

FY25
AmeriCorps Competitive Funding
Technical Assistance Webinar
(New/Recompete)



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OVERVIEW

- I. The Big Picture of AmeriCorps**
- II. AmeriCorps: Grant Guidelines, Budget**
- III. Next Steps**



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What does Volunteer Florida do?



Administers AmeriCorps and National Service programs



Coordinates volunteers and donations before, during, and after disasters



Increases volunteerism through grants, trainings and recognitions



Manages the Volunteer Florida Foundation



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AmeriCorps



AmeriCorps



AmeriCorps Seniors

- AmeriCorps State and National
- AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America)
- AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps)

- AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent
- AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program)
- AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion



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AmeriCorps State and National

AmeriCorps State and National engages tens of thousands of individuals in all 50 states, territories and select tribal nations each year at more than 2,000 locations including **nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups** across the country.

AmeriCorps members help communities tackle pressing problems while mobilizing **millions** of volunteers for the organizations they serve.

Provides members an environment that propels personal development, opens diverse career paths, and promotes lifelong civic engagement.



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In 2024-2025,
VOLUNTEER FLORIDA

WILL ADMINISTER

42



AmeriCorps
Florida



PROGRAMS

WITH

1,800 AMERICORPS MEMBERS



SERVING IN

56 FLORIDA
COUNTIES



WHO CAN EARN UP TO

\$8.16

IN
SCHOLARSHIPS

MILLION



70%

OF THIS GRANT FUNDING
WILL SUPPORT
EDUCATION IN FLORIDA



AmeriCorps in Florida

AmeriCorps members provide tutoring and mentoring, job training and placement, independent living support, environmental stewardship and so much more.



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How can the people power of AmeriCorps move the needle on critical issues in my community?



In other words:
What is the direct service (intervention) that AmeriCorps members will provide that will make a measurable impact in one year?



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Focus Areas for National Service

Our members and volunteers support students in nearly 9,500 public, private and charter schools across the country. Through our work we improve attendance and engagement, increase high-school graduation rates and expand college enrollment.



Education

We serve on projects that cover thousands of areas of public lands across America, including many with the National Park Service. We help conserve natural habitats, protect clean air and water, and reduce utility bills by improving home energy efficiency.



Conservation/
Natural Resources



When disaster strikes, we repair homes, assist survivors, and help restore communities when it matters most. We have deployed thousands of members and volunteers to areas affected by hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and tornadoes.



Disaster
Services



We provide assistance to nearly 245,000 veterans and military families by connecting them to education opportunities, jobs, and the benefits they have earned. Many veterans also volunteer with us so they can continue to serve their country.



Veterans and
Military Families

Our programs serve as a pathway to employment opportunities and help develop vital work skills. We build and rehabilitate affordable housing, provide financial literacy training, and connect people to jobs.



Economic
Opportunity



We provide independent living services to 310,000 elderly Americans. We also build the capacity of food banks, combat the opioid crisis, tackle homelessness, and address food insecurity.



Healthy
Futures



AmeriCorps Benefits



Living allowance

Student loan deferment, loan forbearance

Segal AmeriCorps Education Award

Skills based and professional development training

Health insurance (full time members)

Child care assistance (full time members)

Engaged learning and connection to community

Career opportunities



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AmeriCorps Member Eligibility

Be a United States citizen, U.S. national, or a lawful permanent resident alien of the United States;

Be at least 17 years of age; and

Have a high school diploma or GED or work towards obtaining one while in the program. It is a requirement to obtain a high school diploma or GED before one is eligible to use the Education Award.

Must be clear of any record on the National Sex Offender Public Registry.

Must have a criminal record clear of any conviction(s) of murder.



AmeriCorps Members commit to serve a full year and can serve:

Full-Time:

1700 Hours

Reduced Full-Time:

1200 Hours

Half-Time:

900 Hours

Quarter-Time:

450 Hours

Minimum Time:

300 Hours



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Examples of AmeriCorps Service

- Remove **invasive exotics** from public parks, **restore habitat**, visitor **education**
- **Home repair** and housing units made available to disadvantaged individuals
- Provide **tutoring** and **mentoring** to students
- Provide independent living and **financial literacy** to persons with **disabilities**
- Provide **career coaching** and **job skills** training resulting in **employment**
- Increase **financial literacy** or **health access** services for individuals
- **Disaster preparedness, mitigation** and **recovery**



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Things to Know

1

AmeriCorps programs are funded through federal grants.

2

Organizations apply to Volunteer Florida through a competitive process for a grant to support a minimum of the equivalent 10 full time members. Volunteer Florida prefers applications with greater than 10 MSY. Volunteer Florida may consider funding for proposals who commit to increasing to 10 MSY within a three year period.

3

The host or lead organization fully manages the program at the local level and includes 1 FTE or the equivalent in budget for program management.

4

AmeriCorps members are not staff and can not be placed in an administrative function.



Overview of Application

- **FY2025 AmeriCorps Competitive Guidance (Volunteer Florida)**
- Notice of Funding Opportunity (AmeriCorps)
- Application Instructions (AmeriCorps)
- Mandatory Supplemental Information (AmeriCorps)
- Performance Measures Instructions – Standard, PHA, Applicant Determined (AmeriCorps)



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FY2025 AmeriCorps Competitive Guidance (Volunteer Florida)

Volunteer Florida Application Criteria, pg. 2

**Performance Measures – Standard, PHA,
Applicant Determined**



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Categories/Subcategories	Percentage
Executive Summary	
Program Design (50%)	50
Community and Logic Model	
Evidence Tier	
Evidence Quality	
Notice Priority	
Member Experience	
Organizational Capability (25%)	25
Organizational Background and Staffing	
Member Supervision	
Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25%)	25
Member Recruitment	
Member Retention	
Data Collection	

**FY2025
AmeriCorps
NOFO
(AmeriCorps)
“Selection Criteria”
Page 18**



Attachment A: Recruitment and Retention

Recruitment and Retention - Attachment A

Applicant organizations will reflect the member recruitment and retention strategies within the Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy prompt: “Member Recruitment.”

FY2025 AmeriCorps Competitive Guidance (Volunteer Florida)

Budget Instructions

- See the Volunteer Florida specific requirements (pages 4-6)
- AC NOFO App Instructions for Budget Instructions (pages 9-11 for New/Recompete)
- See Attachment B/C – Detailed Budget Instructions for Cost Reimbursement Grants in AC NOFO (pages 23-33)
- See Attachment D/E – Detailed Instructions for Fixed Amount Grants in AC NOFO (pages 34-36)
- See Budget Checklist – AC NOFO (pages 37-39)

Administrative/Indirect Costs – Five/Ten Percent Fixed Option or Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate Option

- Corporation Fixed Calculation (AC Section 1 + AC Section 2 x .0526 x .60) Federal Share
- Corporation Fixed Calculation (AC and Grantee Share Total Section 1 + AC and Grantee Share Section 2 x .10) Grantee Share
- Commission Fixed Calculation (AC Section 1 + AC Section 2 x .0526 x .40) Federal Share Only
- If you have a Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate, you must use it and you will see page 6 in Volunteer Florida requirements to calculate



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Budget Example

Applicants can request the maximum of \$25,000 per 1 Member Service Year (MSY).

An applicant requesting 10 full-time members would apply for a \$250,000 grant.

1 full-time member = 1 MSY

Cost per MSY = \$25,000

10 full-time Members = 10 MSY

10 MSY X \$25,000 = \$250,000

Match: Starts at 24% cash/in kind of the total grant



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Match Example:

10 full time members:

- Approximately \$250K federal request
- Minimum match estimate \$79K

Source of Match Type:

Cash or In Kind

20 full time members:

- Approximately \$500K federal request
- Minimum match estimate \$158K

Examples:

- In Kind Donations
- Local Foundation Grants
- School District
- State and Federal grants
- Agency General Revenue



Budget Reminders

ALL calculations should be itemized and in an equation format for both Federal and Grantee Share.

Minimum living allowance for Full-Time members is \$20,400

The cost per MSY can't exceed \$25,000 for both Fixed and Cost Reimbursement Grants.

Be sure to include background check costs and gear for all staff and members charged to the grant either Federal or Grantee Share.

Must budget Staff Travel costs for at least 2 staff members to attend 2 VF required trainings (1 in Tallahassee, 1 in Orlando, Miami, Jacksonville, or Tampa) – 3 trainings if you are a new program or have new staff.

Be sure to include costs for member training, member gear, member FICA, member worker's compensation, and member health insurance. (Health insurance is required for all Full-Time Members)

Commission Fixed is required and must be budgeted in the AmeriCorps Federal column only.

Budget Reminders

Must budget training fees for required Volunteer Florida trainings for at least 2 staff members at \$550 per person in the Staff Training Section.

Be sure you are budgeting for at least one of the required Member Retention and Recruitment opportunities presented in Attachment A. (starting on page 10)

Including the Source of Funds information in Section III is required for both Fixed and Cost Reimbursement Grants; the dollar amount in this section must match the total dollar amount in the budget exactly.

There is a new match schedule for the required match beginning with the 2025-2026 contract year; be sure you are providing match at the required percentage for your organization depending on the number of years you have been funded under AmeriCorps.

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

FY2025 AmeriCorps Competitive Guidance (Volunteer Florida)

Application Instruction via eGrants system

- A. New Applicants: After logging into the eGrants system, click “New” under the “Creating an Application” box (in the lower left hand corner of the page).
- B. For Re-compete or Continuation Applicants (applicants that are currently funded by Volunteer Florida): When submitting your application into the eGrants system, click “Continuation/Renewal” under the “Creating an Application” box (in the lower left hand corner of the page).

New or Recompete: Cost Reimbursement (and former PHA)

- Cost reimbursement applicants must select the following NOFA: **FY 2025 AmeriCorps State and Territory Commission (New and Continuation) (Due date: 1/23/2025)**
- You must select Florida from the state dropdown listing. Cost Reimbursement applicants should see that their application is linked to the Volunteer Florida Prime Application Grant ID Number: **25AC268372**.

Recompete: Fixed

- Fixed applicants must select the following NOFA: **FY 2025 AmeriCorps State and Territory Commission Fixed and EAP (New and Continuation) (Due date: 1/23/2025)**
- You must select Florida from the state dropdown listing. Fixed applicants should see that their application is linked to the Volunteer Florida Prime Application Grant ID Number: **24ES268373**.

FY2025 AmeriCorps Competitive Guidance (Volunteer Florida)

Supplemental Documents
(New/Recompete)

Submitted via
Blackbaud
Grantmaking Platform

- The most recent audit report including the management letter and the schedule of findings and questioned costs.
- [Applicant Operational and Financial Management Survey \(OFMS\)](#). Please submit email acknowledgment of the submission of the OFMS survey.
- Completed provider assessment questionnaire.
- Certification of 60 day operating capital.
- Most recent agency-wide YTD consolidated financial statement and balance sheets.
- Evidence documents, per NOFO guidance

Copy and Paste in Browser (to bypass login):

https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_2153?SA=SNA&FID=35573



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FY2025 AmeriCorps Competitive Guidance

Supplemental Documents
(New/Recompete)

EVIDENCE

Submitted via
Blackbaud
Grantmaking
Platform

- Applicants who have outcome or impact evaluation reports of the same intervention described in the application and Logic Model (use the Mandatory Supplemental Information for a definition of “same intervention”) may submit up to two of those reports.
 - Preliminary
 - Moderate
 - Strong
- If your intervention is considered Pre Preliminary, no evidence documents are required.



Copy and Paste in Browser (to bypass login):

https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_2153?SA=SNA&FID=35573

FY2025 AmeriCorps Competitive Guidance (RECOMPETE ONLY)

Supplemental Documents
(New/Recompete)

EVALUATION

Submitted via
Blackbaud
Grantmaking
Platform

- Evidence documents per NOFO guidance.
- Evaluation documents, as applicable, per NOFO guidance.
 - Evaluation Report
 - Evaluation Plan - Required Evaluation Plan Template [here](#).
- Initial draft plans and reports emailed to AmeriCorpsRFP@VolunteerFlorida.org by **5:00 pm EDT October 15, 2024**



Organization Info

[Printer Friendly Version](#) | [E-mail Draft](#)

✦ Required before final submission

Submission of supplemental documents is required for the FY25 AmeriCorps Competitive application. Documents must be received by the application due date (October 23, 2024 5:00 pm EDT) to be considered for funding. Please see NOFO for full guidance.

Applicable templates for required supplemental documents are posted [here](#).

✦ Organization Legal Name

✦ Program Name

Main Blackbaud Contact

First Name

Last Name

E-mail Address

Mailing Address (Does not need to match SAM.gov)

✦ Address (PO Box is acceptable)

✦ City

✦ State

✦ Zip


[Save & Finish Later](#)[Next](#)

FY2025 AmeriCorps Competitive Guidance



New and Recompete

Printer Friendly Version | E-mail Draft

 Required before final submission

Required Documents for New and Recompete Applicants

1. Audit Statement

The most recent audit report including the management letter and the schedule of findings and questioned costs.

No file chosen

2. YTD Financials

Most recent agency-wide YTD consolidated income statement and balance sheet.

No file chosen

3. Provider Assessment Questionnaire

Signed and completed Provider General Assessment Questionnaire

No file chosen

4. Operational and Financial Management Survey (OFMS)

Submit online here. Upload copy of email confirming submission of OFMS.

NOT REQUIRED FOR SPRING FORMULA APPLICATION CYCLE.

No file chosen

5. Certification Operating Capital

Signed certification of 60-day operating capital.

No file chosen

6. Evidence Documents

Briefs or reports supporting level of evidence, per NOFO guidance.

No file chosen

FY2025 AmeriCorps Competitive Guidance



What Does it Mean to “operate” an AmeriCorps Program?

The AmeriCorps program becomes yours!

Your organization must recruit and manage AmeriCorps members.

Your organization must manage payment of AmeriCorps member living allowance.

Your organization will develop local partnerships.

Your organization will track and report progress.

Your organization will submit monthly cost reimbursement invoices and support documentation.



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FY25 AmeriCorps Competitive Timeline (Anticipated)

- **September 20, 2024** – FAQs Posted on website
- **October 23, 2024 by 5:00 pm EDT** – Applications due in eGrants and supporting documentation submitted in Blackbaud
- **October 30 – November 18, 2024** – External and Internal Review
- **November 25, 2024** – Clarification provided to applicants considered for funding
- **December 12, 2024 by 5:00 pm EST** – Revised AmeriCorps Applications due
- **December 16, 2024** – Volunteer Florida Commissioner review and approval
- **January 14, 2025** – Submission of funding recommendation to AmeriCorps
- **May 2025** – Funding Notification from AmeriCorps
- **August 1, 2025** – Anticipated contract start date



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Next Steps

- Gather your partners! Decide who is the lead to apply.
- Review the full application – released September 16, 2024
- Contact Volunteer Florida with your questions, americpsrpf@volunteerflorida.org
- AmeriCorps Application due in eGrants – October 23, 2024
- AmeriCorps Application supplemental documents due in Blackbaud System – October 23, 2024
- Sign up for Volunteer Florida communications (www.volunteerflorida.org)



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Resources

Volunteer Florida Website

<https://www.volunteerflorida.org/ameri-corps-grant-opportunities/>

AmeriCorps.gov

<https://www.americorps.gov/funding-opportunity/fy-2025-ameri-corps-state-national-grants>



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— AMERICORPS — PLEDGE

I will get things done for America

to make our people safer,
smarter, and healthier.

I will bring Americans together

to strengthen our communities.

Faced with apathy,

I will take action.

Faced with conflict,

I will seek common ground.

Faced with adversity,

I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment

with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps member, and

I will get things done.

