

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Federal Agency Name: AmeriCorps
Funding Opportunity Title: Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Georgia AmeriCorps Competitive Grants
Announcement Type: Initial Announcement
Assistance Listing Number: 94.006

Summary Statement: This is a funding opportunity for local governments, educational institutions, 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations, state agencies, and Indian Tribes to apply for AmeriCorps funding to strengthen Georgia communities.

Disclosure: Publication of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (Notice) does not obligate AmeriCorps or Georgia Serves to award any specific number of grants or to commit any particular amount of funding. The actual level, timing, and process of grant funding will be subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

Important Dates and Information

- Applications are due no later than **February 18, 2025, by 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time**
- Successful applicants will be notified by **May 31, 2025**.
- Successful applicants will be issued awards by **August 2025**.
- Applicants proposing to operate an AmeriCorps program in multiple states must apply directly to AmeriCorps for funding. Visit [AmeriCorps](#) for more information.
- Applicants applying for projects in the state of Georgia should apply to Georgia Serves (Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism).

Georgia Serves will host a technical assistance workshop to answer questions about the application process on October 24, 2024 (10 am - 1 pm).

All workshop attendees must review the AmeriCorps NOFO documents and related technical assistance webinars prior to attending this event. Information for these technical assistance recordings is available on the [AmeriCorps' Funding Opportunities website](#).

Please note that if your organization will be applying as a new or renewal/recompete applicant, you should complete the GA AmeriCorps Notice of Intent to Apply by January 31, 2025.

Overview

Georgia Serves, located within the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), receives funding from AmeriCorps, the federal agency in Washington, DC. These funds are granted to qualifying organizations to implement AmeriCorps programs in Georgia.

Georgia Serves funds, monitors, and supports AmeriCorps State programs through Formula, Competitive, and Planning grants. AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations to recruit, train, and manage AmeriCorps members who address unmet community needs.

Georgia Serves makes funding decisions based on the strength of individual applications and strategic considerations at the statewide level. We will make funding decisions that maximize the opportunities to serve in Georgia, address critical needs, leverage available dollars, and strengthen national service in Georgia. To maximize the impact of AmeriCorps resources in the state, Georgia Serves will fund programs that can demonstrate community impact and solve community problems using an evidence-based or evidence-informed approach (e.g., performance measure data, quality of research, theory of change).

Funding Priorities

To carry out Congress' intent and maximize the impact of federal investments in national service, AmeriCorps developed the following funding priority areas:

Serve Communities:

- Serve communities with concentrated poverty, rural communities, tribal communities, and historically underrepresented and underserved individuals. These may include people of color, immigrants, refugees, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ individuals, people with arrest or conviction records, religious minorities, etc.;
- Implement programs for or expand access to high-quality youth mental health and substance use recovery services and prepare AmeriCorps members to enter behavioral health careers. These may include individuals with lived experience with substance use and mental health challenges to support youth mental health efforts and continued AmeriCorps work on the opioid epidemic;
- Focus on improving the quality of life for veterans, active-duty members of the Armed Forces, and their families by recruiting veterans, military spouses, and their older children into national service;
- Promote environmental stewardship to help communities (especially underserved households and communities) to be more resilient by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving land and water, increasing renewable energy use, and improving at-risk ecosystems;
- Support civic bridgebuilding programs and projects to reduce polarization and community divisions; and provide training in civic bridgebuilding skills and techniques to AmeriCorps members;

Benefit AmeriCorps Members:

- Provide benefits to AmeriCorps members aimed at enhancing member experience and bolstering member recruitment and retention, such as paying more than the minimum living allowance, transportation, housing, food, etc.;
- Create workforce pathways for AmeriCorps members, including deliberate training, certifications, and hiring preferences or support;
- Enhance and expand services to second chance youth and/or engage those youth as AmeriCorps members;
- Develop and train the next generation of diverse public health leaders through service while addressing pressing community health challenges. Review **Public Health AmeriCorps Priority** in the Mandatory Supplemental Information for eligibility information;

Use Evidence

- Utilize reports from the AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange on programs assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence to scale, replicate, or adapt the intervention;

Faith-Based

- Organizations that are faith-based; and

American Climate Corps

- Please note that applicants may propose projects to be affiliated with the American Climate Corps (ACC), which is a federal government national service and workforce development initiative focused on training young people for the clean energy and climate resilience workforce. Applicants who are interested must demonstrate that their project funds ACC-eligible positions meeting the following criteria:
 - o The position has verifiable climate or environmental impact.
 - o The position is temporary (term-limited), and the term length is at least 300 hours.
 - o The position includes skills-based training as part of the program and provides a pathway to employment.
 - o The position must receive a living allowance and, in some cases, may receive additional member benefits.

Applicants submitting a workforce development project to qualify for affiliation with the ACC should note that in their application. Successful applicants will be notified if they are part of the ACC and may be subject to additional reporting requirements.

Georgia Serves has established focus areas specific to Georgia:

- **Educators in Rural Communities** are organizations placing AmeriCorps members as tutors and/or individuals as teachers in rural schools and communities.

- **Homelessness** – As described in the preamble of the HUD Final Rule Defining Homelessness, the final rule establishes four categories of homelessness. These categories are as follows:
 1. Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.
 2. Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence;
 3. Unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition; or
 4. Individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member.
- **Human Sex Trafficking** – As defined by the Advocates for Human Rights. Human sex trafficking is a form of slavery and involuntary servitude resulting in grave human rights violations. Sex trafficking involves individuals profiting from the sexual exploitation of others and has severe physical and psychological consequences for its victims.
- **Rural Communities** are those communities with a population of less than 50,000 and where the poverty percentage is 10% or greater.

Types of Applicants

NEW APPLICANTS

New applicants are applicants who have never received funding from AmeriCorps or from Georgia Serves. New applicants are encouraged to apply for **Formula/Cost Reimbursement Grants** and must submit a complete application based on the *Notice and Application Instructions*. **NEW applicants are allowed to apply for a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 Member Service Years (MSY).**

New Applicants are NOT allowed to apply for the following grants:

- FIXED AMOUNT GRANTS
- COMPETITIVE GRANTS

[*Note: One Member Service Year (MSY) is equivalent to one full-time AmeriCorps member. AmeriCorps funds are contingent on the number of MSYs requested by the program.]

PLANNING GRANT APPLICANTS are “New Applicants” or, for existing grantees, new areas of focus. The purpose of a planning grant is to support an organization’s development of a new AmeriCorps program.

RE-COMPETE APPLICANTS

Organizations that have completed a three-year cycle of funds from AmeriCorps, the federal agency, and are applying for a new cycle and must submit a complete application based on the [Notice](#) and [Application Instructions](#).

CONTINUATION APPLICANTS

Organizations that have current AmeriCorps awards that do not end in 2025. For specific instructions on how to submit a **Continuation Request**, see the [Application Instructions](#). Information submitted will include the following narratives ONLY under the "Continuation Changes" field, if applicable:

- Justification of Member Enrollment
- Justification of Member Retention
- Plans for corrective actions for any compliance issues
- Changes in Operating Sites
- Significant Changes in Program Scope or Design
- Changes to Performance Measures (reflected in the Performance Measures section)
- Significant Changes to program monitoring structure or program staffing

Please note that there is a six-page limit for the "Continuation Changes" field of the application.

Application Deadline

All application materials and supplemental documents must be completed and submitted to AmeriCorpsGA@dca.ga.gov by **3:00 p.m. (EST) on Friday, February 18, 2025**. Unless indicated otherwise, applications must be submitted via eGrants, the AmeriCorps web-based management system.

FOR CURRENT PUBLIC Health Grantees

Current Public Health AmeriCorps grantees who are interested in applying to the AmeriCorps State and National notice using their same, or similar, program design should review the **Public Health AmeriCorps** priority in the [Mandatory Supplemental](#) for priority consideration eligibility information.

Grantees interested in applying to the Public Health priority should read all application documents, including the [FAQ For Current Public Health AmeriCorps Grantees](#)

Additional Documents

The following additional documents should be emailed to Georgia Serves at AmeriCorpsGA@dca.ga.gov by **February 18, 2025**.

ALL APPLICANTS MUST PROVIDE:

- Operational and Financial Management Survey (OFMS). Submit electronically using the [AmeriCorps OFMS online form](#).
- Proof of submission of the electronic Operational and Financial Management Survey (OFMS) noted above. A copy of the successful submission notification will satisfy this requirement.
- Financial Statements. For organizations that expend less than \$1,000,000 and that do not require an audit.
- Most Recent Audit (if applicable)
- Memorandums of Agreement or Memorandums of Understanding when partnering with sub-sites or other entities (if applicable)

- Documentation verifying Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rates (if applicable)
- Evidence documents. Please refer to the *Evidence Base* section of the [Notice](#) and [Mandatory Supplemental Information](#) for detailed instructions by evidence tier.

NEW APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT:

- Immigration affidavit form

RE-COMPETE APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT:

- Evaluation report or Evaluation Plan, if required. Please see the [Notice](#) and/or [Mandatory Supplemental Information](#) under Evidence Base definitions.

Guidance for submitting additional documents:

Do not submit documents directly to AmeriCorps via the links or emails noted on the AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities website, only to Georgia Serves. If approved, the commission will submit these documents to AmeriCorps.

Additional documents must be clearly labeled and include the legal applicant name and application ID number within the file name and heading of each document. To ensure that all required additional documents are considered, please provide each document as a separate single file, labeled appropriately. Please do not send multiple documents in one combined file, and do not send a single document in multiple files.

All additional documents must be uploaded to AmeriCorpsGA@dca.ga.gov Failure to submit the required additional documents, following the instructions in this section, by the deadline may have a negative effect on the assessment of an application.

Program Size

First-time applicants may submit requests for a minimum of five and a maximum of ten Member Service Years (MSY) or its equivalent in the form of full-time, three-quarter-time, half-time, quarter-time, or minimum-time members. AmeriCorps programs should be large enough to make a significant difference in communities.

Program Operating Period

Programs can begin operation **no** earlier than August 1 and no later than September 15. The program may operate for 10, 11 or 12 months but must fall within the 12-month grant period.

Performance Measures

Applicants can decide to use applicant-determined or National Performance Measures. National Performance Measures allow AmeriCorps to demonstrate the aggregated impact of all its national service programs.

GA-Specific Performance Measures

If the applicant is funded, **Georgia Serves requires two Georgia-specific performance measures for programs related to volunteer recruitment and First Aid/CPR training.**

These two performance measures will not be entered in eGrants; however, **the First Aid/CPR expense should be included in preparing the applicant's budget** (as noted below) and the member expectations.

Budget Preparation

Please review the detailed Budget Instructions and the Budget Worksheet, which can be found in the *Application Instructions*. Outlined below are some key items that will be reviewed closely by Georgia Serves staff:

- ✓ Administrative/Indirect Costs (Section III) – This section includes 5% of the overall federal share as a separate Administrative Cost line item. Georgia Serves claims a portion of this percentage for oversight, training, and technical assistance. Be sure to follow the formula to calculate the “Commission Share”.
- ✓ Check and double-check the match. Make sure that the proper amounts have been claimed for operational costs, members’ living allowances, and other member-related costs.
- ✓ Be sure to budget for Statewide Meetings/Trainings:
 - Program Directors’ Training is typically held in Atlanta. Please budget for at least one program staff person to attend. If you feel more than one person should attend, please budget accordingly. If travel is 4 hours or more, you may want to consider overnight lodging. This is at your discretion.
- ✓ Please budget at least \$1,000 to attend either conference: National Service Training and/or Points of Light’s Conference.
- ✓ You **must budget to provide First Aid/CPR training** to at least 75% of your members. This is a Georgia-specific performance measure. You may use the vendor of choice.
- ✓ Check to ensure an adequate match is met on the Grantee Share side of your budget. If the “Budgeted” match exceeds the “Required” match, you will be held accountable for the higher amount.
- ✓ Include all calculations. Please do not assume that the reader understands your budget. You will need to include calculations for all sections:
 - Personnel Expenses: Specify if staff is allocated a certain percentage to AmeriCorps and show the calculations clearly.
 - Personnel Fringe Benefits: Specify if staff is allocated a certain percentage to AmeriCorps and show the calculations clearly. If a fringe benefit exceeds **30%**, please list covered items separately and justify the high cost. Holidays, leave, and other similar vacation benefits are not included in the fringe benefit rates but are absorbed into the personnel expenses (salary) budget line item.
 - Travel: Show calculations to include all related expenses such as miles, mileage per diem, number of people, registration costs, meal allowances, lodging, etc. Do not forget to state the purpose of the travel. Show all calculations clearly.

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- Supplies: Specify the supplies, purpose, and calculations.
- Contractual and Consultant Services: State the purpose and show calculations.
- Training: State the purpose and show calculations.
- Evaluations: Show calculations. If the evaluator charges by the hour or daily, please specify this.
- Other Operating: Please budget at least \$54 plus the cost of a state check per covered individual (staff and AmeriCorps members) on the CNCS share of the budget. National Service Criminal History Checks (NSCHC) for all members and for all employees or other individuals who receive a salary, education award, living allowance, or stipend or similar payment from the grant (federal or non-federal share). **Georgia Serves requires all funded programs to use the vendor, Truescreen for all NSCHC.**
- Member Costs:
 - Make sure that member living allowances are on the correct line. (i.e. Full-Time, Third-Time, Half-Time, etc.) Make sure you are using the correct amounts for living allowances in your calculations.
 - Be sure to include **FICA** and **Workers Comp**.
 - **Healthcare** must be offered or made available to full-time members in accordance with AmeriCorps requirements.
 Except as stated below, you may not pay health care benefits to less-than-full-time members with CNCS funds. You may choose to provide health care benefits to less-than-full-time members from other sources (i.e., non-federal) but the cost cannot be included in the budget. **AmeriCorps will not pay for dependent coverage.**
- Corporation Fixed Percentage:
 - Be sure to include "Commission Fixed Cost". Commission elects to retain a share that is **1%** budgeted for administrative costs.
 If you have a "Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate", you must provide documentation. Your organization should have received a letter from Health and Human Services or from the Corporation for National and Community Service stating that you have a FAICR. If you have this letter, copy it, and send it to Georgia Serves. Commission elects to retain a 1% share of the 5% of federal funds available.

Source of Funds: Use this section to show all other sources of funds. Be sure to provide the Source, Description, Amount, and Type. Please make sure that the amount of the Source of Funds is equal to the total amount of the Grantee Share.

Contact Information

Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Georgia Serves/Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism/GCSV

Email: AmeriCorpsGA@dca.ga.gov

Website: [Georgia Serves](http://GeorgiaServes.org)