

FY 2016 AmeriCorps State and National Competitions Overview

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) conducted three AmeriCorps State and National grant competitions in 2016:

- AmeriCorps State and National Grants, which included State or Territory Commission Grants, and National Direct Grants
- AmeriCorps Indian Tribes Grants and AmeriCorps Indian Tribes Planning Grants
- School Turnaround AmeriCorps Grants, which included State or Territory Commission Grants, and National Direct Grants

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 or no operational funding (CNCN provides only the Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards to AmeriCorps members who successfully complete their terms of service). Under each form of grant, organizations receive only a portion or none of the total funding needed to operate the program (which may include the member's living allowance and other program costs). The organization must use other resources to cover the costs for 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.

School Turnaround AmeriCorps

School Turnaround AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations to use AmeriCorps members to pursue evidence-informed interventions to improve educational outcomes (student academic performance, academic engagement, attendance outcomes, or some combination thereof) for students, in eligible schools. These grants fund projects that address multiple student needs and align with comprehensive school turnaround plans. School Turnaround AmeriCorps, in coordination with local schools and local education agencies (LEAs) under School Improvement Grants (SIG) and Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility, support schools and communities in improving student performance in our nation's lowest-performing elementary, middle, and high schools.