#CaliforniansForAll
CollegeCorps

Submitted Questions via Email &

Questions asked during RFA Session on October 27, 2023

1) Curious to know if there is a scoring rubric that might be shared with the group in addition to the guidance provided in the RFA? Is there a rubric for sections and each question that reviewers will use to measure the comprehensiveness of a total score?

   Scoring totals are provided in *Section III Application and Requirements*. *Applicants* are asked to answer a series of questions within 6 sections. Each section lists total points available within the section, and the points available for each specific question within each section. In all cases, the point value listed represents the maximum possible points available per section and for each question within the section. After the grantmaking process is concluded, applicants can request to view their individual scoring sheets.

2) Would you like documentation of the support of campus leadership? A letter from president or from department that is overseeing the program?

   Because College Corps involves many campus departments, a letter of support from campus leadership is highly encouraged, particularly for new applicants. A letter of support or an MOU is required for a consortium applicant.

3) What is an example of cohort experience?

   Fellows participate in statewide and local experiences to build connection with other Fellows. Some examples of these types of experiences are, opportunities for mentoring, collaboration, peer support, team building across lines of difference, leadership skills training, and professional development activities. More information is available *in Annex 6: College Corps Cohort Experience*.

4) For AB 540 is it no longer $15,000 per DSIG student? It will be $5500 plus $8000 so only $13,500? And then only $15,000 if they are non DSIG?

   The slot allocation is $15,000 per Fellow, whether AB 540 or non-AB 540 Fellow.

5) What is your advice for first time applicants? Do you have samples of past grant proposals we can review?

A list of links to current College Corps partner campuses can be found at the California Volunteers (CV) website under partner campuses. You may also request to see a successful application from the inaugural year RFA by emailing CollegeCorps@cv.ca.gov.

6) For continuing campuses: If we were funded by this award, it sounds like Award 1 and Award 2 would overlap from July – September 2024. Is there guidance on how to handle staffing charges in the overlapping period? (if staff are wrapping up cohort 2 and prepping cohort 3).

The expense period for the current grant goes through to the end of September 2024. All invoices for the current grant must be submitted by November 13, 2024.). The expense period for the new grant starts on July 1, 2024. All expenses should be allocated to the appropriate grant. CV considers costs for outreach, education, and onboarding, as ongoing program activities. Staffing and costs related to onboarding processes such as eligibility screening and interviews will be allowable within current budgets.

7) Section 2: Regional Collaboration. Will campuses that are applying as an individual institution be rated out of possible 15 points or only the eligible 10 possible points?

The question under *Section 2: Regional Collaboration under B. Application Requirements and Review Criteria, page 18 of the RFA* addresses collaboration of each applicant type. Individual Institutions can receive up to 10 points on this question. Individual institutions with a community college partner can receive up to 13 points.

8) Can we do multiple focus areas within the 20% and how would we do it logistically? PMW, etc.

Yes, a partner campus can choose more than one focus area for up to 20 percent of Fellow placements; however, we still recommend targeting your impact within additional areas. With the increased flexibility of additional focus areas, we will likely require performance measurement worksheets (PMWs) per focus area, to help campuses track impact.

9) Can we use the infrastructure supplemental funds for transportation?

Yes, costs for transportation travel to training, regional workshops, networking, ambassador events, and other regional or statewide cohort events are

allowable costs. *See Table 3: Funding Allocations for New or Returning Applicant* on pages 14-15 within the RFA.

10) For the last two years, our institution has been a subgrantee of College Corps funding that our partner institution received as the primary recipient. Are we considered a returning applicant or first-time applicant if we apply for this next round of funding?

It is CV's intent to focus primarily on supporting existing partner campuses. If your campus had experience with, or can demonstrate capacity to implement a full program, including recruiting and supporting Fellows, issuing Fellow payments, placing Fellows into community host partner sites, and creating a Fellow cohort experience through a course or other ongoing check-ins, then you would apply as a returning applicant.

11) If you are a new campus to this program but applying as a part of an existing consortium without a Lead Partner, are you considered a new campus or a returning institution?

If you have **not** participated in College Corps in years 1 or 2, then you are considered a new campus, and would apply for one year of planning and one year of implementation funding.

12) Can a college designate subgrants to campuses within our college district (similar to our current recruiting partner model) in addition to participating in the regional no-lead consortium, keeping the 50-Fellow minimum between the main grantee and subgrantees?

It is CV's intent to focus primarily on existing partner campuses participating in College Corps program, to ensure equitable representation among all campus types including community colleges, and to leverage the support of strong regional collaboration to implement the College Corps program. Given these factors, the applicant can continue to work with subgrantee campuses, meeting the Consortium member minimum of 50.

13) Funds for background checks – where would that come from Year 3? Previously returning campuses were explicitly told Y# funds had to be used for those background checks but the timing overlaps with Y2.

If campuses have unexpended state General Fund in the current budget, those funds can be used for background checks, if not, those costs can be charged to year 3 funding beginning July 1.

14) Can you please share examples of other focus areas that we can propose to offer Fellows?

Examples of focus areas could include, but are not limited to, health, mental health, support for unhoused community members, and support for re-entry or justice-involved individuals.

15) Would the end date for this award be extended via a future amendment? (Since right now would not cover the full cohort 4 term)?

Funding for this grant ends June 30, 2026. A no-cost extension may be considered in certain instances depending on grantee performance.

16) It is my understanding that funds will all now be general funds. So will we just have one contract? If so, will there be any flexibility for converting AmeriCorps positions to AB 540 positions?

Yes, for cohorts 3 & 4, there will be one contract for both Fellow populations. Partner campuses may request to convert AmeriCorps slots to AB 540 slots for cohorts 3 & 4. CV approval will be contingent on grantee performance and availability of funds and slots.

17) Will we still be required to track funds spent on Dreamers vs. non-Dreamers?

For cohorts 3 & 4, partner campuses will not be required to track funds separately, but it is recommended.

18) This may be too general of a question, but what advice can you give to new applicants?

If you are interested in offering your students the life-changing opportunity of a one-year service professional development experience, placed into community organizations addressing College Corps focus areas, we recommend that you apply for a planning and implementation grant to become a College Corps partner campus. Please see *Section II: College and University Partners* on page 7 for roles and responsibilities of a partner campus. To view current program websites, see links under [partner campuses](#).

19) Our campus is the consortium lead for three regional subrecipient partners, and the lead campus does not plan to apply as a consortium. The consortium lead will apply as an "individual institution" with community college partner. Do the other subrecipients in the consortium who are not leads have the privilege of submitting as "individual institutions" or do the non-lead subrecipients apply as "new"?

The other subrecipient partner campuses would apply as returning campuses.

20) What is the outcome reporting? Are Fellows allowed to work within an office at your campus institution (i.e. campus food pantry)? Or do they need to be out in the community?

Partner campuses report to California Volunteers mid-year and end-of-year engagement metrics for both students and communities. *Annex 3: the College Corps Logic Model* lists the outcomes associated with College Corps. You can view *D. Data Collection and Reporting Requirements* under Section IV to learn more about outcome reporting.

One of the primary goals of College Corps is to engage college students in meaningful service opportunities that build leadership skills and civic responsibility within the community. We strongly encourage a community placement. Fellows may serve on their campus as long as they're addressing a community challenge through meaningful service.

21) If we apply as a consortium no lead with new or returning applicants, and one campus is not successful in their application, what happens to the target number for the other consortium members? Would it be increased or maintained at the reduced consortium number? For example, 4 campus consortium = 50/campus; one campus is not successful, so now one of the other three needs to pick up more slots? Or, 3 campus consortium, one campus is not successful, are the other two now responsible for 100 slots and no longer a consortium?

In a consortium with no lead partner the collective slot minimum is 200 Fellows. If a partner campus was not successful in its application, and a consortium of 3 campuses remains, at least one campus must support more than 50 Fellows to equal the collective minimum of 200 Fellows. If one of three members of a consortium without a lead partner is not successful, then each of the remaining two campuses would become individual institution applicants, each with a minimum of 100 slots.

Resource:

2024 College Corps Funding Opportunity | California Volunteers

2024-2026-College-Corps-RFA-10132023.pdf (ca.gov)