



FY 2025 Georgia AmeriCorps
Notice of Funding Opportunity webinar

Georgia Serves
October 24, 2024

Please include your name and organization in the chat box.



AGENDA

- **The GA AmeriCorps Funding Opportunity Overview** – Linda Thompson
- **Program Description** – Zaneta Ivery
 - Performance Measure Module
 - Evaluation
- **Organizational Design** – Marcia Paul
- **Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy** – Alexis Roberson
- **Budget Development** – Kimberly DuPree
- Questions & Answers

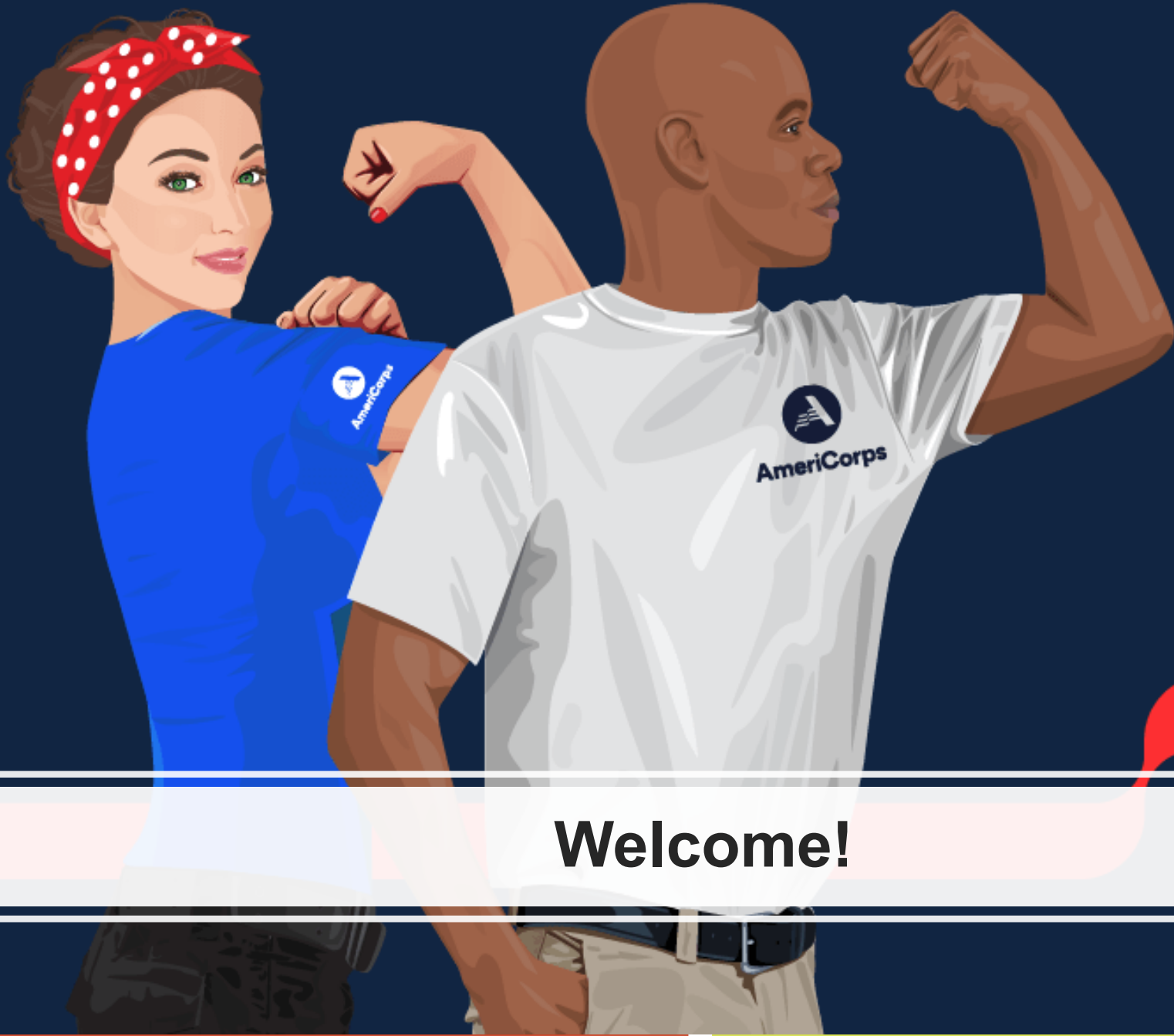
NOTE for multi-state / "National Direct" applicants

For prospective applicant organizations proposing a national or multi-state AmeriCorps project (a single project that involves efforts in multiple states), your project will be considered a "National Direct" application, and as such, you will apply directly through the federal AmeriCorps agency.

Must complete the survey for the **National Direct Consultation Form** (ASC) – will go to a separate link.



Georgia[®] Department of
Community Affairs



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Welcome!





About me...

- **Linda Thompson,**
 - 2003-2014 Executive Director of the Missouri Commission for Service and Volunteerism
 - 2014 – Present Executive Director of Georgia Serves AKA Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism
 - Degrees:
 - Master of Business Administration from Lincoln University
 - Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems from Columbia College
 - Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Alcorn State University



Georgia Serves' Mission

Georgia Serves is a catalyst to address critical needs in Georgia by working with AmeriCorps and community partners.

- We create and promote opportunities for Georgians to serve.
- We support organizations that use volunteer service to solve Georgia's community problems.
- We make sure the investment in volunteer service is protected and managed well.

About Georgia Serves

- Established in 1994
- Housed within the Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- Currently composed of 5 full-time staff
- Board of directors composed of 15-25 governor-appointed board members
- Passthrough agency for AmeriCorps federal funds in Georgia
- On the average, oversees between 19-20+ federally funded programs annually
- Receives AmeriCorps federal funds based on a population-based formula – hence formula funds. FY24 allocation was \$5,352,627



AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps provides opportunities for Americans of all backgrounds to serve their country, address the nation's most pressing challenges, and improve lives and communities.

AmeriCorps' Mission

To improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.

Pre-requisites...

AmeriCorps hosted technical assistance webinars for applicants to answer questions about the funding opportunity and eGrants.

These informational sessions were recorded and can be found here:
<https://www.americorps.gov/funding-opportunity/fy-2025-ameri-corps-state-national-grants>

Review ALL materials at this link including the Information Sessions.

Before you start...

- All applicants must register with the System for Award Management (SAM) (www.sam.gov)
- Applicants must include a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) generated in the SAM registration process.
- Establish an eGrants Account (https://egrants.cns.gov/espan/webhelp/!SL!WebHelp/Creating_an_Account.htm)

Eligible Applicants

501(c)3 Non-profit organizations

Indian Tribes

Local Governments

Educational Institutions

Grant Types

Operational Grants aka Formula Grants:

Existing and new applicants propose engaging AmeriCorps Members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions and practices to strengthen communities.

Planning Grants:

New applicants who plan to provide support to develop an AmeriCorps program that will engage AmeriCorps members in implementing evidence-based interventions to solve community problems. Planning grants may not be used to support AmeriCorps Members.

Funding Priorities

All priorities set forth by AmeriCorps - Can be found in the NOFO

Georgia Serves Funding Priorities:

- **Educators in Rural Communities** - 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:
 - 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.
 - Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence;
 - 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
 - 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** - those communities with a population of less than 50,000 and where the poverty percentage is 10% or greater.

Georgia-Specific Timeline

Application Deadline

February 18th, 2025, at 3:00
p.m. EST

No Exceptions

Must be submitted via
eGrants

Strongly encouraged to
submit early

No Hand Deliveries

No emailed Applications

No Mail-in Applications

Funding Recommendation/ Notification

The board will vote on
applications to be funded in
May 2025. Applicants will be
notified before May 31, 2025

Recommendations will be
submitted to AmeriCorps in
June 2025

Award, denial, and feedback
letters will be sent to all
applicants in May or June
2025.

Clarification letters may be
sent to applicants, as
needed, between April-June
2025.

Award Date

AmeriCorps will issue
awards to successful
applicants by mid-July to
early August 2025

Additional Documents

- **Send to:**

- AmeriCorpsGA@dca.ga.gov
- Subject Line: “*Legal Applicant Name*” – “*Application ID Number.*” Emails should include:
 - legal applicant’s name and point of contact information
 - application ID number
 - list of documents attached to the email by filename
 - If the size of an applicant’s files requires multiple emails, please also include an ordering system in the subject line, such as “(1 of 3)”

- **Deadline:**

- Same as for the application: February 18, 2025, no later than 3:00 pm

- **Documents:**

- Evaluation briefs, reports, studies (if applicable)
- Labor union concurrence (if applicable)
- Financial statements and/or Most recent audit
- Documentation verifying Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate (if applicable)
- Memorandums of Agreement/Understanding: Written confirmation when partnering with other sites or entities
- Logic Model: If eGrants cuts off a portion of the logic model, you may submit a “Word” version of the Logic Model with “Additional Documents
- Operational and Financial Management Survey (OFMS): This survey collects information about applicants' capacity to manage federal grant funds.
- Immigration Affidavit: This is required of all applicants for an AmeriCorps grant, as referenced in O.C.G.A. § 50-36-1 from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

Additional Documents to submit with the application

See the “[Georgia Notice of Funding Specifics 2025](#)” for a complete list of additional documents.

All additional documents are due by February 18th at 3:00 pm

Georgia-Specifics Processes

After applications are received on February 18, 2025, the following background activities will take place from May to July 2025 while anticipating AmeriCorps awards. You will want to make sure we have the correct contact information.

Funding Decisions

Applications are distributed to reviewers, who are given 30+ days to read and score them.

Clarifications

If reviewers and/or staff have questions or need clarification, you will be contacted using the contact info provided on the face sheet of your application.

Award Letters

Once the reviewers make funding recommendations, they will be put before the board for voting, and letters will be sent.

Grant Agreements

While awaiting award notifications from AmeriCorps, grant agreements will be populated and sent for electronic signatures. You will be contacted in advance to determine the signatories.

Other Georgia-Specifics

- **Late applications will not be accepted.**
- **First time, new applicants** must apply for 5-10 MSY
- **No program should plan to start before August 1, 2025**
- All **new programs** must place the word “**AmeriCorps**” in the **Descriptive Title of Applicant’s Project in Section 11.a** of the face sheet.
- All Georgia Serves **planning grant applicants** must have the words “**AmeriCorps Georgia Planning Grant**” in the “**Descriptive Title of Applicant’s Project**” in Section 11.a. of the Face Sheet.
- Planning Grants may be awarded up to \$75,000 for up to 12 months. Planning grants do not support AmeriCorps Members.
- **ALL** applicants must use their SAM registered name as their “**LEGAL NAME**” on the Face Sheet in Section 5.

Operational Grants Cost/MSY vs. Living Allowance

Maximum Cost/MSY = \$25,200 for FT Members

\$4,800 = difference

Table: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance

Slot Types	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1,700	\$20,400	\$40,800
Three Quarter-time	1,200	n/a	\$28,560
Half-time	900	n/a	\$20,400
Reduced Half-time	675	n/a	\$15,504
Quarter-time	450	n/a	\$10,608
Minimum-time	300	n/a	\$8,568
Abbreviated-time	100	n/a	\$2,448

Planning Grants

Planning Grants have no members and therefore no Cost/MSY and no Living Allowances

Disclaimer

In the following slides, I will provide an overview of the FY25 NOFO (FY25 Notice of Funding Opportunity). I will **not** review every detail in the FY25 NOFO.

I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT you review the following in its entirety:

[2025 AmeriCorps State and National Funding Priorities](#)

[Application Deadline](#)

[State Commission Competition Contacts and Deadlines](#)

[Funding Announcement, Mandatory Supplemental Information, Application](#)

[Instructions](#)

[Performance Measure Instructions](#)

[Evaluation Plan Template](#)

[Manage Your Grant](#)

[Resolution](#)

[Technical Assistance Information](#)

[Technical Assistance Webinars](#)

Match

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

The above applies to both new and existing AmeriCorps programs.

Planning grants are only for one year and the match is 24%

Executive Summary – 0 Points

Operations Grants

“The **[Name of the organization]** will have **[Number of]** AmeriCorps members in **[the locations the AmeriCorps members will serve, e.g. – City, State or State(s)]**.

AmeriCorps members will **[service activities the members will do]**. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for **[anticipated outcome of project]**. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage **[number of leveraged volunteers, if applicable]** who will be engaged in **[what the leveraged volunteers will be doing]**.

The AmeriCorps investment will be matched with **[\$[amount of projected match], \$[amount of local, state, and Federal Funds]** in public funding and **[\$[amount of non-governmental funds]** in private funding.”

Planning Grants

“The **[Name of the organization]** proposes to develop an AmeriCorps program serving in **[the location(s) the AmeriCorps program will serve]** that will focus on the AmeriCorps focus area(s) of **[Focus Area(s)]**. The CNCS investment of **[\$[amount of request]** will be matched with **[\$[amount of projected match], \$[amount of local, state, tribal, and federal funds]** in public funding and **[\$[amount of non-governmental funds]** in private funding. No AmeriCorps members will be needed to execute this plan.”

PROGRAM DESIGN 50%

Operations Grants

1. Community & Logic Model - 24 Points
2. Evidence Tier - 12 Points
3. Evidence Quality - 8 Points
4. Notice Priority - 0 Points
5. Member Experience - 6 Points

Planning Grants

1. Community & Logic Model - 24 Points
2. Planning Process & Timeline - 26 Points

Community and Logic Model – 24 Points

Operations Grants

The applicant should provide a detailed summary of the community problem, including. How will they solve the problem? What inputs are needed to solve the problem, and what are the outputs? The applicant should also discuss short-term, intermediate, and long-term outcomes. The applicant's intervention will likely lead to the outcomes identified in the organization's Logic Model. No narrative is needed other than what is contained within the logic model.

Planning Grants

Same as the Operations Grant

Evidence Tier – 12 Points

Operations Grants

Each applicant will receive an evidence-tier assessment. This is based on the relative strength of the applicant's evidence base and the likelihood that the proposed intervention will lead to the outcomes identified in the Logic Model narrative.

Planning Grants

Not required for planning grants

Evidence Quality – 8 Points

Operations Grants

- Reviewers will score the quality of an applicant's evidence and the extent to which it supports the proposed program design.

Planning Grants

Not required for planning grants

Notice Priority – 0 Points

Operations Grants

Reviewers will score the quality of an applicant's evidence and the extent to which it supports the proposed program design.

Planning Grants

Not required for planning grants

Member Experience – 6 Points

Operations Grants

- The applicant describes how AmeriCorps members will be provided leadership and skill development opportunities.
- The applicant describes how the organization will provide members an asset-based orientation to the community.

Planning Grants

Not Required for Planning Grants

Planning Process and Timeline – 26 Points

Operations Grants

Not Required for Operations Grant

Planning Grants

- Does the applicant describe a clear and logical planning process, including:
- A detailed description of the planning process and who is leading it.
- A well-developed timeline for planning activities?
- A clear description of how the planning period will be used to develop the necessary components to effectively manage an AmeriCorps program in the future.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY 25%

Operations Grants

1. Organizational Background & Staffing - 15
2. Member Supervision - 6
3. Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Accessibility - 4

Planning Grants

1. Organizational Background & Staffing - 15
2. Impending Member Supervision - 6
3. Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Accessibility - 4

Organizational Background and Staffing 15 Points

Operations Grants

The applicant details the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the staff that will be implementing, providing oversight, and monitoring the program.

Planning Grants

Same as Operations Grant

Member Supervision - 6 Points

Operations Grants

Member Supervision:

The applicant details how AmeriCorps members will receive sufficient guidance and support from their supervisor to provide effective service (e.g., structure for member supervision: cadence and format of supervisor/AmeriCorps member check-ins, member and supervisor opportunities to assess strengths and opportunities for growth, member training plan, etc.).

Planning Grants

Impending Member Supervision:

The applicant details how future AmeriCorps members will receive sufficient guidance and support from their future supervisor to provide effective service (e.g., structure for member supervision: cadence and format of supervisor/AmeriCorps member check-ins, member and supervisor opportunities to assess strengths and opportunities for growth, member training plan, etc.).

Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility - 4 Points

Operations Grants

- The leadership and staff of the organization have similar lived experiences as the beneficiary population and/or community being served.
- The organization demonstrates the applicant's definitions of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (e.g., diversity on the Board of Directors, agency staff and leadership, and/or volunteers) and upholds a supportive and safe environment for individuals of diverse backgrounds.

Planning Grants

Same as Operations Grant

COST EFFECTIVENESS AND BUDGET ADEQUACY - 25%

Operations Grants

1. Member Recruitment - 6 Points
2. Member Retention - 5 Points
3. Data Collection - 4 Points
4. Budget Adequacy - 10 Points

Planning Grants

1. NSCHC Checks - 5 Points
2. Data Collection - 10 Points
3. Planning Grant Staff - 0 Points
4. No AmeriCorps Gear or signage on budget - 0 Points
5. Budget Adequacy - 10 Points

Member Recruitment - 6 Points

Operations Grants

- The applicant describes budget expenses to support recruitment of AmeriCorps members best suited to serve the community e.g. from geographic or demographic communities in which the program operates.
- The applicant describes how the AmeriCorps member living allowance and other benefits are adjusted within the maximum and minimum living allowance to accommodate for regional variations in contributing to cost of living including: housing, transportation, food, and other expenses. This may vary depending on a program's type of member slots, e.g. FT, PT, RPT, etc.

Planning Grants

Not applicable

Data Collection - 4 Points for Operations and 10 Points for Planning

Operations Grants

The applicant provides a description of budget expenses to support data collection, continuous improvement activities, and evaluation of the interventions and impact on the community and the member experience.

Planning Grants

Same as Operations Grant

Budget Adequacy - 10 Points

Operations Grants

The applicant must provide a cost-effective and appropriate budget for the proposed program.

The proposed budget should be sufficient to allow you to perform the tasks described in the narrative.

All amounts requested must be defined for a particular purpose. Do not include miscellaneous, contingency, or other undefined budget amounts.

Itemize each cost and present the basis for all calculations as an equation.

Do not include unallowable expenses, for example, entertainment costs (which include food and beverage costs), unless they are justified as an essential component of an activity.

Do not include fractional amounts (cents).

Add costs associated with the National Service Criminal History Checks.

Planning Grants

Same as the Operations Grant

NSCHC CHECKS - 5 Points

Operations Grants

This section of the budget is not required for Operations Grants, though you are required to budget for NSCHC checks.

Planning Grants

Although the AmeriCorps Agency does not require planning grantees to obtain criminal history checks, the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism does require NSCHC checks for all staff listed on the budget. Programs are required to utilize Truescreen.

Planning Grant Staff - 0 Points

Operations Grant

This section of the budget not required for Operations Grants.

Planning Grants

Planning Grantees to describe the roles and responsibilities of each staff listed on the budget and how they are tied to the AmeriCorps planning grant.

No AmeriCorps Gear on Budget- 0 Points

Operations Grants

This section of the budget is not required for Operations Grants, though you will need to include gear on your budget.

Planning Grants

Planning Grantees cannot purchase AmeriCorps gear or AmeriCorps materials until a full application is submitted and approved.

Reminders

Applications must not exceed 11 double-spaced pages for the Narrative.

- 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.

- The application page limit does not include:

- Evaluation Summary/Plan;
- Clarification Summary;
- Continuation Changes;
- Budget, Performance Measures, and
- Any required additional documents.

- Cost per MSY = \$25,200

- Minimum Living allowance for FT member = \$20,400

- Did the applicant budget for the correct match amount? i.e., 24% for the first three years; 26% for years 4, 5, and 6; 28% for years 7, 8, and 9; and 30% for years 10 and beyond.

- The Logic Model may not exceed eight pages when printed with the application from the “Review” tab in AmeriCorps’ web-based management system.

- Applicants were advised to use ALL CAPS for HEADINGS for ease of reviewing.

Planning Grant Applicants

- Must have the words “AmeriCorps Georgia Planning Grant” in the “Descriptive Title of Applicant’s Project” in section 11.a. of the Face Sheet.
- Just like other programs, the match requirement is 24%
- A well-developed planning timeline for all planning activities and who’s leading those activities
- List all expected accomplishments of this planning grant an incorporate those into the timeline.
- Anticipated Start Date and End Date
- A clear description of how the planning period will be used to develop the necessary components to effectively manage an AmeriCorps program in the future.
- Consider if any surveys or evaluations need to be conducted. Incorporate into timeline.
- Consider if any consultants or other staff will be hired and incorporate into timeline. Explain their significance to the AmeriCorps planning grant.
- Assess fidelity to the evidence-based intervention if being replicated,
 - Including any modifications
 - Assessing outcomes achieved in previous evaluations of the evidence-based intervention
 - Assessing any new outcomes anticipated as a result of integrating AmeriCorps members into the evidence-based intervention

PLANNING GRANTS MAY NOT BE USED TO SUPPORT AMERICORPS MEMBERS.

PLANNING GRANTEES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PURCHASE AMERICORPS BRANDED PRODUCTS.

Side-by-Side Scoring Comparison

<u>Formula Cost Reimbursement Grant</u>		<u>Planning Grants may be up to \$75,000</u>	
Executive Summary	0	Executive Summary	0
Program Design = 50%		Program Design = 50%	
• Community & Logic Model	24	• Community & Logic Model	24
• Evidence Tier	12	• Evidence Tier	12
• Evidence Quality	8	• Evidence Quality	8
• Notice Priority	0	• Planning Process and Timeline	6
• Member Experience	6	• May be for 12 months or less	
Organizational Capability = 25%		Organizational Capability = 25%	
• Organizational Background & Staffing	15	• Organizational Background & Staffing	15
• Member Supervision	6	• Impending Member Supervision	6
• Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility	4	• Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility	4
Cost Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy = 25%		Cost Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy = 25%	
• Member Recruitment	6	• NSCHC Checks	5
• Member Retention	5	• Data Collection	10
• Data Collection	4	• Budget Adequacy	10
• Budget Adequacy	10		

Questions

Presenter's Name

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