



PLANNING GRANT 2027

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Does economic opportunity always include education or are those focus areas separated?

Answer: Economic Opportunity can really be tied into all of the focus areas. This specific area focuses more on access to services and resources. Education is not specifically the traditional education pathways that we might initially think of. There is a lot of flexibility in this focus area, and we would encourage potential grantees to feel comfortable thinking outside the box.

It may be helpful to note that the AmeriCorps website defines Economic Opportunity as “AmeriCorps programs serve as a pathway to employment opportunities and help develop vital work skills”, and defines Education as “Volunteers support students, improve attendance and engagement, increase high-school graduation rates, and expand college enrollment”.

Question: Is an external financial review sufficient, or are you looking for a technical audit?

Answer: Unaudited financial statements can work for smaller organizations. There is no technical audit required if you are under the federal grant award threshold (\$750,000 in total federal dollars).

Question: Is there a minimum or a maximum number of members defined in the operational grant? How does that grant program differ from the one that you said opens in Spring 2027?

Answer: The Competitive award is currently open, and the Formula award opens in early spring. The minimum number of members is 5 for the Formula award (which opens in early spring, programming would start late summer/early fall 2027). The minimum number of members for the Competitive award (which is currently open, but not many new programs apply for) is 20.

Question: Do we need to have the match secured prior to application submission?

Answer: Not all match needs to be secured prior to application submission, but there might be financial stability concerns if a grantee did not have enough match to run the program/meet match requirements. Programs can continue to fundraise but should know that we cannot continue to process reimbursements during the grant award if match requirements are an area of concern. The match is linked to how much is actually spent so as long as the match percentage is met as spending occurs, a program could buy themselves more time to continue to raise funds.