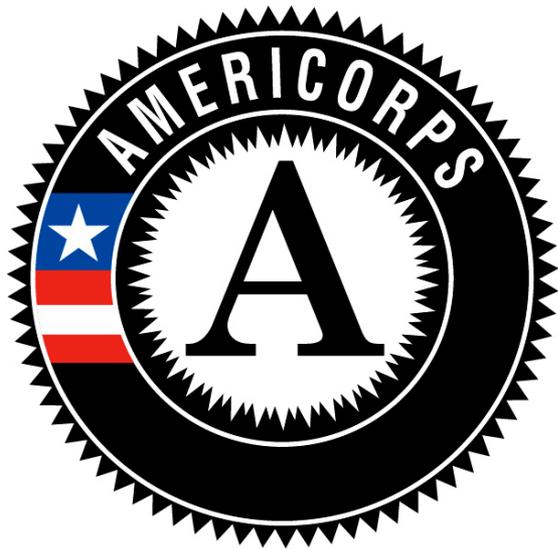


# How AmeriCorps Works!



AmeriCorps

# How AmeriCorps Works!



- AmeriCorps State & National grants
- AmeriCorps grantee programs and activities
- Benefits of AmeriCorps
- How to become an AmeriCorps program
- Understanding AmeriCorps members – terms, concepts, activities

# What is AmeriCorps?

- ★ <https://youtu.be/J4eE0tNS2YY>
- ★ AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 Americans in intensive service each year at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country.
- ★ Since 1994, more than **900,000** men and women have provided service as AmeriCorps members.

# What is AmeriCorps?



# AmeriCorps State and National Grants

- ★ Provide partial funding to support AmeriCorps projects/programs (Grant recipients must contribute cash or in-kind match funds.)
- ★ Solely for program-related expenses and not for general organizational expenses
- ★ Include an allotment of AmeriCorps member positions and funds that are directly tied to the number of members

# CNCS Focus Areas

- Six focus areas:
  - Disaster Services
  - Economic Opportunity
  - Education
  - Environmental Stewardship
  - Healthy Futures
  - Veterans and Military Families



# AmeriCorps Grant Activities

- Diversity in program designs, customized to most effectively meet community needs
  - Full-time and/or part-time members
  - Direct service and/or capacity building
  - Members serve as a cohort and/or individually
  - Members based at a host organization and/or with community partners



# Benefits of AmeriCorps



- For organizations and communities:
  - Enhanced “people power” to meet pressing needs and accomplish meaningful outcomes
  - Connection to broader National Service movement
- For individuals:
  - Meaningful service that develops key skills and leads to lifelong civic engagement
  - Improved employment opportunities
  - Education Award to support further postsecondary education and/or repay student loans

# How does an Organization Become an AmeriCorps State and National Program?

There are 2 ways an organization can become an AmeriCorps grantee:

**Apply directly to CNCS**

OR

**Submit an application to a State Service Commission**

# State Service Commissions

- ★ Comprised of governor-appointed boards that oversee the implementation of service and volunteer initiatives in that state
- ★ Employ staff that manage, monitor and evaluate AmeriCorps programs
- ★ Provide CNCS funding to single-state programs through grant competitions
- ★ Provide feedback to the CNCS on multi-state programs operating in that state

# Multi-State AmeriCorps Programs

- ★ 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 the program will operate
- ★ Submit grant applications directly to CNCS

# Any Questions?



# AmeriCorps Terms and Concepts

- ★ **AmeriCorps Program:** An organization that has received an AmeriCorps grant and operates a service program
- ★ **AmeriCorps Member:** An individual who makes a commitment to a particular term of service with an approved AmeriCorps program to meet the needs of a community
- ★ **Grantee:** The direct recipient of the grant funds
- ★ **Service Locations:** The places in the community where members complete their service activities

# AmeriCorps Members

- Commit to a specific term of service
  - 300 to 1700 hours
  - Up to 12 months
- Receive a Segal Education Award upon successfully completing a service term (up to \$5,775)
- Eligible for deferment of qualified student loans
- May receive a living allowance, health insurance and child care assistance while serving



# AmeriCorps Members vs. Volunteers

- ★ Members have a contract/service agreement with the program
- ★ Members must be supervised
- ★ Members receive extensive, program-specific training
- ★ Members must commit to a specific term of service

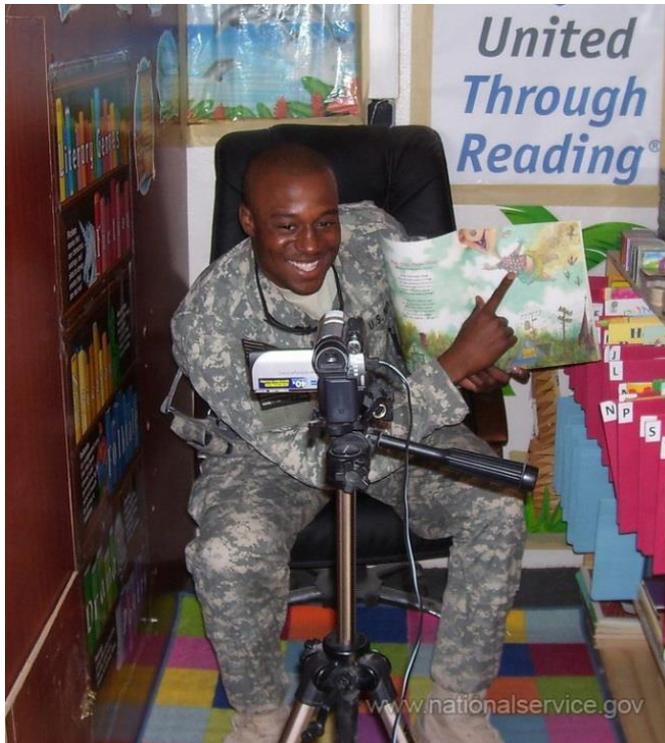
# Member Eligibility



Members must be:

- ★ U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals or Lawful Permanent Residents of the United States
- ★ At least 17 years of age – no upper age limit
- ★ High school graduates or GED recipients (or working towards this goal)
- ★ Subject to criminal history checks
- ★ AmeriCorps programs may add program-specific requirements

# More Terms and Concepts



- ★ AmeriCorps member term/slot type
- ★ Living Allowance
- ★ Prohibited Activities

# AmeriCorps Member Terms of Service/ Slot Type

Five types of AmeriCorps member terms or slots.

**Full Time**

**Half Time**

**Reduced  
Half Time**

**Quarter  
Time**

**Minimum  
Time**

# Member Terms of Service

<b>Member Term</b>	<b>Minimum Hours Served</b>	<b>Maximum Length of Term</b>
Full Time (FT)	1,700	12 months
Half Time (HT)	900	12 months
Reduced Half Time (RHT)	675	12 months
Quarter Time (QT)	450	12 months
Minimum Time (MT)	300	12 months

# Living Allowance

- ★ The stipend an AmeriCorps member receives during a term of service
- ★ CNCS publishes a maximum and minimum living allowance for each member position
- ★ Is not a wage, not calculated on an hourly basis
- ★ Only full-time members are **required** to receive a living allowance

# What Cannot be done with AmeriCorps

**Prohibited Activities:** Activities that staff, members, and volunteers may not engage in while charging time to the AmeriCorps program, accumulating service or training hours, or otherwise performing activities supported by the AmeriCorps program or CNCS

Political  
Activity and  
Advocacy

Religious  
Activity

Benefitting  
For-Profit  
Entities

Voter  
Registration

Abortion  
Services

# Any Questions?

