



## Spring 2026 West Virginia AmeriCorps Formula Notice of Funding Opportunity

Volunteer West Virginia announces a funding opportunity through AmeriCorps State Formula grants for eligible applicants. Potential applicants will apply to operate an AmeriCorps program solely in West Virginia utilizing at least 5 AmeriCorps members beginning in Fall 2026 or Spring 2027.

**Federal Agency Name:** AmeriCorps  
**Funding Opportunity Title:** Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 AmeriCorps State and National Grants  
**Assistance Listing Number:** 94.006

**Disclosure:** Publication of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) does not obligate AmeriCorps or Volunteer West Virginia to award any specific number of grants or to commit any amount of funding. The actual amount, timing, and process of grant funding will be subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

Any award made under this Notice may be terminated by the agency if it no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities. AmeriCorps and Volunteer West Virginia publish this NOFO solely for the aforementioned purpose and does not consider this NOFO to meet the definition of a rule requiring publication or notice under Congressional Review Act (CRA) as codified at 5 U.S.C. §§801- 808, and any subsequent notification provided to Congress does not constitute waiver of this position.

### Important Dates

- Intent to Apply due by email to [AmeriCorps@wv.gov](mailto:AmeriCorps@wv.gov) by 5:00 pm, April 6, 2026 for all NEW applicants
- Applications are due in eGrants and any additional documents are due by email no later than **May 6, 2026**, by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
- Successful applicants will be notified **late June 2026**.
- Successful applicants will be issued awards **mid-August 2026**.

### Important Documents Available on Volunteer West Virginia [Website](#)

- i. Application Instructions
- ii. Mandatory Supplemental Guidance
- iii. Performance Measures Instructions
- iv. Budget Worksheet
- v. OFMS PDF
- vi. Evaluation FAQ

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**Training and Technical Assistance:** Volunteer West Virginia encourages applicants to watch our application development webinars that are available to all applicants through On3Learn, a vendor experienced with developing AmeriCorps programs. To request access to the webinar series, send an email to [americorps@wv.gov](mailto:americorps@wv.gov).

Any other questions in regard to this NOFO should be submitted to [americorps@wv.gov](mailto:americorps@wv.gov). Questions will be answered in a timely fashion by Volunteer West Virginia staff.

### CHANGES FROM THE FY25 NOFO

#### **NOFO Priorities**

- Organizations that are faith based added as funding priority
- Added a public safety, crime prevention and partnerships priority
- Added a strengthening families priority
- Added an expanding outdoor recreation for future generations priority

#### **Members**

- New threshold requirement of a minimum of 20 AmeriCorps members per application for new and recomplete **competitive** applicants.
  - **This threshold does not apply to Native Nations or formula applicants**
  - Does not apply to FY 2026 continuation competitive applicant in Year 2 or 3

#### **Slot Types**

- Streamlined available slot types from seven to five (removing reduced half time and abbreviated time)

#### **FY26 New & Recomplete Competitive & Formula Applicants**

Slot Types	Minimum # of Hours
Full-time	1,700
Three Quarter-time	1,200
Half-time	900
Quarter-time	450
Minimum-time	300

#### **FY26 Competitive & Formula Continuation Applicants**

Slot Types	Minimum # of Hours
Full-time	1,700
Three Quarter-time	1,200
Half-time	900
Reduced Half-time	675
Quarter-time	450
Minimum-time	300
Abbreviated-time	100

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### **Performance Measures**

- Continuation applications must revise performance measures to conform to the updated instructions
- All program designs must be evidence based or evidence informed
- If using Applicant Determined measures, be sure to follow instructions, as the guidance has changed.

### **Budget**

- Do not include carry forward funds in your Continuation application budget
- Continuations may apply for expansions in dollars, MSY and/or members.
- Applicants are approved for pre-award costs for one month prior to the start of their program

### **Other**

- Changes to Selection Criteria point values for Community and Logic Model, Notice Priority, and Member Supervision.
- Disclosure: Any award made under this Notice may be terminated by the agency if it no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities.
- Disclosure: AmeriCorps reserves the right to award applications in an amount less than the requested level of funding
- All additional documents are submitted by Volunteer West Virginia, NOT the subapplicants

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## FULL TEXT OF THE NOTICE

### A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

#### A.1. Purpose of AmeriCorps State and National Funding

AmeriCorps 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 serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities and those serving.

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations that engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities. An AmeriCorps member is a person who does community service through AmeriCorps. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits. After successful completion of their service, members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award they can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

#### A.2. Funding Priorities

For this funding opportunity, AmeriCorps and Volunteer West Virginia will prioritize consideration from organizations that:

Faith-Based:

- **Organizations that are faith-based.**

Serve Communities:

- **Serve communities with concentrated poverty**, rural communities, and tribal communities.
- Implement programs for or **expand access to high-quality youth mental health and substance use recovery services** and prepare AmeriCorps members to enter behavioral health careers. These may include individuals who have experienced substance use and mental health challenges.
- **Focus on improving quality of life for veterans, active-duty members of the Armed Forces, and their families** through models that provide effective interventions or services or that are designed to recruit veterans, military spouses, and their older children into national service, e.g., veterans serving in mentorship roles.
- **Focus on public safety, crime prevention, and/or partnerships between law enforcement and the community.**
- **Focus on expanding outdoor recreation opportunities for future generations** by maintaining public lands; supporting wildland fire mitigation and sustainable forest management; and providing reforestation services.

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- **Create workforce pathways for AmeriCorps members**, including deliberate training, such as pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship opportunities, certifications, and hiring preferences or support;
- **Focus on strengthening families**, e.g., activities that aim to support low-income parents through parenting education, responsible parenting and healthy relationship skills.

Benefit AmeriCorps Members:

- **Enhanced member experience** by providing opportunities for skill attainment, personal growth and connection to the community they are serving in support of a lifetime of civic participation.
- **Enhance and expand services to formerly incarcerated and at-risk youth** and/or engage those youth as AmeriCorps members.

Use Evidence:

- Utilize reports from the [AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange](#) on programs assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence to scale, replicate, or adapt the intervention.

To receive priority consideration, applicants must show the priority area is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes. Priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

### **A.3. Performance Goals or Expected Outcomes**

#### **National Performance Measures**

All applications must include at least one aligned performance measure, output and outcome, that corresponds to the proposed primary intervention. This may be a National Performance Measure or an applicant-determined measure. For more information, refer to the [National Performance Measure 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.](#)

## **B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION**

### **B.1. Estimated Available Funds**

Volunteer West Virginia expects a highly competitive AmeriCorps grant competition. Volunteer West Virginia reserves the right to prioritize providing funding to existing awards over making new awards.

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**B.2. Estimated Award Amount**

Award amounts will be different depending on the scope of the projects. Formula awards are unlikely to exceed \$500,000 due to funding constraints.

**B.3. Period of Performance**

Volunteer West Virginia plans to make three-year grant awards. Volunteer West Virginia generally makes an initial award for the first year of the period of performance, based on a one-year budget. Continuation awards for subsequent years are not guaranteed; they depend upon availability of appropriations and satisfactory performance.

The project start date may not occur prior to the date AmeriCorps awards the grant. AmeriCorps applicants may not enroll prior to the start date of the award. AmeriCorps applicants may not begin service prior to the beginning of the member enrollment period as designated in the grant award. A program may not certify any service hours an applicant performs prior to the applicant becoming a member in the system of record and the beginning of the member enrollment period.

**B.4. Type of Award**

AmeriCorps Operating Grants: Volunteer West Virginia may award a Cost Reimbursement or a Fixed Amount grant to any successful applicant, but the availability of a Full-Cost Fixed-Amount grant is limited to certain applicants. Use the *C.1 Eligible Applicants* section and the *Mandatory Supplemental Information* for more information, including definitions of terminology (also available on the Volunteer West Virginia [website](#)).

Grant Types	Cost Reimbursement	Fixed Amount			
Available Subtypes	Traditional	Full-Cost	Education Award Program, EAP	Professional Corps***	No Cost Slots
Maximum Cost per MSY*	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$800 or \$1,000***	\$1,000	\$0
Type of Slots in the National Service Trust	All slot types	All slot types	All slot types	FT Only	All slot types
Matching Funds Required	Yes	No			
Budget Submission Required	Yes	No			

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<b>Availability of Funds Linked to Enrollment / Retention of Awarded MSYs</b>	No	Yes		No
<b>Special Requirements</b>	N/A	N/A	Must place qualified professionals in communities with an inadequate # of such professionals. Member salaries / benefits must be paid entirely by organization where member serves	N/A
<b>Financial Reporting Requirements</b>	Yes	No		
<b>Available to New Applications</b>	Yes	No	Yes	

\* Member Service Year (MSY): One MSY is equivalent to a full-time AmeriCorps position, at least 1,700 service hours. Multiple positions at less than full-time can be combined to equal one MSY.

\*\* For the Education Award Program, AmeriCorps may provide a maximum of \$800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position. If at least 50 percent of a program’s enrollees are disadvantaged youth, AmeriCorps may provide \$1,000 per enrollee, [42 U.S.C. § 12581a](#).

\*\*\*Use Mandatory Supplemental Information (MSI) for further requirements

### **B.5. Cost Sharing or Matching**

#### **Fixed Amount Grants**

There is no match requirement for Fixed Amount grants. AmeriCorps does not provide all the funds necessary to operate the program, therefore organizations should raise the additional revenue required to operate the program. Volunteer West Virginia recommends that low-risk programs consider these options as it reduces administrative burden. New applicants are not eligible for Fixed Amount grants.

#### **Cost Reimbursement Grants**

Applicants are required to match funds based on the chart below. The applicant’s match can be non-AmeriCorps cash and/or in-kind contributions. Applicants must indicate whether the match is proposed or secured. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to meet the match requirement at the time of application submission. See Section *D.6. Funding Restrictions* for more information.

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A first-time successful applicant is required to match at 24 percent for the first three-year funding period. Starting with year four, the match requirement gradually increases every year to 50 percent by year ten, according to the minimum overall share chart found in 45 CFR 2521.60 and below

Law requires that grantees that use other federal funds as matching funds for an AmeriCorps grant to report those amounts and sources to AmeriCorps on a Federal Financial Report. Grantees must track and be prepared to report on that match separately each year and at closeout. .

AmeriCorps Funding Year	Years 1, 2, and 3	Years 4, 5, and 6	Years 7, 8, and 9	Years 10 +
Grantee Share Requirements	24%	26%	28%	30%

### Match Waiver

Please use the Match Waiver information for AmeriCorps State and National Grantees located on the AmeriCorps.gov [Manage Your Grant](#) webpage. AmeriCorps encourages Tribal Nations to request match waivers to reduce barriers. Every effort will be made to reduce the match requirements to improve accessibility to funding.

### Fixed Amount Grants

There is no cost share or matching requirement for Fixed Amount grants. AmeriCorps does not provide all the funds necessary to operate the program. Organizations should raise the funds needed to operate the program.

## C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

### C.1. Eligible Applicants

The following non-Federal organizations are eligible to apply:

- Indian Tribes;
- institutions of higher education;
- local governments, including school districts;
- nonprofit organizations;
- State Service Commissions (submit sub-applicants but not operate programs); and
- states and US Territories.

In addition to Indian Tribes as defined in [2 CFR 200.1](#), Tribal organizations that are controlled, authorized, or chartered by Federally recognized Indian Tribes are also eligible to apply. If an entity applies for an award as a tribal organization that is controlled or chartered by one or more Indian Tribes [and the organization does not meet any of the other applicant eligibility

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types], the organization must provide copies or links to documentation which demonstrates that the organization is controlled or chartered by a federally recognized Indian Tribe. If an entity applies as an organization authorized by a federally recognized Tribe, or multiple specific federally recognized tribes, it must submit a resolution or other authorization adopted by the Tribal Council (or comparable tribal governing body) of each Indian Tribe. The authorization(s) must identify the entity applying for an AmeriCorps award by name as a tribal organization that is authorized by the Indian Tribe(s) for the purpose of applying for AmeriCorps funding (or federal grant funds generally).

*Applicants must have a [valid SAM registration and Unique Entity Identifier](#) to receive an award.*

**New Applicants:** AmeriCorps encourages organizations that have not received funding from AmeriCorps before to apply, e.g., small community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, etc.

New applicants can apply for Cost Reimbursement, Education Award Program (EAP), and Professional Corps grants but cannot apply for Full Cost Fixed Amount grants.

## **Types of Applicants**

### **1. State and Territory Service Commissions, for Single-State Applicants**

Organizations that plan to operate in only one state must apply through the state or territory commissions. Each Commission has its own state-based selection process and submits applications to compete for funding directly to AmeriCorps. The list of Commissions can be found on the [AmeriCorps State Service Commissions' webpage](#).

### **2. National Direct Applicants**

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

*States and Territories without State Service 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 they do not have an established Commission.

*Federally recognized Indian Tribes:* Applicants that are Indian Tribes apply directly to AmeriCorps.

In addition to Indian Tribes, as defined in [2 CFR 200.1](#), tribal organizations that are controlled, authorized, or chartered by Federally recognized Indian Tribes are also eligible to apply directly to AmeriCorps.

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Federally recognized Indian Tribes will also be eligible to apply for operating or planning grants under a separate Notice of Funding Opportunity for Indian Tribes at the [AmeriCorps.gov Funding Opportunities webpage](https://www.americorps.gov/funding-opportunities) with an application deadline in the spring.

### **Threshold Issues**

Specific types of applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Professional Corps must show that the community where it will place AmeriCorps members has a shortage of professionals in the relevant area, e.g., teachers, medical professionals, etc.
- If service activities require special member qualifications and/or training, such as [tutoring programs](#), the applicant must describe how these requirements will be met.
- All applicants must propose program designs that are either evidence-based or evidence-informed (See section E.1.b (2) Evidence Base). Applicants rated as insufficient evidence are removed from funding consideration. Insufficient evidence is determined by:
  - An applicant being assessed as in the pre-preliminary evidence tier AND
  - providing inadequate responses to the Evidence Quality review standards below.
- If the proposed service activities require specialized member qualifications and/or training (for example, tutoring programs: 45 CFR 2522.910-.940), the applicant must describe how the program will meet these requirements.
- All applicants must plan to place at least 5 AmeriCorps members solely in West Virginia.

### **C.2. Other Eligibility Requirements**

Even if an organization is otherwise eligible under C.1, an organization is not eligible if:

- It has violated a federal criminal statute.
- It proposes activities that are not allowed under AmeriCorps' laws, rules, or terms and conditions.
- It has any unpaid federal taxes that are not being paid through an agreement with the relevant tax authority. However, this does not apply if a federal agency decided that a suspension or debarment for the corporation is not necessary.
- It is described in the [Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. §501 \(c\)\(4\)](#) and lobbies

## **D. Application and Submission Information**

This Notice should be read together with the [AmeriCorps regulations](#), [Application Instructions](#), [Performance Measure Instructions](#), and [Mandatory Supplemental Information, 45 CFR 2520 – 2550](#).

All information from this funding opportunity is available on the [Volunteer WV webpage](#).

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## **D.1. Content and Form of Application Submission**

### **D.1.a. Application Content**

Complete applications must include the following elements:

- Standard Form 424 FACE Sheet: Automatically generated when applicants complete the data elements in eGrants..
- Narrative Sections:
  - Executive Summary;
  - Program Design;
  - Organizational Capability;
  - Cost-Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy; and
  - Evaluation Summary/Plan.
- Performance Measures.
- Logic Model.
- Standard Form 424A Budget.
- Continuation Changes.
- Clarification.
- Authorization, [Assurances](#), and [Certifications](#).

### **D.1.b. Page Limits**

Page counts are determined by the number of pages that print out from the grant system.

**AmeriCorps strongly encourages applicants to print out the application from the grant system prior to submission to confirm that the application does not exceed the page limit.**

- Narratives
  - Applications must not exceed 11 double-spaced pages for the Narrative.
  - The application sections that count towards the page limit include:
    - SF-424 FACE Sheet;
    - Executive Summary;
    - Program Design, Organizational Capability, and Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy narratives.
  - The application page limit does not include:
    - Evaluation Summary/Plan;
    - Clarification Summary;
    - Continuation Changes;
    - Budget, Performance Measures; and
    - Any required additional documents.
- Logic Model
  - The Logic Model may not exceed eight pages when printed with the application from the “Review” tab in AmeriCorps’ web-based management system.

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Please note that the length of the application as a word processing document may differ from the length of the document printed out from eGrants. The character limits in eGrants do not align with page limits set in the NOFO. **Volunteer West Virginia strongly encourages applicants to print out the application from the “Review and Submit” tab in eGrants prior to submission to confirm that the application does not exceed the page limit**

## **D.2. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)**

All applicants **must** [register with the System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#) and maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete. If an applicant is awarded a grant, it must maintain an active SAM registration throughout the life of the award. Use the [SAM Quick Guide for Grantees for more information](#).

Volunteer West Virginia suggests that applicants finalize a new registration or renew an existing one at least three weeks before the application deadline, to allow time to resolve any issues that may arise. **Applicants must use their SAM-registered legal name and physical address on all grant applications to AmeriCorps. The legal applicant’s name and physical address in the grant system must match exactly the applicant’s SAM-registered information.**

Applications must include a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), which is generated as part of the SAM registration process. AmeriCorps will not make awards to entities that do not have a valid SAM registration and UEI.

Applications must include an Employer Identification Number (EIN). The UEI and EIN must be entered by the organization’s Grantee Administrator as an organization attribute, and this will apply the information to all applications for the organization.

## **D.3. Submission Dates and Times**

### **D.3.a. Application Submission Deadline**

- Applications are due no later than **May 6, 2026**, by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

### **D.3.b. Additional Documents Deadline**

Additional documents are due by **May 6, 2026** at 5:00 pm EST via email to [americorps@wv.gov](mailto:americorps@wv.gov).

### **D.3.c. Late Applications**

Volunteer West Virginia will not consider applications submitted after the deadline unless a significant issue occurs, and express permission is granted by Volunteer West Virginia in advance of the deadline to submit.

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**D.4. Intergovernmental Review**

This Notice is not subject to [Executive Order 12372](#), *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*.

**D.5. Funding Restrictions**

**D.5.a. Award Funding Requirements**

**1. Member Living Allowance**

A living allowance is not considered a salary or a wage. Volunteer West Virginia requires programs to provide a living allowance to all members unless they have an approved EAP program (see below). Programs must follow the limits in the table below. Organizations applying for Cost Reimbursement grants must include the living allowance in the budget, either as AmeriCorps share or match.

Fixed Amount grant applicants must give members a living allowance that follows the minimum and maximum amounts in the chart below and should indicate that amount in the application.

**Table1: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance for FY 2026 New and Recompete Competitive and Formula Applicants**

Slot Types	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1,700	\$20,400	\$40,800
Three Quarter-time	1,200	n/a	\$28,560
Half-time	900	n/a	\$20,400
Quarter-time	450	n/a	\$10,608
Minimum-time	300	n/a	\$8,568

**Table2: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance for FY 2026 Competitive and Formula Continuation Applicants in Year 2 or Year 3 of Funding**

Slot Types	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1,700	\$20,400	\$40,800
Three Quarter-time	1,200	n/a	\$28,560
Half-time	900	n/a	\$20,400
Reduced Half-time	675	n/a	\$15,504
Quarter-time	450	n/a	\$10,608
Minimum-time	300	n/a	\$8,568
Abbreviated-time	100	n/a	\$2,448

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**Exceptions to the Living Allowance Requirements**

**a. Programs existing prior to September 21, 1993**, do not have to offer a living allowance. If an organization chooses to offer a living allowance, it does not have to pay its members the minimum but cannot exceed the maximum.

**b. Education Award Program (EAP) Grantees** are not required to provide a living allowance. If an organization chooses to offer a living allowance, it does not have to pay its members the minimum but cannot exceed the maximum.

**c. Professional Corps Grantees** must provide members a living allowance or salary. Organizations must pay members the minimum and can exceed the maximum. Professional Corps member salaries and benefits including childcare cannot be included in the federal share budget request to AmeriCorps.

**2. Maximum Cost per Member Service Year**

The AmeriCorps cost per MSY is determined by dividing the AmeriCorps share of budgeted grant costs by the number of MSYs requested. It does not include childcare or the value of the education award a member may earn.

AmeriCorps is keeping the maximum cost per MSY at the same amount as FY 2025 as a safeguard to ensure the number of members serving remains the same or grows.

*Table3: Maximum Cost per MSY*

Grant Program	Maximum
Individual Competitive State/Territory Program (cost reimbursement)	\$25,000
Multi-state competitive (cost reimbursement)	\$25,000
Professional Corps competitive Fixed Amount Applicants/Grantees	\$1,000*
Full-cost competitive Fixed Amount Grant	\$25,000
Education Award Program (EAP) Fixed Amount Grant (competitive and formula)	\$800 or \$1,000**
All non-EAP formula subgrants	\$25,200***

\*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 show significant organizational financial need.

\*\* For the Education Award Program, AmeriCorps may provide a maximum of \$800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position. If at least 50 percent of a program’s

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enrollees are disadvantaged youth, AmeriCorps may provide \$1,000 per enrollee, [42 U.S.C. § 12581a](#).

\*\*\*\$18,000 adjusted for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (As of September 2025 CPI was 0.3).

AmeriCorps may: 1) treat an applicant as a Professional Corps if they meet the legal requirements for a Professional Corps (even if they did not submit a Professional Corps application); and 2) decide not to provide a grant to an organization that it determines cannot operate effectively without AmeriCorps operating funds.

### **3. Costs Associated with Evidence Building Activities e.g. performance data collection and management, foundational research, program evaluation, etc.**

As noted in [2 CFR § 200.455](#), costs associated with evidence building activities are allowable expenses or match under AmeriCorps grants. This includes costs related to performance data collection and management, foundational research, program evaluation, and related activities.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to award applications in an amount less than the requested level of funding.

### **4. Segal AmeriCorps Education Award**

AmeriCorps members who successfully complete a term of service will be eligible for an Education Award 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. AmeriCorps will provide the updated Education Award amounts at the time of grant award.

### **D.5.b. Indirect Costs**

Application budgets may include indirect costs. Based on qualifying factors, applicants may use a Federally approved indirect cost rate if they have one and if not, may use either –

- vii. the AmeriCorps-Fixed Percentage method (five/ten percent fixed administrative cost option) outlined in AmeriCorps' [Indirect Cost Guidance](#);
- viii. a 15 percent *de minimis* rate of modified total direct costs; or
- ix. [may claim certain costs directly](#).

All methods must be applied consistently across all Federal awards. No more than five percent of award funds may be used to recover indirect costs on AmeriCorps State and National grants under section 121(d) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended and AmeriCorps' regulations at [45 CFR 2521.95](#) and [2540.110](#)."

Use the [eGrants Indirect Cost Rate \(IDCR\) User Instructions](#) to enter the organization's Federal negotiated indirect cost rate or the *de minimis* rate information. Applicants should also submit IDCR information via email to [AmeriCorps@wv.gov](mailto:AmeriCorps@wv.gov) with additional documents. .

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**Please note:** To request a federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, when AmeriCorps is the applicable cognizant agency for an organization's indirect costs, the applicant must submit a request to [IndirectCostRate@americorps.gov](mailto:IndirectCostRate@americorps.gov). The applicant may also obtain instructions and additional information by contacting the email address above.

### **D.5.c. Pre-Award Costs**

Pre-award costs, where authorized, are allowed after receiving written approval from Volunteer West Virginia.

## **D.6. Other Submission Requirements**

### **D.6.a. Electronic Application Submission**

Applicants must submit applications electronically via Egrants, AmeriCorps' web-based application system.

The applicant's authorized representative must be the person who submits the application. The authorized representative must use their own account to sign and submit the application.

Applicants should contact the [AmeriCorps Hotline](#) at (800) 942-2677 if they have a problem when they create an account, prepare, or submit the application. Information about the AmeriCorps Hotline hours are also posted on the [AmeriCorps Hotline webpage](#).

When contacting the AmeriCorps Hotline, be prepared to provide the application ID, organization name, and the name of the Notice to which the organization is applying. If the issue cannot be fixed by the deadline, applicants must continue working with the AmeriCorps Hotline to submit via the grant system.

### **D.6.b. Submission of Additional Documents**

Your application might not receive funding if you do not upload your documents by the application deadline or do not correctly label your documents.

Additional documents for all applicants:

- Evaluation briefs, reports, studies. Please refer to the *Evidence Base* section and Mandatory Supplemental Information for detailed instructions by evidence tier. If multiple evaluation briefs/reports/studies are submitted by the applicant, the most recent (as measured by the date of completion or publication) will be reviewed first, and any documents submitted beyond the allowable number will not be reviewed.
- Most recent single audit for organizations expending more than \$750,000 in federal funds annually or audited financial statements if the organization expends less than \$750,000 in federal funds annually.
- Cost Allocation Plan (if applicable).

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- Explanation of how in-kind is documented (if match funding sources includes in-kind).
- Labor union concurrence (if applicable).

New and Recompeting Applicants only:

1. Operational and Financial Management Survey (form available on Volunteer West Virginia Website)

If any of this required information is missing, the applicant may not receive credit for meeting their evaluation requirements.

**Guidance for submitting additional documents:**

- All documents must be emailed to [AmeriCorps@wv.gov](mailto:AmeriCorps@wv.gov) with the following subject line: "Legal Applicant Name"- "Application ID Number". Emails should include:
  - Legal applicant name and its point of contact information.
  - Application ID number.
  - List of documents that are attached to the email by filename, labeling each document type according to the above numbered list.
  - Individually attached files that are clearly labeled, and that include the legal applicant name and application ID number within the file name and heading of each document

To ensure that all required additional documents are considered, please provide each document as a separate single file, labeled appropriately. Please do not send multiple documents in one combined file, and do not send a single document in multiple files.

The email size limit is 35 MB. This limit is inclusive of all attachments associated with each email. Emails that are larger than 35 MB will not be received or reviewed. If the size of an applicant's files requires multiple emails, please also include an ordering system in the subject line, such as "(1 of 3)".

Applicants must enter into the web-based application submission system the quantity of each document type that was emailed. After the application deadline, all applicants that have a difference between the number of documents emailed and the number of documents reported in the web-based system will receive an email. This email will request proof that the missing documents were emailed on time to the correct email address. If applicants do not reply to this email, then their evidence documents might not be reviewed.

***Do not submit any items that are not requested in this Notice or Application Instructions. AmeriCorps and Volunteer West Virginia will not review or return them.***

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## E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

### E.1. Selection Criteria

Each applicant must describe a project that will use AmeriCorps members effectively to solve a significant community problem.

Applications must have a well-designed plan with clear justification for the requested funds. Reviewers will assess the quality of applications by using the selection criteria described below and will rate them accordingly.

Prior to issuance, and annually thereafter, awards will be subject to review by one or more AmeriCorps senior officials, or their designees, according to the process described in [Executive Order 14332, "Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking."](#)

Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

Categories/Subcategories	Percentage
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Program Design</b>	<b>50</b>
• <b>Community and Logic Model</b>	20
• <b>Evidence Tier</b>	12
• <b>Evidence Quality</b>	8
• <b>Notice Priority</b>	4
• <b>Member Experience</b>	6
<b>Organizational Capability</b>	<b>25</b>
• <b>Organizational Background and Staffing</b>	15
• <b>Member Supervision</b>	10
<b>Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy</b>	<b>25</b>
• <b>Member Recruitment</b>	8
• <b>Member Retention</b>	9
• <b>Data Collection</b>	8

#### E.1.a. Executive Summary, 0 percent:

Please fill in the blanks of these sentences to complete the Executive Summary. There are two options for the second paragraph; please choose the appropriate language for your application. Do not deviate from this template:

“The [Name of the organization] will have [Number of] AmeriCorps members in [the locations the AmeriCorps members will serve, e.g. – City, State or State(s)]. AmeriCorps members will [service activities the members will do]. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps

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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].

Cost Reimbursement grant applicants:

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.”

Fixed amount grant applicants e.g., EAP, Full-Cost Fixed, No Cost Slots:

In addition to the AmeriCorps investment, \$[amount of local, state, and Federal Funds] in public funding and \$[amount of non-governmental funds] in private funding will support the project.”

**E.1.b. Program Design, 50 percent:**

**1. Community and Logic Model, 20 points**

- The applicant will provide a detailed summary of the community problem, and an explanation of how the applicant’s intervention(s) will lead to the outcomes identified in the Logic Model.

The applicant must describe in the Logic Model

- ☐ 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.
  - Setting and community condition where the intervention is delivered.
  - Number of AmeriCorps members who will deliver the intervention.
  - Characteristics of AmeriCorps members, including specific knowledge, skills, and abilities required to implement the intervention.
- ☐ The core activities that members will deliver as part of the intervention including:
  - Length of each activity (e.g., the total number of weeks, sessions, or months of the intervention).
  - Dosage of each activity (e.g., the number of hours per session or sessions per week).
  - 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). If applicable, identify which [National Performance Measures](#) will be used as output indicators.
- ☐ Outcomes that result from the intervention, including meaningful changes in knowledge/skill, attitude, behavior, or condition. If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as outcome indicators.

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Programs should include short, medium, or long-term outcomes. Applicants are not required to measure all components of their Logic Model. The applicant's performance measures should be consistent with the program's Logic Model and should represent significant program activities.

Applicants with multiple interventions should include the above information for each intervention in the logic model.

## **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. Second, the quality of the applicant's evidence, how the evidence aligns with funding priorities ([A.2 Funding Priorities section](#)), and how the evidence supports the proposed program.

### *Evidence Tier, 12 points*

Each applicant will receive an evidence tier assessment. This is based on the relative strength of the applicant's evidence base and the likelihood that the proposed intervention will lead to the outcomes identified in the Logic Model narrative.

AmeriCorps values and funds programs at all points along the evidence continuum and expects programs to progress along the evidence continuum over time. Thus, **applicants should not be deterred from applying for funding due to their current evidence level.**

In 2025, the evidence tiers of competing applicants recommended for AmeriCorps State and National funding were as follows: 57% Strong, 11% Moderate, 25% Preliminary, 7% Pre-Preliminary.

To qualify for the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tier, applicants may submit up to two evidence documents, plus the evaluation report from their last three-year grant cycle, if applicable. If multiple evidence documents are submitted by the applicant, the most recent – as measured by the date of completion or publication– will be reviewed first, and any documents submitted beyond the allowable number will not be reviewed.

The intervention evaluated in the submitted evidence documents must match the intervention proposed by the applicant in the Community and Logic Model sections of the application. (Use the [Mandatory Supplemental Information](#) for a definition of the same intervention). Applicants must meet all requirements of an evidence tier to be considered for that tier.

Submitted evidence documents that do not sufficiently match the intervention will not be reviewed or receive any points.

In the Evidence Tier section of the application narrative, applicants must:

- Summarize the study design and key findings of the evidence documents submitted, plus, if applicable, the evaluation report from their last three-year grant cycle; and

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- Describe any other evidence that supports their program, including past performance measure data and/or other research studies that inform their program design.

Applicants should provide citations for the studies they describe.

#### Evidence Quality, 8 points

Reviewers will score the quality of an applicant's evidence and the extent to which it supports the proposed program design.

Standards for scoring in the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tiers:

Submitted evidence documents:

- 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.;
- Describe evaluations that were conducted relatively recently, preferably within the last six years; and
- Show a meaningful and significant positive effect on program beneficiaries or AmeriCorps members in at least one key outcome of interest.

Standards for scoring in the Pre-Preliminary evidence tier:

- 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; and
- The evidence described by the applicant indicates a meaningful positive effect on program beneficiaries or AmeriCorps members in at least one key outcome of interest.

### **3. Notice Priority, 4 points**

- Describe whether one or more of the AmeriCorps funding priorities is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes. Refer to A.2. for list of Funding Priorities.

### **4. Member Experience, 6 points**

- Describe how AmeriCorps members will be provided opportunities for skill attainment, personal growth and connection to the community they are serving in support of a lifetime of civic participation.

## **E.1.c. Organizational Capability, 25 percent:**

### **1. Organizational Background and Staffing, 15 points**

- Describe the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the staff that will implement and provide oversight of the program, including but not limited to demonstrating the organization has sufficient policies, procedures, and controls to effectively implement a federal grant.

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## 2. Member Supervision, 10 points

- Describe how AmeriCorps members will receive sufficient guidance and support from their supervisor to provide effective service. That could include but is not limited to structure for member supervision: cadence and format of supervisor/member check-ins, member and supervisor opportunities to assess strengths and opportunities for growth, member training plan, etc.

### E.1.d. Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy, 25 percent:

#### 1. Member Recruitment, 8 points

- Provide a description of budget expenses to support recruitment of AmeriCorps members best suited to serve the community.

#### 2. Member Retention, 9 points

- Provide a description of budget expenses to support retention of AmeriCorps members. E.g., additional member benefits such as paying above the minimum living allowance, supporting workforce pathways, certifications, coaching for members, resume building, individual benefit as well as community building, network building, member recognition, alumni programming, etc.

#### 3. Data Collection, 8 points

- Provide a description of budget expenses that support data collection and evaluation, including the process for collecting and maintaining high-quality performance data from your organization and community partners, how data will be analyzed, and how this will ensure timely and accurate reporting to AmeriCorps.

### E.1.e. Evaluation Plan Summary, 0 percent:

- **Required for recompeting applicants:**

If the applicant has previously received three or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed, the applicant must submit an [evaluation plan summary template \(which includes Alternative Evaluation Approach request if applicable\)](#) Refer to [Additional Documents](#) for instructions for submitting the evaluation plan.

Applicants must use the [evaluation plan](#) summary template found on the Notice webpage to craft their evaluation plans. The evaluation plan will not be scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions have been made.

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

### E. 1. f. Amendment Justification, 0 percent:

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

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### **E.1.g. Clarification Information, 0 percent:**

Enter N/A. This field will be utilized should an applicant be funded.

### **E.1.h. Continuation Changes, 0 percent:**

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

## **E.2. Review and Selection Process**

AmeriCorps will engage reviewers with relevant expertise to assess the eligible applications. The determinations made by AmeriCorps reviewers may be different from what the applicant self-determined upon submission of its application. The stages of the review and selection process follow:

### **E.2.a. Initial Application Compliance and Eligibility Review**

Volunteer West Virginia will do an initial compliance and eligibility check before reviewing applications. To pass this check, applicants must:

- Be an eligible organization,
- Be placing members solely in West Virginia,
- Have an active SAM registration, and
- Submit an application by the submission deadline.

Eligibility assessment is intended to ensure that only those applications that are eligible for award are reviewed. However, determinations of eligibility can take place at any point during the application review and selection process. Applicants that are determined to be ineligible will not receive an award.

### **E.2.b. Application Review**

#### **External Review**

External reviewers will review and assess the evidence criteria in the NOFO. Volunteer West Virginia will recruit and select reviewers with demonstrated expertise. All external reviewers will be screened for conflicts of interest.

#### **Internal Review**

Volunteer West Virginia staff will evaluate the applications using the application review criteria and assess the priorities and strategic considerations detailed in the NOFO.

#### **Post-Review Quality Control**

AmeriCorps staff will review the initial results for fairness and consistency. Some applications may be selected for a Post-Review Quality Control assessment.

### **E.2.c. Pre-Award Risk Assessment**

Volunteer West Virginia staff will evaluate the risks to the program posed by each applicant to assess an applicant's ability to manage federal funds. This evaluation is in addition to

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assessments of the applicant's eligibility and the quality of its application based on the Selection Criteria. Results from this evaluation will inform funding decisions. If Volunteer West Virginia determines that an award will be made to an applicant with assessed risks, special conditions that correspond to the degree of assessed risk may be applied to the award. Additionally, if Volunteer West Virginia concludes that the reasons for applicants having poor risk assessment are not likely to be mitigated, those applications may not be selected for funding. In evaluating risks, Volunteer West Virginia and/or AmeriCorps may consider the following criteria:

1. Due Diligence, including:
  - Federal debt delinquency;
  - Suspension and debarment;
  - Information available through Office of Management and Budget (OMB)- designated sources of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as:
    - [U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services](#);
    - [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#); and
    - *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](#); and
  - Public Litigation Records.
2. Operational and Financial Management, including:
  - Financial stability; and
  - Operational and Financial Management Survey (OFMS)
3. Past Performance, including:
  - Applicant's record in managing previous AmeriCorps awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:
    - Timely compliance with applicable reporting requirements;
    - Accuracy of data reported;
    - Validity of performance measure data reported;
    - Conformity to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards;
    - Ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients;
    - Timely closeout of other awards;
    - Meeting matching requirements;
    - Extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards; and
    - Meeting [National Service Criminal History Check \(NSCHC\) compliance](#).

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4. Other Programmatic Risks, Financial, Organizational, Compliance, and Fraud including:
  - Publicly available information, including from the applicant organization's website;
  - Amount of funding requested by the organization; and
  - Other elements, such as keyword searches for prohibited activities.

#### **E.2.d. Consideration of Integrity and Performance System Information**

Before making any award that exceeds \$250,000, AmeriCorps must consider information about the applicant from the designated integrity and performance system accessible through [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov).

Any applicant may comment upon information previously entered by another Federal agency in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov).

AmeriCorps may consider applicant comments when completing its review of risk. AmeriCorps may also consider other information about any applicant receiving an award, including those under \$250,000.

#### **E.2.e. Selection for Funding**

The review and selection process are designed to:

- Identify how well eligible applications are aligned with the [application selection criteria](#).
- Build a diversified portfolio based on the following strategic considerations:
  - [AmeriCorps Funding Priorities](#);
  - Meaningful representation of:
    - rural communities, and
    - innovative community strategies; and

Based on the evaluation of these strategic considerations, applications may be selected for funding over applications with a greater degree of alignment with the review criteria. Volunteer West Virginia will assess an applicant's strategic considerations. Applicants must check the relevant boxes in the Program Information tab in AmeriCorps' web-based management system to be considered for AmeriCorps' assessment of the strategic considerations (see *Selection for Funding* section.) Applicants should only check the boxes if the strategic consideration is a significant and intentional part of their program design and if implementation strategies are described in the application.

Volunteer West Virginia reserves the right to prioritize funding existing awards over making new awards. Volunteer West Virginia reserves the right to fund applications in an amount other than at the requested level of funding and will document the rationale for doing so.

***Volunteer West Virginia and AmeriCorps reserve the right to adjust or make changes to the review process, if unforeseen challenges or urgent circumstances make it impossible,***

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***impracticable, or inefficient to conduct the review process as planned. Any such adjustments or changes will not affect the selection criteria that will be used to assess applications.***

### **E.2.f. Applicant Resolution**

After the application review process, before any grant awards are issued, AmeriCorps may ask an applicant for additional information to address any application compliance or risk issues. If an applicant does not respond promptly to these requests, then the applicant may be denied funding.

AmeriCorps will ask all grantees for a written compliance implementation plan that includes notification of waste, fraud, and abuse to the agency's Office of Inspector General.

### **E.3. Feedback to Applicants**

Each compliant applicant will receive feedback from the review of its application.

### **E.4. Transparency in Grantmaking**

Volunteer West Virginia is committed to transparency in grant-making. Submitted program narratives for successful applications will be available upon request.

## **F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

### **F.1. Federal Award Notices**

Volunteer West Virginia will make awards following the selection announcement. AmeriCorps anticipates announcing the results of this funding opportunity by **late-June 2026** depending on the availability of congressional appropriations. All applicants, successful or not, will be notified of funding decisions via email.

Notification of an award is not an authorization to begin activities. The Cooperative Agreement is the authorizing document. An awardee may not expend federal funds until the start of the Period of Performance identified on the Cooperative Agreement unless it has received a written pre-award cost approval from Volunteer West Virginia.

### **F.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

#### **F.2.a. Uniform Guidance**

All awards made under this Notice must follow the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, in [2 CFR Parts 200](#) and [2205](#).

#### **F.2.b. Requests for Monitoring or Payment Integrity Information**

AmeriCorps will request information from grantees to ensure compliance with legal requirements, including the [Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019](#). If grantees do not

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respond promptly to these requests, then their funds may be placed on manual hold, reimbursement only status, or other restrictions as appropriate.

### **F.2.c. AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions**

All grants must follow the FY 2026 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, and the FY 2026 Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for the particular program (when applicable). These Terms and Conditions contain mandatory compliance and reporting requirements, and applicants should review these instructions prior to any Notice of Grant Award. Current versions of the AmeriCorps General and Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for each of its programs are available on the [AmeriCorps Manage Your Grant webpage](#).

### **F.2.d. National Service Criminal History Check Requirements**

The National Service Criminal History Check, NSCHC, is a specific screening procedure established by law to protect the beneficiaries of national service. Use [45 CFR 2540.200– 2540.207](#) and [National Service Criminal History Check Resources](#) for complete information and FAQs.

### **F.3. Use of Material**

To ensure that materials generated with AmeriCorps funding are available to the public and readily accessible to recipients and non-recipients, 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 per [2 CFR 200.315](#).

### **F.4. Continuation Funding Information and Requirements**

Organizations that have current AmeriCorps State and National awards that will be in program Year 2 or Year 3 in FY 2026 are considered continuation applicants. Continuation applicants must submit an application to be eligible to receive funding for the FY 2026 program year. Continuation applicants must follow the requirements for continuation application content as outlined in the Application Instructions.

Please use the [Application Instructions](#) for how to request use of unexpended funds.

To be approved for continuation funding, recipients must be in good standing. Continuation application review will also be based on progress reports, the federal financial report, evaluation plans, and AmeriCorps staff's knowledge of the grant program. To be approved for continuation funding, recipients must demonstrate satisfactory performance with respect to key program goals and requirements, as well as compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

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Volunteer West Virginia and/or AmeriCorps reserves the right to award applications in an amount less than the requested level of funding.

## **G. FEDERAL AWARDING Agency Contacts**

For more information, email [americorps@wv.gov](mailto:americorps@wv.gov) or contact AmeriCorps directly via email [AmeriCorpsGrants@americorps.gov](mailto:AmeriCorpsGrants@americorps.gov).

## **H. Other Information**

### **H.1. Technical Assistance**

AmeriCorps will host technical assistance calls to answer questions about the funding opportunity and the web-based application system. AmeriCorps strongly encourages all applicants to participate in these sessions. Information for these technical assistance calls is available on the [AmeriCorps' Funding Opportunities website](#).

Resources applicants need to effectively manage their grant award and training and technical assistance materials are found on the [Manage Your Grant webpage](#).

### **H.2. Re-Focusing of Funding**

AmeriCorps reserves the right to re-focus program dollars under this Notice in the event of disaster or other compelling needs.

## **I. IMPORTANT NOTICES**

### **I.1. Public Burden Statement**

Public reporting burden for collection of information under this Notice of Funding is estimated to average six hours per submission, including reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing the application and reporting forms. AmeriCorps informs people who may respond to this Notice of Funding that they are not required to respond unless the OMB control number and expiration date are currently valid. Use [5 CFR 1320.5\(b\)\(2\)\(i\)](#). This collection is approved under OMB Control #: 3045-0047, Application Instructions, State and National Competitive, New and Continuation, Expiration Date: September 30, 2026.

### **I.2. Privacy Act Statement**

The Privacy Act of 1974, [5 U.S.C §552a](#), requires that we notify applicants that the information requested under this Notice of Funding is collected pursuant to [42 U.S.C. §12592](#) and 12615 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 as amended, and [42 U.S.C. §4953](#) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 as amended.

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Purposes and Uses - The information requested is collected for the purposes of reviewing grant applications and granting funding requests. Routine uses may include disclosure of the information to Federal, state, or local agencies pursuant to lawfully authorized requests. assistance.

Effects of Nondisclosure - The information requested is voluntary; however, to be a recipient of this grant program, disclosure of personal or sensitive information is required to receive federal benefits.

**Contact**

Questions regarding this NOFO should be directed to [AmeriCorps@wv.gov](mailto:AmeriCorps@wv.gov)

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