

Notices of Federal Funding Opportunity

For: Applications to Volunteer NH for AmeriCorps State Grants Targeted Priority FY2018

AmeriCorps in NH

AmeriCorps provides support to nonprofits, faith-based and community organizations, and public agencies committed to meeting critical needs in education, disaster services, economic opportunity, healthy futures, veterans and military families and environmental stewardship. AmeriCorps is a federal program overseen by Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). The mission of CNCS is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations (see *Eligible Applicants* section) proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award from the National Service Trust that members can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

Volunteer NH is a nonprofit organization with a mission to promote the tradition of service in New Hampshire. Building on that strong volunteer spirit, we support and sponsor national service initiatives and provide training, recognition, and a central site for volunteers and volunteer programs to help them strengthen their communities. Volunteer NH administers AmeriCorps State Programs for New Hampshire and is the designated State Commission for CNCS.

Organizations that propose to operate in only one state must apply through the Governor-appointed State Commission (Volunteer NH). Volunteer NH administers its own selection process and submits the applications it selects to compete for funding directly to CNCS. Single-State applicants must contact Volunteer NH to learn about processes and deadlines which may be significantly earlier than the CNCS deadlines and may have additional requirements. A Single-State application from a State or Territory with a Commission that is submitted directly to CNCS by the applicant rather than the Commission will be considered noncompliant and will not be reviewed

Applicants to the State Competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) must comply with **CNCS 2018 Targeted Priority NOFO, Application Instructions, and Performance Measure Instructions in addition to following the Volunteer NH timeline**. Volunteer NH supports service categories which will serve as CNCS funding priority areas for the grant process. The areas and goals associated with each are as follows:

CNCS Focus Areas

In order to carry out Congress' intent and to maximize the impact of investment in national service, CNCS has the following focus areas:

Disaster Services

Economic Opportunity

Education

Environmental Stewardship

Healthy Futures

Veterans and Military Families

IMPORTANT: 2018 AmeriCorps Funding Priorities

CNCS seeks to prioritize the investment of national service resources in the following areas:

- Healthy Futures - reducing and/or preventing prescription drug and opioid abuse
- Child Wellness - in one or more of the following areas:
 - Reducing and/or preventing child abuse
 - Improving outcomes for child victims of abuse
 - Improving outcomes for foster youth, including youth aging out of foster care
- Working to improve or support improvement of one or more of the following infrastructure categories:

○ Aviation	○ Levees	○ Schools
○ Bridges	○ Ports	○ Solid Waste
○ Dams	○ Public Parks	○ Transit
○ Hazardous Waste	○ Rail	○ Wastewater
○ Inland Waterways	○ Roads	

In order to receive priority consideration and points for submitting an application within a Notice priority(ies), applicants must demonstrate that the priority area is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes and must include a high quality program design. Responses that propose programs for the purpose of receiving priority consideration are not guaranteed funding.

*****IMPORTANT: Applications that do not fall within these funding priorities are considered noncompliant and will not be reviewed. *****

National Performance Measures

CNCS expects organizations to use National Performance Measures as part of their comprehensive performance measurement strategy that relies on both performance and evaluation data to learn from their work as well as make tactical and strategic adjustments to achieve their goals. For more information, please refer to the Performance Measure Instructions located on the CNCS website.

All applications must include at least one aligned performance measure (output and outcome) that corresponds to the proposed primary intervention. This may be a National Performance Measure or an applicant-determined measure. Additional performance measures, including output-only National Performance Measures, may also be included if desired; however, all performance measures must be consistent with the program's Theory of Change and represent significant program activities. CNCS does not expect applicants to select performance measures to correspond to each and every potential member activity or community impact. CNCS values the quality of performance measures over the quantity of performance measures.

As described in the Application Instructions, applicants must include all of the information about their proposed performance measure in the Performance Measure section of the applications in eGrants (CNCS's web-based grants management system). All information requested in the National Performance Measure Instructions must be included in the text of the performance measures themselves, and it must be evident in the performance measure text that all definitions and requirements outlined in the National Performance Measures Instructions are met. Providing performance measures information elsewhere in the narrative cannot be in lieu of providing full information in the Performance Measures section of the application in eGrants.

Program Authority

CNCS's legal authority to award these grants is found in the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, (NCSA) (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.)

Federal Award Information

Estimated Available Funds and Award Amount

CNCS expects a highly competitive AmeriCorps grant competition. CNCS reserves the right to prioritize providing funding to existing awards over making new awards. The actual level of funding will be subject to the availability of annual appropriations. Grant awards have two components: operating funds and AmeriCorps member positions. Grant award amounts vary –both in the level of operating funds and in the type and amount of AmeriCorps member positions – as determined by the scope of the projects.

Project and Award Period

The project period is generally one year, with a start date proposed by the applicant. The grant award covers a three-year project period unless otherwise specified. In most cases, the application is submitted with a one-year budget. Continuation funding for subsequent years is not guaranteed and shall be dependent upon availability of appropriations and satisfactory performance.

The project start date may not occur prior to the date CNCS awards the grant. AmeriCorps members may not enroll prior to the start date of the award. AmeriCorps members may not begin service prior to the beginning of the member enrollment period as designated in the grant award. A program may not certify any hours a member performs prior to the beginning of the member enrollment period.

Eligible Applicants

The following Non-Federal entities (as defined in 2 C.F.R. §200.69) who have DUNS numbers and are registered in System for Award Management (SAM) are eligible to apply:

- Indian Tribes (2 C.F.R. §200.54)
- Institutions of higher education (2 C. F.R. §200.54)
- Local governments (2 C.F.R. §200.64)
- Nonprofit organizations (2 C.F.R. §200.70)
- States (2 C.F.R. §200.90)

New Applicants

CNCS encourages organizations that have not received prior funding from CNCS to apply. The general practice is to award no more than 50 member positions (slots) to organizations receiving an AmeriCorps grant for the first time.

New, non recompete applicants are required to complete the Volunteer NH Organization Readiness Assessment document which will determine eligibility and readiness to apply. **Please email hope@volunteernh.org for a copy of this document.**

New applicants are eligible to apply for Cost Reimbursement and Education Award Program (EAP) grants but are not eligible to apply for Full-Time Fixed Amount grants. Existing subgrantees/operating sites of Fixed Amount and Cost Reimbursement grantees who can demonstrate a successful history and current capacity to manage a Fixed Amount grant are considered to have AmeriCorps experience and therefore can apply for Fixed Amount grants. See Mandatory Supplemental Guidance for more information.

Operating Grants

Volunteer NH funds operating grants that support fully-developed plans to establish a New Hampshire AmeriCorps program or to support, expand, or replicate an existing program. Grant awards are renewed annually for a total of three years subject to annual review and availability of federal appropriations. Programs seeking funding beyond three years must reapply as a re-competing applicant.

IMPORTANT: All Applications must include the following information:

- Program size language
- In the budget/ budget narrative section of your application include the following:
 - **Statewide Member Training Conference:** Programs need to include in the budget, under member training, **\$60 per member** for attendance to the Annual Governor's Conference on Volunteerism.
 - **Program Staff Training Conference:** Programs are expected to budget for sending appropriate staff to the one day National Service Program Staff Training Conference. The conference is held in Concord, NH the day before the Annual Governor's Conference on Volunteerism. The cost is **\$250 pp.**
 - **Budget-Indirect Costs:** Volunteer NH will elect to retain a share of the 5% of federal funds allocated to indirect costs available to programs. Volunteer NH will retain **2%** from subrecipients, computed from each month's periodic expense report (PER).

Program Size

Applicants must apply for a **minimum of 10 members**. AmeriCorps programs should be large enough to make a significant difference in communities. Applications requesting fewer than 10 members will not be reviewed.

Type of Applicants

Single-State Applicants

Organizations that propose to operate in only one state must apply through the Governor-appointed State or Territory Commissions (Volunteer NH).

National Direct Applicants

Multi-state: Organizations that propose to operate AmeriCorps programs in more than one state or territory apply directly to CNCS. CNCS expects State Commissions and National Direct applicants to consult and coordinate activities at the local level, as specified in Section 131 of the NCSA (42 U.S.C. § 12583). This consultation is designed to ensure the most effective use of national service resources and lead to enhanced coordination. Please email andrea@volunteernh.org for a National Direct Consultation form.

Intent to Apply

Applicants are required to submit intent to apply to Volunteer NH for AmeriCorps funding. Include the following information in an email; the name of the applicant organization, address, contact person, e-mail address, and phone number. Applicants should state the type of grant for which they intend to apply and the focus area the anticipated application will address. Send to emily@volunteernh.org by **March 9, 2018**. Failure to submit a Notice of Intent to Apply will render an applicant ineligible to apply.

Resources

To view the CNCS NOFO, Application Instructions, Mandatory Supplemental Guidance, Performance Measure Instructions and additional CNCS resources please go to: <https://www.nationalservice.gov/build-your-capacity/grants/funding-opportunities/2018/2018-ameri-corps-state-and-national-grants>

IMPORTANT: Volunteer NH Application Timeline

- **February 12, 2018** - Info & technical assistance conference meeting at 2 pm (registration required, email emily@volunteernh.org with your name, organization, phone number and email address by **February 9, 2018**)
- **February 23, 2018** - AmeriCorps training and technical assistance meeting **required** for all new applicants (if you've never operated an AmeriCorps Program before) , 2-4 pm at Volunteer NH (registration required, email emily@volunteernh.org with your name, organization, phone number and email address by **February 21, 2018**)
- **March 9, 2018** – Intent to apply due by email to emily@volunteernh.org by 5 pm.
- **March 26, 2018** - Applications due in eGrants by 5 pm
- **April 13, 2018** - Feedback delivered to applicants as denial or approval of the application for submission to competitive competition with or without clarifications
- **April 23, 2018** – Final Applications due in eGrants by 5pm
- **June 25, 2018** – Volunteer NH notified of grant awards

For more information, please contact Volunteer NH Programs Officer Andrea Johnston at andrea@volunteernh.org.