



AmeriCorps National Grants FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

TOPICS:

AMERICORPS

AMERICORPS MEMBERS

AMERICORPS NATIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

AMERICORPS NATIONAL DIRECT GRANTS

AMERICORPS NATIONAL PLANNING GRANTS

AMERICORPS NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL CORPS GRANTS

AMERICORPS NATIONAL EDUCATION AWARD PROGRAM GRANTS

AMERICORPS FULL-TIME FIXED-AMOUNT GRANTS

AMERICORPS PROFESSIONAL CORPS FIXED-AMOUNT GRANTS

AMERICORPS INDIAN TRIBES GRANTS

AMERICORPS INDIAN TRIBES PLANNING GRANTS

ELIGIBILITY

OPERATING SITES

APPLICATION INFORMATION

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES

OTHER QUESTIONS

AMERICORPS

What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs that engages more than 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health, the environment and other unmet human needs. AmeriCorps members serve through thousands of nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based organizations. AmeriCorps members' activities address critical needs in their communities, and take many forms. They tutor and mentor youth, build affordable housing, teach computer skills, clean parks and streams, run after-school programs, and help communities respond to disasters, among other activities. Full-time members who complete their service earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to pay for college, graduate school, or to pay back student loans. Members who serve part-time receive a partial education award. Some AmeriCorps members may receive a modest living allowance during their service.

Created in 1993, AmeriCorps is funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service, which also oversees Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America. Together these programs engage more than 1.5 million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service each year.

AmeriCorps is made up of three programs: AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps).

AMERICORPS MEMBERS

What is an AmeriCorps member?

An AmeriCorps member is an individual enrolled in and serving with an AmeriCorps program who commits to engage in community service for an intensive period of time. Some AmeriCorps members receive a living allowance to support them during their term of service, and upon successful completion of their service they receive an AmeriCorps Education Award.

What is the difference between an AmeriCorps member and a volunteer?

An AmeriCorps member is an individual serving in an approved national service position with an AmeriCorps program. An AmeriCorps member serves for a pre-determined term of service and is eligible to receive an AmeriCorps Education Award upon successful completion of service. AmeriCorps members are supervised by program staff and often receive a living allowance. Volunteers are not eligible for an AmeriCorps Education Award, usually do not receive compensation and might not be required to provide consistent, sustained service. Volunteers and AmeriCorps members might serve side-by-side.

Can AmeriCorps members take the place of current staff or volunteers at my organization?

No. AmeriCorps members may not displace staff or volunteers at your organization, nor may they perform any services or duties that would supplant the hiring of employed workers.

What are the living allowance (stipend) requirements for AmeriCorps members?

The living allowance (stipend) requirements for AmeriCorps members vary by grant type. Detailed information on the living allowance requirements can be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#). Additional information can also be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Application Instructions](#).

How many AmeriCorps members will my program receive?

In your proposal you must indicate how many AmeriCorps members you are requesting. If your proposal is approved for funding, the Corporation will determine how many AmeriCorps members will be included in your award.

Does the Corporation recruit and train the AmeriCorps members?

No. While the Corporation has an online recruitment and placement system that AmeriCorps programs are strongly encouraged to use, each program is responsible for recruiting its own AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps programs are entirely responsible for providing training to AmeriCorps members. In your proposal you must describe how you will recruit, orient and train the AmeriCorps members you are requesting.

Must an AmeriCorps member serve for a certain amount of time?

Yes. An AmeriCorps member may serve either a full-time term of service, which requires 1700 hours during the course of 9 to 12 months; or a part-time term, which can range from 300 hours to 900 hours. The AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity, or NOFO, provides additional detail. In your application, you must specify the terms of service you are proposing for your AmeriCorps members.

What is “cost per MSY”?

Cost per MSY stands for Cost per Member Service Year and represents the cost to the Corporation of your AmeriCorps program. One MSY is the equivalent of one full-time term of service (1700 member service hours). You calculate your cost per MSY by dividing the total amount of Corporation funds requested by the total number of MSYs requested. For example, if your application requests \$10,000 in Corporation funds and 10 MSYs, then your cost per MSY is \$1,000. The cost per MSY does not include child care or the cost of the Education Award a member may earn.

I have seen the term “FTE” used in other AmeriCorps publications. What is the difference between the terms FTE and MSY?

MSY and FTE (full-time equivalent) are synonymous. However, beginning in 2005, the Corporation has replaced the term FTE with MSY (Member Service Year).

Is there a maximum cost per MSY?

Yes. The maximum cost per MSY varies by grant program. Specific information about the maximum cost per MSY for each grant program can be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#). Additional information can also be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Application Instructions](#).

AMERICORPS NATIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

What AmeriCorps National funding opportunities are available?

There are eight types of AmeriCorps National grant opportunities available for FY 2011:

1. AmeriCorps National Direct
2. AmeriCorps National Professional Corps
3. AmeriCorps National Planning grants
4. AmeriCorps National Education Award Program
5. AmeriCorps Full-time Fixed-amount grants
6. AmeriCorps Professional Corps Fixed-amount grants
7. AmeriCorps Indian Tribes
8. AmeriCorps Indian Tribes Planning grants

How do I find out more information about these grant opportunities, and determine which is appropriate for me?

Detailed information can be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) and in the responses to the questions listed below. Additionally, you may access the [Chart of AmeriCorps National Direct Programs](#) for a brief overview of each grant type. Further information also can be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Application Instructions](#).

What are the funding priorities for AmeriCorps?

For 2011, applicants will indicate whether they plan to focus on one of the six focus areas of Education, Healthy Futures, Clean Energy/Environment, Veterans, Opportunity, and Disaster Services. If so, applicants also are asked whether they plan to use national performance measures related to this focus area. Priority consideration will be provided to applications for programs that address the priority areas. Priority consideration also will be provided to applications that propose to meet the Corporation's strategic objectives. These strategic objectives will be included in an amended Notice, which will be issued in October. Supplementary information can be found on the [strategic plan and objectives](#). Additionally, applications for programs that intend to use the national measures will be given funding priority in 2011. The Serve America Act also specifies that not less than 10% of AmeriCorps funding will be to "enclave service programs" with a significant number of individuals age 55 and older. The Corporation also anticipates that at least 15 percent of the funds will support applicants that have not received an AmeriCorps state or national grant in the past five years.

AMERICORPS NATIONAL DIRECT GRANTS

What is an AmeriCorps National Direct program?

An AmeriCorps National Direct program uses service and volunteering to address compelling community needs in at least two states. An organization identifies a community need, designs a program to meet that need through the service of AmeriCorps members and volunteers, and applies to the Corporation for funding. Applicants must demonstrate the capacity to administer and monitor a federal, multi-site, multi-state grant; have developed relationships with organizations in different states that will operate the local programs; and have in place the components of a successful National Direct program, as identified in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#), and the [2011 AmeriCorps Application Instructions](#). Once awarded a grant, the successful applicant is responsible for recruiting the AmeriCorps members and implementing the program in the communities to be served.

What is an AmeriCorps National Direct grant?

An AmeriCorps National Direct grant provides the funding to support a National Direct program. Grants are typically for a three year period, but funds are provided one year at a time, contingent upon satisfactory performance, compliance, the availability of funds, and other criteria established in the award agreement. Grant funds are for program expenses such as AmeriCorps member support costs (living allowance and benefits), staffing, training, travel for program oversight, and overhead.

How are National Direct grants structured?

Organizations receiving AmeriCorps National Direct grants work with local partners to operate their AmeriCorps program in local communities. The organizations that receive the AmeriCorps National grants are called "grantees," or "parent organizations." The grantee or parent organization is responsible for implementing and managing its AmeriCorps program at various locations. The local partners the grantee works with are referred to as "operating sites" or

“subgrantees”. The operating sites oversee the activities of AmeriCorps members, collect activity data, and report to the parent organization.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Information about eligibility requirements can be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

Is there a limit on the amount of grant funds I may request?

Yes, there is a limit on how much the Corporation will support per full-time member service year (MSY). The Corporation maximum for a National Direct grant is \$13,300 per MSY. For example, if you propose a program with 50 full-time members, the maximum amount of funds the Corporation will provide is \$665,000 (50 MSY multiplied by \$13,300).

Can we use this grant to pay for the overall operational needs of our organization?

No. AmeriCorps grants are only for costs directly related to the proposed project, rather than general organizational expenses. The application instructions provide guidance on charging administrative costs to the grant.

Will I have to contribute matching funds?

Yes. The match requirements are described in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) and the [2011 AmeriCorps Application Instructions](#).

How long is the grant period?

AmeriCorps National Direct grants cover a three-year period, but funds are provided one year at a time. Continued funding during the course of the three years is contingent upon satisfactory performance, compliance, the availability of funds, and other criteria established in the award agreement.

Are planning grants available?

Yes, a limited number of planning grants will be available. Please refer to the [AmeriCorps National Planning Grants](#) section of this document for further information.

Must my National Direct program operate in more than one state?

Yes. National Direct programs must operate in two or more states.

Can I operate a single-state program in the first year, while I develop a multi-state partnership?

No.

AMERICORPS NATIONAL PLANNING GRANTS

What is an AmeriCorps National planning grant?

A planning grant assists organizations in developing a multi-state AmeriCorps program. The purpose of a planning grant is to support the development or improvement of a program so that it may be better prepared to successfully compete for operating assistance in the following grant cycle.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Information about eligibility requirements can be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

Is there a limit on the amount of grant funds I may request?

You may request up to \$50,000 in planning grant funds. These funds can be used for staff time, planning meetings, travel to visit local partner organizations, and other costs associated with planning and developing the proposed program.

Can I use this grant to pay for the overall operational needs of our organization?

No. AmeriCorps planning grants are only for costs directly related to planning activities, rather than general organizational expenses. The application instructions provide guidance on charging administrative costs to the grant.

Will I have to contribute matching funds?

Yes. The match requirements can be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#). Additional information also can be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Application Instructions](#).

How long is the grant period?

AmeriCorps National Planning grants are for up to a one-year period.

Do I have to apply for a planning grant before I can apply for a National Direct or Professional Corps grant?

No. You may apply for a National Direct or Professional Corps grant without having first received a planning grant.

Can I have AmeriCorps members with a planning grant?

No. Planning grants do not include any AmeriCorps member positions. During the planning period, you will define the roles and activities members will perform in the program.

If I receive a planning grant this year, am I expected to compete for an AmeriCorps National program grant the following year?

Yes. The purpose of the planning grant is to support organizations in their development of an AmeriCorps National program. Towards the end of the planning period, planning grant recipients apply and compete for an AmeriCorps National program grant. There is no guarantee that planning grant recipients will receive an AmeriCorps National program grant.

AMERICORPS NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL CORPS GRANTS

What is a Professional Corps program?

A Professional Corps program recruits, trains, and places AmeriCorps members to fill communities' needs for professionals, pre-professionals, and para-professionals such as health care providers, social workers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, teachers and

volunteer managers, to name just a few. This competition is specifically for National Direct Professional Corps programs, so they must operate in at least two states. Professional Corps program models may also be funded through other competitions and are not limited only to the Professional Corps competition.

Applicants must demonstrate the capacity to administer and monitor a federal, multi-site, multi-state grant, have developed relationships with organizations in different states that will operate the local programs, and have in place the components of a successful National Direct program, as identified in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) and the [2011 AmeriCorps Application Instructions](#). Once awarded a grant, the successful applicant is responsible for recruiting the AmeriCorps members and implementing the program in the communities to be served.

What is an AmeriCorps National Professional Corps grant?

An AmeriCorps National Professional Corps grant provides the funding to support a multi-state Professional Corps program. Member living allowances and benefits are not covered by the grant. Grants are typically for a three-year period, but funds are provided one year at a time, contingent upon satisfactory performance, compliance, the availability of funds, and other criteria established in the award agreement. Grant funds are for program expenses such as staffing, training, travel for program oversight, and overhead. This particular grant competition is for multi-state professional corps programs: professional corps grants funded through other grant competitions might have different requirements.

What is the difference between a Professional Corps grant and other AmeriCorps grants?

The two primary differences are that Professional Corps grants do not include AmeriCorps member living allowances (salaries) and benefits, and that there is no limit to the amount Professional Corps AmeriCorps members can be compensated for their service. Covering the expense of the AmeriCorps members' living allowance and benefits are the grantee's responsibility.

How are AmeriCorps National Professional Corps grants structured?

Organizations receiving AmeriCorps National Professional Corps grants work with local partners to operate their AmeriCorps program in local communities. The organizations that receive the AmeriCorps National Professional Corps grants are called "grantees," or "parent organizations". The grantee or parent organization is responsible for implementing and managing its AmeriCorps program at various locations. The local partners the grantee works with are referred to as "operating sites" or "subgrantees". The operating sites oversee the activities of AmeriCorps members, collect activity data, and report to the parent organization.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Information about eligibility requirements can be found in [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

Is there a limit on the amount of grant funds I may request?

Yes, there is a limit on how much the Corporation will support per full-time member service year (MSY). The Corporation maximum is \$2,500 per MSY. For example, if you propose a program

with 50 full-time members, the maximum amount of funds the Corporation will provide is \$125,000(50 MSY multiplied by \$2,500).

Can we use this grant to pay for the overall operational needs of our organization?

No. AmeriCorps grants are only for costs directly related to the proposed project, rather than general organizational expenses. The application instructions provide guidance on charging administrative costs to the grant.

Will I have to contribute matching funds?

Yes. Match requirements can be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) and in the [2011 AmeriCorps Application Instructions](#).

How long is the grant period?

AmeriCorps National Direct Professional Corps grants cover a three-year period, but funds are provided one year at a time. Continued funding during the course of the three years is contingent upon satisfactory performance, compliance, the availability of funds, and other criteria established in the award agreement.

Must my professional corps program operate in more than one state?

Yes. Professional Corps programs funded through this competition must operate in two or more states.

Can I operate a single-state program in the first year, while I develop a multi-state partnership?

No.

Are there other opportunities for funding Professional Corps programs?

Yes. Professional corps programs also may be eligible to receive funding through other national grant programs, such as the Education Award Program and the National Direct Program.

AMERICORPS NATIONAL EDUCATION AWARD PROGRAM GRANTS

What is an Education Award Program?

An Education Award Program (EAP) is an AmeriCorps program that receives minimal financial support from the Corporation for National and Community Service and has fewer fiscal reporting requirements. Because of the minimal financial support, EAP grants are best suited for pre-existing service programs or for organizations with other sources of funding, for whom becoming part of AmeriCorps will add value to their program. For instance, the association with AmeriCorps might allow a program to recruit more service participants, to recruit a higher caliber of service participants, or serve more beneficiaries.

An EAP uses service and volunteering to address compelling community needs. An organization identifies a community need, designs a program to meet that need through the service of AmeriCorps members and volunteers, and applies to the Corporation for funding. Applicants must demonstrate the capacity to administer and monitor a federal grant, have relationships with

organizations that will operate the local programs, and otherwise have in place the components of a successful National Education Award program, as identified in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#). Additional information can also be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Application Instructions](#).

How are National Education Award Program grants structured?

Organizations receiving AmeriCorps National Education Award Program grants work with local partners to operate their AmeriCorps program in local communities. The organizations that receive the AmeriCorps National Education Award Program grants are called “grantees,” or “parent organizations”. The grantee or parent organization is responsible for implementing and managing its AmeriCorps program at various locations.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Information about eligibility requirements can be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

What is the difference between the National Education Award Program and other AmeriCorps grants?

The primary difference is that a National Education Award grantee receives a small administrative grant – up to \$800 per Member Service Year – and uses its own or other resources to cover AmeriCorps members’ living allowance, if applicable, and other program costs.

Is there a limit on the amount of grant funds I may request?

Yes, there is a limit on how much the Corporation will support per full-time member service year (MSY). The Corporation maximum is \$800 per MSY. For example, if you propose a program with 50 full-time members, the maximum amount of funds the Corporation will provide is \$40,000 (50 MSY multiplied by \$800).

Will I have to contribute match funds?

There is no mandated match requirement percentage, but the Corporation only provides up to \$800 per Member Service Year. The grantee must secure all other resources needed to support the program.

How long is the grant period?

AmeriCorps National Education Award grants cover a three-year period, but funds are provided one year at a time. Continued funding during the course of the three years is contingent upon satisfactory performance, compliance, the availability of funds, and other criteria established in the award agreement.

Must my Education Award program operate in more than one state?

Yes. National Education Award programs must operate in two or more states.

I would like to apply for an Education Award Program grant, but I only operate within one state? What are my options?

You either could develop a partnership with an organization in another state or investigate whether the state commission in your state is accepting applications for EAP programs. Contact

information for the state commissions can be found here:
<http://www.americorps.gov/about/contact/statecommission.asp>

AMERICORPS FIXED-AMOUNT GRANTS

What is the Fixed-Amount Grant Program?

Organizations with full-time AmeriCorps members that are put forward to participate in a nationwide competition by Governor-appointed State Commissions, organizations that operate their AmeriCorps program in more than one state, States and Territories without Commissions, and Indian Tribes may apply to receive a fixed-amount grant for a full-time program. There is no match requirement for fixed amount grants.

Who is eligible to apply for the Fixed-Amount Grant Program?

New and reCompleting applicants are encouraged to apply for a new fixed-amount grant. Applicants in continuation must submit a new application to apply for a fixed-amount grant. If your continuation application does not meet the criteria for a new fixed-amount grant, the Corporation reserves the right to fund your application as a continuation of your current grant instead. In these cases, continuation grantees can expect continuation funding subject to meeting the Corporation's normal standards of adequate performance and availability of funds.

What is the difference between the Fixed Amount Grant Program and other AmeriCorps grants?

The Fixed-Amount Grant has no matching requirements and has fewer financial reporting requirements. The grant amount requested per full-time member will be a competitive factor in the Corporation's selection. The Corporation maximum is \$13,000 per MSY. Fixed-Amount Grants will be awarded only to organizations applying for full-time AmeriCorps positions. Fixed-amount grants in the Education Priority Area must select national performance measures.

AMERICORPS PROFESSIONAL CORPS FIXED-AMOUNT GRANTS

What is the Professional Corps Fixed-Amount Grant Program?

Organizations that propose to operate a Professional Corps program with full-time AmeriCorps members that are put forward to participate in a nationwide competition by Governor-appointed State Commissions, organizations that propose to operate their AmeriCorps Professional Corp program in more than one state, States and Territories without Commissions, and Indian Tribes may apply to receive a fixed-amount grant for a full-time program. There is no match requirement for fixed-amount grants.

Who is eligible to apply for the Professional Corps Fixed-Amount Grant Program?

Information about eligibility requirements can be found in [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#). New and reCompleting applicants are encouraged to apply for a new fixed-amount grant. Applicants in continuation must submit a new application to apply for a fixed-amount grant. If your continuation application does not meet the criteria for a new fixed-amount grant, the Corporation reserves the right to fund your application as a continuation of your current grant

instead. In these cases, continuation grantees can expect continuation funding subject to meeting the Corporation's normal standards of adequate performance and availability of funds.

What is the difference between the Professional Corps Fixed Amount Grant Program and other AmeriCorps grants?

The Professional Corps Fixed-Amount Grant has no matching requirements and has fewer financial reporting requirements. The grant amount requested per full-time member will be a competitive factor in the Corporation's selection. The Corporation maximum is \$2,000 per MSY. Professional Corps Fixed-Amount Grants will be awarded only to organizations applying for full-time AmeriCorps positions.

AMERICORPS INDIAN TRIBES GRANTS

What is an AmeriCorps Indian Tribe program?

An AmeriCorps Indian Tribe program uses service and volunteering to address compelling community needs. An organization identifies a community need, designs a program to meet that need through the service of AmeriCorps members and volunteers, and applies to the Corporation for funding. Applicants must demonstrate the capacity to administer and monitor a federal grant, and have in place the components of a successful AmeriCorps Indian Tribes grant, as identified in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#). Additional information also can be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Application Instructions](#).

What is an AmeriCorps Indian Tribes grant?

AmeriCorps Indian Tribes grants are three-year grants for organizations that have developed an AmeriCorps program design that involves American Indians in AmeriCorps service, or serves an American Indian community. AmeriCorps sets aside one percent (1%) of its grant funds annually to support programs operated by American Indian Tribes and tribal entities.

Are there other opportunities for funding programs that work with Indian Tribes?

Yes. Indian Tribes programs may also receive funding through a state commission, or through other national grant programs, such as the National Direct. For information about funding opportunities through a particular state commission, contact the relevant commission <http://www.americorps.gov/about/contact/statecommission.asp>

How are AmeriCorps Indian Tribes grants structured?

Organizations receiving AmeriCorps Indian Tribes grants work with local partners to operate their AmeriCorps program in local communities. The organizations that receive the AmeriCorps Indian Tribes grants are called "grantees." The grantee is responsible for implementing and managing its AmeriCorps program.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Information about eligibility requirements can be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

Is there a limit on the amount of grant funds I may request?

Yes, there is a limit on how much the Corporation will support per full-time member service year (MSY). The Corporation maximum is \$13,300 per MSY. For example, if you propose a program with 50 full-time members, the maximum amount of funds the Corporation will provide is \$665,000 (50 MSY multiplied by \$13,300).

Can we use this grant to pay for our overall operational needs?

No. AmeriCorps grants are only for costs directly related to the proposed project, rather than general organizational expenses. The application instructions provide guidance on charging administrative costs to the grant.

Will I have to contribute matching funds?

Yes. Match requirements can be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#), and in the [2011 AmeriCorps Application Instructions](#). In light of Executive Order 13175 (November 6, 2000) on “Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments,” the Corporation will consider requests for waivers of match requirements in an expedited manner.

How long is the grant period?

AmeriCorps Indian Tribes grants cover a three-year period, but funds are provided one year at a time. Continued funding during the course of the three years is contingent upon satisfactory performance, compliance, the availability of funds, and other criteria established in the award agreement.

Must my AmeriCorps Indian Tribes program operate in more than one state?

No. An AmeriCorps Indian Tribe program may operate in only one state.

AMERICORPS INDIAN TRIBES PLANNING GRANTS

What is an AmeriCorps Indian Tribes planning grant?

This planning grant assists Indian Tribes and Tribal entities in developing an AmeriCorps program. The purpose of a planning grant is to support the development or improvement of a program so that it may be better prepared to successfully compete for operating assistance in the following grant cycle.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Information about eligibility requirements can be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

Is there a limit on the amount of grant funds I may request?

You may request up to \$50,000 in planning grant funds. These funds can be used for staff time, planning meetings, travel to visit local partner organizations, and other costs associated with planning and developing the proposed program.

Can I use this grant to pay for my overall operational needs?

No. AmeriCorps planning grants are only for costs directly related to planning activities, rather than general organizational expenses. The application instructions provide guidance on charging administrative costs to the grant.

Will I have to contribute matching support for this grant?

Yes. The match requirements can be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) and in the [2011 AmeriCorps Application Instructions](#).

How long is the grant period?

AmeriCorps Indian Tribes Planning grants are for up to a one-year period.

Do I have to apply for a planning grant before I can apply for an Indian Tribes grant?

No. You may apply for an AmeriCorps Indian Tribes grant without having first received a planning grant.

Can I have AmeriCorps members with a planning grant?

No. Planning grants do not include any AmeriCorps member positions. During the planning period, you will define the roles and activities members will perform in the program.

If I receive a planning grant this year, am I expected to compete for an AmeriCorps Indian Tribes program grant the following year?

Yes. The purpose of the planning grant is to support organizations in their development of an AmeriCorps Indian Tribes program. Towards the end of the planning period, planning grant recipients apply and compete for an AmeriCorps program grant. There is no guarantee that planning grant recipients will receive an AmeriCorps Indian Tribes program grant.

ELIGIBILITY

Basic eligibility requirements for all grant programs can be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#). Additional information can also be found in the [2011 AmeriCorps Application Instructions](#).

OPERATING SITES

What is an “operating site?”

An operating site is the organization that manages the AmeriCorps program and places members into service locations. State subgrantees (programs) are operating sites. National grantees must have at least one operating site to which they can assign service locations in each state where they are placing members.

What is a “service location?”

A service location is the organization where a member provides most of his/her service in the community. Typical service locations are schools, food banks, health clinics, community parks,

etc. Service locations can also be operating sites if the member actually serves at the operating site most of the time.

What types of organizations can be operating sites and service sites?

You may use a variety of organizations including, but not limited to, faith-based or community-based organizations, schools, and institutions of higher education. You should select the organizations you feel are the best partners to implement your program locally.

Do I have to select my operating sites prior to submitting my grant application?

AmeriCorps National Direct applicants should identify the all of the states in which they plan to operate and their proposed operating sites. National grantees should identify their proposed member service locations, if known. If they are not known at the time of application, applicants should describe their process for selecting service locations. Additional information also can be found in [2011 AmeriCorps Application Instructions](#).

APPLICATION INFORMATION

What documents do I need to read in order to apply for funding?

You must read the [2011 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) and the AmeriCorps Regulations, 45 C.F.R. §§ 2520 - 2550. Additional information can also be found in [2011 AmeriCorps Application Instructions](#). These documents contain information critical to your grant application.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Do I need to indicate my organization's intent to apply?

Although not required, we strongly encourage you to do so to assist us in planning the grant review process. For National applicants, please send an email indicating your organization's intent to apply to americorpsnational@cns.gov by December 15, 2010.

Are we required to submit our application via the on-line eGrants system?

The Corporation requires that all applicants attempt to utilize the Corporation's web-based application system, eGrants, to submit applications electronically. The [2011 AmeriCorps Application Instructions](#) contain detailed submission instructions in the event that you are unable to submit via eGrants.

When are applications due?

There are two application deadlines.

- AmeriCorps National and Indian Tribes Planning grant applications are due **November 4, 2010 at 5:00 pm Eastern**.
- Applications for all other AmeriCorps National grant competitions are due by **January 25, 2011 at 5:00 pm Eastern**. This includes AmeriCorps National Direct, AmeriCorps National Professional Corps, AmeriCorps National Education Award Program, AmeriCorps Fixed-Amount and AmeriCorps Indian Tribes program grant applications.

OTHER QUESTIONS

What if I have questions that are not answered by this document?

You are invited to participate in one of the technical assistance conference calls scheduled each month from September 2010 – January 2011. The schedule can be found at:

http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=84#TTA.

You may register for the calls or contact us with any questions at americorpsnational@cns.gov or 202.606.7508.