

2015 Indian tribes *Notice*

Glossary

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Capacity Building: Grants will provide support for capacity building activities provided by national service participants. As a general rule, CNCS considers capacity building activities to be *indirect services* that enable CNCS-supported organizations to provide more, better, and sustained *direct services* in CNCS' six focus areas. Capacity building activities cannot be solely intended to support the administration or operations of the organization. Examples of capacity building activities include recruiting and/or managing community volunteers; implementing effective volunteer management practices; completing community assessments that identify goals and recommendations; developing new systems and business processes (technology, performance management, training, etc.); or enhancing existing systems and business processes.

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

Enrollment Rate: Enrollment rate is calculated as slots filled, plus refill slots filled, divided by slots awarded.

Fixed Amount Grants: A type of grant available for programs that enroll full-time members or less than full-time members that are serving in a full time capacity only, including Professional Corps. These grants provide a fixed amount of funding per Member Service Year (MSY) that is substantially lower than the amount required to operate the program. Organizations use their own or other resources to cover the remaining cost. Programs are not required to submit budgets or financial reports, there is no specific match requirement, and programs are not required to track and maintain documentation of match. Programs can access all of the funds, provided they recruit and retain the members supported under the grant based on the MSY level awarded.

Member Service Year (MSY): One Member Service Year (MSY) is equivalent to a full-time AmeriCorps position (at least 1700 service hours.)

National Performance Measures have two classifications: Priority Measures and Complementary measures:

- Priority Performance Measures are agency-wide priorities for CNCS. All CNCS programs contribute to these measures and the reporting provided by grantees for these measures can be aggregated to demonstrate impact across CNCS programs in the various focus areas.
- Complementary Program Measures – National performance measures that are specific to AmeriCorps State and National and cannot be used to demonstrate an aggregated impact with other CNCS programs.

Opportunity Youth: Opportunity youth are economically disadvantaged individuals ages 16-24 who are disconnected from school or work for at least six months prior to service. CNCS defines “economically disadvantaged” consistent with the definition used in the member development performance measures, “Receiving or meet the income eligibility requirements to receive: TANF, Food Stamps (SNAP), Medicaid, SCHIP, Section 8 housing assistance.” CNCS defines “disconnected from school or work” as unemployed, underemployed, and not in school for at least six months prior to service. A member who was not economically disadvantaged prior to becoming an AmeriCorps member but became economically disadvantaged because the living allowance was low enough to make them eligible for SNAP, etc. cannot be counted as economically disadvantaged. In order to apply under this priority, the applicant must demonstrate the programmatic elements they will implement in order to recruit and support opportunity youth as members, and a substantial portion of their requested MSYs must fall into this category.

Retention Rate: Retention rate is calculated as the number of members exited with award (full or partial award) divided by the number of members enrolled.

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

For more information about RUCA codes, please visit the USDA website found here:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-commuting-area-codes.aspx>

While the rural or urban self-designation as classified using RUCA is considered in grant-making decisions, the Office of Grants Management uses Beale Codes when assessing alternative match requirements.

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

Programs need to get approval from their CNCS program officers to be considered a new project.

Theory of Change: A theory of change articulates assumptions about why a particular intervention is likely to lead to the outcomes and should be based on evidence or a strong hypothesis of how and why the change will occur.

Tribally-controlled BIE funded schools: Currently, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) oversees a total of 183 elementary, secondary, residential and peripheral dormitories across 23 states. One hundred twenty-six (126) schools are tribally-controlled under P.L. 93-638 Indian Self Determination Contracts or

P.L. 100-297 Tribally Controlled Grant Schools Act. Fifty-seven (57) schools are operated by the Bureau of Indian Education. Those 126 schools that are tribally-controlled are eligible to apply directly for the 2015 AmeriCorps Indian Tribes Indian Education Fellows funding opportunity. Both tribally-controlled schools and those operated by BIE may be a placement site for AmeriCorps members for an Indian Education Fellows Program.