

2010- 2011 PROGRAM YEAR Timelines*

Federal Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)	Sept 18, 2009
Deadline for Competitive funded grant applications (Commission invitation only)	Dec 15, 2009
Commission Staff Review Completed	Dec 18, 2009
Competitive Applications due to CNCS	Jan 26, 2010
Deadline for Formula funded grant applications	Mar 15, 2010
Anticipated Notification of Competitively funded programs by CNCS	May, 2010
Formula Applications Approved (by SC Commission)	May, 2010
Formula Applications due to CNCS	Jun 15, 2010
Sub-grantee Program Staff Retreat	July 15-16, 2010
2010 Program Start Date	August 1, 2010

* Some dates are estimated and subject to change based on Corporation or SCCNCS program requirements.

General AmeriCorps FAQs

1. What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is known as the "domestic Peace Corps." Participants - known as AmeriCorps members - perform a year of service with a program focused on meeting local community needs. AmeriCorps programs focus on the five issues consisting of **education**, the **environment**, **public safety**, **homeland security** and other **human needs**.

Individual programs recruit and train their own members with funding from an AmeriCorps grant. The South Carolina Commission for National and Community Service (SCCNCS) AmeriCorps grants provide funding for member living allowances, health benefits, childcare (for eligible members), AmeriCorps program staff, training, evaluation and other program operating costs. Members are eligible to receive an educational award directly from the federal Corporation for National and Community Service.

2. What types of activities can AmeriCorps members perform?

AmeriCorps members engage in a variety of direct service activities in the areas of education, public safety, the environment, homeland security and health and human needs. Examples of activities include: assisting in community policing programs, conducting health education workshops, restoring natural habitats, tutoring children in afterschool programs, serving as service-learning coordinators at schools and facilitating community readiness. Members also perform indirect service such as recruiting community volunteers to serve in these activities.

3. How can I get AmeriCorps members to help with my program?

SCCNCS does not provide AmeriCorps members directly to programs. Instead, SCCNCS provides grants that support local partnerships to recruit, train, and support AmeriCorps members throughout a year of service.

4. Is it possible to be a placement site for AmeriCorps members, but not actually administer an AmeriCorps program (i.e., how do I get one or two AmeriCorps members for my organization)?

SCCNCS generally requires that a program support a minimum of 10 member service year (MSY) members. SCCNCS realizes that many organizations lack the capacity to supervise and adequately

provide for 10 MSY members. In such cases, organizations are advised to seek intermediaries, form partnerships with other organizations or contact an existing AmeriCorps program.

5. What types of benefits do AmeriCorps members receive?

Full-time AmeriCorps members who complete their terms of service receive a living allowance (a minimum of \$11,400 for the 2010-2011 program year), health insurance, child care (if eligible), and an education award of \$5,350. Programs are required to cover a portion of the living allowance and health insurance; however, the majority of the funds to cover these benefits come from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

6. How much are AmeriCorps members paid?

The AmeriCorps member living allowance varies from program to program. For the 2010-2011 program year, a full-time member must receive a minimum living allowance of at least \$11,400 and no more than \$22,800. The Grant funds will pay 85% of the \$11,400. Programs can decide on the living allowance that they will pay their members so long as it falls within this range.

7. What is an education award?

An education award is commonly compared to a scholarship. However, AmeriCorps education awards are much more flexible than typical scholarships. Each AmeriCorps member who successfully completes a term of service will receive an education award that can be applied to (1) the costs of attendance at a qualified institution of higher education, (2) the costs of approved school-to-work programs, or (3) the costs of repaying qualified student loans. For more information on the education award, visit the AmeriCorps website (www.americorps.gov)

8. Do placement sites contribute financially to the cost of supporting AmeriCorps members? If so, what is the cost that would be involved for the organization?

Partner contributions to AmeriCorps programs depend on the structure of individual partnerships and programs. In some cases, placement sites do contribute cash to the program (the amount varies by program). In other cases, placement sites might contribute in-kind services, supplies, trainers, facilities, evaluation expertise, or other services and equipment. Each partnership is unique to a given location and program. Required 'match' for the first few years is 24%.

9. Who can apply for an AmeriCorps grant?

Non-profits, local and state government agencies, faith-based and community organizations, Indian-tribes, school districts, institutions of higher learning and partnerships of these entities are eligible to apply for funding. Agencies must have the capacity to manage federal funds.

10. How do I apply?

You must apply using the eGrants on-line application form. Grant applications must have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. The DUNS number is known as the universal identifier and helps the federal government improve statistical reports on federal grants and cooperative agreements. The DUNS number will not replace the EIN. DUNS numbers may be obtained at no cost by calling the DUNS number request line at 866.705.5711 or online at <http://www.dnb.com>. It may take up to 30 days to receive a DUNS number after applying.

National and Community Service Programs

Program	Eligibility	Length and Location of Service	Projects	Benefits
AmeriCorps State and National	Citizens and permanent residents, age 17 and older	10 months, full time- 1700 hrs – fulltime 900 hrs – half time 675 hrs – red. halftime 450 hrs – quarter time 300 hrs – minimum time	Direct services such as tutoring and restoring parks in partnership with nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based organizations	Living allowance, health care, Education Award up to \$5,350 for qualified student loans/tuition, more.
AmeriCorps NCCC	Citizens and permanent residents, ages 17-24	10 months, full time - reside and work based at one of five college campuses.	Serve in teams on projects to improve the environment, education, public safety, unmet needs, homeland security, and disaster relief	Living allowance, health care, Education Award up to \$5,350 for qualified student loans/tuition, more.
AmeriCorps VISTA	Citizens and permanent residents, ages 17-24	One year, full time, dedicated to bringing individuals and communities out of poverty	Leadership role with nonprofit organization or public agency	Living allowance, health care, Education Award up to \$5,350 for qualified student loans/tuition, more.
AmeriCorps Education Award programs	Citizens and permanent residents, age 17+ -- attending college or high school graduate	Varies, minimum 300 hours	Community service in all areas of need.	Education Award \$1,000-\$5,350 for qualified student loans/tuition [no stipend]; may include academic credit in programs such as nursing, social work, teaching, more.
City Year -national non-profit organization founded 1988 (AmeriCorps grantee)	Citizens and permanent residents, ages 18-24	One year, full time, in one of 18 U.S. locations or Johannesburg, South Africa	Mentoring, tutoring, organizing after-school programs and vacation programs	Living allowance, health care, Education Award up to \$5,350 for qualified student loans/tuition, more.
Public Allies national nonprofit organization, founded 1992 (AmeriCorps grantee)	Citizens and permanent residents, ages 18-30	10 months, full time, located on college campuses	Leadership development, apprenticeships at local nonprofit organizations	Living allowance, health care, Education Award up to \$5,350 for qualified student loans/tuition, more.
Teach for America -national nonprofit organization, founded 1990 (AmeriCorps grantee)	Citizens and permanent residents, Bachelor's degree, more.	Two years	Teach full time in schools in low-income communities	Salaries and health benefits are paid directly by school districts; earn teacher certification, Education Award, more.
Peace Corps	U.S. Citizens, minimum age 18; no maximum age	27 months; assignments in 74 countries	Education, business and community development; agriculture, environment, health and HIV/AIDS; information technology.	Living allowance, health care, student loan deferment (or partial cancellation), \$6,000 upon completion of service for transition at home.
The Corps Network - 113 Service and Conservation Corps (AmeriCorps grantee)	U.S. citizens, ages 16-25	Varies. State and local programs in 42 states and District of Columbia	Community service, conservation and backcountry projects; disaster preparation and response, more.	Living allowance, health care, Education Award, more.
Senior Corps	Age 55+ (60+ for some programs)	15-40 hours/week	Community service, mentoring, foster grandparents	Modest stipend, depending on eligibility and program
Experience Corps Founded in 1995, a nonprofit program of Civic Ventures	Age 55+	15 hours/week for a minimum of one school year; teams are located in 19 cities nationwide	Tutoring and mentoring elementary school students	Modest stipend, training