2027 AmeriCorps state and national mandatory supplemental information

The **AmeriCorps State and National Mandatory Supplemental Information** is intended to provide applicants with additional information for the preparation of their applications under the AmeriCorps State and National Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity. The Supplemental Information provides both detailed definitions of certain terms included in the Notice as well as additional details regarding how to properly file an application under the Notice. This Supplemental Information is incorporated by reference in the Notice, and applicants must comply with any requirements stated in this Supplemental Information.

AmeriCorps Volunteer: An AmeriCorps Volunteer is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. AmeriCorps Volunteers may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, AmeriCorps Volunteers earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award that they can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

Capacity Building: A set of activities that expand the scale, reach, efficiency, or effectiveness of programs and organizations. These activities achieve lasting positive outcomes for the beneficiary populations Generally, AmeriCorps considers capacity building activities to be indirect services that enable AmeriCorps -supported organizations to provide more, better, and sustained direct services. Capacity building activities must:

1. Support or enhance the program delivery model.
2. Respond to the program's goal of increasing, expanding, or enhancing services in order to address the most pressing needs identified in the community.
3. Enable the program to provide a sustained level of more or better direct services after the capacity building services end.

Child Care: The AmeriCorps Childcare Benefit Program is available for eligible, active, full-time AmeriCorps State and National Volunteers who need the benefit to serve. Visit the AmeriCorps Childcare Program website for more information on this AmeriCorps Volunteer benefit.

Cost Reimbursement Grants: These grants fund a portion of program operating costs and AmeriCorps Volunteer living allowances, with flexibility to use all of the funds for allowable costs regardless of whether or not the program recruits and retains all AmeriCorps Volunteers . Cost reimbursement grants include a formal matching requirement and require the submission of a budget and financial reports.

Disadvantaged youth: The term ''disadvantaged youth'' includes those youth who are economically disadvantaged and 1 or more of the following: (A) Who are out-of-school youth, including out-of school youth who are unemployed. (B) Who are in or aging out of foster care. (C) Who have limited English proficiency. (D) Who are homeless or who have run away from home. (E) Who are at-risk to leave secondary school without a diploma. (F) Who are former juvenile offenders or at risk of delinquency. (G) Who are individuals with disabilities.

Economically Disadvantaged: The term ''economically disadvantaged'' means, with respect to an individual, an individual who is determined by the Chief Executive Officer to be low-income according to the latest available data from the Department of Commerce.

Enrollment Rate: The AmeriCorps Volunteer enrollment rate is calculated as slots filled, plus

refill slots filled, divided by slots awarded.

Evidence-based: Evidence-based programs that have been rigorously evaluated and have demonstrated positive results for at least one key desired outcome. Rigorous evaluation means conducting at least one Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) or Quasi-Experimental Design (QED) evaluation of the same intervention described in the application.

Evidence-based interventions on the AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange: Interventions supported by positive results from rigorous evaluations that are documented in the Evidence Exchange on AmeriCorps State and National Grants.

Evidence-based interventions include but are not limited to the following:

- Economic Opportunity: Evidence Brief: Effective CNCS-Funded Economic Opportunity Programs
- Education: Evidence Brief: Effective CNCS-Funded Education Programs
- Healthy Futures: Evidence Brief: Effective CNCS-Funded Healthy Futures Programs

Interventions funded in FY 2025 assessed as having strong or moderate evidence include:

- Student Achievement Outcomes for a Sample of Boston Teacher Residency Program Residents and Mentors
- LISC AmeriCorps Evaluation Report
- PLSC Before/After-Control/Impact (BACI) Ecosystem Management Evaluation
- Conservation Corps: Mt. Adams Institute Military Veteran Participant Outcomes 2021-2023

Evidence-informed: Programs in this category use the best available knowledge, research, and evaluation to guide program design and implementation, but do not have scientific research or rigorous evaluation of the intervention described in the application.

Applicants may be evidence-informed if they have incorporated research from other evidence-based programs into their program designs and/or have collected performance measurement data on the intervention described in the application.

Evidence tiers

Pre-preliminary evidence means the applicant has not submitted an outcome or impact evaluation of the same intervention described in the application, although the applicant may have collected some performance data on the intervention (e.g., data on intervention outputs and/or outcomes). Applicants in this tier must describe in the Evidence Base section of the application how their program design is evidence-informed (see definition above). Applicants may also cite prior performance measure data if applicable.

Preliminary evidence means the applicant has submitted up to two outcome evaluation reports (non-experimental) that evaluated the same intervention described in the application and yielded positive results on one or more key desired outcomes of interest as depicted in the

applicant's logic model. The outcome evaluations may either have been conducted internally by the applicant organization or by an entity external to the applicant. The study design must include pre- and post-assessments without a statistically matched comparison group or a post-assessment comparison between intervention and comparison groups. In some cases, a retrospective pre-post assessment may be considered, but its use must be justified in the text of the evaluation report.

AmeriCorps grantees recompeting for their third competitive grant cycle are required to submit an evaluation report of their AmeriCorps funded program. The AmeriCorps -required evaluation report may count towards one of the two reports allowed for the Preliminary evidence tier or may be submitted in addition to this. In the latter case, all three evaluation reports will be considered against the review criteria.

If the applicant is not required to submit an evaluation report of their AmeriCorps funded program, then more than two reports will not be considered.

Moderate evidence means the applicant has submitted up to two well-designed and well-implemented evaluation reports that evaluated the same intervention described in the application and identified evidence of effectiveness on one or more key desired outcomes of interest as depicted in the applicant's logic model. Evidence of effectiveness (or positive findings) is determined using experimental design evaluations (i.e., Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT)) or Quasi-Experimental Design evaluations (QED) with statistically matched comparison (i.e., counterfactual) and treatment groups. The ability to generalize the findings from the RCT or QED beyond the study context may be limited (e.g., single-site.) The evaluations were conducted by an independent entity external to the organization implementing the intervention.

AmeriCorps grantees recompeting for their third competitive grant cycle are required to submit an evaluation report of their AmeriCorps funded program. The AmeriCorps-required evaluation report may count towards one of the two reports allowed for the Moderate evidence tier or may be submitted in addition to this. In the latter case, all three evaluation reports will be considered against the review criteria.

If the applicant is not required to submit an evaluation report of their AmeriCorps funded program, then more than two reports will not be considered.

Strong evidence means the applicant has submitted up to two evaluation reports demonstrating that the same intervention described in the application has been tested nationally, regionally, or at the state-level (e.g., multi-site) using a well-designed and well-implemented experimental design evaluation (i.e., Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)) or a Quasi-Experimental Design evaluation (QED) with statistically matched comparison (i.e., counterfactual) and treatment groups. Alternatively, the proposed intervention's evidence may be based on multiple (up to two) well-designed and well-implemented QEDs or RCTs of the same intervention described in the application in different locations or with different populations within a local geographic area. The overall pattern of evaluation findings must be consistently positive on one or more key desired outcomes of interest as depicted in the applicant's logic model. Findings from the RCT or QED evaluations may be generalized beyond the study context. The evaluations were conducted by an independent entity external to the

organization implementing the intervention.

AmeriCorps grantees recompeting for their third competitive grant cycle are required to submit an evaluation report of their AmeriCorps funded program. The AmeriCorps required evaluation report may count towards one of the two reports allowed for the Strong evidence tier or may be submitted in addition to this. In the latter case, all three evaluation reports will be considered against the review criteria.

If the applicant is not required to submit an evaluation report of their AmeriCorps funded program, then more than two reports will not be considered.

Impact evaluation: An evaluation that provides statistical evidence of how well a program achieves its desired outcomes and what effect it has on service recipients and/or service participants compared to what would have happened in the absence of the program. Impact evaluations must be designed to provide evidence of a causal relationship between program activities and outcomes (45 C.F.R. § 2522.700). Grantees must use an experimental or quasi-experimental evaluation design (i.e., the evaluation must include a control group or a statistically matched comparison group).

Same intervention described in the application: The intervention evaluated in submitted evaluation reports must match the intervention proposed in the application 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 challenges facing the population
- Characteristics of the population delivering the intervention
- Dosage (frequency, duration) and design of the intervention, including all key components and activities
- The context in which the intervention is delivered
- Outcomes of the intervention

Evaluation reports that do not sufficiently match the intervention proposed by the applicant will not be considered applicable and will not be reviewed or receive any points.

Fixed Amount Grants: These grants provide a fixed amount of funding per AmeriCorps Volunteer Service Year (MSY) that is substantially lower than the amount required to operate the program. Organizations use their own or other resources to cover the remaining costs. Programs are not required to submit budgets or financial reports, there is no specific match requirement, and programs are not required to track and maintain documentation of match. However, AmeriCorps provides only a portion of the cost of running the program and organizations must raise the additional resources needed to run the program. Programs can access the funds, provided they recruit and retain the AmeriCorps Volunteers supported under the grant based on the MSY level awarded. Professional Corps programs applying for operational funding through a Fixed Amount grant must submit a budget in support of their request for operational funds.

- **Full-cost Fixed Amount grants:** Fixed Amount grants are available for programs that

enroll all types of AmeriCorps Volunteer slots and use their own resources to cover all other costs. Professional Corps may only have full-time AmeriCorps Volunteers. Programs can access funds under the grant based on enrolling and retaining the full complement of AmeriCorps Volunteers supported under the grant.

- **Education Award Grants (EAP) Fixed Amount grant:** Programs apply for a small fixed amount per MSY, can enroll all types of AmeriCorps Volunteer slots, and use their own resources to cover all other costs. Programs can access funds under the grant based on enrolling the full complement of AmeriCorps Volunteers supported under the grant. As with full-cost fixed amount grants, there are no specific match or financial reporting requirements for EAP fixed amount grants.

State Commissions can withhold up to 2% administrative funds from fixed price grants from single state applicants that are not competitive planning grants.

Match Waiver: Can be requested to decrease the required match amount. Please see the Match Waiver information for AmeriCorps State and National Grantees located at Manage Your Grant.

AmeriCorps Volunteer service Location: An AmeriCorps Volunteer service location is the site at which an AmeriCorps AmeriCorps Volunteer is placed to provide their service to the community.

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

National direct applicants

Multi-state: Organizations that propose to operate AmeriCorps programs in more than one state or territory apply directly to AmeriCorps.

Federally-recognized Indian Tribes: Applicants that are Native Nations apply directly to AmeriCorps (see the Eligible Applicants Section in the Notice.)

State and Territories without Commissions: Applicants in South Dakota, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands apply directly to AmeriCorps because this State and Territories have not established a State Commission.

Note: All applicants must select the correct NOFA in eGrants that corresponds to their national direct applicant status as listed above.

New Applicant: For the purposes of determining eligibility for a full cost fixed price grant, AmeriCorps defines "new applicant" as an applicant that is applying for an AmeriCorps State and National grant for the first time or is a former grantee (non-formula) whose last AmeriCorps State and National grant was received more than five years ago. Current formula grantees applying for the first time for a full cost fixed grant are not considered new applicants.

Operating Site: An operating site is the organization that manages the AmeriCorps program on behalf of the multi-state recipient of the grant from AmeriCorps. A multi-state grantee must have an operating site in each state in which it has AmeriCorps AmeriCorps Volunteers. AmeriCorps AmeriCorps Volunteers may be placed at the operating site, or an operating site

may place AmeriCorps AmeriCorps Volunteers at multiple AmeriCorps Volunteer service locations.

AmeriCorps anticipates that applicants have a carefully considered plan for their project implementation and have identified operating sites based on demonstrated community needs. AmeriCorps expects the sites proposed at the time of application to align with those involved in project implementation. However, if necessary, applicants can modify their list of operating sites during the clarification process or through an amendment to the application, if funded.

Other Revenue: funds necessary to operate an AmeriCorps program that are not AmeriCorps funds or grantee share (match) identified in the budget. Programs should not enter the total operating budget for their organization unless the entire operating budget supports the AmeriCorps program. Programs that have additional revenue sources not included in the matching funds section of the budget should provide the amount of this additional revenue that supports the program. This amount should not include the AmeriCorps or grantee share amounts in the budget. Fixed amount grantees should enter all non-AmeriCorps funds that support the program in this field. All fixed grants will have other revenue.

Planning Grants: A planning grant provides support to a grant recipient to develop an AmeriCorps program that will engage AmeriCorps AmeriCorps Volunteers in implementing evidence-based interventions to solve community problems. Grant recipients are awarded up to $240,000 for a 12-month planning period and are expected to be better prepared to compete for an AmeriCorps program grant in the following grant cycle. A planning grant may not be used to support AmeriCorps AmeriCorps Volunteers. Applicants must apply for a Cost Reimbursement grant. The project period is no more than a year, with a start date proposed by the applicant. The project start date may not occur prior to the date AmeriCorps awards the grant.

Pre-Award Cost Approval: If you have received funding for the FY 2027 program year, you are approved for pre-award costs for 90 days prior to the start of your program. For example, if your program start date is October 1, 2027, you are approved to incur program costs beginning July 1, 2027. You must maintain documentation of your pre-award cost approval. This approval supports specific cost categories. These pre-award costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the grant award.

The following is a list of pre-award costs that are approved in support of the program:

- Personnel expense and benefits
- Travel for staff
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Contractual and consultant services
- Training for staff and prospective AmeriCorps Volunteers
- Evaluation

- Other operating or support costs

Professional Corps: A Professional Corps is a program model composed of AmeriCorps AmeriCorps Volunteers serving as professionals, i.e., teachers, health care providers, police officers, engineers, attorneys, or other professionals. The programs recruit and place qualified AmeriCorps Volunteers in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals. Professional Corps applicants and/or applicants determined to be a Professional Corps by AmeriCorps must demonstrate that the community in which it will place AmeriCorps AmeriCorps Volunteers serving as professionals has an inadequate number of said professionals.

Professional Corps AmeriCorps Volunteers' salaries/compensation, including childcare, are paid entirely by the organizations with which the AmeriCorps Volunteers serve and are not included in the budget request to AmeriCorps. The living allowance or salary provided to AmeriCorps AmeriCorps Volunteers in Professional Corps programs does not count toward the matching requirement. AmeriCorps requires Professional Corps programs to cover the operating expenses associated with the AmeriCorps program through non-AmeriCorps resources. AmeriCorps will only consider operating funds of up to $1,000 per MSY if an applicant is able to demonstrate significant organizational financial need based on the materials reviewed by AmeriCorps. These grants are fixed amount grants.

Applicants may propose any authorized program type. In the case that a proposed program fits more than one program type (e.g., a program could be either a professional corps or a traditional program), AmeriCorps staff will make a determination as to program type that will be considered for funding. The determination will be based on data provided within the application and supplemental materials submitted with the application. The determination may be different from the program type proposed by the applicant.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to determine if an applicant (whether or not the applicant has applied as a Professional Corps) has sufficiently demonstrated that they cannot effectively operate an AmeriCorps program without receiving AmeriCorps operating funds. There may be specific circumstances where AmeriCorps determines that a legal applicant has not demonstrated the need for operational grant funds due to other funding resources. Where AmeriCorps due diligence review of an application shows that the applicant has a historically high level of support from non-AmeriCorps sources and as a result has levels of unrestricted funding that exceeds the requested level of AmeriCorps funding, AmeriCorps may choose to not provide operational grant funding.

Prohibited Activities: While charging time to the AmeriCorps program, accumulating service or training hours, or otherwise performing activities supported by the AmeriCorps program or AmeriCorps, staff and AmeriCorps Volunteers may not engage in the following activities (see 45 CFR § 2520.65):

1. Attempting to influence legislation
2. Organizing or engaging in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes
3. Assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing
4. Impairing existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements

5. Engaging in partisan political activities, or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to any public office
6. Participating in, or endorsing, events or activities that are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties, political platforms, political candidates, proposed legislation, or elected officials
7. Engaging in religious instruction, conducting worship services, providing instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious instruction or worship, constructing or operating facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship, maintaining facilities primarily or inherently devoted to religious instruction or worship, or engaging in any form of religious proselytization
8. Providing a direct benefit to a. a business organized for profit, b. a labor union, c. a partisan political organization, d. a nonprofit organization that fails to comply with the restrictions contained in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 related to engaging in political activities or substantial amount of lobbying except that nothing in these provisions shall be construed to prevent participants from engaging in advocacy activities undertaken at their own initiative, and e. an organization engaged in the religious activities described in paragraph C. 7. above, unless AmeriCorps assistance is not used to support those religious activities.
9. Conducting a voter registration drive or using AmeriCorps funds to conduct a voter registration drive
10. Providing abortion services or referrals for receipt of such services
11. Such other activities as AmeriCorps may prohibit.

AmeriCorps AmeriCorps Volunteers may not engage in the above activities directly or indirectly by recruiting, training, or managing others for the primary purpose of engaging in one of the activities listed above. Individuals may exercise their rights as private citizens and may participate in the activities listed above on their own initiative, on non-AmeriCorps time, and using non-AmeriCorps funds.

Retention Rate: The AmeriCorps AmeriCorps Volunteer retention rate is calculated as the number of AmeriCorps Volunteers exited with education award (full or partial award) divided by the number of AmeriCorps Volunteers enrolled.

Rural Communities: AmeriCorps uses rural-urban commuting area (RUCA) codes to classify program addresses as either rural or urban for analytic purposes. RUCA codes classify U.S. census tracts using measures of population density, urbanization, and daily commuting. Census tracts with an urban cluster population less than 50,000 are considered rural (RUCA codes 4-10). Applicants are encouraged to designate themselves as serving rural communities if some or all service locations are in rural areas as defined by RUCA codes or if the program can provide other compelling evidence that the program is rural in the narrative portion of the application. This self-designation will be considered in grant-making decisions.

For more information about RUCA codes, please visit the USDA's Rural-Urban Commuting Area Codes.

The Office of Regional Operations uses Beale Codes when assessing alternative match requirements as required by Statue (45 CFR 2521.60(c)).

Same Project: Two projects will be considered the same if they: address the same issue areas, address the same priorities, address the same objectives, serve the same target communities and population, or utilize the same sites.

Existing grantees must get approval from agency staff to be considered a new project.

If an applicant is applying for a different program model (a new project), select New. Current and previous grantees need to get approval from agency staff to be considered a new project. AmeriCorps will consider a project to be new if there is a meaningful difference between it and previous projects in a comparison of the following characteristics, among others: the objectives and priorities of the projects; the nature of the services provided; the program staff, participants, and volunteers involved; the geographic locations in which the services are provided; the populations served; and the proposed community partnerships. (§ 2522.340).

Requests to be considered a new project should include information about how the new project differs from the previous project in the characteristics noted above. The request should also include the proposed name of the new project. AmeriCorps staff will review the request to determine if the proposed project does represent a meaningful difference from the previous project or if the proposed project is an example of natural program evolution over time. If it is determined that the project is new, agency staff will create a new project in eGrants. Applicants must request new projects significantly in advance of their application deadline.

Single-State Applicants Definition for the Competitive NOFO: Single-state applicants are organizations that propose to operate in only one state; they must apply through the Governor-appointed State or Territory Commissions. Each State and Territory Commission administers its own selection process and submits to AmeriCorps the applicants it selects to compete for funding. Single-State applicants must contact their State Commissions to learn about their state or territory processes and deadlines which may be significantly earlier than the AmeriCorps deadlines and may have additional requirements. The list of State and Territory Commissions can be found on AmeriCorps website.

A single-state application submitted directly to AmeriCorps by the applicant rather than the State Commission will be considered noncompliant and will not be reviewed.

Single-State Applicants Definition for the AmeriCorps State and National Planning Grants NOFO: Single-state applicants are organizations that propose to operate in only one state; they must apply directly to AmeriCorps as a National Direct.

Slot types

Competitive and formula continuation applicants (those in program year two or three in FY 2027) may request the slot types below:

Slot type	Hours required
FT (Full-time)	1,700
TQT (Three-quarter-time)	1,200
HT (1-year half-time)	900
QT (Quarter-time)	450
MT (Minimum-time)	300

Unallowable Activities: In addition to the Prohibited Activities, the following restrictions also apply to the service of AmeriCorps AmeriCorps Volunteers:

Nonduplication: AmeriCorps assistance may not be used to duplicate an activity that is already available in the locality of a program. AmeriCorps assistance will not be provided to a private nonprofit entity to conduct activities that are the same or substantially equivalent to activities provided by a State or local government agency in which such entity resides unless the entity complies with the following "nondisplacement" requirements.

Note: In section below Corporation = AmeriCorps

Nondisplacement:

1. An employer may not displace an employee or position, including partial displacement such as reduction in hours, wages, or employment benefits, as a result of the use by such employer of a participant in a program receiving Corporation assistance.
2. An organization may not displace a volunteer by using a participant in a program receiving Corporation assistance.
3. A service opportunity will not be created under this chapter that will infringe in any manner on the promotional opportunity of an employed individual.
4. A participant in a program receiving Corporation assistance may not perform any services or duties or engage in activities that would otherwise be performed by an employee as part of the assigned duties of such employee.
5. A participant in any program receiving assistance may not perform any services or duties, or engage in activities, that—
    i. Will supplant the hiring of employed workers; or
    ii. Are services, duties, or activities with respect to which an individual has recall rights pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement or applicable personnel procedures.

1. A participant in any program receiving assistance may not perform services or duties that have been performed by or were assigned to any—

i. Presently employed worker;

ii. Employee who recently resigned or was discharged;

iii. Employee who is subject to a reduction in force or who has recall rights pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement or applicable personnel procedures;

iv. Employee who is on leave (terminal, temporary, vacation, emergency, or sick); or

v. Employee who is on strike or who is being locked out.