



1400 10th Street, Second Floor ■ Sacramento, CA 95814 ■ (916) 323-7646 phone ■ (916) 445-8317 fax
CaliforniaVolunteers.CA.GOV

2024 AmeriCorps Formula Supplemental State Funding Opportunity



AmeriCorps

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications due April 17, 2024

Contents

Overview.....	3
Disclosure	3
Important Dates	3
Funding Description	3
Application Timeline	3
A. Program Description	4
A.1. Granting Agency	4
A.2. Funding Purpose.....	4
B. Award Information.....	5
B.1. Estimated Funds Available	5
B.2. Funding Awards	5
B.3. Period of Performance	5
B.4. Living Allowance Requirement	5
C. Eligibility Information	6
C.1. Eligible Applicants.....	6
D. Application Review Information.....	6
D.1. California Volunteers Review and Selection Process	6
D.2. Assessment Criteria	7
E. Application and Submission Information	7
E.1. Submission to California Volunteers.....	7
E.2. Application Content.....	7
E.4. Application Submission Deadline	7
E.5. Late Applications	7
F. Economic Sanctions	8

Overview

Disclosure

Publication of this Request for Applications 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 and state appropriations.

Important Dates

Application Deadline: Complete applications are due to CV by 5:00 p.m. PT on **April 17, 2024**.

Application Notification: Applicants will be notified of their status by **May 1, 2024**.

Funding Description

California Volunteers is the State Service Commission responsible for engaging Californians in service, volunteering, and civic action to tackle our State's most pressing challenges. California Volunteers has engaged local communities through innovative and impactful grantmaking and program development at both the state and local levels for nearly 30 years. By supporting more than 7,000 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 and civic engagement in California.

In 2024, AmeriCorps reduced the maximum federal cost per MSY for formula-funded programs by \$1,800 compared to the previous grant year. This reduction comes at a time when California Volunteers is empowering AmeriCorps programs to fully utilize funds available to increase support for AmeriCorps member living allowances. To continue making service a viable option for Californians of all backgrounds, this funding opportunity provides support to offset the reduction in federal cost per MSY by augmenting member living allowance for current California Volunteers-funded programs subject to the reduction in federal cost per MSY. The funds requested may be used as match funding to the applicant's federal AmeriCorps grant administered by California Volunteers.

Application Timeline

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

March 20, 2024	Informational Webinar – 2:00 p.m. PT – Register Here
April 17, 2024	Applications due by 5:00 p.m. PT*
May 1, 2024	Applicants Notified of Funding Recommendation
May 2-8, 2024	eGrants Budget Update Period*
May 2024	Final Federal Funding Decisions Announced
June 2024	Contracting Process

A. Program Description

A.1. Granting Agency

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 5,000 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, a federal agency that brings people to tackle the country's most pressing challenges, through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities.

A.2. Funding Purpose

The *2024 AmeriCorps Formula Supplemental State Funding Opportunity* seeks to expand the AmeriCorps California program by making service a viable option for Californians of all backgrounds. To this end, this funding opportunity supports increased participation in AmeriCorps by augmenting member living allowance for current California Volunteers-funded formula programs subject to a reduction in federal cost per Member Service Year (MSY) in Fiscal Year 2024. Applicants must demonstrate that the reduction in federal funding will negatively impact recruitment efforts. The funds requested may be used as match funding to the applicant's federal AmeriCorps grant administered by California Volunteers.

The *2024 AmeriCorps Formula Supplemental State Funding Opportunity* seeks to expand the AmeriCorps California program by making service a viable option for Californians of all backgrounds. To this end, this funding opportunity supports increased participation in AmeriCorps by augmenting member living allowance for current California Volunteers-funded formula programs subject to a reduction in federal cost per Member Service Year (MSY) in Fiscal Year 2024. Applicants must demonstrate that the reduction in federal funding will negatively impact recruitment efforts. The funds requested may be used as match funding to the applicant's federal AmeriCorps grant administered by California Volunteers.

Funds available under this opportunity are awarded on a competitive basis to eligible organizations that adequately address the selection criteria identified in this Request for Applications. Funds are solely to supplement the member living allowance and cannot be used for other expenses.

Selected applicants will work closely with California Volunteers to design and implement robust recruitment efforts, including setting individual and collective member participation goals, developing and promoting effective branding and messaging, tracking and sharing recruitment data with California Volunteers on a regular basis, and participating in peer exchanges on best practices. California Volunteers is also interested in partnering with selected applicants to explore other ways to provide additional benefits to AmeriCorps members aimed at enhancing member experience and bolstering member recruitment and retention, including creating professional development networks and workforce pathways into careers in education and other public service.

B. Award Information

B.1. Estimated Funds Available

This funding opportunity will award state general funds to support increased member living allowance costs for currently funded AmeriCorps state programs. Funds are limited; this funding opportunity is only available to current AmeriCorps programs under prime grants 23AFICA001 and 21FXICA001 in year 1 or 2 of the funding cycle in program year 2023-24, who are subject to the reduced federal cost per MSY in 2024-25.

B.2. Funding Awards

Grants awarded under this funding opportunity are contingent upon receipt of a federal 2024 AmeriCorps State grant. The awarded amount will not exceed the difference between the 2024 maximum cost per MSY of \$27,000 and the applicant's awarded 2023 cost per MSY (up to \$1,800 per MSY).

The grant award under consideration in this funding opportunity is a State General Fund cost-reimbursement grant. California Volunteers anticipates issuing grant contracts to selected applicants effective July 1, 2024.

B.3. Period of Performance

Awards under this funding opportunity will support member living allowance for one year of operation. Funding will support members serving in the 2024-25 grant year. The period of performance will align with the applicant's awarded federal grant within the period of August 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025.

B.4. Living Allowance Requirement

Applicants must provide a living allowance of at least \$25,500 for Full-Time members serving a 1700-hour term of service and a prorated amount for all other slot types. California Volunteers encourages applicants to provide more than the minimum living allowance for their members. Applicants who were approved to receive funds under the 2024 AmeriCorps Education Supplemental State Funding Opportunity must meet the minimum living allowance requirements articulated in the Request for Applications for that funding opportunity.

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1,700	\$25,500	\$37,400
Three Quarter-time	1,200	\$18,000	\$26,180
Half-time	900	\$13,500	\$18,700
Reduced Half-time	675	\$10,125	\$14,212
Quarter-time	450	\$6,750	\$9,724
Minimum-time	300	\$4,500	\$7,854
Abbreviated-time	100	\$1,500	\$2,244

The supplemental funding available in this opportunity can only be used to replace funds to support the member living allowance. All other associated program costs must be covered by the program.

C. Eligibility Information

C.1. Eligible Applicants

Organizations that meet the following criteria are eligible to apply for this opportunity:

- Current recipient of an AmeriCorps State grant awarded under prime grant 23AFICA001 of 21FXICA001.
- In year 1 or 2 of the 3-year grant cycle in the 2023-24 program year.
- Subject to a decrease in federal cost per MSY in 2024 compared to 2023 as a direct result of the reduction in the maximum cost per MSY allowable by AmeriCorps.

D. Application Review Information

D.1. California Volunteers Review and Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed and selected for funding using a multi-stage process that includes Compliance Check, 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.

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 will advance to Staff Review.

An application is compliant if the applicant:

- is an eligible organization
- submitted an application by the submission deadline
- includes all required application components

Staff Review

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

Clarification Period

The application review process for this grant competition will include a Clarification Period. During the Clarification Period, applicants may be asked for clarifying information regarding issues of significance in the application and budget. This information is used by CV in making final funding recommendations. 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.

Selection

Applicants must meet a minimum score threshold of 9 points **and** satisfactorily address any clarification issues to be considered for funding. Applicants will be presented to the Chief Service Officer for selection. Funding decisions are final—there is no appeal process.

California Volunteers reserves the right to award applications in an amount other than at the requested level of funding and will document the rationale for doing so.

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.

D.2. Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on their response to the following criteria:

- Applicant describes the specific challenges they have faced in recruiting AmeriCorps members to serve, including a summary of actions taken or will be taken to improve recruitment. (5 points)
- Applicant describes how the reduction in federal funding from 2023 to 2024 has negatively impacted their ability to meet the minimum living allowance requirement. (5 points)
- Applicant describes the circumstances that prevent them from raising the match necessary to meet the minimum living allowance requirement. (5 points)

Applicants that meet the minimum score of 9 points will be ranked based on living allowance. Applicants proposing a living allowance of at least \$30,000 for full-time members (prorated for lesser slot types) will receive priority consideration.

E. Application and Submission Information

E.1. Submission to California Volunteers

Applicants must submit their application electronically via the online form here:

<http://californiavolunteers.tfaforms.net/f/2024-AmeriCorps-Formula-Supplemental-State-Funding-Application>.

E.2. Application Content

All applicants must complete and fully submit the application form found at the link above. In addition to the information captured in the form, complete applications must include the following documents:

- California Civil Rights Laws Certification – complete all Certification fields and electronically sign.
- Bidder Declaration – review the instructions and complete the form solely for the supplemental state funds. Signature should be completed electronically.

E.4. Application Submission Deadline

Applications must be received no later than **April 17, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time** in order to be considered.

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

E.5. Late Applications

All applications received after the submission deadline published in this RFA are presumed to be non-compliant. To overcome this presumption, the applicant must:

- Submit a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstance(s) that caused the delay, including:

- Timing and specific cause(s) of the delay
 - Other documentation or evidence that supports the justification
- Ensure that California Volunteers receives the written explanation or justification and any other evidence that substantiates the claimed extenuating circumstance(s), via email to funding@californiavolunteers.ca.gov. The written explanation and evidence must be received no later than 24 hours after the application deadline stated in the RFA.

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.

F. Economic Sanctions

On March 4, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-6-22 (the EO) regarding Economic Sanctions against Russia and Russian entities and individuals. "Economic Sanctions" refers to sanctions imposed by the U.S. government in response to Russia's actions in Ukraine, as well as any sanctions imposed under state law.

All prime Applicants and Subcontractors agree by submitting an application in response to this solicitation, they have reviewed Executive Order N-6-22 and shall find they are in compliance with it. OPR, during the Administration Evaluation, will check the Office of Foreign Assets and Controls Sanctions List. Any prime Applicant or Subcontractor found not being in compliance with Executive Order N-6-22 shall have their application automatically disqualified.

By submitting a bid or application, Applicant represents that the Applicant nor any of its Subcontractors are not a target of Economic Sanctions. Should the State determine the Applicant or any of its Subcontractors are a target of Economic Sanctions or is conducting prohibited transactions with sanctioned individuals or entities, that shall be grounds for rejection of the Applicant's bid/application any time prior to agreement execution, or, if determined after agreement execution, shall be grounds for termination by the State. See more at the following hyperlink to the online directory: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3.4.22-Russia-Ukraine-Executive-Order.pdf>