

Conference Purpose

To support and guide the AmeriCorps leadership by growing their resources, tending to their specific needs, and creating a space for inspiration.

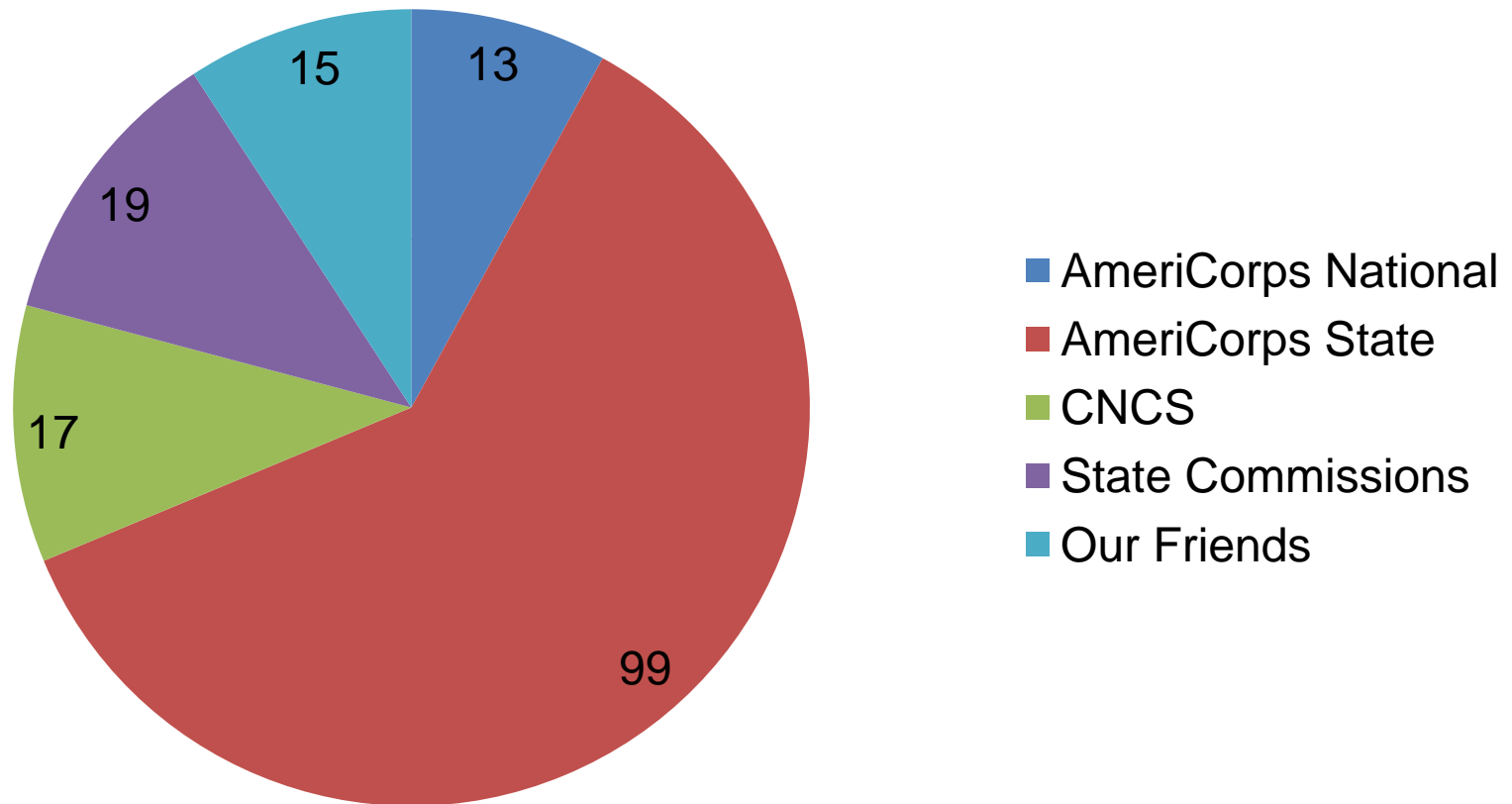
Outcomes

- Discover solutions to problems that they face
- Acquire new resources to use in my work
– peers, practices, tools, knowledge
- Leave feeling rejuvenated and inspired
- Build participant knowledge base in program and fiscal management

Our Plenary Agenda

- Building The Learning Environment
 - Welcome
 - History
 - Purpose
 - Conference Orientation
 - Other Logistics
- Corporation Presentation: National Landscape
- Affinity Groups: Burning Questions
- Strategic Moment

Our Participants



Program

- Thank You
- Hotel Map
- Schedule
 - Thursday Insert
- Session descriptions
- Presenter bios

First Floor

- Ballroom I, II, III
- Copper
- Nickel
- Platinum, Silver, and Gold

Second Floor

- Ruby
- Pearl
- Sapphire

TUESDAY

- 7:00 – 8:30 AM: Morning Talks/AM Break
- 8:30 – 11:55 AM: Opening Plenary
- 12:00 - 1:30 PM: Working Lunch

TWO OPTIONS:

2-90 minute session blocks:

Block A: 1:45 – 3:15 PM; and

Block B: 3:30 – 5:00 PM

OR

Block A and B: Advanced AmeriCorps Think Tank (invitation only)

TUESDAY

- 10:30 – 10:45: Break with refresher on beverages
- 3:15 – 3:30 PM: Break with snacks
- 5:00 PM: Official end of day
- 5:30-6:30 PM: Networking Reception:
Alejandra's
- 6:30 - ????: AmeriCorps Alums: *Bronze III*

Dinner on your own

WEDNESDAY

- 7:00 – 8:30 AM: Morning Talks/AM Break and GAO Focus Group (State and National Programs)
- 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM: 3 Hour Sessions: Block C
- 12:00 – 1:30 PM: Working Lunch
 - Friends of National Service
- 1:45 – 5:00 PM: Two Options:
 - 2-90 minute session blocks:
 - Block D: 1:45 – 3:15 PM; and
 - Block E: 3:30 – 5:00 PM

OR

- Round Robin: series of 3 45 minute sessions

WEDNESDAY

- 10:00 – 10:15: Break with refresher on beverages
- 3:15 – 3:30 PM: Break with snacks
- 5:00 PM: Official end of day
- 5:30- ??? PM: Team Building, Icebreaker, Energizer Share

Dinner on your own

THURSDAY

- 7:00 – 8:30 AM: FULL BREAKFAST!!!!
 - Morning Talks/AM Break and GAO Focus Group (Commission Staff)
- 8:30 – 11:30 AM: Two Options:
 - Member Management Café
 - Peer to Peer Commission Meeting
- 11:45 AM – 12:30 PM: Closing Plenary
 - CNCS Final Q&A
 - Closing Activities

THURSDAY

- 10:00 – 10:15: Break with Snacks and beverages
- 12:30 PM: End of Event

Travel Safely

Updates, New Initiatives and the Serve America Act Corporation for National and Community Service

Lois Nembhard, Acting Director, AmeriCorps State and National
Peg Rosenberry, Director, Office of Grants Management

2010-02-26:1904

Welcome

- Leadership Update
- Budget Update
- 2010 Grant Review
- Key Serve America Act Changes
- Fixed-Amount Grants
- Social Innovation Fund
- Volunteer Generation Fund
- Nonprofit Capacity Building Program

CEO Patrick Corvington Confirmed

- Sworn in February 18
- Annie B. Casey Foundation
- Recognized expert on:
 - nonprofit sector leadership
 - nonprofit capacity issues
 - new & emerging philanthropy
 - volunteerism
- Chief of Staff, James Siegal
 - Independent Sector



2011 Budget Request

- February 1, 2010, President Obama released his Fiscal Year 2011 budget request of \$1.416 b for the Corporation (23.1% increase)
 - AmeriCorps State & National: \$488.033m
(31% increase)
 - Commission Administrative: \$ 18.0m
 - Commission PDAT: \$ 6.6m
 - Commission Disability: \$ 4.5m
 - Serve America Fellowships \$ 1.0m

AmeriCorps 2010 Grant Process

- New Funding Priorities
 - National Performance Measures Pilot
- Combined Competition
- Full-time Fixed Amount Grant Pilot

2010 Funding Priorities

- ***Education*** - Especially helping children and youth achieve success in school and prevent them from dropping out before high school graduation
- ***Health*** - Including access to health care, health literacy, and disease prevention and health promotion initiatives
- ***Clean Energy/Environment*** - Energy-efficiency and environmental needs within communities

2010 Funding Priorities (cont.)

- ***Veterans*** – Engaging veterans in service, as well as addressing the needs of veterans, members of the Armed Forces who are on active duty, and family members of deployed military personnel
- ***Economic Opportunity*** - Including financial literacy, housing assistance, job training, and nutritional assistance

2010 Funding Priorities (cont.)

- **National Performance Measures** - allow for aggregated reporting of the impact of AmeriCorps
- **New Applicants** – applicants that haven't received an operational grant in the last 5 years
- **Encore Programs** – include a significant number of participants age 55 or older and take advantage of the skills and experience that such participants offer

Combined Competition

- The State Competitive and National Direct grant competitions are combined into one
- Multi-state applicants are required to consult with state commissions prior to grant submission, and describe that consultation in their application
- The Corporation will solicit and consider the views of State Commissions on programs proposing to operate in their states

Key Serve America Act (SAA) Changes in Effect

- Education Award Increase
- Criminal History Check Requirement Changes
- New Tutoring Requirement
- New Prohibited Member Activity
- New Prohibited Grant Activity

Education Award

- The Education Award will be tied in value to the Pell Grant beginning with AmeriCorps members serving in programs funded out of 2010 appropriations
- For AmeriCorps State and National, this impacts members serving in programs that will be funded through the competition that takes place next year

Education Award (cont.)

- The Education Award has not increased for currently serving AmeriCorps State and National members
- The Education Award has increased for VISTA and NCCC members who began service after October 1, 2009

Criminal History Check Requirement Changes

- Programs must perform criminal background checks on all members enrolled on or after 10/01/2009 – regardless of whether they have recurring access to vulnerable populations
- Effective 10/01/2009, individuals convicted of murder are ineligible to serve

New Tutoring Requirement

- Effective 10/01/2009, members serving as tutors must have a high school diploma

New Prohibited Member Activity

- Beginning 10/01/2009, members may not provide abortion services or make referrals for such services
- This includes members who enrolled prior to 10/01/2009

New Prohibited Grant Activity

- Grant funds cannot be used for the sole purpose of referring individuals for other Federal assistance or State assistance programs funded in part by the Federal Government.

Key SAA Changes Not Yet in Effect

- On February 23, 2010, a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was issued to implement changes to the operation of the National Service Trust under the Serve America Act, including:
 - Maximum number of terms of service
 - Transferability of the Education Award

Key SAA Changes Not Yet in Effect (cont.)

- Until this rulemaking is complete, all current rules on term limitations remain in place.
 - <http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/serveamerica/rulemaking.asp>
 - Proposed Rule; Information on how to provide comment; Conference call information
- During this Rulemaking process, Corporation staff cannot engage in discussions about the content of the proposed Rule

Ensuring Compliance

- Ask questions in the appropriate sessions here
- Review your internal procedures, member contracts, etc. to ensure that you are in compliance with provisions that have already gone into effect
- Ask questions of your commission, or Corporation program and grants officers

Fixed Amount Grants

- According to the Serve Act the amount must be “significantly less than the reasonable and necessary costs of administering the program supported by the grant; and
- based on an amount per individual enrolled in the program receiving the grant...”

Opportunities for 2010

- Full-cost, Full-time Programs: \$13,000
- Professional Corps Programs: \$2,000
 - Also full-time
- Education Award Programs: \$800

Advantages of Fixed Amount Grants

- OMB Cost Principles do not apply
- No tracking or documentation of cost sharing is required
- Budgets are not required during the application process
- Limited, if any, financial reporting to the Corporation

Disadvantages

- Programs can only draw all of the funds awarded if all members enroll (EAP) or if all members enroll and complete service (Full-time and Professional Corps programs)
- Programs must still raise significant support to operate the program

What Requirements Still Apply?

- AmeriCorps members must receive a living allowance of at least \$11,800 and health benefits
- Member documentation related to eligibility and criminal background checks must be confirmed and maintained
- Member time-keeping systems must be in place to track member service hours
- Appropriate program management and supervision must be provided

What Requirements Still Apply?

- OMB Uniform Administrative Requirements must be followed
- Single Audits must be conducted (if Federal expenditures exceed \$500,000/year)

Additional Guidance

- CNCS will give priority in the selection process to existing programs that have demonstrated experience and capacity to track performance measures.
- Grantees must participate in any evaluation the Corporation conducts on this pilot.
- Grantees will be encouraged to apply for fixed amounts less than the maximum.

Calculating Funds to Draw

- May access up to 20% immediately as long as you don't draw more than earned by the end of the budget period
- Then draw based on enrollments (EAP) or enrollments and completion (Other fixed grants)
- For full-cost at \$13,000 for 10 members with 8 members earning awards and 2 completing 920 hours

– 8 x \$13,000 =	\$104,000
– 920/1700 x \$13,000 =	<u>\$ 14,040</u>
Total	\$118,040

Applications Received

- From State Commissions
 - Education Award Programs: 22
 - Professional Corps: 5
 - Full-cost Programs: 27
- From National Directs
 - Education Award Programs: 8
 - Professional Corps: 4
 - Full-cost Programs: 24

Social Innovation Fund

- Promote investment in effective and potentially transforming activities of non-profit community organizations and replicate and expand them to serve more low-income communities
- Identify effective approaches in addressing critical social challenges and share their knowledge
- Develop a robust grant-making infrastructure

Social Innovation Fund

- \$50 million available in 2010 for 7 -10 grants
- Eligible applicants are intermediaries - **Existing grant-making institutions or eligible partnerships**
- Grantee match is more than \$1 for \$1
- Due Date for Applications: April 8, 2010

Priority Areas

- Economic Opportunity
- Youth Development and School Support
- Healthy Futures

Intermediaries will:

- Select subgrantees through a competitive process
- Support them with technical assistance and evaluation
- Monitor them and track their performance
- Assist them to replicate and expand to serve more individuals and/or communities

Volunteer Generation Fund

- Establish programs to recruit, manage and support volunteers in effective volunteer support structures in states; and
- Identify effective approaches to increasing volunteer opportunities and managing and supporting volunteers

Volunteer Generation Fund

- \$4 million available in 2010
- Eligible applicants: State commissions
- Minimum Grant: \$75,000
- Grantee match increases over four years from 20% to 50% for all succeeding years
- NOFA will be released: March 23, 2010
- Due date for applications: May 18, 2010

Nonprofit Capacity Building Program

- Deliver organizational development assistance to small and midsize nonprofits, especially in areas where nonprofit organizations face significant resource hardship challenges.
- Provide technical assistance in areas such as best practices, financial planning, grant-writing, and compliance on applicable tax laws.

Capacity Building Fund

- \$1 million available in 2010
- Eligible applicants: Intermediary Organizations
- Minimum Grant: \$200,000
- Grantee match is 50%
- NOFA will be released: Late March 2010
- Due date for applications: Late May 2010

2010 SOUTHWEST CLUSTER CONFERENCE

**THANK
YOU!**

peers. practice. knowledge. tools.

Affinity Groups

State Programs (Blue Dots)

National Programs (Red Dots)

State Commissions (Green Dots)

CNCS (Orange Dots)

Friends (Yellow)

Affinity Group Breakouts

Break up into “like” group:

- introduce yourselves to your peer group; and
- discuss the CNCS presentation:
 - What stood out;
 - “burning questions” you have for CNCS that relate to their presentation or anything else looming in the future of AmeriCorps.

Affinity Group Breakouts

Purpose:

- Get to know some of your peers; and
- Create a list of burning questions you would like CNCS to address while they are here

Affinity Group Breakouts

- Be back in room by 11:15 with your list of burning questions
- From 10:10 – 11:15, you have:
 - 15 minute break,
 - time to get to your room and back to the large plenary; and
 - time to introduce yourselves and discuss and put in writing your “burning questions”.

Affinity Group Breakouts

Stay Here: State Programs (Blue Dots)

Ballroom I and II: National Programs (Red Dots)

Ballroom III: State Commissions (Green Dots) and
CNCS Non-Headquarters (Orange Dots)

Best Fit: Friends (Yellow Dots)