

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Child Care Cooperative Agreement 2006

Notice of Funds Availability

CFDA No. 94.007

Deadline for Application: September 12, 2006

Award Announcement: December 2006

Overview Information

Available Grants: The Corporation for National and Community Service (hereinafter "the Corporation") announces the availability of approximately \$6,000,000 in fiscal year 2007 funds for an eligible organization for a Cooperative Agreement for Child Care. The funds are available for this Agreement under Public Law 109-149. The Corporation generally makes grant awards for a period that covers three years, with funding made available in annual increments. Grantees will be eligible for continuation funding in the second and third year contingent upon the availability of appropriations, compliance, and satisfactory performance.

Purpose of Cooperative Agreement: The purpose of the Cooperative Agreement is to administer the payments for child care for approximately 1,800 eligible AmeriCorps members and to provide training and technical assistance for members, grantees and state commissions when so requested by the Corporation. Child care benefits are available to full-time members of AmeriCorps serving with sponsors whose members are supported by an AmeriCorps State & National grant.

Applicants are expected to be knowledgeable and have demonstrated expertise in analyzing the HHS Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant (CCDFBG) program and administering payments for child care pursuant to the CCDFBG requirements. This includes the institutional capability to satisfy the requirements of the CCDFBG in all states & territories; provide training and technical assistance to sponsors; and communicating key information to stakeholders.

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, and commercial entities are eligible to apply for funding. Pursuant to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, an organization described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(4) which engages in lobbying activities, is not eligible.

Given the purpose of the Cooperative Agreement, applicants must demonstrate substantial institutional knowledge of the CCDFBG and of the designated lead agencies in each state.

Application Deadline: The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on September 12, 2006. We strongly encourage applicants to submit applications electronically at

www.Grants.gov. You are advised to carefully read the detailed submission instructions set out below in Part IV “Applications and Submission Information,” before preparing your application. Applications that do not meet this deadline may not be reviewed.

For Further Information: This Notice, with the 2006 Child Care Application Instructions and other relevant material, is available on Grants.gov and the Corporation’s website at: http://www.nationalservice.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp. The TDD number is 202–606-3471. Upon request, this information will be made available in alternative formats for persons with disabilities.

The Corporation will make awards for a period not to exceed three years funded incrementally on an annual basis, subject to performance compliance and availability of appropriations. These funds are available under authority of section 12575 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990, in 42 U.S.C. 12575, and the Labor/HHS Appropriations Act for 2006. We anticipate announcing selections under this Notice no later than December 2006.

FULL TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

1. Background

The Corporation is an independent Federal government grant-making agency that encourages Americans of all ages and backgrounds to engage in community service. This service addresses the nation's educational, public safety, environmental, homeland security, health and other human needs to achieve direct and demonstrable results. The Corporation works to support volunteer community service at the local level and to support public and private non-profit organizations, including faith-based and other community-based organizations that use volunteer service as a strategy for addressing national and community needs.

Each full-time participant in an AmeriCorps State or National service program is entitled to receive a child care allowance if he or she needs such assistance in order to participate in the program.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Cooperative Agreement is to administer the payments for child care for approximately 1,800 eligible AmeriCorps members and to provide training and technical assistance for members, grantees and state commissions when so requested by the Corporation. Child care benefits are available to full-time members of AmeriCorps serving with sponsors whose members are supported by an AmeriCorps State & National grant.

Applicants are expected to be knowledgeable and have demonstrated expertise in analyzing the HHS Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant (CCDFBG) program and administering payments for child care pursuant to the CCDFBG requirements. This includes the institutional capability to satisfy the requirements of the CCDFBG in all states & territories; provide training and technical assistance to sponsors; and maintain appropriate data to track the use of funds and communicate key information to stakeholders.

AmeriCorps*State & National has approximately 1,800 members per year who qualify for child care. The maximum benefit to be paid is no more than the applicable rate established by the state in which the member is serving under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990. A participant is considered to need child care in order to participate in the program if he or she:

- (i) Is the parent or legal guardian of, or is acting in loco parentis for, a child under 13 who resides with the participant;
- (ii) Has a family income that does not exceed 75 percent of the State's median income for a family of the same size;
- (iii) At the time of acceptance into the program, is not currently receiving child care assistance from another source, including a parent or guardian, which would continue to be provided while the participant serves in the program; and
- (iv) Certifies that he or she needs child care in order to participate in the program.

You can refer to the full-time issue in the paragraph before this list by saying child care is only available to members serving full-time, or temporarily serving in a full-time capacity, such as in a summer program.

Activities that will be supported by the Child Care Cooperative Agreement include:

1. Analyzing, validating and approving applications for child care services; verifying the eligibility of each member and attendance of the child.
2. Determining the child care payment amounts related to geographic locality; when necessary determining comparable service at a lower price or negotiating lower fees.
3. Providing training and technical assistance and communicating all procedures and relevant information to stakeholders.
4. Maintaining appropriate data in technological systems to capture and process all information necessary to perform all functions related to the program. (Examples include the number of members receiving the child care benefit, number of children receiving child care services and the average cost of the child care being provided in each state or territory.)
5. Managing the transition of all phases of this program, should that be necessary.

3. Program Authority

The funds are available for this Cooperative Agreement under section 12575 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 and Public Law 109-149, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2006.

4. Applicable Regulations

Applicable regulations include but are not limited to, uniform administrative requirements for grants and agreements with higher education, hospitals and other non-profit organizations. 45 CFR Part 2543.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

The Corporation will make an award with the projected grant level up to \$6,000,000 for the first year of the grant period. The Corporation generally makes grant awards for a period that covers three years, with funding made available in annual increments. Grantees will be eligible for continuation funding in the second and third year contingent upon the availability of appropriations, compliance, and satisfactory performance. Part of the award will be specific to the administration of the child care payments and the remaining amount of the award will be for child care payments directly to providers. Payment to providers will be for payment of child care services only and in accordance with the procedures determined by the Corporation.

The Corporation will make an award covering a period not to exceed three years.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. 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, and commercial entities are eligible to apply for funding. Pursuant to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, an organization described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(4) which engages in lobbying activities, is not eligible.

Given the purpose of the Cooperative Agreement, applicants must demonstrate substantial institutional knowledge of the CCDFBG and of the designated lead agencies in each state.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

No cost sharing is formally required, although applications providing cost sharing to include any reduction in Indirect Costs will receive special consideration.

3. Other

Applications must include a proposed budget and proposed activities for a one year grant period. Applicants must propose to deliver services to all territories and all 50 states.

Performance Measures

None required

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Addresses

Applications are to be submitted electronically using Grants.gov. You may access all of this information at the Grants.gov website, <http://www.grants.gov> under “Find Grant Opportunities.”

If you cannot submit an application electronically due to technical difficulties or limitations, you may submit a paper application that must follow the instructions in the supporting Application Instructions to the following address:

Corporation for National and Community Service
Attn: Child Care
1201 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20525.

Due to delays in delivery of regular U.S. Postal Service (U.S.P.S.) mail to government offices, there is no guarantee that your application will arrive in time to be considered. We therefore suggest that if you are submitting a paper application, you use U.S.P.S. priority mail or a commercial overnight delivery service to ensure that you meet the deadline. Also, submit an explanation as to why you could not submit electronically. We will accept applications that are hand delivered to the Corporation by the application deadline. We will not review applications submitted by facsimile or email.

2. Application Content and Form

To be considered for funding, applications must meet all of the criteria and requirements contained in this Notice. Eligible applicants should use the application instructions available on the Corporation's website, http://www.nationalservice.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp, under funding and initiatives to apply for this opportunity. For a printed copy of any of these materials, please contact childcare@cns.gov or 202-606-7507. Applicants are urged to pay close attention to these application materials.

In addition to completing an application in Grants.gov, applicants must submit a Financial Statement or Audit as specified in the Application. The Financial Statement or Audit must be sent to the address identified in section *IV. 1. ADDRESSES* above. Do not submit any other supplementary materials such as annual reports, videos, brochures, letters of support, or any supplementary material not requested in the application. They will not be reviewed.

Should there be any inconsistency between the NOFA and Application Instructions, the order of precedence is as follows:

1. NOFA
2. Application Instructions.

Equal Opportunity Survey

Applicants are also asked to complete the Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants. This survey, with instructions on submitting the survey, is available in Appendix F of the Application Instructions.

3. Submission Date and Time

The application deadline for submissions is 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on September 12, 2006.

The Corporation requires that each applicant makes every effort to submit its application electronically utilizing Grants.gov's web-based application system. Please go to the Grants.gov

website, <http://www.grants.gov>, and create an account to begin the process of submitting your application online. Instructions on how to create an account are available at this website.

Grants.Gov Registration Requirements

- ❑ The Corporation strongly encourages you to create a Grants.gov account and begin your application at least 3 weeks prior to the application deadline. This will allow you time to address technical issues prior to the deadline.
- ❑ Applicants must provide a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. The DUNS number is known as the universal identifier and helps the federal government improve statistical reports on federal grants and cooperative agreements. The DUNS number will not replace the EIN. DUNS numbers may be obtained at no cost by calling the DUNS number request line at (866) 705-5711. It may take up to 30 days to receive a DUNS number after applying. You must have this number to complete your Grants.gov application.
- ❑ You will need your DUNS number to register with Central Contractor Registry.
- ❑ Applicants must register with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR). CCR is a government-wide registry for organizations that seek grants from or otherwise do business with the federal government. CCR will house your organizational information, allowing Grants.gov to verify your identity and to pre-fill organizational information on your grant applications. If your organization is not registered, you can register online at www.ccr.gov or apply by phone (1-888-227-2423). CCR has developed a worksheet at www.ccr.gov/CCRRegTemplate.pdf (7-page PDF) to help you with the process.

Paper Applications

The Corporation strongly encourages applicants to use Grants.gov to submit their application. In the event that you are unable to submit in Grants.gov, you may submit a paper application that must follow the instructions in the supporting Application Instructions. Paper applications must arrive at the Corporation by the application deadline (see Addresses).

Notice of Intent to Apply

In order to gauge the number of applications we are likely to receive, we request that applicants send an email by August 29, 2006, to **childcare@cns.gov** reflecting your intent to apply for the Cooperative Agreement for Child Care competition. Although submission of the notice of intent to apply is not mandatory, we encourage you to submit one to help the Corporation to plan more efficiently for our review. The notice should include the name of your organization, address, contact person, and phone number.

Technical Assistance

The Corporation will host a technical assistance call to answer applicant questions about this funding opportunity. Applicants are strongly encouraged to participate on the technical assistance call. The call and sign-up information will be posted on the Corporation website,

http://www.nationalservice.org/funding_initiatives/index.html, under this Notice by August 2, 2006. The call will be recorded and available for replay. Instructions on how to listed to the replay will be posted on the website after the call.

4. Intergovernmental Review

These programs are not subject to Executive Order 12372.

5. Funding Restrictions

Grants under these programs are subject to the applicable Cost Principles under OMB Circulars A-21, A-122, A-87, or the Federal Acquisition Regulations (48 CFR Subpart 31.2).

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Selection Criteria

The Corporation will initially determine: (1) whether the organization is eligible; and (2) whether the application contains all the required information. After this initial screening, the Corporation will select and evaluate applications based on the following criteria: program design (35%); organizational capacity (35%); and budget/cost effectiveness (30%).

The Corporation will make all final decisions concerning awards and may require revisions to the grant proposal in order to achieve the objectives under this Notice. Applicants that do not propose to address the strategy listed above or meet the required minimum match will not be reviewed.

2. Review and Selection Process

Subject to the availability of funds and scheduling requirements, reviewers will review all new proposals using the selection criteria stated above. This competitive process may require oral presentations and clarifications among the finalists in this competition.

3. Anticipated Announcements and Award Dates

We anticipate announcing and awarding our selection under this Notice in December.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Award Notices.

Notice of selection to negotiate an award will be made to the approved applicant and their U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

We identify administrative and national policy requirements in this notice and in the application package and include these and other specific conditions in the Notice of Grant Award

(NGA). The NGA also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. Reporting Requirements

Financial Status Reports are submitted on a semi-annual basis. The NGA will include detailed information regarding reporting requirements to include specific accounting requirements for managing the separation, and separate reporting of, funds for the following:

- a. Administrative funds;
- b. Training & Technical Assistance funds;
- c. AmeriCorps State & National funds.

Quarterly performance reports will be required. These quarterly reports will include the information used to process the child care applications, verify the applicants, providers and sponsors and will include the names, addresses and contact information for all members, providers and sponsors and the dollar amount per member per provider. This information will be presented for each state and territory.

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS

For further information, contact Jim Feaster at childcare@cns.gov or 202-606-7507. The TDD number is 202-606-3471.

This Notice, with the complete application instructions included, is available on the Corporation's website at: http://www.nationalservice.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp. For a printed copy of this announcement and the application instructions, contact childcare@cns.gov. Upon request, this information will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities.

Elizabeth Seale, Chief Operating Officer
Corporation for National and Community Service

Date