

NOTICE OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)

OVERVIEW

Federal Agency Name: Corporation for National and Community Service
AmeriCorps State and National Programs

Funding Opportunity Title: AmeriCorps State and National Grant Programs FY 2006

Announcement Type: Initial announcement

CFDA No.: 94.006

Key Dates: Various—See Table below

Available Grants: Subject to the availability of appropriations for fiscal year 2006, the Corporation for National and Community Service (hereinafter the “Corporation”) announces the anticipated availability of approximately \$69,200,000 to award to new and re-competing AmeriCorps State and National grant programs FY 2006. The grants are the AmeriCorps States and Territories Competitive Program, State Education Award Program, National Direct Program, National Education Award Program, National Planning Grants Program, National Professional Corps Program, Indian Tribes Program, and States and Territories without Commissions Program. Of those funds, the Corporation anticipates that at least 15% will support applicants that have not received AmeriCorps operational grants for the last five years.

AmeriCorps State & National Grant Programs Dates and Funds Available for New and Re-competing Grants

Name of Grant Program	Projected Funds Available	Corporation Deadline	Announcement	Where to Submit Applications
States and Territories Competitive Program	\$43 million	2/16/2006 (deadline for Commissions)	5/26/2006	State Commissions (contact your State Commission for its due date)
Education Award Program (State and National)	\$1 million for both State and National	3/14/2006 (deadline for Commissions) 2/14/2006 (deadline for National Directs)	5/26/2006	State Commissions (contact your State Commission for its due date) Corporation
National Direct Program	\$20 million	2/14/2006	5/26/2006	Corporation
National Planning Grants Program	\$200,000	2/14/2006	5/26/2006	Corporation
National Professional Corps Program	\$1 million	2/14/2006	5/26/2006	Corporation
Indian Tribes Program	\$1.2 million	2/14/2006	5/26/2006	Corporation
States and Territories without Commissions Program	\$2.8 million	2/14/2006	5/26/2006	Corporation

The Corporation anticipates an additional \$101 million to support continuation grants for grantees in their second and third year of AmeriCorps funding during FY 2006. The full projected value of the education awards anticipated for new and continuation programs in FY 2006 is \$157 million.¹ Re-competing programs have completed three years of funding and are required to re-compete rather than participate in the streamlined continuation application process. This NOFO focuses on the new and re-competing

¹ These are not grant funds. They represent the full value of education awards earned by members who successfully complete their service. See Section VI., Award Administration Information for more detail on education awards.

competition for FY 2006. Applicants for continuation grants will receive guidance in separate documentation.

Purpose of Grants: Through its AmeriCorps State and National programs (hereinafter “AmeriCorps”), the Corporation has engaged citizens of all ages and backgrounds in helping to meet pressing local needs for more than a decade. AmeriCorps provides human and other resources to community organizations, including faith-based organizations, to build their capacity to meet local needs in education, the environment, senior independent living, public safety, homeland security, and other critical areas. AmeriCorps also works closely with America’s volunteer-connector organizations to increase the number and impact of our nation’s volunteers, and with schools and nonprofit groups to foster the ethic of good citizenship.

About AmeriCorps: AmeriCorps programs provide grants to initiate, improve, or expand the ability of organizations and communities to provide services to address local unmet environmental, educational, public safety (including disaster preparedness and response), or other human needs. AmeriCorps awards member positions and program operating funds to public and private nonprofit organizations with goals which are in accord with this mission. Grants support organizations that use volunteer service as a strategy for addressing national and community needs, while fostering an ethic of civic responsibility and connecting Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to serve their communities and country. Please see the Corporation’s statutes and regulations for more information at www.americorps.gov/.

Eligible Applicants: The Corporation wants to ensure that all eligible organizations are able to compete on an equal basis for federal financial assistance. Public or private non-profit organizations, including labor organizations; community organizations, including faith-based organizations; institutions of higher education; states and territories; government entities within states or territories (e.g., cities, counties); Indian Tribes; and partnerships or consortia consisting of the aforementioned, are eligible to apply for AmeriCorps grant programs funding. **Applicants that have never received funding from the Corporation or AmeriCorps are encouraged to apply for funding under this Notice.**

Requirements and Criteria: Program requirements, including the criteria against which applications will be assessed are located in the new AmeriCorps regulations, 45 CFR §§ 2520 -2550 (www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr and www.americorps.gov/rulemaking). These regulations take effect September 6, 2005, sixty days after they were published in the *Federal Register*. This NOFO should be read together with the regulations and the AmeriCorps application instructions for the program to which you are applying (www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/NOFA).

2006 Focus Areas: For the FY 2006 competition, the Corporation will also give special consideration to four additional strategic focus areas that meet critical needs of our nation. The Corporation’s draft strategic plan considers extending these focus areas with five year priorities. These focus areas are defined broadly to build upon the existing work of State Commissions, territories, national non-profits, institutions of higher education, Indian Tribes, and local communities. They are:

1. Ensure a brighter future for all of America’s youth: Children and youth who grow up in severely distressed communities are more likely to be at risk of school failure, unemployment, criminal behavior, and persistent poverty. Among other interventions, AmeriCorps programs often bring positive change to the lives of these children and youth in one or both of two ways: engaging them in service and connecting them with caring adults such as mentors or tutors. AmeriCorps looks to build on this success in its 2006 program year.

2. Harness experience to meet 21st century challenges: Baby Boomers are a highly educated, highly motivated group that could drive solutions to some of our most intractable social problems. Capturing their talents and experience, and engaging them in helping to solve critical social issues through service must become a high-priority goal for the nation in the coming years. Several AmeriCorps programs have achieved strong success in this area in the past, and in 2006, AmeriCorps is interested in finding some additional models to support.

3. Build the supply line for “America’s Armies of Compassion:” In 2004, more than 64 million Americans served their communities as unstipended volunteers with organizations. AmeriCorps programs provide more support than any other program to volunteer generating nonprofits. In addition, all Corporation programs provide unique support to volunteer connector organizations in communities. In 2006, AmeriCorps plans to build on this success through generating even higher levels of volunteering through its grantees and through supporting programs that build or strengthen volunteering infrastructure in communities.

4. Students in the community – building engaged citizens: Educational institutions (elementary, secondary, and higher education) are charged with the responsibility of educating students to become responsible citizens and leaders who use their education and life experiences to support the common good. Volunteering and service-learning are important factors in this educational experience and need to be incorporated on a more widespread basis. AmeriCorps is looking to expand its impact in generating service learning in the K-12 environment and to generate more students in higher education institutions serving needs in their community.

FULL TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Available Grants: The Corporation for National and Community Service (hereinafter the “Corporation”) announces the anticipated availability of approximately \$69,200,000 to award to AmeriCorps State and National Grant Programs. These are the AmeriCorps States and Territories Competitive Program, State Education Award Program, National Direct Program, National Education Award Program, National Planning Program, National Professional Corps Program, Indian Tribes Program, and States and Territories without Commissions Program. Of those funds, the Corporation anticipates that at least 15% will support applicants that have not received AmeriCorps operational grants for the last five years.

Authority: These funds will be available under authority of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §§12571-12595).

Purpose of Grants: Through its AmeriCorps State and National Programs (hereinafter “AmeriCorps”), the Corporation has engaged citizens of all ages and backgrounds in helping to meet pressing local needs for more than a decade. AmeriCorps programs provide human and other resources to community organizations, including faith-based organizations to build their capacity to meet local needs in education, the environment, senior independent living, public safety, homeland security, and other critical areas. AmeriCorps Programs also work closely with America’s volunteer-connector organizations to increase the number and impact of our nation’s volunteers, and with schools and nonprofit groups to foster the ethic of good citizenship. This year, more than 1.6 million individuals of all ages and backgrounds will serve through Corporation programs, and those individuals will recruit, train, and manage an additional one million community volunteers.

Period of Grants: The Corporation generally makes grant awards for a period that covers three years, with funding made available in annual increments. The funding available in 2006 listed in Table 3, below,

is for Year One operations. Grantees will be eligible for continuation funding in the second and third year contingent upon the availability of appropriations, compliance, and satisfactory performance.

About AmeriCorps: AmeriCorps programs provide grants to initiate, improve, or expand the ability of organizations and communities to provide services to address local unmet environmental, educational, public safety (including disaster preparedness and response), or other human needs. AmeriCorps awards member positions and program operating funds to public and private nonprofit organizations with goals which are in accord with this mission. Grants support organizations that use volunteer service as a strategy for addressing national and community needs, while fostering an ethic of civic responsibility and connecting Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to serve their communities and country. Please see the Corporation's statutes and regulations for more information at www.americorps.gov.

AmeriCorps taps into and further develops the skills, talents, and experience of Americans to address a wide range of community challenges. AmeriCorps grants are awarded to organizations which propose to utilize AmeriCorps members to address unmet community needs. AmeriCorps members are individuals who commit to engage in community service. Members may receive a living allowance during their term of service, and upon successful completion of their service all who serve full-time receive an education award of \$4,725, which is pro-rated for less than full-time.

Members engage in a range of activities such as recruiting and supporting community volunteers, providing translation services in community clinics, conducting safety patrols for local police departments, participating in environmental projects, conducting outreach and referral services for the homeless, tutoring and mentoring young people, helping homebound seniors and other adults maintain independence in their own homes, and responding to natural disasters. The grant funds matched with local funds cover expenses directly related to the AmeriCorps program.

DESCRIPTION: AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL GRANTS

AmeriCorps grants are made in two general categories: State grants, which are made through Governor-appointed State Commissions to organizations nominated by those commissions; and direct grants, which are made directly by the Corporation to organizations operating in multiple States, in a single State or territory without an approved State Commission, or to American Indian Tribes.

AmeriCorps State Grants

States and Territories Competitive: These grants are awarded to organizations operating in a single State that are nominated to participate in a nationwide competition by Governor-appointed State Commissions. The organizations selected in this category receive grants to support AmeriCorps member positions through the State Commission.

State Education Award Program: These grants are awarded to organizations operating in a single state that are nominated to participate in a nationwide competition by Governor-appointed State Commissions. Grantees receive a small administrative grant – approximately \$400 for each Member Service Year (MSY) – and use their own or other resources to cover AmeriCorps members' living allowance and other program costs.

States and Territories without Commissions: In the absence of State Commissions, the Corporation conducts local competitions in accordance with its statute. For states and U.S. territories without an approved State Commission, the Corporation awards grants on a formula-based allotment directly to organizations within those states and territories to promote and support community service in addressing critical community needs.

AmeriCorps National Grants

National Direct: These grants are awarded to organizations that operate their AmeriCorps project in more than one state. Grantees receive Corporation funding to support AmeriCorps members and other program costs.

National Education Award Program: These grants are awarded to organizations operating in more than one state. Grantees receive a small administrative grant – approximately \$400 per MSY – but use their own or other resources to cover AmeriCorps members’ living allowance and other program costs.

National Professional Corps: These grants are awarded to organizations that operate AmeriCorps projects in more than one state. Grantees receive Corporation funding to support program costs, and use other resources to support the living allowance and other member costs of the AmeriCorps members. Professional Corps programs place members as teachers, nurses and other health care providers, police officers, early childhood development staff, engineers, or other professionals providing service to meet unmet needs in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals.

Indian Tribes: AmeriCorps State and National sets aside one percent (1%) of grant funds to support programs operated by American Indian Tribes.

National Planning Grants: These grants are awarded to organizations to assist them in establishing a multi-state AmeriCorps program. The purpose of a planning grant is to support the development or improvement of a program so that it may better prepared to successfully compete for operating assistance in the following grant cycle. Community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations, are encouraged to apply for planning grants. These grants are awarded for up to 12 months for administrative purposes. They may not be used to support AmeriCorps members.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

Requirements and Criteria: Program requirements, including the criteria against which applications will be assessed are located in the new AmeriCorps regulations, 45 CFR §§ 2520 -2550 (www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr and www.americorps.gov/rulemaking). These regulations take effect September 6, 2005, sixty days after they were published in the *Federal Register*. This NOFO should be read together with the regulations and the AmeriCorps application instructions for the program to which you are applying (www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding).

Table 1: Program Requirements in the AmeriCorps Regulations

Requirements and Selection	Citation in the AmeriCorps Regulations
Member Service Activities	§2520.20 - §2520.55
Prohibited Activities	§2520.65
Tutoring Programs	§2522.900-2522.950
Matching Funds	§2521.35-2521.90
Member Benefits	§2522.240-2522.250
Calculating Cost Per Member Service Year (MSY)	§2522.485
Performance Measures	§2522.500-2522.650
Evaluation	§2522.500-2522.540 and §2522.700-2522.740
Selection Criteria and Selection Process	§2522.400-2522.475

If there is any inconsistency between the AmeriCorps regulations, the NOFO, and the Application Instructions, the order of precedence is as follows:

1. AmeriCorps regulations 45 CFR §§ 2520-2550
2. NOFO
3. Application Instructions

2006 Focus Areas: For the FY 2006 competition, the Corporation will also give special consideration to four additional strategic focus areas that meet critical needs of our nation. The Corporation's draft strategic plan considers extending these focus areas with five year priorities. These focus areas are defined broadly to build upon the existing work of State Commissions, territories, national non-profits, institutions of higher education, Indian Tribes, and local communities. They are:

1. Ensure a brighter future for all of America's youth: Children and youth who grow up in severely distressed communities are more likely to be at risk of school failure, unemployment, criminal behavior, and persistent poverty. Among other interventions, AmeriCorps programs often bring positive change to the lives of these children and youth in one or both of two ways: engaging them in service and connecting them with caring adults such as mentors or tutors. AmeriCorps looks to build on this success in its 2006 program year.

2. Harness experience to meet 21st century challenges: Baby Boomers are a highly educated, highly motivated group that could drive solutions to some of our most intractable social problems. Capturing their talents and experience, and engaging them in helping to solve critical social issues through service must become a high-priority goal for the nation in the coming years. Several AmeriCorps programs have achieved strong success in this area in the past, and in 2006, AmeriCorps is interested in finding some additional models to support.

3. Build the supply line for "America's Armies of Compassion:" In 2004, more than 64 million Americans served their communities as unstipended volunteers with organizations. AmeriCorps programs provide more support than any other program to volunteer generating nonprofits. In addition, all Corporation programs provide unique support to volunteer connector organizations in communities. In 2006, AmeriCorps plans to build on this success through generating even higher levels of volunteering through its grantees and through supporting programs that build or strengthen volunteering infrastructure in communities.

4. Students in the community – building engaged citizens: Educational institutions (elementary, secondary, and higher education) are charged with the responsibility of educating students to become responsible citizens and leaders who use their education and life experiences to support the common good. Volunteering and service-learning are important factors in this educational experience and need to be incorporated on a more widespread basis. AmeriCorps is looking to expand its impact in generating service learning in the K-12 environment and to generate more students in higher education institutions serving needs in their community.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligibility: The Corporation wants to ensure that all eligible organizations are able to compete on an equal basis for federal financial assistance. Public or private non-profit organizations, including labor organizations; community organizations, including faith-based organizations; institutions of higher education; states and territories; government entities of states or territories (e.g., cities, counties); Indian Tribes; and partnerships or consortia consisting of the aforementioned, are eligible to apply for AmeriCorps grant programs funding. **Applicants that have never received funding from the Corporation or AmeriCorps are encouraged to apply for funding under this Notice.**

Intermediary organizations are also encouraged to apply for AmeriCorps funding. An intermediary organization provides the mechanism by which a number of community organizations, including faith-based organizations or grassroots groups may access AmeriCorps and other Corporation resources. Intermediaries are national, regional, state, or local organizations that agree to provide the technical and financial support to assist community organizations, including faith-based organizations that do not have the capacity to perform these functions.

An intermediary serves as the legal applicant for a Corporation grant, thereby ensuring that the systems to manage the federal grant are in place. An intermediary may place individual members at the site of many neighborhood, community or faith-based organizations and assumes responsibility for monitoring the progress of the sites. An intermediary organization may apply for AmeriCorps funding if it is one of the types of eligible organizations listed above, and meets other program-specific eligibility requirements.

Any organization described in Section 501 (c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(4) that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply, serve as a host site for member placements, or act in any type of supervisory role in AmeriCorps programs.

Organizations that currently operate a Corporation-funded program or are applying for other Corporation funding are eligible applicants. However, applicants must differentiate between the proposed project and the currently funded project or pending application. For example, an operating site of a National Direct program cannot submit an application for funding for the same project through a State Commission.

Eligible Applicants from States and Territories without Commissions: Nonprofit and government organizations in U.S. states and territories without an approved State Commission or an alternative administrative entity are eligible to apply directly to the Corporation for AmeriCorps funding. Nonprofits and government organizations in states and U.S. territories with a State Commission must apply for funding through the State Commission. For a complete listing of State Commissions see www.americorps.gov/about/role_impact/state_profiles. AmeriCorps distributes funds to states and U.S. territories without commissions on a population-based formula allotment. However, formula funds are not an entitlement. AmeriCorps reserves the right not to fund formula programs that do not meet our standards of quality. Before turning down an application, AmeriCorps staff will work with state and territory staff, describing why the program does not meet standards and what options are available to bring the program into compliance.

Please see Table 2 on the following pages to see eligibility and other requirements for each of AmeriCorps' grant programs.

Table 2: Summary of AmeriCorps Grant Programs

Grant Program	Eligibility Requirements	Corporation Cost per MSY ¹	Living Allowance Requirements	Budget and Match Requirements
State and Territory Competitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program will operate within one state or U.S. territory. • Program must be located in a state or U.S. territory that has an approved State Commission for national and community service or alternative administrative entity. • Applicant must apply through the State Commission. • Public or private non-profit organizations, including labor organizations; community organizations, including faith-based organizations; institutions of higher education; government entities within states or territories (e.g., cities, counties); Indian Tribes; or a partnership or consortia consisting of the aforementioned are eligible to apply. • Intermediaries are encouraged to apply. • A list of approved State Commissions is located at: www.americorps.gov/about/role_impact/state_profiles. 	\$12,600 average cost per MSY across all programs in a state (including Formula, Competitive, EAP and Planning Grants). Maximum cost per MSY for an individual program is \$16,000.	<p>Full-time members must receive a living allowance between \$10,900 and \$21,800.</p> <p>A living allowance is not required for less than full-time members.</p>	<p>Minimum grantee share of 33% of operating costs and 15% of member support costs.</p> <p>Overall grantee share of total program costs increases gradually to 50% overall share by the tenth year of funding and any year thereafter.</p>
State Education Award Program (EAP)	<p>Same as State Competitive except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutions for higher education and state education agencies may choose to apply for EAP funding either through their State Commission or directly to the Corporation, even if the proposed program will operate in just one state. 	\$400	Not required to pay a living allowance, but if grantees do so, they must comply with the maximum requirements set forth in the Living Allowance Requirements section below.	Grantee responsible for all program costs above \$400 per MSY provided by the Corporation.
States and Territories without Commissions	<p>Same as State Competitive except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs must be located in a state or U.S. territory that does not have an approved State Commission for national and community service or alternative administrative entity. • Applicants must apply directly to the Corporation. 	\$12,600	<p>Full-time members must receive a living allowance between \$10,900 and \$21,800.</p> <p>A living allowance is not required for less than full-time members.</p>	<p>Minimum grantee share of 33% of operating costs and 15% of member support costs.</p> <p>Overall grantee share of total program costs increases gradually to 50% overall share by the tenth year of funding and any year thereafter.</p>

Grant Program	Eligibility Requirements	Corporation Cost per MSY ¹	Living Allowance Requirements	Budget and Match Requirements
National Direct Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program must operate in more than one state. • Applicants must apply directly to the Corporation. • Public or private non-profit organizations, including labor organizations; community organizations, including faith-based organizations; institutions of higher education; government entities within states and territories (e.g., cities, counties); Indian Tribes; or partnerships or consortia consisting of the aforementioned are eligible to apply. • Intermediaries are encouraged to apply. 	\$12,600	<p>Full-time members must receive a living allowance between \$10,900 and \$21,800.</p> <p>A living allowance is not required for less than full-time members.</p>	<p>Minimum grantee share of 33% of operating costs and 15% of member support cost.</p> <p>Overall grantee share of total program costs increases gradually to 50% overall share by the tenth year of funding and any year thereafter.</p>
National Education Award Program	Same as National Direct.	\$400	Not required to pay a living allowance, but if grantees do so, they must comply with the maximum requirements set forth in the Living Allowance Requirements section below.	Grantee responsible for all program costs above \$400 per MSY provided by the Corporation.
National Professional Corps	Same as National Direct, and meets the following definition: Professional corps programs place members as teachers, nurses and other health care providers, police officers, early childhood development staff, engineers, or other professionals providing service to meet unmet needs in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals.	\$1,500	Full-time members must receive a living allowance or salary, which may exceed the maximum set for other AmeriCorps grant programs, paid from non-Corporation funds.	Minimum grantee share of 33% of operating costs. Grantee provides 100% of member support costs. Corporation funds may not be used to pay for the living allowance/salary or any other member support costs.

Grant Program	Eligibility Requirements	Corporation Cost per MSY ¹	Living Allowance Requirements	Budget and Match Requirements
Indian Tribes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be an Indian Tribe, defined as follows: A federally recognized 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 determines is eligible for special programs and services provided under federal law to Indians because of their status as Indians. Indian Tribes also include any tribal organization controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by one of the entities described above. • Applicants must apply directly to the Corporation. 	\$12,600	<p>Full-time members must receive a living allowance between \$10,900 and \$21,800.</p> <p>A living allowance is not required for less than full-time members.</p>	<p>Minimum grantee share of 33% of operating costs and 15% of member support .</p> <p>Overall grantee share of total program costs increases gradually to 50% overall share by the tenth year of funding and any year thereafter.</p>
National Planning Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program must operate in more than one state. • Applicant must apply directly to the Corporation. • Applicant has not received a national direct AmeriCorps grant before. • Applicant is planning to build an AmeriCorps program of national scope but lacks the capacity to support the planning process. • Application fits the following purpose: The purpose of a planning grant is to support the development or improvement of a program so that it may be better prepared to compete successfully for operating assistance in the following grant cycle. Intermediaries and community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations, are encouraged to apply for planning grants. 	Not Applicable	Not applicable. Planning grants may not be used to support members.	Minimum grantee share of 33% of operating costs. Member support costs are not applicable.

1. The Corporation cost per MSY (Member Service Year) is determined by dividing the Corporation's share of budgeted grant costs by the number of MSYs requested in the grant. One MSY is the equivalent of 1700 service hours. It does not include child care or the cost of the education award a member may earn.

Living Allowance Requirements: Generally, you must provide full-time members with a living allowance that is between \$10,900 (minimum) and \$21,800 (maximum). You are not required to provide living allowances for members serving less than full time. The federal share (including Corporation funds) may support up to 85% of the minimum living allowance amount. The maximum federal share of the living allowance for each type of member is shown in the chart below. Please note that if your half-time program requires more than 900 hours, but less than 1,700 hours, you may prorate the living allowance, but the maximum federal share remains \$4,905.

Term of Service	Minimum # of Hours	Ed Award	MSY	Maximum Total Living Allowance	Maximum CNCS/Federal Share of Living Allowance
Full Time	1700	\$4,725.00	1.000	\$21,800	\$9,265
One Year Half Time	900	\$2,362.50	0.500	\$11,540	\$4,905
Two Year Half Time	900	\$2,362.50	0.250	\$11,540	\$4,905
Reduced Half Time	675	\$1,800.00	0.375	\$8,655	\$3,679
Quarter Time	450	\$1,250.00	0.250	\$5,770	\$2,453
Minimum Time	300	\$1,000.00	0.200	\$3,845	\$1,635

If you want to provide a living allowance in excess of the minimum, you must provide a grantee match for all funds over the amount in the column titled “Maximum CNCS/Federal Share of Living Allowance.” For example, if you would like to provide a \$12,000 living allowance to your full-time members, you may only request up to \$9,265 per member in Corporation support for the living allowance. You would have to provide a match of \$2,735 per member in non-federal cash. However, if you were to provide the minimum living allowance of \$10,900 per member and requested the maximum Corporation support of \$9,265 per member, your match would be \$1,635 per member in non-federal cash.

Member Living Allowance Exceptions

Projects in existence prior to September 21, 1993: If your program existed prior to the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 (enacted September 21, 1993), the law does not require you to provide living allowances to your members. If you choose to offer living allowances, you are exempt from the minimum requirement of \$10,900 but not from the maximum requirement of \$21,800. Even if the living allowance you provide is less than the minimum, the CNCS/federal share may not exceed 85% of the living allowance you provide.

Education Award Programs: Grantees are not required to provide a living allowance, but if they do so, it must comply with the maximum requirements set forth in the Living Allowance Requirements section above.

Professional Corps Programs: Full-time members must receive a living allowance or salary, which may exceed the maximum set for other AmeriCorps programs.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Address to Request Application Package: To obtain or submit your application, please visit www.americorps.gov/egrants to access eGrants. Application instructions are available at www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding. Application instructions also can be obtained by contacting the Corporation at (202) 606-5000, or (202) 606-7509 if you are interested in the State grant program, and (202) 606-7508 if you are interested in National grants. Applications

are to be submitted using eGrants, the Corporation's integrated, secure, web-based system for applications. In addition to completing an online application, applicants must submit, in hard copy, all attachments specified in this NOFO, the application instructions, and the AmeriCorps regulations. Please include a copy of the 424 Facesheet with your attachments for identification purposes. Submit required attachments to:

Corporation for National and Community Service
[Name of Grant for Which You Are Competing]
1201 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20525

Tips for the eGrants application process:

- We suggest you first prepare and save your application as a word processing document prior to inputting it into eGrants, then copy and paste the document into eGrants.
- **We strongly encourage you to create your eGrants account and begin your application at least three weeks prior to the final submission deadline and begin pasting your application into eGrants no later than 24 hours before the deadline.** This will allow you time to address technical issues prior to the deadline.
- If you encounter difficulties using eGrants, contact the eGrants Help Desk at 888-677-7849 or 202-606-7506 or by email at egrantshelp@cns.gov.
- Use only uppercase letters for all section headings and other information you would like to highlight in your narrative. Bold face, bullets, underlines, or other types of formatting, charts, diagrams, and tables will not copy into eGrants. Do not use any of these in your application.
- Adhere to all the character limits indicated in the application instructions. Characters include all the letters, punctuation, and spaces in your document. Your word processing software (e.g., Microsoft Word ©) can provide a character count.

Paper Applications: In the event that you are unable to submit in eGrants, you may submit a paper application, following these instructions:

- Type and double-space the application in Times New Roman, 12-point font size with one-inch margins.
- Adhere to the character limits listed in the application instructions and number the pages.
- Submit one unbound, single-sided original paper application. Also submit an electronic version of your application on diskette or CD-ROM in order to expedite processing. The diskette version must be an exact duplicate of the paper original and will be used to copy and paste your application information into eGrants. If there are differences between the paper application and the diskette or CD-ROM, we will use the diskette or CD-ROM version. Faxed or emailed versions of your application will not be accepted.
- With your paper application, please include, in hard copy, a brief paragraph which describes the technical issues that prevented you from submitting in eGrants.

Paper applications and explanations for why the application could not be submitted in eGrants must arrive at the Corporation by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard/Daylight Time by the deadline listed in Table 3, below. Please use a courier service as USPS service to government agencies often are delayed and sometimes damaged due to security measures. Submit your paper application to the Corporation address, listed at the beginning of this Section. In the event of prolonged unavailability of the eGrants system on the date of submission, the Corporation reserves the right to extend the eGrants submissions deadline. A notice will be placed in eGrants and on www.americorps.gov, notifying all users of the extended deadline.

Equal Opportunity Survey: Applicants are asked to complete the Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants. You may complete the survey in eGrants while preparing your application for submission or contact the Corporation (Section VII. below) to obtain a copy.

Universal Identifier: Applications must include a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. The DUNS number is an identifier that helps the federal government improve statistical reports on federal grants and cooperative agreements. The DUNS number does not replace your Employer Identification Number.

DUNS numbers may be obtained at no cost by calling the DUNS number request line at (866) 705-5711 or by applying online at www.dnb.com. The website indicates a 24-hour email turnaround time on requests for DUNS numbers; however, **we suggest registering at least 30 days in advance of the application due date.** Expedited DUNS numbers may be obtained by telephone at a cost of \$99 by calling the DUNS number request line. Applications without DUNS numbers or with invalid DUNS numbers are subject to potential rejection.

Submission Dates and Time: The deadline for eGrants and paper submissions for all AmeriCorps grants is 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard/Daylight Time on the dates listed in Table 3 below. Applications submitted by fax or email will not be accepted.

Current Grantees Submitting Continuation Requests: Current grantees that are currently in their first or second year of operation within a three-year grant cycle may submit a request for continued funding. Use the Instructions for Continuation Requests in the application instructions for the program to which you are applying. In assessing your request for continued funding, we will consider a grantee’s progress to date in meeting performance measures for the current grant period, compliance with grant requirements, and information from our information management systems, including enrollment and retention rates. This year, we consider 90% to be a reasonable rate of enrollment and retention. If your enrollment and retention rates are below these levels, provide an explanation and describe your plans for improving these rates in your continuation request.

Table 3: AmeriCorps State & National Grant Programs Dates and Funds Available for New and ReCompeting Grants

Name of Grant Program	Projected Funds Available	Corporation Deadline	Announcement	Where to Submit Applications
States and Territories Competitive Program	\$43 million	2/16/2006 (deadline for Commissions)	5/26/2006	State Commissions (contact your State Commission for its due date)
Education Award Program (State and National)	\$1 million for both State and National	3/14/2006 (deadline for Commissions) 2/14/2006 (deadline for National Directs)	5/26/2006	State Commissions (contact your State Commission for its due date) Corporation
National Direct Program	\$20 million	2/14/2006	5/26/2006	Corporation
National Planning Grants Program	\$200,000	2/14/2006	5/26/2006	Corporation

National Professional Corps Program	\$1 million	2/14/2006	5/26/2006	Corporation
Indian Tribes Program	\$1.2 million	2/14/2006	5/26/2006	Corporation
States and Territories without Commissions Program	\$2.8 million	2/14/2006	5/26/2006	Corporation

Intergovernmental Review: Applicants under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372 “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.” All applicants are required to submit a copy of their application to their State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) offices, if they have one. To determine if your state has a SPOC, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget maintains a current listing at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html.

Funding Restrictions: Grants under this program are subject to the applicable Cost Principles under OMB Circulars A-21, A-122, A-87 or FAR 31.2.

V. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Information on the review and selection process, including the criteria against which the applications are evaluated and their respective weights, is located in the AmeriCorps regulations 45 CFR § § 2520- 2550 (www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr and at www.americorps.gov/rulemaking).

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Anticipated Announcement and Award Notices: We anticipate announcing selections under this notice by the announcement dates in Table 3, above. Selected applicants are approved to negotiate with the Corporation for a grant award. During the negotiation period, you must satisfactorily resolve and questions or issues identified during the review of your application before the Corporation will award your grant. The grant negotiation period may range from three weeks to two months, or longer. After successful conclusion of grant negotiations, the Corporation will award your grant.

Education Awards: After successfully completing a term of service, AmeriCorps members who are enrolled in the National Service Trust are eligible to receive an education award. The education award can be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education or training, or to repay qualified student loans. The award currently is \$4,725 for a year of full-time service, with correspondingly lesser awards for part-time and reduced part-time service. A member has up to seven years after his or her term of service has ended to claim the award.

Pursuant to the Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act of 2003, in budgeting for education awards the Corporation discounts the full value (\$157 million for new and continuations) of the projected awards based on enrollment, earning, and usage rates and interest earned by the National Service Trust.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements: Administrative requirements are identified in the application instructions. National policy requirements are noted under Part I. Funding Opportunity Description of this Notice and are otherwise identified in the Application Instructions. The AmeriCorps regulations, 45 CFR § § 2520.20- 2550, which can be found at www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr and at www.americorps.gov/rulemaking and other specific conditions are incorporated in the Notice of Grant Award (NGA). The NGA also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under this grant.

VII. CORPORATION CONTACTS

This Notice, with the complete Application Instructions, AmeriCorps regulations, and other relevant material, is available at www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa. The TDD number is 202-565-2799. For further information or for a printed copy of this NOFO, call (202) 606-5000, or (202) 606-7509 if you are interested in the State grant program, and (202) 606-7508 if you are interested in National grants, or send an e-mail to americorpsnational@cns.gov.

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION

Technical Assistance: The Corporation hosts a series of technical assistance calls to answer applicant questions about funding opportunities. Applicants are strongly encouraged to participate on the technical assistance calls. The call schedule will be posted at www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa. A Frequently Asked Questions document will be developed and also posted on this website for each AmeriCorps grant program.

Notice of Intent to Apply: In order to gauge the number of applications we are likely to receive, please send an e-mail 60 days prior to the deadline to americorpsnational@cns.gov stating that you plan to submit an application, and to which competition. Although submission of the notice of intent to apply is not mandatory, your e-mail will help the Corporation to plan more efficiently for our review. In your e-mail, include the name of your organization, address, contact person, and phone number. Or, you may mail a hard copy letter of intent to the address listed at the beginning of this Section.

NOTE: Publication of this announcement does not obligate the Corporation to award any specific number of grants or to obligate the entire amount of funds available, or any part thereof, for grants under the AmeriCorps State and National Program.

Rosie Mauk
Director of AmeriCorps

Date