

**AmeriCorps State and National**  
presents...



# AmeriCorps Grants 101

A presentation for organizations considering applying for AmeriCorps funding



# Agenda



- ★ Session Objectives
- ★ What this Training Will do and What it Will Not do
- ★ Introduction to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) & AmeriCorps
- ★ AmeriCorps Members
- ★ 2012 Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- ★ What are AmeriCorps Grants?
- ★ Categories of AmeriCorps Funding
- ★ Resources



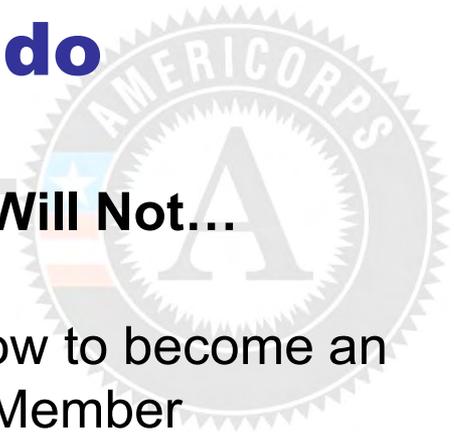
# Session Objectives



- ★ Understand how communities may benefit from AmeriCorps
- ★ Distinguish between the different AmeriCorps grant programs
- ★ Know how the application process works
- ★ Know how to access resources and materials



# What this Training Will do & What it Will Not do

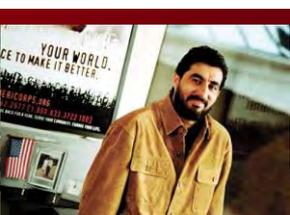


## Will...

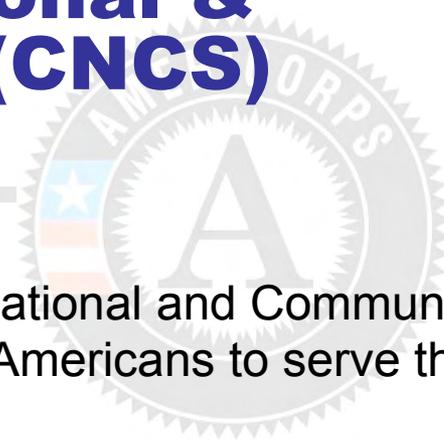
- ✓ Tell you about CNCS and our programs
- ✓ De-mystify AmeriCorps
- ✓ Give you more specific information about how your organization can apply for AmeriCorps resources
- ✓ Give you information on where to find additional support & answers

## Will Not...

- ✗ Tell you how to become an AmeriCorps Member
- ✗ Ensure that you are awarded an AmeriCorps or any other CNCS grant
- ✗ Inform you of every CNCS funding opportunity



# Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS)



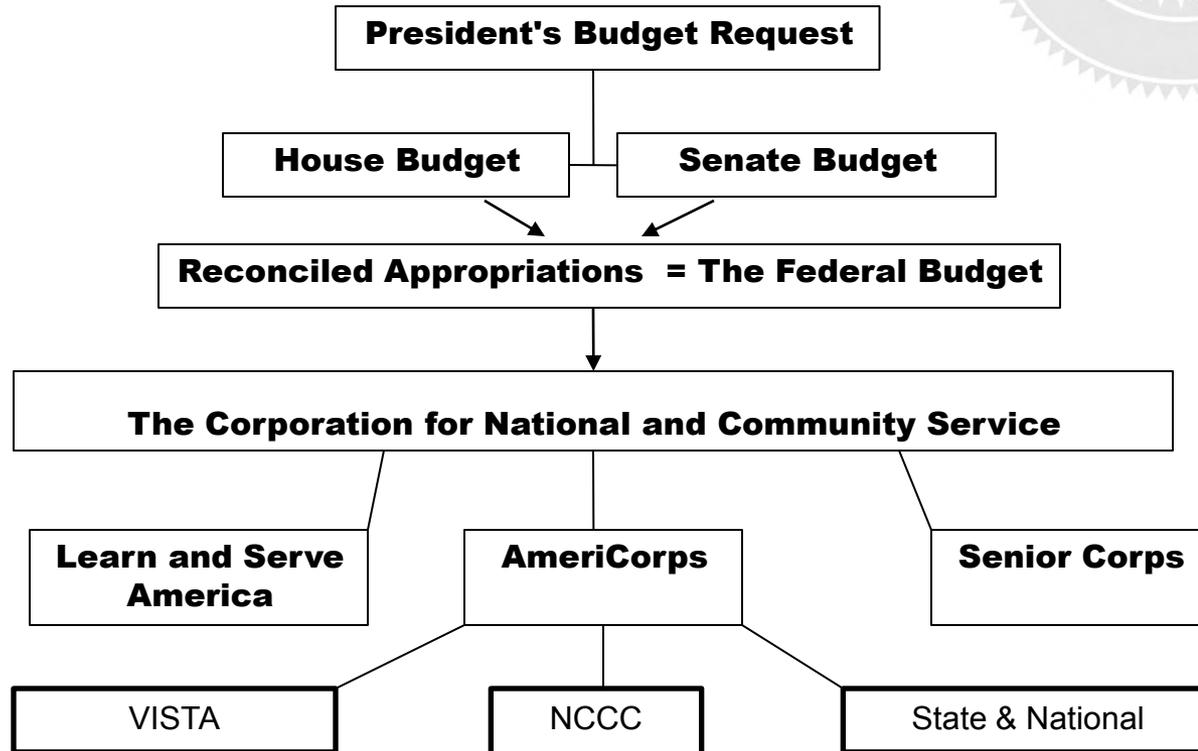
- ★ was created in 1993 through the signing of the National and Community Service Trust Act which expanded opportunities for Americans to serve their communities through national service.
- ★ engages millions of Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service each year through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America
- ★ in 2009 the Corporation was reauthorized through the signing of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act.

For more info on CNCS and the history of National Service please visit - [http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/role\\_impact/history\\_timeline.asp](http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/role_impact/history_timeline.asp)



# How does AmeriCorps get its funding?

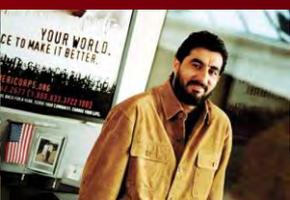
CNCS receives funding annually through the federal budget making process.



# What is AmeriCorps State and National?

A network of local, state, and national service programs that connects more than 67,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country's critical needs in education, health, the environment, economic opportunity, veterans services, disaster services, and other critical areas.

- ★ Provides grants to nonprofits, faith & secular community-based organizations, public agencies, Indian tribes, and institutions of higher education.
- ★ Provides opportunities for individuals – AmeriCorps members – to serve communities across the country.
- ★ Since 1994, more than 706,000 men and women have provided service as AmeriCorps members.



# AmeriCorps State and National Cont.

Recipient organizations design a set of activities for AmeriCorps Members that demonstrate an evidence-based approach to creating community impact and solving community problems.

- ★ Allows an organization to better address community needs by utilizing AmeriCorps resources to build capacity or deepen the impact of the service to individuals or communities
- ★ Broadens the scope of the service activities to reach previously underserved communities

**NOTE:** Funds do not supplant resources that organically exist in a community.



# What do AmeriCorps State and National Programs Do?

- ★ Use service and volunteering to address compelling community needs through activities such as:

- ★ Tutoring and mentoring youth
- ★ Recruiting and managing volunteers
- ★ Responding to natural disasters
- ★ Cleaning parklands and managing natural resources
- ★ Running after-school programs

- ★ Organizing fitness activities for youth
- ★ Improving health services
- ★ Job training and placement
- ★ Supporting arts in schools
- ★ Coordinating events and activities for veterans and military families

- ★ Engage AmeriCorps members and other volunteers in activities that address a community need.

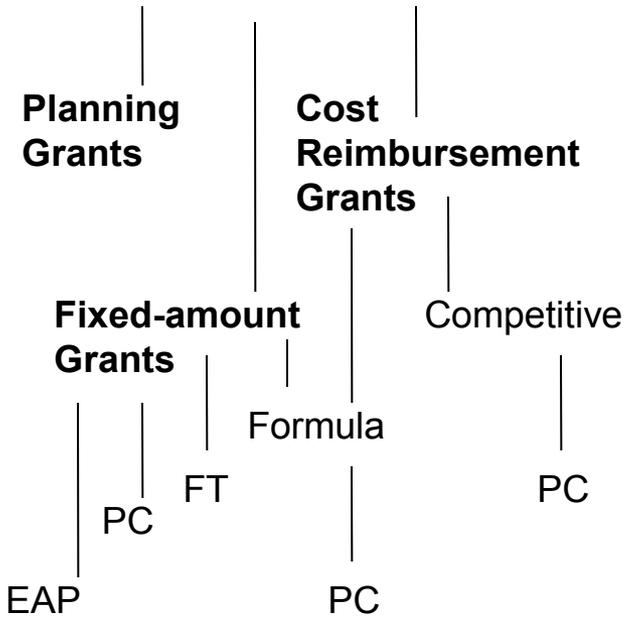


### Program Model Key:

EAP = Education Award Programs  
PC = Professional Corps Programs  
FT = Full Time Fixed-amount



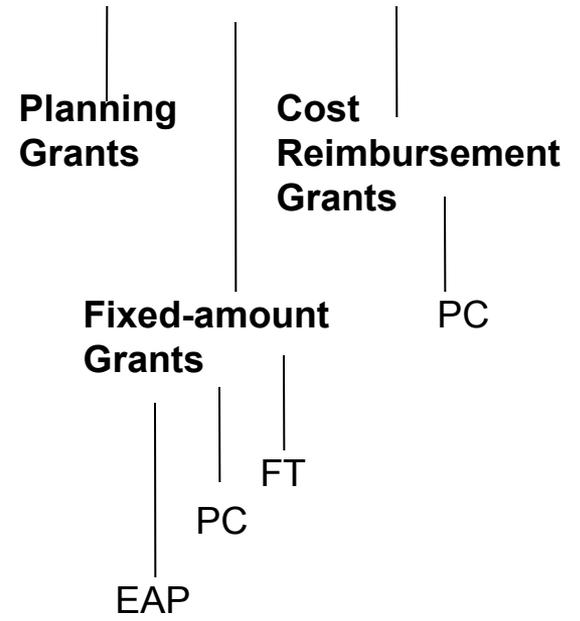
## Single-State



## Indian Tribes



## Direct, Multi-State



# Single-State AmeriCorps Programs



- ★ Submit grant applications to governor-appointed State Service Commissions.
- ★ Engage AmeriCorps members in providing direct service to address unmet community needs.
- ★ If your program wishes to address community needs in only one state, your organization must apply to your states State Service Commission for AmeriCorps funding.

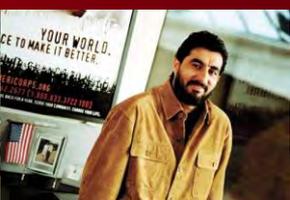
<http://www.americorps.gov/about/contact/statecommission.asp>

- ★ Multi-State programs must collaborate with Commissions



# State Service Commissions

- ★ Are comprised of boards nominated and appointed by a state's governor who oversee the implementation of national/community service and volunteer initiatives in their state.
- ★ Provide feedback to the Corporation on the multi-state programs operating in their state.
- ★ Provide Corporation funding to single state AmeriCorps programs through annual grant competitions.
- ★ Most employ staff that manage, monitor and evaluate single state AmeriCorps programs. Staff can also administer state specific volunteer initiatives.



# Multi-State AmeriCorps Programs

- ★ Address community needs in *at least two states*.
- ★ Have relationships with entities in different states that will operate the local programs.
- ★ Consult with State Commissions in each of the states where they operate programming.
- ★ Submit grant applications directly to the Corporation via our on-line grant system called eGrants.

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/egrants/>



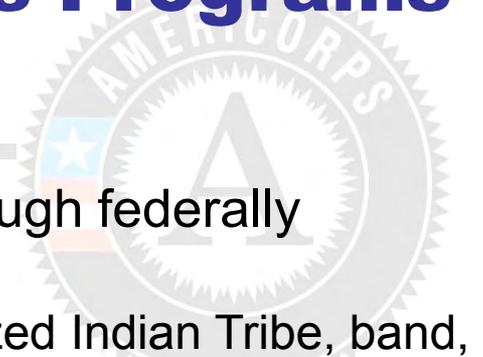
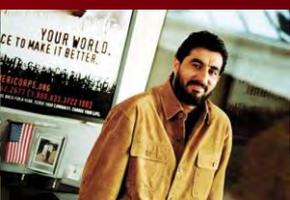
# Indian Tribes AmeriCorps Programs

- ★ Program is developed and administered through federally recognized Indian Tribe.

An Indian Tribe is defined as a federally recognized Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Native village, Regional Corporation, or Village Corporation, as defined under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. § 1602), that the United States Government determines is eligible for special programs and services provided under federal law to Indians because of their status as Indians. Indian Tribes also include tribal organizations controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by one of the entities described above.

- ★ Submit grant applications directly to the Corporation via our on-line grant system called eGrants.

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/egrants/>



# AmeriCorps Program Design



The design/structure of AmeriCorps programs vary. Examples:

- ★ Members provide their service with the organization receiving the AmeriCorps grant.
- ★ Members are placed at community organizations by the grant recipient.
- ★ Members serve as a team on a single project.
- ★ Members are placed individually or in small groups on various projects.
- ★ Members serve as teachers, health care providers, police officers, engineers, or other professionals in communities where there is an inadequate number of such professionals.

## Single-State

- Programs operate in a single state
- All are funded by a state service commission

## Multi-State

- Operate in multiple states
- Funded directly by the Corporation

## Indian Tribes

- May choose to operate in one state
- Funded directly by the Corporation

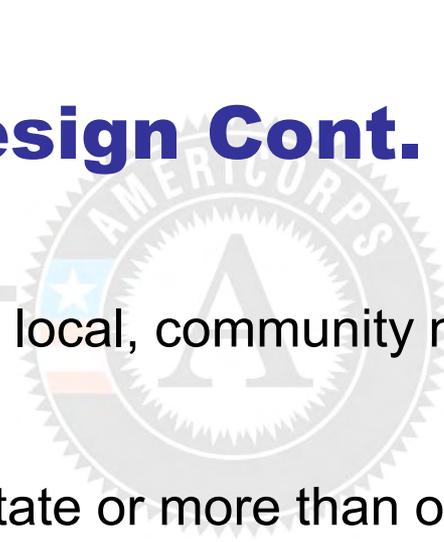


# AmeriCorps Program Design Cont.

You design a program that best meets identified local, community needs

## A Few Things to Consider:

- ★ Will the service activities take place in one state or more than one state?
- ★ Will your organization require funding from AmeriCorps to support members during their term of service?
- ★ Do you partner with other organizations who can provide the living allowance or other benefits (housing, meals, work study, etc). to members during their term of service?
- ★ Are you placing members as professionals in a community?



# AmeriCorps Members



## AmeriCorps Member Benefits and Eligibility



# Who are AmeriCorps Members?



- ★ Individuals enrolled for a specific term of service with an AmeriCorps program.
- ★ Members are not volunteers or employees.
- ★ Some AmeriCorps members receive a living allowance, health insurance and child care assistance to support them during their term of service.
- ★ AmeriCorps members receive the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award upon successfully completing a term of service.
- ★ All AmeriCorps members are subject to criminal history checks



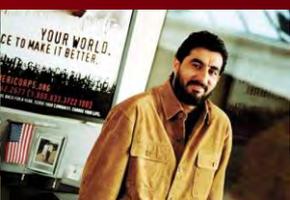
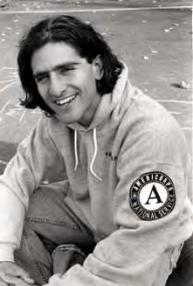
# Member Eligibility



Members must be:

- ★ U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals or Lawful Permanent Residents of the United States
- ★ At least 17 years of age – no upper age limit
- ★ High school graduates or GED recipients (or working towards this goal during their term of service)

[http://www.americorps.gov/for\\_individuals/ready/eligibility.asp](http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/ready/eligibility.asp)



# AmeriCorps Grants



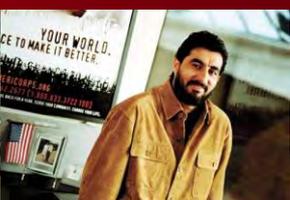
And now, the part you've all been waiting for...

## What are AmeriCorps Grants?



# AmeriCorps State & National Grants

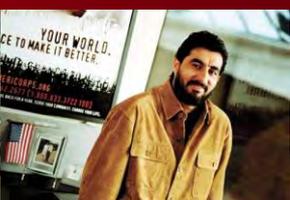
- ★ provide *partial* funding to support AmeriCorps projects/programs. Grant recipients must contribute cash or in-kind match funding to support the project
- ★ are solely for program expenses and are not for general organizational expenses
- ★ include an allotment of AmeriCorps member positions and funds are directly tied to a specific number of members
- ★ A new applicant for a reimbursable grant (non-fixed-amount) is required to match at 24% to support its program. Fixed-amount grants are exempt from matching requirements.



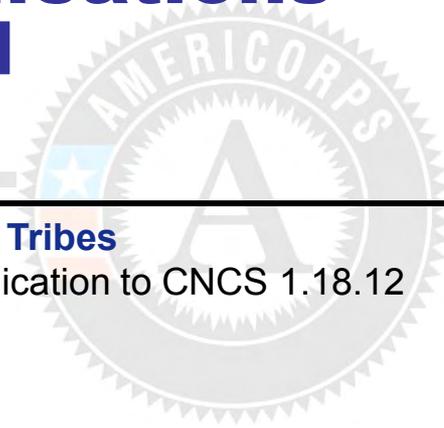
# AmeriCorps Grants Applications



- ★ NOFO and application instructions are provided by CNCS.
- ★ Organizations submit grant applications to the Corporation via online eGrants system or to their State Service Commission's competition.
- ★ Applications consist of a community need, an evidence-based intervention that will utilize AmeriCorps members to impact the need, descriptions of management systems to support the program, information on the organization's capacity and a budget.
- ★ Budgets: member living allowance and benefits, member and staff training, personnel costs, supplies, and evaluation.
- ★ Fixed-amount grants = reduced budget content.
- ★ Applicants must demonstrate the capacity to administer and monitor a federal grant.



# How AmeriCorps Applications are Processed



## Single State

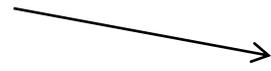
- Apply to State Commission (deadlines vary)
- Commission conducts review of applications
- Submit grants to CNCS for funding on 1.18.12

## Multi State & Tribes

- Submit application to CNCS 1.18.12

## Planning Grants

- Submitted to CNCS by 1.18.12
- Submit to State Commission (deadlines vary)



Compliance check

Initial Screening

Full Staff review

Clarification

Award - about April 2012

Compliance check

External review

Internal Staff review

Clarification

Award - about June 2012



# Member Terms of Service

Member Term	Minimum Hours Served	Maximum Length of Term
Full Time (FT)	1,700	12 months
Half Time (HT)	900	24 months (usually 12)
Reduced Half Time (RHT)	675	12 months
Quarter Time (QT)	450	12 months
Minimum Time (MT)	300	12 months



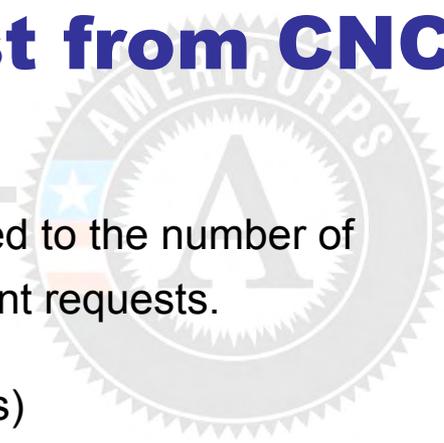
# What Amount Can I Request from CNCS?

The size of AmeriCorps grants are directly related to the number of Member Service Years (MSY) an applicant requests.

- 1 MSY is equivalent to 1 Full Time member (1700 hours)
- For example, if 2011 maximum cost per MSY = \$13,300.
  - You intend to request 20 FT AmeriCorps members
  - $20 \text{ MSY} \times \$13,300 = \$266,000 = \text{the CNCS grant request}$
- The number and kind of slot configuration will determine the number of MSY requested by the program.
- 10 FT, 10 HT, 12 QT = 32 slots and 18.18 MSY.
- The application instructions help you calculate the number of MSY

Maximum cost per MSY varies by grant type

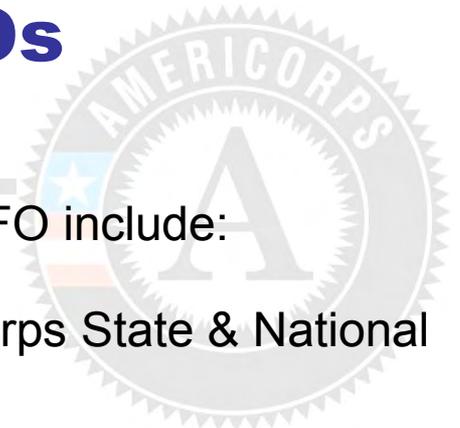
Cost per MSY is a competitive factor during grant review



# The 2012 NOFOs

Important features in the current NOFO include:

- Funding and new tiered priorities for the AmeriCorps State & National implementation and planning grants
- Continued emphasis on the ability of AmeriCorps to be a highly effective solution to the identified community need
- Reinforced importance on program's ability to provide a powerful member service experience that leads to continued civic participation
- New page limits for applicants
- National Performance Measures are split into two groups: Priority Measures and Pilot Measures.
- [http://www.americorps.gov/for\\_organizations/funding/nofa.asp](http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp)



# Categories of AmeriCorps Funding



- ★ State & National Competitive
- ★ State & National Planning Grants
- ★ State & National Education Award Program (EAP)
- ★ Indian Tribes Program & Planning Grants
- ★ States and Territories without Commissions
- ★ Full-time Fixed-amount Grants
- ★ State & National Professional Corps



# State and National Competitive

## State = Single-State

- ★ Submit applications to their state's Service Commission.
- ★ **Formula** - Each state is allocated funds to grant to programs operating in their state. A state's formula allocation is based on the state's population. (Can also be fixed-amount grants).
- ★ **Competitive** - grants are put forward to the Corporation. These recommended programs compete in a national competition
- ★ Single state programs must contact their State Service Commission to apply for AmeriCorps funding.

## National = Multi-State

- ★ Applicants funded through AmeriCorps National submit their application directly to CNCS via our online eGrants system.
- ★ AmeriCorps National grant programs address community needs in at least two states.
- ★ With an AmeriCorps National grant, the grantee has relationships with entities in different states that will operate the local programs.
- ★ Must consult with the State Commission of the state in which it intends to operate.

What does cost reimbursement mean?



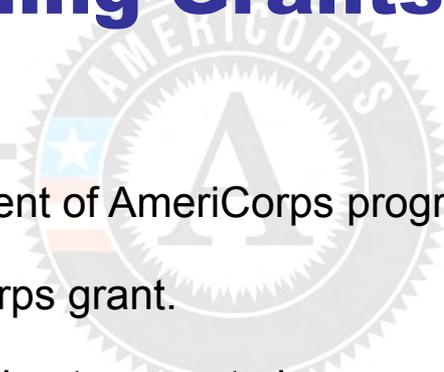
# State and National Planning Grants

- ★ The purpose of these grants is to support the development of AmeriCorps programs.
- ★ Applicants cannot have previously received an AmeriCorps grant.
- ★ **Indian Tribes** are eligible for planning grants and may plan to operate in one or multiple states.
- ★ Grants are for up to \$50,000 for one year only.
- ★ During the planning period, grantees are assigned a program officer and receive program development assistance.

**Single-State** - contact state commission about the planning grant requirements in their state

**Multi-State and Tribes** - submit applications directly to the Corporation

Planning grant NOFOs: [http://www.americorps.gov/for\\_organizations/funding/nofa.asp](http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp)



# State & National Education Award Program (EAP)

- ★ Receives minimal financial support from the AmeriCorps grant and has fewer fiscal reporting requirements.
- ★ Maximum cost per MSY - \$800
- ★ Best suited for pre-existing service programs to which AmeriCorps will add value.
- ★ For instance, partnering with AmeriCorps allows an existing service program to recruit more service participants or serve more beneficiaries.
- ★ Are fixed-amount grants. Separate from Full-time Fixed-Amount grants.

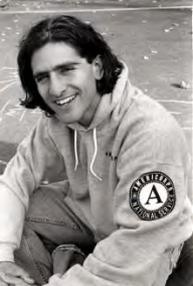
Funded directly by the Corporation or through state commissions.



# Indian Tribes Program & Planning Grants



- ★ Per CNCS' legislation, a minimum of 1% of funds for AmeriCorps programs is set aside for Tribal applicants
- ★ Applications for funding can be submitted directly to the Corporation via eGrants
- ★ Tribal applicants may request a planning grant. See Slide 29 for planning grant information.
- ★ Indian tribes can also submit applications for any of the other grant programs.



# States and Territories without Commission



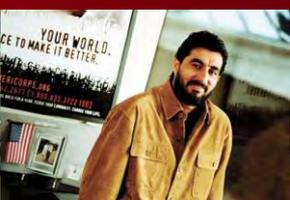
★ Applicants from these locations can apply directly to CNCS

- ★ South Dakota
- ★ CNMI
- ★ US Virgin Islands



# Full-time Fixed-amount

- ★ A fixed-amount pilot grant is like any other AmeriCorps program *except* that, unlike the more typical cost reimbursement grant, the fixed amount grant does not require:
  - Compliance with OMB Cost Principles.
  - Detailed, line-item budgets.
  - Corporation FFRs.
  - Match or documentation of match.
- ★ The maximum costs per MSY varies:
  - Full-time Fixed-amount = \$13,000
  - Fixed-amount EAP = \$800
  - Fixed-amount Professional Corps = \$2,000

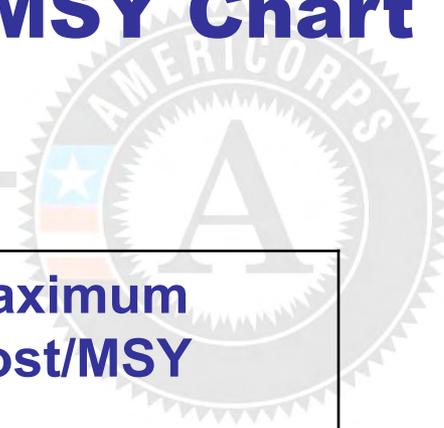


# State & National Professional Corps

- ★ A program model that recruits and places qualified participants in positions as teachers, nurses and other health care providers, police officers, engineers, or other professionals providing service to meet educational, public safety, human, or environmental needs in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals.
- ★ Professional Corps maximum cost per MSY - \$2,500
- ★ CNCS funds are not used to pay for member support costs, including the living allowance
- ★ Programs can operate in one more states and should apply to a commission or to CNCS accordingly.



# State & National Cost per MSY Chart



<b>Funding Opportunity</b>	<b>Maximum Cost/MSY</b>
State & National Competitive and Indian Tribes	\$13,300
Full Time Fixed-Amount	\$13,000
Professional Corps Programs	\$2500
Fixed-Amount Professional Corps Programs	\$2000
State & National EAP	\$800

# Operating an AmeriCorps Program

## State : Single-State

The program legally becomes a sub-grantee of the state commission.

### The sub-grantee must:

- ★ ensure the recruitment, orientation and training of members; track, and ensure the accuracy of, member hours and activities, and progress toward meeting approved performance measures;
- ★ participate as requested in Commission activities
- ★ act as liaison between the Commission and your program.

## Indian Tribes or National : Multi-State

The grantee has overall legal, administrative, and fiscal responsibility for the entire scope of the program, even if the funds are sub-granted.

### The grantee must:

- ★ develop strong fiscal and program management systems; monitor financial management, program performance and member activities at operating sites and service locations;
- ★ train and provide technical assistance to staff at parent organization and at sites;
- ★ ensure the recruitment, orientation and training of members; track, and ensure the accuracy of member hours and activities, and track progress toward meeting approved performance measures;
- ★ act as liaison between CNCS and other elements of your program



# Resources



[www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov)

➔ [http://www.americorps.gov/for\\_organizations/funding/nofa.asp](http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp)

➔ You will see a list of three AmeriCorps Grant Notice of Funding Opportunities. You will need to click on the one that is of most interest to you. The three listed are:

- ➔ AmeriCorps Indian Tribe Planning Grants
- ➔ AmeriCorps State and National Grants
- ➔ AmeriCorps State and National Planning Grants



# More Resources



- ➔ Link to eGrants

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/egrants/>

- ➔ Link to AmeriCorps technical assistance call schedule

[http://www.americorps.gov/pdf/12\\_1003\\_applicant\\_call\\_schedule\\_fy\\_2012.pdf](http://www.americorps.gov/pdf/12_1003_applicant_call_schedule_fy_2012.pdf)

- ➔ Connect with us on Twitter at GROW\_AmeriCorps

[http://twitter.com/GROW\\_AmeriCorps](http://twitter.com/GROW_AmeriCorps)

**GROW\_AmeriCorps** stands for –  
**Grant Resources & Opportunities With AmeriCorps.**



# Even More Resources



- ➔ Link to The Resource Center:

<http://www.nationalservicerresources.org/>

- ➔ Link to Program Start-Up Resources:

[http://s3.amazonaws.com/resource\\_center\\_video/taag/program-start-up/index.html](http://s3.amazonaws.com/resource_center_video/taag/program-start-up/index.html)

- ➔ Budget Tutorial for AmeriCorps Programs

<http://www.nationalservicerresources.org/online-courses/preparing-the-grant-budget-for-ameri-corps-programs>

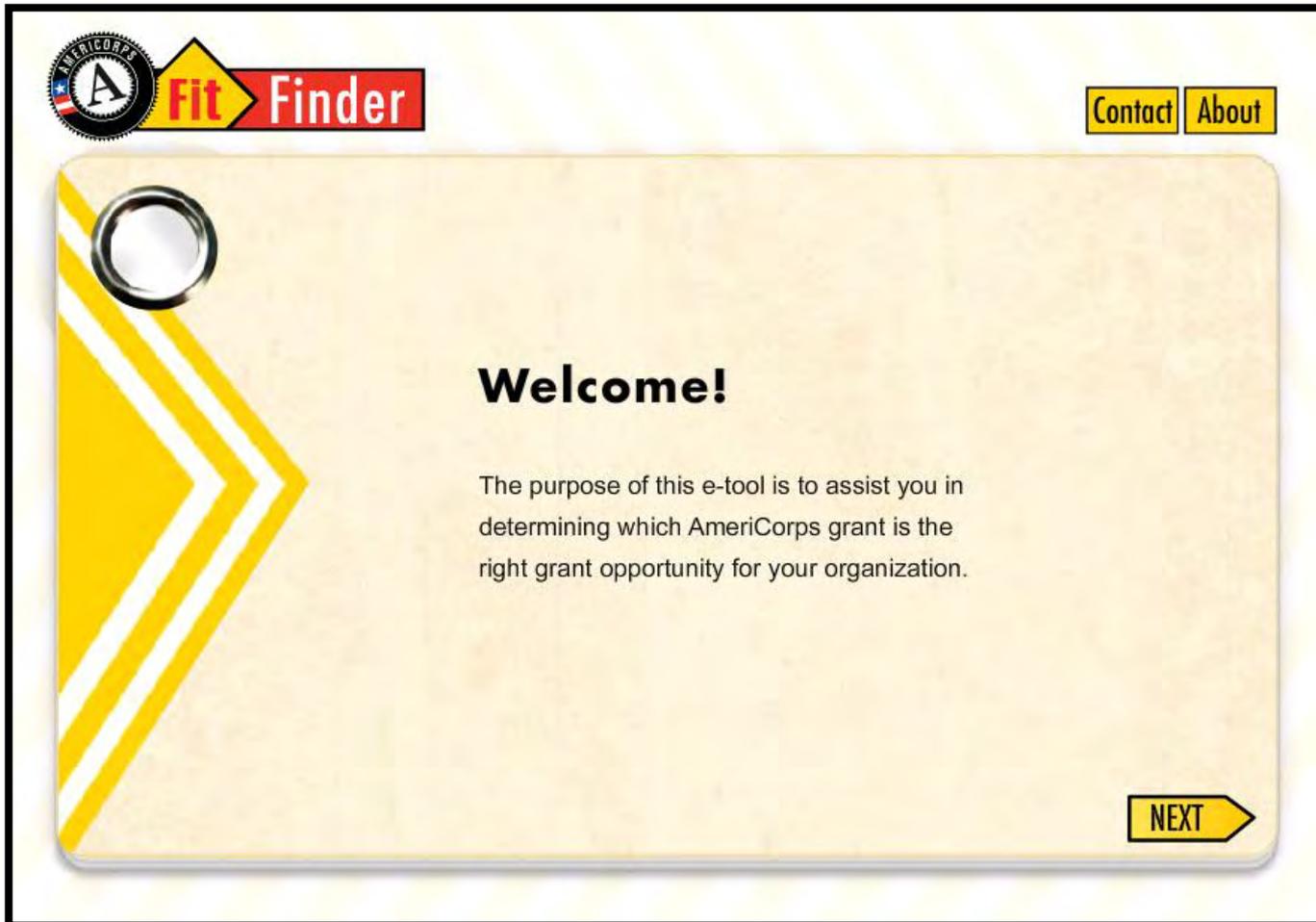
- ➔ Performance Measurement Resources

<http://www.nationalservicerresources.org/star/ac>



# Which AmeriCorps Grant Program is Right For You?

[www.americorps.gov/fitfinder/index.html](http://www.americorps.gov/fitfinder/index.html)



The screenshot shows the AmeriCorps Fit Finder website interface. At the top left is the AmeriCorps logo, a circular emblem with an 'A' and a star. To its right is a yellow arrow pointing right with the word 'Fit' in red, followed by a red box with the word 'Finder' in white. In the top right corner, there are two yellow buttons: 'Contact' and 'About'. The main content area has a light beige background with a large yellow arrow pointing right on the left side. The text 'Welcome!' is centered in bold black font. Below it, a paragraph reads: 'The purpose of this e-tool is to assist you in determining which AmeriCorps grant is the right grant opportunity for your organization.' In the bottom right corner, there is a yellow arrow pointing right with the word 'NEXT' in black.

**Welcome!**

The purpose of this e-tool is to assist you in determining which AmeriCorps grant is the right grant opportunity for your organization.

**NEXT**

# For More Information



[AmeriCorpsGrants@cns.gov](mailto:AmeriCorpsGrants@cns.gov)

Or 202.606.7508



**Getting Things Done for America**

