

FY 2015 AmeriCorps State and National Competitions Overview

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) conducted five AmeriCorps State and National grant competitions in 2015:

- AmeriCorps State and National Grants, which included State or Territory Commission grants, National Direct grants, and Tribal Grants
- AmeriCorps Indian Tribes Planning Grants
- AmeriCorps Partnership Challenge
- justice AmeriCorps
- Youth Opportunity AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities (e.g., based on a proposed program's performance and evaluation data or research demonstrating the effectiveness of a similar intervention). With their grants, AmeriCorps programs recruit, train, and manage AmeriCorps members who address unmet community needs. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who is enrolled in an approved national service position and engages in community service. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award from the National Service Trust.

Most AmeriCorps grants are operational grants made on a standard cost reimbursement basis. Some of the CNCS grants or state subgrants are awarded for a fixed amount per full-time AmeriCorps member (with the amount of funds being contingent on how many members are enrolled and complete their terms of service). In addition, some AmeriCorps grantees or subgrantees receive Education Award Program (EAP) grants of a small fixed-amount for each member enrolled. Under each form of grant, organizations receive only a portion of the total funding needed to operate the program (which includes the member's living allowance and other program costs). The organization must use other resources to cover the remaining costs or operating the AmeriCorps program.

In addition to operating grants, CNCS and State or Territory Commissions may also award planning grants. An AmeriCorps planning grant is for one year and does not have AmeriCorps members. These grants are intended to provide funds to complete the planning needed to develop a sound concept of how to meet an unmet community need and determine how to best use AmeriCorps members to implement that concept.

AmeriCorps State Commission grants are awarded by CNCS to Governor-appointed State or Territory commissions, which use the grants to make subgrants to organizations that are proposing a project that operates only within that state or territory.

AmeriCorps National Direct grants are awarded by CNCS to organizations that propose to operate AmeriCorps programs in more than one state.

AmeriCorps Indian Tribes grants are awarded by CNCS to Indian Tribes to recruit, train, and manage AmeriCorps members who address unmet community needs in Tribal communities.

An Indian Tribe is defined as an 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 recognizes as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States under federal law to Indians because of their status as Indians. The definition also include tribal organizations controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by one of the entities described above. By law, a minimum of one (1) percent of the funding that CNCS allocates for its AmeriCorps grants are reserved for Tribal programs.

AmeriCorps Partnership Challenge grants only provide Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards to AmeriCorps members who successfully complete their terms of service with the supported program. No operational funding is provided. The organization must use other resources to cover the full costs necessary to operate the AmeriCorps program, including the cost of living allowances paid to AmeriCorps members if they choose to provide a living allowance.

justice AmeriCorps is a program jointly sponsored by the Department of Justice's Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) and the CNCS to improve the efficient and effective adjudication of immigration court proceedings involving unaccompanied children.

This program uses the AmeriCorps service model to improve the efficient and effective adjudication of immigration proceedings involving unaccompanied immigrant children. AmeriCorps members serve as lawyers and paralegals to provide legal services to unaccompanied children under the age of 16 who: (1) are not in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) or the Department of Homeland Security; (2) have received a Notice to Appear in removal proceedings before EOIR; and, (3) have not had their cases consolidated with removal proceedings against a parent or legal guardian.

Youth Opportunity AmeriCorps is a program jointly sponsored by the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and CNCS. This program provides Disconnected Youth with the opportunity to participate in a national service program and receive meaningful mentoring while they are serving. Disconnected Youth is defined as individuals at least 17 and under the age of 25 who have been adjudicated in the juvenile justice system, convicted in the criminal justice system, or have been identified as at risk of incarceration.