply through California Volunteers. A Single-State application from a State or Territory with a Commission that is submitted directly to AmeriCorps by the applicant rather than the Commission will be considered noncompliant and will not be reviewed. See the Mandatory Supplemental Information found [here](#) for descriptions of National Direct and Single-State applicants.

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

New Applicants

Organizations that have not received prior AmeriCorps funding are encouraged to apply.

C.2. Cost Sharing or Matching

There is no cost share or matching requirement per the Interagency Agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which has provided the funding for this program.

C.3. Other Eligibility Requirements

Under Section 132A(b) of the [National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended](#), organizations that have been convicted of a Federal crime may not receive assistance described in this Notice.

Applications that propose to engage in activities that are prohibited under AmeriCorps' statutes, regulations, or the terms and conditions of its awards are not eligible to receive AmeriCorps funding.

Note that under appropriations provisions annually enacted by Congress, if AmeriCorps is aware that any corporation has any unpaid federal tax liability

- that has been assessed;
- for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed; and
- 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 Notice. However, this exclusion will not apply to a corporation that a federal agency has considered for suspension or debarment and determined that suspension or debarment is not necessary to protect the interests of the federal government.

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

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

D.1. Cost Per Member Service Year (MSY) – Funding Request Maximums

Applicants request for the **number and types of AmeriCorps member positions (slots)** that are needed to address the community need stated in their application **as well as the federal funds to partially support those**. Applicants are responsible to recruit and manage AmeriCorps members to fill those positions. Types of member positions (slot types) 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.

Funding requests are in proportion to the number of members (MSYs) that a grantee will support. This is known as the *cost per MSY*. It is the 'cost' to the federal government, in support of the AmeriCorps program. The grant *cost per MSY* is determined by dividing the total AmeriCorps/federal share of budgeted grant costs by the number of MSYs requested.

The *maximum amount of federal funds that an applicant may request from AmeriCorps per MSY* is determined on an annual basis for each grant type (See Table 1).

Table 1: Maximum Cost per MSY

Grant Program	Maximum
Cost reimbursement	\$28,800

For example, an applicant requesting for 25 MSYs (or 25 full-time equivalent service positions) may request **up to \$28,800 to support each MSY requested** (or the number of full-time equivalent service positions requested). In this instance, the maximum amount of AmeriCorps funds the applicant may request would be \$720,000 (25 MSYs x \$28,800 cost per MSY = \$720,000).

D.3. Indirect Costs

Application budgets may include indirect costs. Based on qualifying factors, applicants will either use a federally-approved indirect cost rate, a 10 percent *de minimis* rate of modified total direct costs, or may claim certain costs directly as outlined in [2 CFR § 200.413](#). States, local governments, and Indian Tribes may use previously-approved indirect 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 AmeriCorps'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 *Application Instructions* for more information on calculating indirect costs.

D.4. 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 for the application to not be disqualified.

D.5. 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.

D.6. Member Living Allowance

A living allowance is not considered a salary or a wage. The proposed budget must include a living allowance for all members that are within the required range per member (except as noted below).

Due to the high costs of living in California, in 2023-24, California Volunteers requires programs to provide a living allowance of \$25,500 for Full Time members serving a 1700 hour term of service and a prorated amount for all other slot types.

Applications that do not include a living allowance for Full Time members at this target level may not be considered for funding. The living allowance amount must be included in the proposed budget as either federal 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	\$25,500	\$35,200
Three-Quarter Time	.700	1,200	\$18,000	\$24,640
Half Time	.500	900	\$13,500	\$17,600
Reduced Half Time	.3809524	675	\$10,125	\$13,376
Quarter Time	.26455027	450	\$6,750	\$9,152
Minimum Time	.21164022	300	\$4,500	\$7,392
Abbreviated Time	.05627705	100	\$1,500	\$2,112

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 living allowance is taxable, subject to FICA, and the minimum living allowance may not fully cover the actual living expenses of members, programs may wish to offer living allowances more than the minimum requirements.

D.8. Education Awards

AmeriCorps members who successfully complete a term of service will be eligible for a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award paid outside of the grant 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.

In addition to the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, AmeriCorps members who successfully complete a full-time (1700 service hours) term of service will receive a supplemental Californians for All Education Award, for a combined total of up to \$10,000.

D.9. Enrollment Requirements

Grantees are expected to enroll all MSYs awarded in the grant. California Volunteers reserves the right to adjust a program's grant amount due to low enrollment to maintain the awarded 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.

D.10. Retention Requirements

Retention is determined by enrolled members who complete their service term. Members who quit the program effect your retention rate. These are an indicator of the grantee's ability to properly design and manage an AmeriCorps program that results in achieving the outcomes proposed. Though some attrition is normal, we expect grantees to pursue a strong member experience leading to at least the AmeriCorps desired minimum of 85% retention. Low 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.

APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

E. California Volunteers Review and Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed and selected for funding using a multi-stage process that includes CV Staff Review, Clarification and Feedback, and CV Commission approval. The review and selection process is intended to produce a balanced set of high-quality programs that represent the priorities and strategic considerations described in this RFA. California Volunteers' review and selection process will occur in several stages as follow.

E.1. 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.

An application is compliant if the applicant:

- is an eligible organizations
- submitted an application by the submission deadline
- includes are required application components

E.2. 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.

E.3. 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. Not all applications are clarified. A request for clarification does not guarantee an award. Applications may be recommended for funding even if they are not asked clarification questions. An applicant's 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 AmeriCorps as part of their national grant application review process. This is scheduled to occur between March and April. AmeriCorps will send clarification to CV during that time, which will then be forwarded to the applicant with instructions for submission.

E.4. 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:

Due Diligence:

- Federal debt delinquency
- suspension and debarment
- information available through OMB-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as:
 - Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIS)
 - U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services
 - System for Award Management (SAM)
 - “Do Not Pay”
- reports and findings from single audits performed under Uniform Administrative Guidance and findings of any other available audits or investigations
- IRS Tax Form 990
- Oversight.gov
- Public Litigation Records

Operational and Financial Management:

- financial stability
- Operational and Financial Management Survey ³

Past Performance:

- applicant’s record in managing previous AmeriCorps awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:
 - timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements
 - conformance to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards
 - applicant’s ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients
 - meeting matching requirements
 - the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards
 - national service criminal history check compliance.

Other Programmatic Risks:

- publicly available information, including information from the applicant organization’s website

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

CV/AmeriCorps may use the results of the review of the risk assessment evaluation in determining which applications to fund. If CV/AmeriCorps 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.

E.5. 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 to be considered for funding. Applicants will be notified at the time of Clarification if they have been conditionally approved for competitive submission to the AmeriCorps State and National Public Health AmeriCorps grant competition.

To help achieve a balanced portfolio for the State of California, final selections will be made based on key strategic considerations including the following:

- Distribution of service positions across funding priorities
- Supporting communities historically excluded and/or underserved from government services, addressing structural and institutional inequities, and/or increasing opportunity in order to achieve sustainable change in communities.

- Meeting California Volunteers' equity goal of providing a livable stipend to AmeriCorps members

California Volunteers 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 applicant presents serious concerns around grant performance and/or fiduciary responsibilities discovered after rankings have been completed.

Based on the evaluation of these strategic considerations, applications with a greater degree of alignment with the review criteria may be selected for submission to AmeriCorps for funding consideration over other applications. In selecting applicants to receive awards under this RFA, the Chief Service Officer will endeavor to include a diverse portfolio of applications based on staff recommendations and strategic considerations. Applications recommended by the Chief Service Officer for submission to AmeriCorps to compete for Public Health AmeriCorps will be presented to the California Volunteers Commission for approval. Final funding decisions are made by AmeriCorps; there is no appeal process.

Subject to formula funding availability, California Volunteers may choose to directly fund any eligible applications that were not selected for Public Health AmeriCorps funding in rank order based on California Volunteers' grant review process.

California Volunteers 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.

E.6. 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.

F. Threshold Issues

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

- All applicants must propose a budget in which the member living allowance reflects or exceeds the minimum amount per slot type as outlined in this RFA.
- 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.
- All applicants must provide a living allowance of at least \$25,500 for full-time AmeriCorps members (if applicable) and a prorated equivalent amount for all other slot types.
- 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.

F.1. Selection Criteria

Each applicant must describe a project that will deploy AmeriCorps members effectively to solve a significant community public health problem. AmeriCorps urges applicants to submit high quality applications that carefully follow the guidance in this Notice and in the Application Instructions found [here](#). The quality of an application will be an important factor in determining whether an organization will receive funding.

Applications should include a well-designed plan with clear and compelling justifications for receiving the requested funds. Reviewers will assess the quality of applications by using the selection criteria described below and will rate them accordingly. They will also consider the weights assigned to each criterion.

Categories/Subcategories	Percentage
Executive Summary	0
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	13
• Compliance and Accountability	8
• Member Supervision	4
Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy	25

F.1.a. Executive Summary (Required – 0 percent):

Please fill in the blanks of these sentences to complete the Executive Summary. **Do not deviate from the template below.**

- The [Name of the organization] will have [Number of] AmeriCorps members who will [service activities the members will be doing] in [the locations the AmeriCorps members will serve]. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for [anticipated outcome of project]. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage [number of leveraged volunteers, if applicable] who will be engaged in [what the leveraged volunteers will be doing].

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

F.1.b. Program Design (50 percent):

Reviewers will consider the quality of the application’s response to the criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value. Please ensure the Theory of Change and Logic Model incorporate the funding priorities listed above, for example supporting communities historically excluded and/or underserved from government services, addressing structural and institutional inequities, or increasing opportunity to achieve sustainable change in communities.

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

The Theory of Change shall address:

- The problem is prevalent and severe in communities where the program plans to serve and has been documented with relevant data.
- 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 and help develop additional capacity to address the stated problem.

The Logic Model shall depict:

- A summary of the community problem, including the role current or historical inequities faced by underserved communities may play in contributing to the 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, equity gaps closed). 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 should 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 the community need as it relates to the [CDC's Social Vulnerability Index](#). Also 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 Information found [here](#).) Second, the quality of the applicant's evidence and the degree to which it supports the proposed program design, including program aligned with the priority areas identified above, 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 for their proposed public health service and public health workforce

development intervention(s), and the likelihood that the proposed intervention (s) will lead to outcomes identified in the Logic Model.¹

Applicants who have outcome or impact evaluation reports of the same intervention described in the application (see Mandatory Supplemental Information found [here](#) 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, including evidence of current or historic inequities facing the population;
- Characteristics of the population delivering the intervention;
- Dosage (frequency and duration) and design of the intervention, including all key components and activities;
- The context in which the intervention is delivered; and
- Outcome 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 Notice (e.g., advocacy pieces, policy briefs, other narratives that are not research studies or program evaluations) will not be reviewed.

In the Evidence Tier section of the application narrative, applicants must (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 Information found [here](#)).

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 Notice 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 Information, 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.

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:

¹ In 2022, the evidence tiers of successful AmeriCorps State and National Public Health AmeriCorps applicants that were competing were as follows: Strong 2%, Moderate 2%, Preliminary 5%, and Pre-Preliminary 91%. As these figures indicate, AmeriCorps values and funds 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.

- 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.

Applicants that 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.

3. Notice Priority (0 points)

The applicant proposed program fits within one or more of the AmeriCorps funding priorities and meets all of the requirements within that bullet/section as outlined in the [A.2 Funding Priorities](#) section and more fully described in the Mandatory Supplemental Information.

4. Member Experience (6 points)

- AmeriCorps members' service will provide them opportunities to develop as leaders.
- AmeriCorps members will gain skills as a result of their training and service that can be utilized and will be valued by future public health employers after their service term is completed.
- AmeriCorps members receive additional benefits.
- Description of the demographics of the community served and plans to recruit AmeriCorps members from geographic or demographic communities in which the program operates. This could include but not limited to the following historically underserved, under-represented, and disadvantaged populations of:
 - i. communities of color
 - ii. LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning) communities
 - iii. Individuals with varying degrees of English language proficiency
 - iv. Individuals with disabilities
 - v. Veterans and military family members as volunteers
- Description of how the organization will ensure its project engages a diverse and inclusive group of members.
- The applicant's organization and/or program has a diversity, equity, and inclusion council or similar mechanism that seeks to diversity its staff and board and create a supportive and safe environment as well ensure that its programming is culturally and community appropriate.

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 (13 points)

- The organization details the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the staff that will be implementing, providing oversight, and monitoring the program.
- The organization has created pathways to good-quality public health-related careers through onsite experience and training (including pre-apprenticeship or registered apprenticeship programs, work experience and job training programs, and other workforce training and development programs),

- The leadership and staff of the organization has the same lived experience as the beneficiary population and/or community being served.
- The applicant's (organization's or institution's) definitions of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility demonstrate the organization is engaged in related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. This can include the inclusion of diversity on the Board of Directors, agency staff and leadership, and/or volunteers.

2. Compliance and Accountability (8 points)

- The extent to which 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 activities and criminal history checks at the grantee, subgrantee (if applicable), and service site locations.
- The extent to which the organization has an effective mechanism in place to report, without delay, any suspected criminal activity, waste, fraud, and/or abuse to both the AmeriCorps Office of Inspector General and AmeriCorps and a plan for training staff and participants on these reporting protocols.
- The extent to which the organization has sufficient policies, procedures, and controls in place to prevent, detect, and mitigate the risk of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, this can include an assessment of appropriate segregation of duties, internal oversight activities, measures to prevent timekeeping fraud, etc.
- The AmeriCorps-required evaluation report meets AmeriCorps requirements (if applicable).
- The AmeriCorps-required evaluation report is of satisfactory quality (if applicable).

3. 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 and Budget Adequacy (25 percent):

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. Do not include narrative in the narrative box except for "See budget".

1. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 points)

- Budget complies with the Application Instructions found [here](#) (See Appendix B and C)
- Applicant identifies sources of any additional revenue to support the program in the Source of Funds section of the budget (if applicable)
- The cost per MSY is equal to or less than the maximum cost per MSY (See Section D.6.a.2). Proposed budgets that exceed the maximum cost per MSY will be considered unresponsive to the application criteria.

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

If the applicant has previously received three or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed (see the Mandatory Supplemental Information found [here](#) for the AmeriCorps definition of "same project"), the applicant must submit an evaluation plan as an attachment (see the [D.7.b Submission of Additional Documents](#) section for more information). If the applicant has previously received six or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed, the applicant must submit both an evaluation plan and an evaluation report as attachments.

Applicants should use the evaluation plan template found [here](#) available on the Notice webpage to craft their evaluation plans. The template document provides detailed information about the AmeriCorps evaluation requirements ([45 CFR 2522.700-710](#)) and specifies the information that must be provided for the evaluation plan to be approved by AmeriCorps. The evaluation plan will not be scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions have been made.

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

Amendment Justification (0 percent):

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

Clarification Information (0 percent):

Enter N/A.

Continuation Changes (0 percent):

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

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 AmeriCorps’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](#), 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.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applicants must submit their application **electronically through eGrants**, AmeriCorps's web-based application system, and submit additional documents to California Volunteers using the CV AmeriCorps Community in Salesforce.

To complete the application, please:

1. Download the following documents from the CV website at <https://californiavolunteers.ca.gov/grants/ameriCorps/>:
 - a. *Request for Applications* (this document),
 - b. *Mandatory Supplemental Guidance*,
 - c. *Application Instructions*,
 - d. *Application Forms*
 - o *Proposed Site Locations List*
 - o *California Performance Measurement Worksheet*
 - o *Labor Organization Certification Form*
 - o *Operational and Financial Management Survey*
 - o *AmeriCorps Organizational Self-Assessment*
 - o *Evaluation Plan Template (if required)*
 - o *AmeriCorps Budget Worksheet*
 - o *Request for Alternative Match Schedule (optional)*
 - e. Note: Additional documents beyond the forms listed above are required. Please refer to *Application Instructions* for complete list of required documents.
 - f. *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 following the guidance in the *Application Instructions*.

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](#) 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 2022
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 as printed from eGrants. 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
- Request for Alternative Match Schedule (if applicable) may not exceed 4 double-spaced pages

Application Submission Deadline

Applications (both the eGrants submission and the Additional Documents) must be received no later than **Friday, November 18 at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time** 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.

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), AmeriCorps General and Specific Terms and Conditions, and California Volunteers Policies and Requirements.

B. AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions

All awards made under this RFA will be subject to the 2023 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions and the 2023 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 AmeriCorps General and Specific Terms and Conditions for each of its programs is available at <https://americorps.gov/grantees-sponsors/directs-territories-tribes>.

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.

Grantees are required to provide semi-annual progress reports and quarterly financial reports to California Volunteers. All reports are cumulative over the entire award period. Additional specific close-out requirements will be included in the final progress and quarterly financial reports.

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 data reported is complete
- The grantee collects data in a consistent manner
- The grantee takes steps to correct data errors
- The grantee actively reviews data for accuracy prior to submission

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

E. National Service Criminal History Check Requirement

The National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) is a specific screening procedure established by law to protect the beneficiaries of national service. We encourage grantees to minimize barriers to service without putting their program beneficiaries at genuine risk.

- In general, grantees must conduct an NSCHC for AmeriCorps members, volunteers, and staff funded under, or whose salary is reflected as match on, the award prior to start.
- CV encourages grantees to utilize the two AmeriCorps-approved vendors to conduct the required NSCHCs.

- Failure to conduct a compliant NSCHC may result in significant disallowed costs.
- The cost of conducting NSCHC is an allowable expense under the award and the individual subject to the NSCHC may not be required to cover the cost without being reimbursed.

All AmeriCorps members and staff charging time (including match) to an AmeriCorps cost-reimbursement grant must have completed National Service Criminal History Checks prior to start. In California, these are conducted by two approved vendors - Truescreen and Fieldprint. All required check components must be conducted and results considered according to AmeriCorps, CV and the program's own policy, with the individual cleared prior to the start of service and/or time on the grant. No one convicted of murder (as defined in 18 USC 1111) and/or registered or required to be registered on a state sex offender registry or the National Sex Offender Registry; nor who refuses to undergo the checks or who provides a false statement with regards to the checks process, may be deemed eligible. The program must set its own selection criteria that include at least these minimum disqualifiers while being mindful of state and federal Civil Rights & nondiscrimination laws, including Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Required Criminal History Check Components are defined as follows:

1. Nationwide name-based National Sex Offender Public Registry Check via **Truescreen*** ;
2. Statewide Criminal History Registry Check(s) in the State of residence (out-of-state applicants)⁴¹ in the State where the individual will serve / work (California)* using **Truescreen**
3. FBI National Fingerprint-based Check using **Fieldprint** or using the **California Dept of Justice (CA DOJ)** via CV's waiver

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

Refer to the [CV National Service Criminal History Checks Policy](#) for detailed requirements and the [CV NSCHC Guide](#) for details on how to properly conduct the checks using the approved vendors.

F. Requests for Improper Payment Information

At the request of AmeriCorps, CV may, from time to time, request documentation from grantees in order to monitor the award or to comply with other legal requirements, including the [Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019](#). 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 addition, CV/AmeriCorps 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 AmeriCorps funding are available to the public and readily accessible to grantees and non-grantees, CV and AmeriCorps reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to obtain, use, modify, reproduce, publish, or disseminate publications and materials produced under the award, including data, and to authorize others to do so ([2 CFR §200.315 \(b\)](#)).

H. Re-Focusing of Funding

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

APPENDIX I – AmeriCorps Focus Areas

AmeriCorps 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 investment in national service, and to achieve the goals laid out in our [Strategic Plan \(2022-2026\)](#), AmeriCorps has the following Focus Areas:

Disaster Services

Helping individuals and communities prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of disasters and increase community resiliency.

Economic Opportunity

Improving the economic well-being and security of underserved individuals.

Education

Improving educational outcomes for underserved people, especially children. AmeriCorps is particularly interested in program designs that support youth engagement and service learning as strategies to achieve high educational outcomes.

Environmental Stewardship

Supporting communities to become more resilient through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve land and water, increase renewable energy use and improve at-risk ecosystems, especially in underserved households and communities.

Healthy Futures

Supporting for health needs within communities, including mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 and other public health crises, access to care, aging in place, and addressing childhood obesity, especially in underserved communities.

Veterans and Military Families

Improving the quality of life of veterans, military families, caregivers, and survivors.

APPENDIX II – AmeriCorps Public Health AmeriCorps

About the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) works to protect America from health, safety and security threats, both foreign and in the U.S. Whether diseases start at home or abroad, are chronic or acute, curable or preventable, human error or deliberate attack, CDC fights disease and supports communities and citizens to do the same.

CDC increases the health security of our nation. As the nation's health protection agency, CDC saves lives and protects people from health threats. To accomplish its mission, CDC conducts critical science and provides health information that protects our nation against expensive and dangerous health threats and responds when these arise.

The CDC's role includes:

- Detecting and responding to new and emerging health threats
- Tackling the biggest health problems causing death and disability for Americans
- Putting science and advanced technology into action to prevent disease
- Promoting healthy and safe behaviors, communities and environment
- Developing leaders and training the public health workforce, including disease detectives
- Taking the health pulse of our nation

About Public Health AmeriCorps

Public Health AmeriCorps is a \$400 million investment, over five years, from the American Rescue Plan Act to support a partnership between CDC and AmeriCorps. The program is recruiting and building a workforce ready to respond to the public health needs of the nation and provide public health service in their own communities around the country.

The partnership is leveraging the expertise of both agencies, capitalizing on AmeriCorps' experience managing public service and workforce development programs, while benefitting from CDC's technical expertise as the country's leading public health agency.

Public Health AmeriCorps members are working across the country, helping to improve the health of communities. The program is opening the door of working in public health to a new generation, bringing new talent to conduct public health activities firsthand.

The program also supports [President Biden's Executive Order \(13996\) on Establishing the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board and Ensuring a Sustainable Public Health Workforce for COVID-19 and Other Biological Threats](#) – specifically Section 4. Establishing a Public Health Workforce Program, in which AmeriCorps was named.

While many of today's needs are related to the COVID-19 response, the program will also help communities address broader the public health needs of vulnerable communities that have been exposed and exacerbated by the pandemic. The program will build on expertise, best practices, and lessons learned from existing CDC, AmeriCorps, and other public health programs.

Who is Eligible for a Public Health AmeriCorps Award

Organizations that meet the AmeriCorps State and National eligibility criteria. Please see [C.1. Eligible Applicants](#) section in the Notice.

AmeriCorps Member Position Description

Public Health AmeriCorps members will help state, tribal, territory, county, and local public health agencies and nonprofit organizations meet the public health needs of communities, especially those that have been hard hit by COVID-19. AmeriCorps members cannot displace existing employees or volunteers.

Examples of roles that AmeriCorps member activities include:

- Community outreach

- Health education
- Mental health education and awareness, emotional regulation skill building
- Health and social services navigation
- Crisis response (e.g. COVID, Opioids, suicide, mental health)
- Capacity building

Desired Skills

Public Health AmeriCorps members should possess:

- a desire and ability to work with a diverse group of people, particularly those living in low-income and economically distressed neighborhoods;
- a willingness to learn and serve others;
- an ability to work independently and in a team environment successfully; and
- strong organizational, writing, and oral communication skills, and high attention to detail.

Appendix III: Public Health AmeriCorps Performance Measures

Each applicant is required to select at least one aligned performance measure (output paired with outcome) that corresponds to the proposed primary service activity. Each applicant must choose from the following National Performance Measures:

Focus Area	Objective	Selection Rules		Interventions
		Outputs	Outcomes	
Healthy Futures	Access to Care	H4A: Number of individuals served	<p>H17: Number of individuals with increased health knowledge</p> <p>H18: Number of individuals reporting a change in behavior or intent to change behavior to improve their health</p> <p>H19: Number of individuals with improved health</p> <p>H20: Number of individuals with improved access to medical care</p>	<p>Outreach</p> <p>Education/Training</p> <p>Referrals</p> <p>Medical Services</p> <p>Counseling/Coaching</p> <p>Opioid/Drug Intervention/Harm Reduction</p> <p>Navigation of Services</p> <p>COVID Response/COVID Recovery</p>
Capacity Building	Capacity Building & Leverage	G3-3.4: Number of organizations that received capacity building services	<p>G3-3.10A: Number of organizations that increase their efficiency, effectiveness, and/or program reach*</p> <p>* Each applicant must describe in detail how it will measure the organizational effectiveness, efficiency, or program scale/reach in meeting the public health needs of the community in the Described Instrument section.</p>	<p>Disaster Preparation</p> <p>Disaster Response</p> <p>Disaster Recovery</p> <p>Disaster Mitigation</p>

Each grantee will also be required to track and report the Performance Data Elements in its annual Grantee Progress Report. The three Performance Data Elements are the number of AmeriCorps members:

- recruited from the geographic or demographic communities the program operates,
- with increased knowledge about public health, and
- who remain in the public health field post-service.