



2027 AMERICORPS PLANNING GRANT INFORMATION SESSION

October 15, 2026

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AGENDA



AmeriCorps
&
OregonServes



About
AmeriCorps
Planning Grants



2027
Application Process



Additional Resources
& Questions

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WHAT IS AMERICORPS?

Connecting individuals and organizations to help communities tackle their toughest challenges

AmeriCorps sends people power and funding to communities across the country. Disaster response, opioid crisis, education – these are just a few of the causes where AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers have stepped up to strengthen their community.



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BRANCHES OF SERVICE



AmeriCorps State and National members serve with thousands of nonprofit and community groups across the country, including Habitat for Humanity, College Possible, and Reading Partners to meet pressing local and national needs.



AmeriCorps NCCC members are 18-24 and serve in a team-based, residential program that meets the needs of communities throughout the country. FEMA Corps, developed in partnership with FEMA, mobilizes NCCC members for disaster preparedness and response.



AmeriCorps VISTA members serve full-time and continue a 50+ year legacy addressing poverty and building the capacity of nonprofit organizations nationwide.



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MEMBER BENEFITS



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MEMBER DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS

- 9 out of 10 AmeriCorps alumni reported that their experience improved their ability to solve problems.
- 80% of alumni feel confident they can create a plan to address a community issue and get others to care about it.
- 93% of alumni said that after service, they felt comfortable interacting with others different than themselves, as compared to 72% before.
- 94% said that national service broadened their understanding of society and different communities.
- 8 out of 10 alumni say AmeriCorps benefited their career path.
- 42% of alumni employed within six months of service found a job through a connection made in AmeriCorps.
- 7 out of 10 alumni say that AmeriCorps helped them achieve their educational goals, in part thanks to the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award received after service.
- 1/3 of alumni were furthering their education six months after service.
- More than 1/2 said the Education Award gave them the ability to pay for career-benefiting training and education that they otherwise would not have had.



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AMERICORPS IN OREGON



- ✓ AmeriCorps the Agency is the federal agency that administers AmeriCorps at the national level.



- ✓ OregonServes is the Oregon State Service Commission and is the pass-through agency for Federal AmeriCorps funding in Oregon.
- ✓ AmeriCorps Oregon refers to the programs funded by OregonServes.



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ABOUT PLANNING GRANTS



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AMERICORPS OREGON PLANNING GRANT

- A planning grant provides financial support to organizations that will be developing an AmeriCorps program placing AmeriCorps members in service solely within Oregon.
- Planning Grants help prepare for the next full program grant competition.
- A planning grant does not provide AmeriCorps members.



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FOCUS AREAS

All AmeriCorps focus areas will be considered but priority will be given to programming focused on:

- Healthy Futures
- Youth Mental Health Corps
- Economic Opportunity



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AMERICORPS FOCUS AREAS

- Disaster Services
- Economic Opportunity & Education
- Environmental Stewardship
- Healthy Futures
- Youth Mental Health Corps
- Veterans and Military Families



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ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

An applicant must meet all criteria under Eligibility Information:

- Non-Federal Entities:
 - Tribes (2 CFR §200.54)
 - Institutions of Higher Education (2 CFR §200.54)
 - Local Governments (2 CFR §200.64)
 - Nonprofit Organizations (2 CFR §200.70)
- Applicants must propose AmeriCorps program designs that will operate solely within the state of Oregon.
- Planning Grants are open to current AmeriCorps programs if they propose a new focus area, geographic region, or new member initiatives.



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ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Applicants must:

- Have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
- Register with the System for Award Management and maintain an active SAM registration.
- Submit a Single Audit or an Independent Financial Audit from 2024 or 2025.
 - May submit unaudited financial statement if program has not had an audit



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PLANNING GRANT ACTIVITIES



Conduct Needs
Assessment



Research
Interventions



Program Design



Create Needed
Structures



Write Policies
and Procedures



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2026-2027 TENTATIVE DATES

Planning Grant Duration	Due Date	Notification of Funding Decisions	Planning Grant Activities Begin (tentative)	Planning Grant Activities End
9-Months	November 13 th , 2026	December 2026	January 2027	September 30 th , 2027



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APPLICATION PROCESS



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APPLICATION OUTLINE

Application Information

Executive Summary

Rationale & Approach/Program
Design

Organizational Capability

Resource Development

Additional Documents

Question 2.2: Provide a brief summary of the proposed project:

Enter Brief Summary

Question 2.3: Describe who will benefit from the member activities:

Enter Narrative Description on Beneficiaries of Member Activities

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Section 1: Applicant Information (REQUIRED)

→ Provide information related to your entity/organization and program contact

Organization Name:

EIN:

UEN:

Program Contact Name:

Program Contact Email:

Program Contact Phone:

Fiscal Contact:

Fiscal Contact Email:

Fiscal Contact Phone:

Authorized Signature Authority:

Requested Project Start Date:

Section 2: Executive Summary (REQUIRED)

→ Provide a concise overview of the project. Be sure to include definitions for all acronyms.

Question 2.1: Focus Area(s)

Choose which focus area/s your program will focus on.

☐ Economic Opportunity & Education

☐ Environmental Stewardship

☐ Healthy Future

☐ Disaster Services

☐ The Youth Mental Health Corps

☐ Veterans and Military Families

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Preparing your application

Rationale & Approach

- ★ Community need
- ★ How are AmeriCorps members effective tools?
- ★ Interventions
- ★ Timeline
- ★ Capacity

Organizational Capability

- ★ Organizational structure/background and staffing
- ★ Culturally Responsive



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Preparing your application continued..

Resource Development

- ★ Match/Fundraising Capacity
- ★ Budget Clarifications

Budget

- ★ Personnel Expenses
- ★ Personnel Fringe Benefits
- ★ Staff Travel
- ★ Supplies
- ★ Contracts & Consultants
- ★ Staff Training
- ★ Admin/Indirect
- ★ Other Program Operating Costs



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Section I	CNCS Share	Grantee Share	TOTAL
A. Personnel			
Test response	\$123	\$456	\$579
			\$0
			\$0
			\$0
			\$0
			\$0
			\$0
			\$0
			\$0
			\$0
Section I.A Personnel Total	\$123	\$456	\$579

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SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- ★ **Grant Application Form**
 - ★ Fillable Word Document
- ★ **Budget Plan**
 - ★ Excel Document
- ★ **Org Chart**
- ★ **Application Certification Form**
- ★ **Additional As Needed Documents (Indirect Cost Rate Agreement and/or Audit/Independent Financial Statement)**
- ★ **Email all required documents to:**
 - ★ oregon.serves@hecc.oregon.gov
 - ★ In your email, state the RFA # and title documents the following:
 - ★ "Organization Name_Document Title"
 - ★ Example: "TestOrg_Grant Application Form"



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Tips for a Successful Application



Double check budget details:
Is it allowable?
Is it necessary?
Is my math correct?



Start early to avoid late submissions that may be caused by technical issues.



Use the RFA as your checklist.



Ask an individual from outside the organization to review. Remember that the reviewers have no knowledge of your programming.



Focus on program design and impact.
Why are AmeriCorps members the right fit?

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Resources

<https://www.oregon.gov/oregonserves/trainings/Pages/new-applicant-resources.aspx>




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QUESTIONS?

OREGON.SERVES@HECC.OREGON.GOV