Categories of AmeriCorps Grants

A presentation for AmeriCorps grant applicants

Webinar #4 of 5

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.

Overview

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

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In this session you will learn about:

The Six Focus Areas for AmeriCorps Funding
How AmeriCorps Funding Works
The Different Grant Types for AmeriCorps
And Additional Resources
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 and
Veterans and Military Families

Grants may also 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.

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.

AmeriCorps Grant Funding

★ Three-year Grants
- Funds awarded annually
- Recipients submit continuations for years 2 & 3
- Recompete after year 3

★ Types of Grants
- Cost Reimbursement
- Fixed Amount

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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

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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

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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.

Types of Cost Reimbursement Grants

- ★ Traditional
  - Support the majority of AmeriCorps programs
  - May include all AmeriCorps member slot types
  - Maximum cost/MSY published annually in the NOFO
- ★ Planning Grant
- ★ Professional Corps

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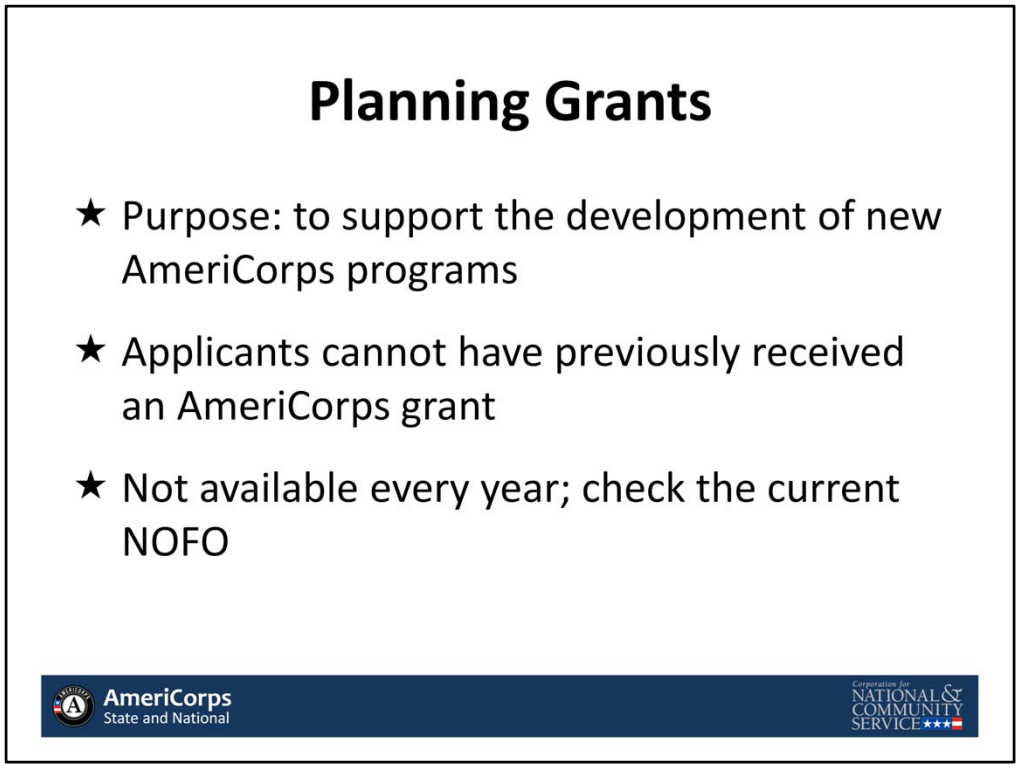
There are three main types of cost reimbursement grants. Traditional cost reimbursement grants support the majority of AmeriCorps programs. There are no restrictions on the type of member slot that may be requested under traditional cost-reimbursement grants. The maximum amount of funding that may be requested per member service year, or cost per MSY, is published annually in the AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Cost reimbursement grants can also be used to support Planning Grants and Professional Corps programs. Planning Grants and Professional Corps will be discussed on the next two slides.



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

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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 be supported by a fixed amount OR a cost reimbursement grant. However, **new applicants are not eligible to apply for fixed-amount professional corps grants.**

Fixed Amount Grants

- ★ Provide a specific dollar amount per Member Service Year (MSY)
- ★ Access to funds is contingent on recruitment and retention of the AmeriCorps members supported under the grant

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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.

Fixed Amount Grants

- ★ Fund a portion of program operating costs
- ★ Organizations must raise the additional funds needed to run the program
- ★ No budget or financial reports and no formal matching requirement

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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.

Types of Fixed Amount Grants

- ★ Full-Time Fixed (or less than full-time serving in a full-time capacity)
- ★ Education Award Program (EAP)
- ★ Professional Corps

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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
- ★ **Not available to new applicants**

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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.

New applicants who have not previously received AmeriCorps funds are not eligible to apply for full-time fixed amount grants.

Education Award Program (EAP)

- ★ Small fixed amount per member
  - ★ Less than a full-time fixed amount grant
- ★ No restrictions on AmeriCorps member slot types
- ★ Not required to pay a living allowance
- ★ Can access all funds if <u>all</u> member positions awarded are <u>enrolled</u>
- ★ Available to new and recompeting applicants

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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.

EAP grants are available to all applicants regardless of whether or not they have previously received AmeriCorps funding.

Recap

★ Grant funds can be awarded as cost reimbursement or fixed amount grants

Cost Reimbursement	Fixed Amount
Available to new applicants	Only EAP grants are available to new applicants
Budget	No budget
2 annual financial reports	No financial reports
Match required	No formal match required
Access to all funds regardless of member enrollment or retention	Access to all funds is dependent on member enrollment and/or retention

★ Additional resources to support program operations are required for all grant types

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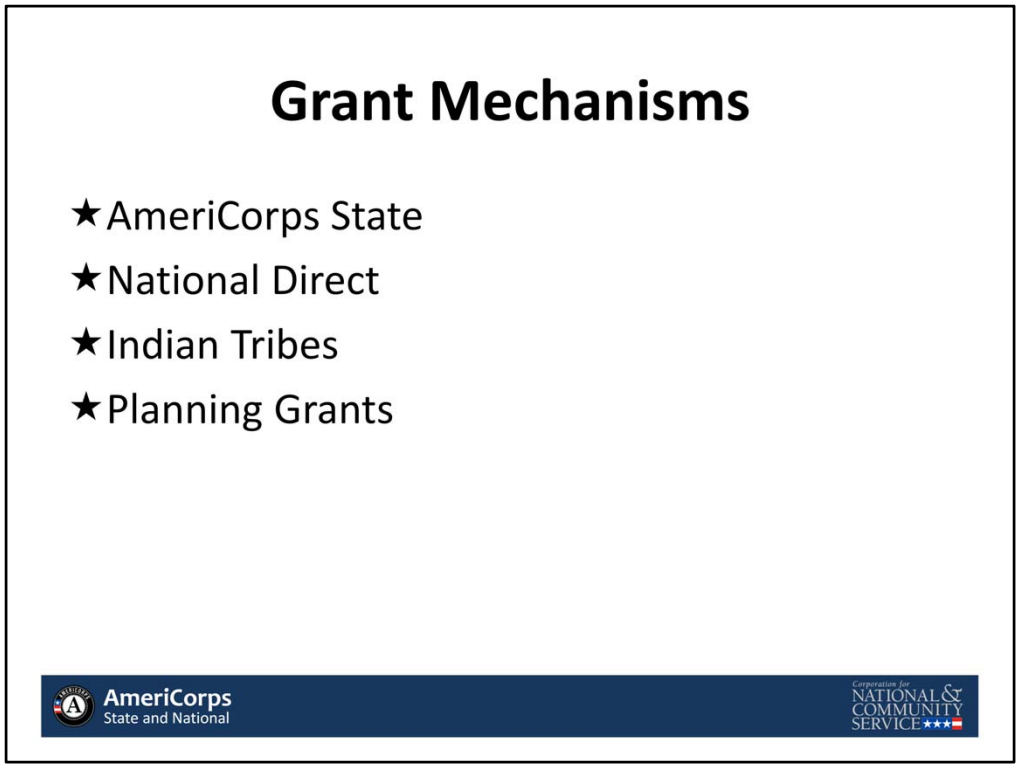
To recap what we just discussed, a Cost reimbursement grant involves a budget, financial reporting, match requirement, and full access to grant funding
Fixed Amount grants involve no formal match, no budget, and no financial reporting, but access to all funding is dependent on enrollment and retention of all AmeriCorps members. Except for EAP grants, 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

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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

National Direct

- ★ 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 CNCS

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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 CNCS for funding. For additional details on multi-state AmeriCorps programs, please review the Introduction to AmeriCorps State and National webinar.

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

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AmeriCorps State and National sets aside 1% of our funding to support programs that are developed and administered through federally recognized tribes. 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 <u>each</u> 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 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.

Where do I apply?

If I am:	Grant I apply for:
Operating in one state	AmeriCorps State (through State Service Commission
Operating in two or more states	National Direct (directly to CNCS)
Operated by a federally recognized Indian Tribe	Indian Tribe (directly to CNCS), AmeriCorps State (through State Service Commission), or National Direct (directly to CNCS)

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This slide provides a quick reference to help you determine where to submit your AmeriCorps application. If you are operating in one state, you should apply for an AmeriCorps State grant through the State Service Commission. If you are operating in two or more states, you should apply for an AmeriCorps National Direct grant directly to CNCS. If you are a federally recognized Indian tribe, you can apply via either the main AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity (through the State Service Commission or directly to CNCS) or via the Indian Tribes NOFO.

Additional Resources

Webinar Series:
Intro to AmeriCorps State and National
Key AmeriCorps Terms and Concepts
Intro to AmeriCorps Members
Categories of AmeriCorps Grants
AmeriCorps Program Management and Design

Current AmeriCorps Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) and other applicant resources are available at: http://www.nationalservice.gov/build-your-capacity/grants/funding-opportunities

Live Topical Calls: AmeriCorps State & National hosts Q&A calls with potential applicants. You can find the call schedule by following the link above and clicking on the current NOFO.

Sign up for Email Updates! Visit www.nationalservice.gov and click on the "Email" icon on the blue bar near the top right-hand corner of the page.

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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 "Email" icon in the blue bar near the top right-hand corner of the CNCS website.

Session Evaluation

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACwebinarEval

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Thank you for your participation, please complete the session evaluation.

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