



Questions and Answers from RFA Session on November 3, 2023

Or questions submitted via email and not previously answered

- 1) For the Recruiting Partner, we would like to understand what is intended. Is it to work with the community college to identify a number of their students who intend to transfer to our 4-year institution, or to have community college Fellows serve in College Corps? If the latter, how are they supported beyond administrative funds to recruit Fellows?

The individual institution could partner with one community college partner to recruit and identify community college students who would transfer to the 4-year institution and participate in the College Corps cohort once attending the 4-year institution. The 4-year institution would provide administrative funds to the community college campus to support recruiting activities. Or the second approach would be to have the community college partner support a cohort of community college Fellows at their campus. With this second approach, the 4-year campus and 2-year campus would identify roles, responsibilities, and processes for creating the Fellow cohort experience, recruitment, service placements, and Fellow payments. The 4-year institution would be the legal applicant for this grant under either approach.

- 2) For Non-DSIG Ed Award payments, would we be able to use our grant to fund the Ed Award this year?

Each campus should plan to request DSIG funding when completing this request for application. If after awarding the contract, a partner campus chooses to use other non-federal resources to fund their AB 540 student Education Awards, the campus may identify these funds. If a partner campus does not use the DSIG Education Award, the campus may request to use per-Fellow administrative and living allowance College Corps grant funds to support AB 540 Education Awards, per approval of CV.

- 3) What is an example of cohort experience?

Fellows participate in statewide and local experiences with other Fellows to build connection and belonging. Some examples of these experiences include

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) With the selection notification timeline being late January, are we able to then move forward and begin with outreach?

The timeline for notification of selected partner campuses is January 26, 2024. CV considers outreach, education, and onboarding activities as ongoing program activities and those activities can commence after notification. Staffing and costs related to on-boarding processes such as eligibility screening and interviews will be allowable within current budgets. Funding provided through this RFA is not available until July 1, 2024.

- 5) On the Notice of Intent form, we have two contacts on the grant but only one contact is requested on the form. How do we include our second contact?

List your primary contact on the Notice of Intent to Apply. Whenever CV sends email communication to primary RFA contacts, primary program director contacts will also be copied in the communication.

- 6) Can you speak to the Indirect Cost cap within the grant this year? Our indirect costs can only be 25 percent? For federal and state grants?

Indirect Costs for this grant are capped at 25 percent. An indirect cost rate can be waived or can be lower than the 25 percent cap. The source of funding for cohort years 3 & 4 is state funding only. Therefore, the cap applies to just state funding.

- 7) Without the two contracts, with just one stream of funding, do we need to separately track funding for our AB 540 students?

As a best practice, CV budget office recommends tracking expenses for AB 540 and non-AB 540 Fellows separately. Non-AB 540 Fellows leverage the Segal Education Award through AmeriCorps which does not allow costs for AB 540 Fellows. You are not required to track these expenses separately. You are not required to track funding separately for AB 540 and Non-AB 540 students.

- 8) Will we still have AmeriCorps?

Yes, this will still be considered an AmeriCorps program. The designation of Fellows will remain the same – non-AB540 AmeriCorps Fellows and AB 540 Fellows. In the past two years, we had federal COVID fiscal recovery funds that

funded the AmeriCorps Fellows. Now both Fellow types will be funded with state funds.

- 9) For a first-time applicant, should we aim to have prospective fellows focus on the three main focus areas?

CV recognizes that local communities have challenges that need focus and attention beyond the three identified priorities and provides more flexibility to place Fellows in organizations working in locally identified focus areas. If a new applicant does not see a challenge that is separate from the primary areas, CV recommends using the three focus areas of K-12 education, food insecurity, and climate action.

- 10) If there are unspent funds from years 1 & 2, are we allowed to rollover the funds to years 3 & 4?

No, unexpended funds from years 1 and 2 may not be rolled over to the next cohort year as this RFA funds a new grant. Any year 1 & 2 funds must be spent by September 30, 2024.

- 11) If a returning campus, can you say more about the supplemental funding for program infrastructure? What does that entail?

Program Infrastructure Supplemental funding may be requested at in the amount of \$738 per Fellow. These supplemental funds are geared to support programs in two areas: to expand and enhance student cohort experience and to support financial aid staffing and costs to identify eligible Fellows, coordinate College Corps financial benefit within financial aid awards, and issue financial payments. See pages 13-15 of the RFA for more information.

- 12) For Fellow cohort experience, is there a set of recommended cohort activities to use in planning our budgets?

For a list of statewide, regional and campus cohort experience objectives and activities See *Annex 6: College Corps Cohort Experience* on page 34 of the RFA. On page 19 of the RFA, *Section 5: Student Outcome and Cohort Experience*, applicants are asked to describe how they would build a cohesive Fellow experience. For budgeting purposes of this RFA, applicants will not be asked for detailed budgets until after selection, when an implementation budget will be required.