

**NOTICE OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
OVERVIEW**

Federal Agency Name: Corporation for National and Community Service
Funding Opportunity Title: AmeriCorps State and National Grants FY 2008
Announcement Type: Initial announcement
CFDA Number: 94.006

Dates: Letters of intent are due **November 8, 2007**, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
Applications are due **January 8, 2008**, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
All applicants will be notified by **May 23, 2008**.

Funding Opportunity Description: Subject to the availability of appropriations for fiscal year 2008, the Corporation for National and Community Service (the Corporation) announces the anticipated availability of approximately \$21,288,000 to award new and re-competing AmeriCorps State and National grants. The grants in AmeriCorps State are: State Competitive, Territories Competitive, States without Commissions, and State Education Award Program (EAP). The grants in AmeriCorps National are: National EAP, National Direct, National Professional Corps, National Planning, and Indian Tribes.

2008 Estimated Funding Available Subject to Appropriations

State Competitive	\$10,557,000
Territories Competitive	1,243,000
States without Commissions	200,000
State and National Education Award Programs	1,972,000
National Direct including Professional Corps and Planning	6,908,000
Indian Tribes	408,000
Total	\$21,288,000

The Corporation's mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. In the FY 2008 competition, we will give special consideration to projects that address one or a combination of four strategic initiatives, listed below, that meet critical needs of our nation, achieve national service goals, and address community problems.

- 1. Mobilizing more volunteers.**
- 2. Ensuring a brighter future for all of America's youth.**
- 3. Engaging students in communities.**
- 4. Harnessing Baby Boomers' experience.**

In 2008, the Corporation will support 2,600 new quarter-time AmeriCorps membership opportunities. These member positions are designed for organizations interested in attracting skilled volunteers to the Gulf Coast for rebuilding activities, and for organizations that want to engage members in summer of service activities with youth from disadvantaged circumstances. However, programs may apply for these AmeriCorps positions to address other unmet needs.

FULL TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT

This *Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity (Notice)* should be read together with the AmeriCorps regulations 45 CFR Sections 2520 – 2550, which can be found here http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/manage/index.asp and application instructions for the program to which you are applying which can be found here http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp.

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. To Which Program Should I Apply ?

If your organization works in just one state, please contact your state commission, which can be found here: <http://www.nationalservice.org/about/contact/statecommission.asp>. You will apply to them. If your organization works in more than one state, you are eligible to apply for a national grant. If your organization is an institution of higher education, you may apply for EAP funds through your state commission, or directly to the Corporation. If you are an Indian Tribe you may apply through your state commission, or directly to the Corporation. See Table 4 for more information on eligibility.

If you are submitting a request for continuation in 2008, please see the Application Instructions, which include information for continuation applications, found here: http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp.

B. Funding Program Description

For more than a decade, the Corporation for National and Community Service—through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve programs—has mobilized a new generation of engaged citizens. This year, more than 1.8 million individuals of all ages and backgrounds will serve through these programs. They will help thousands of national and community nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, schools, and local agencies meet local needs in education, the environment, public safety, homeland security, and other critical areas.

AmeriCorps grants are generally awarded to eligible organizations to recruit, train, and manage AmeriCorps members who address 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 while serving. Upon successful completion of their service members receive an education award from the National Service Trust.

Roughly three quarters of all AmeriCorps grant funding goes to Governor-appointed state service commissions, which award subgrants to nonprofit organizations in their states. These organizations recruit AmeriCorps members to respond to local needs. The Corporation distributes most of the remainder of the grant funding directly to organizations operating in more than one state.

In 2008, the Corporation will support 2,600 new quarter-time AmeriCorps membership opportunities. These member positions are designed for organizations interested in attracting skilled volunteers to the Gulf Coast for rebuilding activities, and for organizations that want to

engage members in summer of service activities with youth from disadvantaged circumstances. However, programs may apply for these AmeriCorps positions to address other unmet needs.

The Corporation will also give special consideration to projects that address one or a combination of four strategic initiatives:

- 1. Mobilizing more volunteers.** The Corporation will invest in organizations that can effectively recruit, train, manage, and use volunteers who will ultimately have an impact on the success of their program. We will increase the capacity of faith-based and other community organizations to mobilize volunteers in communities to meet critical needs. We plan to support organizations that develop strong partnerships and collaborations with volunteer centers or other volunteer connector organizations in their service areas.
- 2. Ensuring a brighter future for all of America's youth.** The Corporation will invest in organizations that provide caring adults as mentors for youth from disadvantaged circumstances, and opportunities for young people from disadvantaged circumstances to serve their communities. We plan to support organizations that recruit these youth to serve in National Service programs and support them during their term of service. We also plan to support mentoring efforts, particularly those targeting children of prisoners.
- 3. Engaging students in communities.** The Corporation will invest in organizations that implement effective strategies for connecting their school, faculty, staff, and administration with their communities through service and volunteering. We plan to support K-12 and higher education institutions that effectively incorporate service-learning into their curricula, and increase the number of college students engaged in community service and service-learning. We will also help colleges and universities expand support for student service.
- 4. Harnessing Baby Boomers' experience.** The Corporation will invest in programs that plan to capture the talents, skills, energy, and experience of Baby Boomers to meet local and national needs. We plan to improve the capacity of nonprofits to attract and retain Boomer volunteers via targeted training and technical assistance.

The Corporation anticipates that at least 15% of the funds described in this *Notice* will support applicants that have not received an AmeriCorps State or National operational grant in the last five years. Applicants that have received only a formula operational grant within the last five years will be considered new for purposes of this 15% target.

The Corporation reserves the right to re-focus program dollars in the event of disaster or other compelling need. Additional programs and program models that may receive special consideration in the selection process are described in the AmeriCorps regulation Section 2522.450. You are encouraged to integrate the priorities and initiatives into your program design, where they logically align with your organizational mission and objectives.

C. Authority

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

II. Award Information

A. Project/Award Period

The Corporation generally makes grant awards for three years, with funding in annual increments. Grantees will be eligible for continuation funding in the second and third year contingent on the availability of appropriations, compliance, and satisfactory performance.

AmeriCorps members may not begin service until the Corporation issues a grant award. A program may not certify any hours a member performs prior to the award being issued.

B. Cost per Member Service Year (MSY)

The Corporation determines the maximum cost per MSY on an annual basis. An applicant calculates cost per MSY and the Corporation uses this number to compare costs of programs.

The cost per MSY 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 a full-time term of service. The cost per MSY does not include child care or the value of the education award.

The maximum average cost per MSY across all subgrants in a state is \$12,600. The maximum cost per MSY for National Direct and Indian Tribes is \$12,600. The maximum cost per MSY for State and National EAPs is \$600. The maximum cost per MSY for new and recompeting Professional Corps is \$2,500. Planning grants cannot exceed \$50,000.

C. Enrollment

We expect grantees to enroll the full number of members included in their grant award.

Enrollment rates will have a direct bearing on the number of slots and the size of awards we approve in the continuation and recompute processes.

D. Retention

We recognize retention rates may vary among equally effective programs depending on the program model. We expect grantees to pursue the highest retention rate possible. Retention rates will have a direct bearing on the number of slots and the size of awards we approve in the continuation and recompute processes.

E. Education Awards

After successfully completing a term of service, an AmeriCorps member is eligible to receive an education award from the National Service Trust. The member may use the education award to pay for current educational expenses at qualified institutions of higher education, 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 use the award.

Table 1: Term of Service and Education Award

Term of Service	Minimum # of Hours	Education Award
Full Time	1700	\$4,725
One-Year Half Time	900	\$2,362
Two-Year Half Time	900	\$2,362
Reduced Half Time	675	\$1,800
Quarter Time	450	\$1,250
Minimum Time	300	\$1,000

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

The Corporation wants to ensure that all eligible organizations are able to compete on an equal basis for federal financial assistance. Eligibility requirements are presented in Table 4, below. Eligible applicants that have never received funding from the Corporation or AmeriCorps are encouraged to apply for the grants described in this *Notice*.

B. Match Requirements

Program requirements, including requirements on match, are located in the AmeriCorps regulations and summarized below.

Table 2: Match Requirements in the AmeriCorps Regulations

Competition	Match Requirement
State Competitive, Territories Competitive, States without Commissions, National Direct, Indian Tribes	Minimum grantee share is 33% of operating costs and 15% of member support costs. Overall grantee share of total program costs increases gradually to 50% by the tenth year of funding and any year thereafter.
State EAP and National EAP	Grantee pays all program costs over \$600 per MSY provided by the Corporation.
Professional Corps	Minimum grantee share is 33% of operating costs only. Grantee pays all member support. Overall grantee share of total program costs increases gradually to 50% by the tenth year of funding and any year thereafter.
National Planning Grants	Minimum grantee share is 33% of operating costs only. No members are associated with these grants, so member costs do not apply.

C. Living Allowance

You must provide full-time members with a living allowance that is between \$11,400 (minimum) and \$22,800 (maximum) except as noted in Section D., below. You are not required to provide living allowances for members serving less than full time. The federal share (including Corporation and any other federal funds) may support up to 85% of the minimum living allowance.

Table 3: 2008 AmeriCorps Maximum Federal Share of Living Allowance

Term of Service	Minimum Number of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Living Allowance	MSY	Maximum CNCS/Federal Share of Living Allowance
Full-time	1700	\$11,400	\$22,800	1.000	\$9,690
One Year Half-Time	900	N/A	\$12,070	0.500	\$5,130
Two Year Half-Time	900	N/A	\$12,070	*0.250	\$5,130
Reduced Half-Time	675	N/A	\$9,050	0.375	\$3,848
Quarter-Time	450	N/A	\$6,035	0.250	\$2,565
Minimum-Time	300	N/A	\$4,025	0.200	\$1,710

Notes:

1. There is no requirement to pay a living allowance to less than full-time members, hence there is no minimum.
 2. The amount of the maximum for less than full-time living allowance is rounded to the nearest dollar.
 3. The calculation for the maximum federal share for less than full-time members who do receive a living allowance is pro-rated based on 85% of the proportion of the minimum full-time required hours, e.g. One Year Half-time = $900/1700 \times \$11,400$, or \$6,035. Maximum federal share is $\$6,035 \times .85 = \$5,130$.
- * For a Two Year Half-time position, the living allowance is split between two years, e.g. 0.250 in Year 1 and 0.250 in Year 2.

D. Living Allowance Exceptions

Prior to September 21, 1993: If your service 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 a living allowance. If you choose to offer a living allowance, you are exempt from the minimum requirement of \$11,400 but not the maximum requirement of \$22,800. If the living allowance you provide is less than the minimum, the federal share (including Corporation and any other federal funds) may support up to 85% of the living allowance you provide.

Education Award Program Grantees: If you are an EAP grantee, you are not required to provide a living allowance, but if you do, it must comply with the maximum requirements set forth in the Living Allowance section above.

Professional Corps Grantees: Full-time National Professional Corps members must receive a living allowance or salary, which must meet the minimum, but may exceed the maximum set for other AmeriCorps programs, unless the Professional Corps members are supported by State Formula funds, in which case the living allowance or salary may not exceed the maximum.

E. Other Eligibility Requirements

Lobbying: 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.

Current Grantees: An organization that currently operates a Corporation-funded program or is applying for other Corporation funding is an eligible applicant.

Multiple Submissions: The same project cannot be funded by multiple AmeriCorps grants. If you have more than one application pending before the Corporation for the same project, you must state this fact in each application. You will be required to withdraw all but one if two or more are approved for funding.

Table 4: Description, Eligibility, Cost per MSY, and Living Allowance Requirements for New and Recompeting Programs

Grant Program	Description	Eligible Organizations	Cost per MSY	Living Allowance Requirements
State Competitive and Territories Competitive	These grants are awarded to organizations that are nominated to participate in a nationwide competition by Governor-appointed state commissions. Grantees receive funds for the members' living allowance and program costs.	Public or private nonprofit organizations, including labor organizations; faith-based and other community organizations; institutions of higher education; government entities within states or territories (e.g., cities, counties); Indian Tribes; or partnership or consortia are eligible. Intermediaries are encouraged to apply.	\$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.	Full-time members must receive a living allowance between \$11,400 and \$22,800. A living allowance is not required for less than full-time members.
States without Commissions	Non-profit applicants within states, territories, and commonwealths without state commissions apply directly to the Corporation. Grantees receive funds for the members' living allowance and program costs.	Same as State Competitive except program must be located in a state, territory, or commonwealth that does not have an approved state commission or alternative administrative entity. Applicant applies directly to the Corporation. State or territory government entities are not eligible to apply.	\$16,000 maximum cost per MSY.	Same as State Competitive.
State Education Award Program (EAP)	These grants are awarded to organizations that are nominated to participate in a nationwide competition by Governor-appointed state commissions. Grantees receive a small administrative grant and use their own or other resources for the members' living allowance and program costs.	Same as State Competitive except 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.	\$600 maximum cost per MSY.	Not required to pay a living allowance, but if the grantee does, it must comply with the maximum requirement as for State Competitive, above.
National Education Award Program	Grantees receive a small administrative grant but use their own or other resources for the members' living allowance and program costs.	Same as State Competitive. Applicant applies directly to the Corporation.	\$600 maximum cost per MSY.	Same as State EAP.
National Direct	The Corporation awards these grants to organizations that operate their AmeriCorps program in more than one state. Grantees receive funds for the members' living allowance and program costs.	Same as State and Territory Competitive. Applicant applies directly to the Corporation.	\$12,600 maximum cost per MSY.	Same as State Competitive.

Grant Program	Description	Eligible Organizations	Cost per MSY	Living Allowance Requirements
National Professional Corps	These grants are awarded to organizations that operate AmeriCorps projects in more than one state. Professional Corps programs place members as teachers, health care providers, police officers, engineers, or other professionals in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals. Grantees receive Corporation funding for program costs, and use their own or other resources to pay the members' living allowance and additional member costs.	Same as State Competitive. Applicant applies directly to the Corporation. Professional Corps programs may also apply through State Competitive competitions. An applicant may also apply for up to \$50,000 to support start-up costs for a new program.	\$2,500 maximum cost per MSY.	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.
National Planning Grants	The Corporation awards these grants directly to organizations to assist them in developing an AmeriCorps program. They must not have received a multi-state AmeriCorps grant in the past.	Same as State Competitive. These grants do not include AmeriCorps members. Program must operate in more than one state. Applicant applies directly to the Corporation for a maximum of \$50,000.	Not applicable	Not applicable.
Indian Tribes	The Corporation sets aside one percent (1%) of grant funds to support programs operated by American Indian Tribes. Grantees receive funds for the members' living allowance and program costs.	Must be an Indian Tribe, defined as 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 tribal organizations controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by one of the entities described above. Applicant applies directly to the Corporation.	\$12,600 maximum cost per MSY.	Same as State Competitive.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Submission of Application Package

To submit your AmeriCorps State Competitive, Territories Competitive, States without Commissions, State EAP, National EAP, National Direct, National Professional Corps, National Planning, or Indian Tribe application, access eGrants <http://www.nationalservice.gov/egrants/>, the Corporation's integrated, secure, web-based system for applications.

Application instructions are available at http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp or by contacting the your state commission if you are interested in the State grant program.

For National grants, if you aren't able to access the application instructions on the Internet, or if you have other questions, please call (202) 606-7508 or send an e-mail to americorpsnational@cns.gov.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

Notice of Intent to Apply: In order to help us 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, for National applicants, or americorpsapplications@cns.gov for state commissions. National applicants should state the competition for which you will be applying. State commissions are encouraged to include an estimate of the number of programs you will be submitting to the state competitive 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 review. In your e-mail, include the name of your organization, address, contact person, and phone number. Or, you may mail a letter of intent to the address on page 10.

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 e-mail 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.**

Using eGrants:

- We suggest you first prepare and save your application as a word processing document, 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 ten days before the deadline.** This will allow you time to address technical issues prior to the deadline. Technical issues are more likely to be considered as a factor in allowing a late submission if you begin entering your application within this time frame.
- 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.
- Adhere to all the character limits indicated in the application instructions. Characters include all the letters, punctuation, and spaces in your document.

In addition to completing an online application, applicants must submit, in hard copy, all attachments specified in the application instructions and the AmeriCorps regulations. Please include a copy of the SF-424 Facesheet with your attachments for identification purposes. Hard copy attachments must be postmarked by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the day of the deadline. **Do not submit any other supplementary materials such as videos, brochures, letters of support, or any other item not requested in the application instructions. We will not review or return them.** Submit required attachments to:

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

Technical Difficulties with eGrants: Contact the eGrants Help Desk at 202-606-7506 or e-mail egrantshelp@cns.gov immediately if a problem arises while you are creating your account, preparing, or submitting your application. If you think you may be unable to submit your application by the deadline due to technical issues, contact the eGrants Help Desk prior to the 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time deadline to explain your technical issue and get a ticket number. If your issue is not resolved within the next 24 hours, you will be asked to submit a hard copy application according to the directions below.

If you are unable to access eGrants at all, please submit a hard copy application and a copy of your application on disk or CD. Submit these items via overnight carrier (non-U.S. Postal Service because of security-related delays in receiving mail from the U.S. Postal Service) or hand delivery to the address above. Your hard copy application must be postmarked no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on January 8, 2008. Please make sure your overnight carrier stamps the package with the date and time it was sent.

The paper application must be typed and double-spaced in Times New Roman, 12-point font size with one-inch margins. Please adhere to the character limits listed in the application instructions and number the pages. Submit one unbound, single-sided original paper application. The electronic version on disk or CD 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 disk or CD, we will use the disk or CD version.

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 <http://www.americorps.gov> with the extended deadline.

C. Submission Dates and Times

The deadline for eGrants and paper submissions for state commissions and national applicants is 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on January 8, 2008. Applications submitted by fax or e-mail will not be accepted.

D. 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 at www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/circulars/.

E. Other Submission Requirements

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.

V. Application Review Information

A. Selection Criteria

Selection criteria include the initiatives and priorities described in this *Notice* and the AmeriCorps regulations, 45 CFR §§2522.420-448.

B. Review and Selection Process

Information on the review and selection process is located in the AmeriCorps regulations 45 CFR §§2522.400-2522.475. Section 2522.450 addresses types of programs or program models that may receive special consideration in the selection process. Section 2522.455 addresses additional priorities to those described in this *Notice*. Section 2522.470 addresses other factors or information the Corporation may consider in making final funding decisions.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Anticipated Announcement and Award

In 2008 the Corporation plans to award grants immediately following the grant selection announcement. Corporation program officers may call applicants to seek clarification, resolve questions and issues, negotiate performance measures, and request revised budgets as part of the pre-award review process. Failure to respond to requests for information in a timely fashion may result in the removal of applications from consideration.

We anticipate announcing the results of the 2008 competitions by May 23, 2008. **The negotiated project start date may not occur prior to award date. If you are applying as a new grantee, you should not expect a start date prior to June 15.**

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The AmeriCorps regulations and other specific conditions are incorporated in the Notice of Grant Award (NGA). The NGA incorporates the approved application as part of a binding commitment under the grant.

C. Reporting

Grantees are required to supply annual performance and bi-annual financial reports, and an internal or external evaluation report as required by the AmeriCorps regulations.

VII. Agency Contacts

This *Notice* is available at

http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp. The TTY number is 202-606-3472. For further information or for a printed copy of this *Notice*, call (202) 606-5000. You may also call your state commission if you have questions about the State grant program, and (202) 606-7508 if you have questions about the National grant program. Or send an e-mail to americorpsapplications@cns.gov for the State grant program and to americorpsnational@cns.gov for the National grant program.

VIII. Additional Information

Technical Assistance: AmeriCorps National hosts a series of technical assistance calls to answer applicant questions about National Direct, National Professional Corps, National Planning, National EAP, and Indian Tribes funding opportunities. Applicants are strongly encouraged to participate in the technical assistance calls. The call schedule will be posted at http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp.

Disclaimer: 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.