Key Differences among the AmeriCorps Programs

Category	AmeriCorps VISTA Projects	AmeriCorps State Programs	AmeriCorps National Programs
Member term of service	Full-time only: 365 days	Full-time, Half-time, Reduced Half-time, Quarter-Time, Minimum-Time	Full-time, Half-time, Reduced Half-time, Quarter-Time, Minimum-Time
Member stipend/ living allowance payments	Administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service (unless VISTA project has a Program Grant)	Administered by the Grantee	Administered by the Grantee
Member support costs (stipend and benefits)	Covered by the Corporation (unless the VISTA project is a Cost-share)	Required for full-time members and optional for others. Programs can us Corporation grant funds or match funding to cover member support costs.	Required for full-time members and optional for others. Programs can us Corporation grant funds or match funding to cover member support costs.
Member Training	Corporation provides a Pre-service Orientation to all new VISTA members	Grantee is responsible for training members	Grantee is responsible for training members
Member Service	Capacity Building activities, incidental direct service only	Direct service and capacity building activities	Direct service and capacity building activities
Member Fundraising	No limit on % of time spent raising funds for the organization	cannot allot more than 10% of their time to fundraising for the AmeriCorps program	cannot allot more than 10% of their time to fundraising for the AmeriCorps program
Segal AmeriCorps Education award and end of term options	Members choose a Segal AmeriCorps education award of $4725 OR a $1200 cash stipend, paid upon successful completion of service.	Members receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education award appropriate for the term of service completed. There is NO choice of a cash option.	Members receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education award appropriate for the term of service completed. There is NO choice of a cash option.
Operational support costs	Projects contribute 100% of the operating costs in cash or in-kind; some training and support money may be available	New programs must contribute a minimum of 24% of the total program costs in cash or in-kind. Overall grantee share of total budget increases gradually to 50% overall share by the tenth year of funding and any year thereafter.	New programs must contribute a minimum of 24% of the total program costs in cash or in-kind. Overall grantee share of total budget increases gradually to 50% overall share by the tenth year of funding and any year thereafter.
Reporting Requirements	Program reports required quarterly in first year, often reduced to semi-annual thereafter; financial reports required only for programs receiving grants	Set by the State Commission, programs	Programs submit annual progress reports due the first Monday in December and semi-annual Financial Status reports directly to the Corporation
Application Submission process	Begins with a Concept Paper submitted to the Corporation State Office.	Begins with Commission issuing a Request for Proposals and applicants applying directly to the State Commission	Begins with submission of an application directly to the Corporation
Results	Member service must lift	Determined by State and	Determined by CNCS

Requirements	people out of poverty and be sustainable; program must address one or more CNCS strategic initiatives	CNCS priorities as well as program identified performance measures	priorities as well as program identified performance measures
Application Deadline	No set deadline; contact your CNCS State Office	One annual deadline for each grant competition. Check with State Commissions for specific deadlines.	Specific annual deadline for Planning Grant applicants and a separate annual deadline for all other grant competitions.