

2026-27 AMERICORPS COMPETITIVE REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

New Applicant Information Session
February 19th, 2026

AGENDA

- 1. AmeriCorps & OregonServes Overview**
- 2. AmeriCorps Members**
- 3. AmeriCorps Program Model Overview**
- 4. FY2026 AmeriCorps Competitive Application Process**
- 5. Q&A**

AMERICORPS & OREGONSERVES

WHAT IS AMERICORPS?



AMERICORPS GOALS

Unite

AmeriCorps bridges divides by bringing people together: connecting individuals and organizations to help communities tackle their toughest challenges.

Impact

AmeriCorps enriches the lives of those they serve and those who serve.

Strengthen

AmeriCorps provides resources and people power to organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities.

Lead

AmeriCorps is the only federal agency for community service and volunteerism. They empower an entire ecosystem committed to the betterment of communities across America.

AMERICORPS BRANCHES

- **AmeriCorps State & National**
- **AmeriCorps VISTA**
- **AmeriCorps NCCC**
- **AmeriCorps Seniors**

AMERICORPS FOCUS AREAS

- 1. Disaster Services**
- 2. Economic Opportunity**
- 3. Education**
- 4. Environmental Stewardship**
- 5. Healthy Futures**
- 6. Veterans & Military Families**

AMERICORPS & OREGONSERVES

- **AmeriCorps the Agency** is the federal agency that administers AmeriCorps at the national level.
- **OregonServes** is the Oregon State Service Commission and is the passthrough agency for Federal AmeriCorps funding in Oregon.
- **AmeriCorps Oregon** refers to the programs funded by Oregon Serves.



ABOUT OREGONSERVES

- **Mission:** OregonServes' mission is to "advance volunteerism, service and civic engagement to enrich lives and strengthen Oregon communities." The Commission's vision is "Engaged individuals, empowered communities, and an equitable Oregon."
- OregonServes is the National Service Commission for Oregon and is the pass-through agency for administering the AmeriCorps*Oregon program.
- Our work is supported by a commission of Governor-appointed board members and by state agency staff in the Higher Education Coordinating Commission – Office of Workforce Investments.

AMERICORPS MEMBERS

AMERICORPS MEMBERS

- **Who are AmeriCorps Members?**
 - **People that you engage in service in your program. They play a unique role in a community or organization to address unmet needs.**
 - **They are specifically called Members, they are *not*:**
 - **Interns**
 - **Employees/Workers**
 - **Volunteers**

AMERICORPS MEMBERS

- **AmeriCorps Members are individuals recruited by you to serve in your program.**
- **AmeriCorps Members typically provide direct service to address the need identified by your organization.**
- **Members may provide capacity building services, such as recruitment and management of volunteers.**
- **Members sign agreements to serve with your program for a defined Term of Service.**

WHO CAN SERVE IN AMERICORPS?

- **U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals or Lawful Permanent Residents of the United States**
- **At least 17 years of age**
 - **No upper age limit**
- **High School Graduate or GED Recipient**
 - **Or working towards this goal**
- **Subject to National Service Criminal History Checks**

MEMBER POSITION TYPES

Organizations may request one member type or a combination of types.

Member Type	Minimum Service Hours
Full Time (1 MSY)	1,700
Three Quarter Time (.7 MSY)	1,200
Half Time (.5 MSY)	900
Quarter Time (.25 MSY)	450
Minimum Time (.21 MSY)	300

AMERICORPS MEMBER BENEFITS

- **Living Allowance**
- **Health Insurance & Childcare Assistance**
 - **Only Full-time AmeriCorps Members are eligible to receive these benefits**
- **Student Loan Deferment while in service**
- **Education Award upon successfully completing a term of service**
- **Supervision and Professional Development**

AMERICORPS STATE COMPETITIVE PROGRAM MODEL

AMERICORPS STATE

- AmeriCorps State programs operate with all activities within one state
- AmeriCorps State and National was created in 1993 by President Clinton under the National and Community Service Trust Act
- Key elements:
 - Direct Service activities
 - Full and Part-time member types available
 - Minimum of **20** Members for new applicants
 - Organization pays member living allowance
 - Cost reimbursement with match required

AMERICORPS STATE PROGRAM MODEL

Most AmeriCorps State programs operate under one of two models:

- **Single Site:** Members are placed at one site (applicant organization) to perform service and program staff supervise the members
- **Multi-Site:** The application organization places members at various sites (regional or statewide) and the members are supervised by staff at the placement site.

AMERICORPS PROGRAM MODEL

- **Successful applicants have these common elements:**
 - **Strong program design and rationale for utilizing AmeriCorps members to meet a community need**
 - **Strong sponsoring organization**
 - **Strong fiscal capability**

AMERICORPS PROGRAM MODEL

- **Strong Program Design:**
 - Evidence-based or Evidence-informed
 - Measurable community impact: clear outputs and outcomes
 - Alignment between your mission and member activities
 - Strong data showing community need
 - Show why members are appropriate strategy to address community need
 - Focused and comprehensive plans: Recruitment, Training, Supervision of members
 - Commitment to AmeriCorps identity

AMERICORPS PROGRAM MODEL

- **Strong Sponsoring Organization:**
 - **Organizational capacity**
 - **Institutional commitment of personnel, resources, training and technical expertise**
 - **Experience operating similar programs or grants**
 - **Ability to create and deliver necessary training & supervision**
 - **History of programmatic and financial success**

AMERICORPS PROGRAM MODEL

- **Strong Fiscal Capability:**
 - **Established systems for financial reporting**
 - **Ability to cover expenses up front – reimbursed for expenses**
 - **Systems for disbursements, receipts, account reconciliation, etc.**
 - **History of clean audits**
 - **Ability to collect and account for matching dollars**
 - **Plan for financial sustainability**

FY26 AMERICORPS STATE COMPETITIVE APPLICATION PROCESS

ORGANIZATION ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Organization Types *(Must have EIN Number and be registered in SAM w/UEI Number)*

- **Institutions of Higher Education**
- **Local Governments, including school districts**
- **Nonprofit Organizations**
- **Indian Tribes**

2026 DEADLINES

- **Notice of Intent to Apply due March 2nd, 2026**
- **Full Application & materials due March 16th, 2026**
 - **Application due in eGrants + submission of supplemental documents to OSC email.**
- **Links to required forms and instructions found on the OSC website-**
<https://www.oregon.gov/oregonserves/americorps/Pages/american-corps-oregon-competitive-funding.aspx>

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY

- All applicants must submit a Notice of Intent to Apply Form via Microsoft Forms
- **Program Description:** The applicant will provide information on how they will design their AmeriCorps Program to fulfill a need in the community.
- **AmeriCorps Focus Areas:** The applicant will address which AmeriCorps focus areas their program will serve.
- **AmeriCorps & OregonServes Priorities:** The applicant will address which priorities the program will focus on.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY

- **Number of AmeriCorps Members:** The applicant will address the number of Member Service Years (MSY) needed and the total amount of funds they are requesting for an AmeriCorps Program.
- **Organizational Capability:** The applicant will address their organization's ability to manage AmeriCorps grant funds. New applicants without AmeriCorps grant management experience will address their organization's history with managing grant funds and answer additional grant readiness questions.

OSC & AMERICORPS PRIORITIES

- **OregonServes priorities include:**
 - **Interventions to remedy Housing and Homelessness**
 - **Increasing Access to Behavioral Health Care**
 - **Advancing Early Literary Success**
- **Review pages 4-5 of the AmeriCorps NOFO for a full list of agency priorities**
- **Applicants will address in the Notice Priority narrative whether one or more of the AmeriCorps funding priorities is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes.**

GRANT FUNDING

MSY: Member Service Year

- To meet the minimum 20 member requirement, you may use any combination of member service year types to align with your program design.

Maximum Cost Per MSY

- \$25,000 per MSY
- Calculation used to indicate the maximum amount of federal funds you can request for your program.
- Based on the number of MSYs requested.

= Maximum Cost per MSY * # of MSYs

Sample Calculations For New Applicants:

- 20 full time MSYs * \$25,000 = \$500,000 (maximum federal funding request)

GRANT FUNDING

- **New Applicants will apply for a Cost Reimbursement Grant**
 - Organizations must have sufficient cash flow available to support the program operation. Requests for reimbursement are made once per month for expenses incurred the prior month.
- **Matching Requirements**
 - Match can be either Cash, In-Kind, or a combination of both resources.

AmeriCorps Funding Year	1, 2, 3	4,5,6	7,8,9	10+
Matching Requirements	24%	26%	28%	30%

APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

The narrative sections of the application are your opportunity to convince reviewers that your project meets the selection criteria as outlined in the *Notice*. Read the AmeriCorps NOFO and Application Instructions for a full description on the criteria and scoring for each category and subcategory

Application Narrative Categories	Percentage of Total Score
Executive Summary	0%
Program Design	50%
Organizational Capability	25%
Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy	25%

EVIDENCE

- All applicants must propose program designs that are either evidence-based or evidence-informed. Applicants rated as insufficient evidence are removed from funding consideration.
- Insufficient evidence is determined by: An applicant being assessed as in the pre-preliminary evidence tier AND providing inadequate responses to the Evidence Quality review standards for each evidence tier below:



PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- All applicants must have at least one performance measure with one output and one outcome. The output and outcome should be aligned.
- **Outputs** typically count the service population: number of students attending after school programming, miles of trail treaded etc.
- **Outcomes** measure a change in knowledge, attitude or behavior. Number of students attending after school programming with higher academic performance in reading and math, miles of trail improved.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- You do not have to use the national performance measures (meaning created by AmeriCorps) but can create your own so long as it is aligned and corresponds to your primary intervention.
- Review the [AmeriCorps Performance Measure Instructions](#) for definitions and examples of approved data collection methods
- Be sure to check out the [AmeriCorps training](#) on performance measures

LOGIC MODEL

The Logic Model has three basic elements:

- The problem statement
- The evidence-based intervention
- The intended outcomes

Problem	Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short-Term Outcomes	Mid-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Outcomes
The community problem that the program activities (interventions) are designed to address.	Resources that are necessary to deliver the program activities (interventions), including the number of locations/sites and number/type of AmeriCorps members.	The core activities that define the intervention or program model that members will implement or deliver, including duration, dosage and target population.	Direct products from program activities.	Changes in knowledge, skills, attitudes and opinions. These outcomes, if applicable to the program design, will almost always be measurable during the grant year.	Changes in behavior or action. Depending on program design, these outcomes may or may not be measurable during the grant year.	Changes in condition or status in life. Depending on program design, these outcomes may or may not be measurable during the grant year. Some programs, such as environmental or capacity-building programs, may measure changes in condition over a period as short as one year.

PAGE LIMITS

- **Narratives**
 - Must not exceed **11** double-spaced pages for the Narratives.
 - The application sections that count towards the page limit include:
 - SF-424 FACE Sheet;
 - Executive Summary;
 - Program Design, Organizational Capability, and Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy narratives.
- **Logic Model**
 - May not exceed **8** pages

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

- **Notice of Intent to Apply Form**
- **Evidence Documents**
- **Labor Organization Certification Form**
- **Application Certification Form**
- **Organizational Chart (program structure)**
- **Most recent audit or audited/unaudited financial statements**
- **Operational and Financial Management Survey (PDF version)**

- **All supplemental materials emailed to oregon.serves@hecc.oregon.gov by the application submission due date**

BUDGET

Your budget must include:

- **Minimum living allowance for members (\$20,400 for full-time)**
- **Estimated health insurance costs for at least full-time members**
- **FICA for members**
- **Travel for required OregonServes meetings and events**
- **Registration and/or travel costs to the ASC National Service Training**
- **AmeriCorps Criminal History Checks**
- **AmeriCorps member gear**

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

- **Draft your narratives in Word. Cut and paste into eGrants**
- **Complete your budget in Excel. Cut and paste into eGrants**
- **Focus your efforts on program design, impact, and interventions**
- **Don't use acronyms**
- **Use headings to differentiate answers to narrative sections (i.e. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)**
- **Use the Grant Application Checklist provided in RFA and OSC website**

EGRANTS TIPS AND TRICKS

- **No formatting capability**
- **Enter text single spaced**
- **Do not include web addresses or URL links (use citations instead)**
- **Download as PDF or Print for final review**
- **Save often while in eGrants**
- **Submit in advance of the deadline**
- **Take screenshots of any errors you receive**

NATIONAL SERVICE HOTLINE

- If you are having problems with eGrants, contact the National Service Hotline via phone or through their website.
 - Phone: (800) 942-2677
 - Website: <https://questions.americorps.gov/app/>
- Provide them with your application ID number and the Notice to which your organization is applying
- Be sure to obtain your help desk ticket. If a deadline is missed due to eGrants, this is often the only 'proof' of an issue we can provide to AmeriCorps

THANK YOU!



SCAN FOR RESOURCES