Welcome to the AmeriCorps State and National Grant Funding Presentation. This is the fourth in a series of webinars for potential AmeriCorps Grant applicants. This presentation will walk you through the different types of AmeriCorps grant funding that are available to your organization.
In this session you will learn about:

- The Six Focus Areas for AmeriCorps Funding
- How AmeriCorps Funding Works
- The Different Grant Types for AmeriCorps
- Additional Resources
- Session Evaluation

The session will conclude with a brief evaluation.
AmeriCorps State and National aims to focus grant making in six areas identified by the Serve America Act:
- Disaster Services
- Economic Opportunity
- Education
- Environmental Stewardship
- Healthy Futures
- Veterans and Military Families

Much more information about each of these focus areas and other funding initiatives can be found in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. Please review it carefully.
Before we discuss the different categories of AmeriCorps Grants, you need to understand the ways in which AmeriCorps funding is awarded to an organization. AmeriCorps grants are 3-year commitments. The grant funds are awarded on an annual basis. In the first year, an applicant submits a full application for review. In years 2 and 3, as a grantee you will submit your request for funding and members, and a reduced amount of narrative information for review. After the third year, you will have to recompete, submitting another full application for review, if you intend to continue the program.

Organizations may apply for a cost-reimbursement grant or a fixed-amount grant.
Cost Reimbursement Grants

★ Fund a portion of program operating costs

★ Flexible - funds may be used for allowable costs regardless of whether the program recruits and retains all AmeriCorps members supported under the grant

★ Available to new and recompeting applicants

Cost reimbursement 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 are available to all applicants regardless of whether or not they have previously received AmeriCorps funding.
Cost Reimbursement Grants

★ Applicants must provide a detailed budget with the application submission.

★ Must meet specific match requirements outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity

★ Must submit semi-annual financial reports to CNCS

If you choose to apply for a cost reimbursement grant, you must provide a detailed budget with your application submission. The budget may include program operating costs such as personnel, training, travel and supplies; member support costs such as the member living allowance and health insurance; and indirect costs associated with program administration.

Cost reimbursement grants must meet specific match requirements as described in the Notice of Funding Opportunity and the AmeriCorps regulations.

A grantee with a cost reimbursement grant must also submit two financial reports to CNCS annually.
There are three main types of cost reimbursement grants. Traditional cost reimbursement grants support the majority of AmeriCorps programs. There are no restrictions on the type of member slot that may be requested under traditional cost-reimbursement grants. The maximum amount of funding that may be requested per member service year, or cost per MSY, is published annually in the AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

A planning grant is a type of cost reimbursement grant provided to new AmeriCorps applicants that does not include AmeriCorps member positions.

Cost reimbursement grants can also be used to support Professional Corps programs.

Planning Grant and Professional Corps will be discussed on the following slides.
Planning Grants

★ Purpose: to support the development of new AmeriCorps programs

★ Applicants cannot have previously received an AmeriCorps grant

★ Not available every year; check the current NOFO

AmeriCorps State and National sometimes offers planning grants as well as program grants. The purpose of a planning grant is to support an organization’s development of a new AmeriCorps program.

Applicants for planning grants must not have received an AmeriCorps program grant in the past.

Planning grants are for one year only and do not support AmeriCorps members. During the planning period, the applicant designs an AmeriCorps program which addresses a need in their community or communities.

Planning grants may be offered by State Service Commissions for their states or by CNCS for multi-state or tribal programs. However, they are not offered every year. You must review the current Notice of Funding Opportunity closely to determine if and how you can apply for a planning grant for the current year’s competition.
Professional Corps

★ Recruit and place members as qualified professionals in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals.
★ Member salaries paid entirely by the organizations with which members serve; not included in the budget.
★ Can be supported by fixed amount or cost reimbursement grants.

Professional Corps is a program model that recruits and places qualified members in positions as teachers, health care providers, police officers, engineers, or other professionals. To be eligible to receive a Professional Corps grant, applicants MUST demonstrate an inadequate number of such professionals in the communities in which they intend to serve.

Professional Corps member salaries are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve. Member salaries or living allowances may not be included in the grant budget.

Professional corps applicants can apply for a fixed amount OR a cost reimbursement grant.
AmeriCorps funding can also be awarded on a fixed amount basis. There are a few different types of fixed amount grants, however the following information pertains to all fixed amount programs:

Fixed amount grants provide a specific dollar amount per MSY to an organization. In order to access all of the funds provided, programs must recruit and retain all AmeriCorps members supported under the grant based on the MSY level awarded.

New applicants who have not previously received AmeriCorps funds are not eligible to apply for fixed amount grants.
Like cost-reimbursement grants, fixed amount grants support only a portion of program operating costs. Organizations are responsible for raising the additional funds needed to run the program.

Programs are not required to submit budgets as part of their applications, and they are not required to submit financial reports. There is also no formal matching requirement. However, applicants will be asked to identify in their applications the total amount budgeted to operate the program and explain how the organization will raise the additional resources it will need.
There are three types of fixed-amount grants: Full-Time Fixed, or less than full-time serving in a full-time capacity; Education Award Program, or EAP; and Professional Corps. Professional Corps grants were discussed on a previous slide; the other two types of fixed-amount grants will be discussed on the next couple of slides.
Full-time Fixed Amount Grants

★ Support only full-time members, or less than full-time members serving in a full-time capacity

★ Maximum cost/MSY published annually in the NOFO

Full-time fixed amount grants may only be used to support full-time AmeriCorps members, or less than full-time members serving in a full-time capacity (for example, members who serve full-time during the summer). The maximum cost per MSY is published annually in the AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity or NOFO.

As a reminder, full-time fixed amount grants are available only to recompeting programs; new applicants are not eligible to apply for fixed-amount grants.
Education Award Programs apply for a small fixed amount per MSY and use their own resources to cover all other program expenses. Unlike full-time fixed amount grants, EAP programs may enroll members for any slot type and there is no requirement that members serve in a full-time capacity.

Programs are not required to pay a living allowance to members and can access all grant funds based on enrolling the full complement of members supported under the grant. This is different than the full-time fixed amount, which must enroll and retain all members in order to access the full amount of grant funds.
To recap what we just discussed, a Cost reimbursement grant = budget, financial reporting, match requirement, and full access to grant funding. Fixed Amount grants = no match, no budget and no financial reporting, however access to all funding is dependent on enrollment and retention of all AmeriCorps members. New applicants may not apply for fixed amount grants.

No matter which grant type you request, the grant funding will supply only a portion of your program costs. You will need to secure additional resources to support program operations.
Now we will briefly review the different mechanisms by which AmeriCorps State and National grants are awarded. Which mechanism you use to apply for a grant will depend on the type of entity you are representing, where your program will operate, and the stage of development of your program.

The Grant Types for AmeriCorps are:
AmeriCorps State
National Direct
Indian Tribes
Planning Grants
AmeriCorps State

If your program wishes to address community needs in only one state, your organization must apply to your state’s State Service Commission for AmeriCorps funding.

http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/contact-us/state-service-commissions/all

We discussed single state AmeriCorps programs and state service commissions in the Introduction to AmeriCorps State and National webinar. Please review that webinar for more detailed information.
Multi-state AmeriCorps programs are also called National Directs. Our definition of national is a program operating in at least 2 states. These applicants submit directly to the Corporation for funding. For additional details on multi-state AmeriCorps programs, please review the Introduction to AmeriCorps State and National webinar.
AmeriCorps State and National sets aside 1% of our funding to support programs that are developed and administered through federally recognized tribes. Specific eligibility requirements for Indian Tribes were discussed in the Intro to AmeriCorps State and National presentation. Please review that presentation for more detailed information.

These include any 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, 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. The definition also includes tribal organizations controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by one of these entities.

A nonprofit that desires to apply for a grant as a “tribal organization” on behalf of a federally-recognized tribe, or multiple specific federally-recognized tribes, must submit a sanctioning resolution adopted by the Tribal Council (or comparable tribal governing body) of each tribe. The resolution must identify the nonprofit by name as a “tribal organization” and it must authorize the nonprofit organization to act on behalf of and include the tribe in a CNCS grant application for the purpose of conducting the activities and providing the services described in the application.

AmeriCorps releases a separate NOFO specifically for Indian Tribes, which may include

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**Indian Tribes**

★ Federally recognized Indian Tribes may apply for funding via one of several mechanisms:

★ Indian Tribes NOFO
  - Designated specifically for Indian Tribes
  - Submit applications directly to the Corporation
  - May include Planning Grants
  - Due date may be different from the main NOFO

★ AmeriCorps State

★ National Direct
both regular grants and planning grants. Programs eligible to apply for AmeriCorps Indian Tribes funding may choose to apply to either the AmeriCorps Indian Tribes NOFO or to the main AmeriCorps NOFO. Please note that the release date and application deadline for the AmeriCorps Indian Tribes NOFO may differ from those of the main NOFO.
This slide provides a quick reference to help you determine where to submit your AmeriCorps application.

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<th>If I am:</th>
<th>Grant I apply for:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating in one state</td>
<td>AmeriCorps State (through State Service Commission</td>
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<td>Operating in two or more states</td>
<td>National Direct (directly to CNCS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operated by a federally recognized Indian Tribe</td>
<td>Indian Tribe (directly to CNCS), AmeriCorps State (through State Service Commission), or National Direct (directly to CNCS)</td>
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This concludes the Categories of AmeriCorps Grants presentation. This is the fourth in a series webinars to assist grant applicants in understanding how to apply for AmeriCorps funding. In addition to these webinars, please review the Notice of Funding Opportunity and other materials posted on our website to help you prepare to apply for an AmeriCorps grant.

In addition to the various online resources, the AmeriCorps Outreach team will host calls to assist applicants as you complete the application process. You can also sign up for periodic email updates by clicking on the “Get Email Updates” link at the top right-hand corner of the CNCS website.
Thank you for your participation, please complete the session evaluation.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACwebinarEval
If you have questions

AmeriCorpsGrants@cns.gov

or 202.606.7508

Getting Things Done for America

If you have questions please contact CNCS via internet or phone at these addresses.