



Serve Kentucky Request for Applications Guidance 2026-27 AmeriCorps State Grants: COMPETITIVE

General Information and Timeline

Serve Kentucky is the conduit for federal funds from the AmeriCorps federal agency. Single state applicants must go through Serve Kentucky's Request For Applications (RFA) process and may not apply directly to AmeriCorps. The legal authority for Serve Kentucky to award AmeriCorps subgrants is found in the Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS 194A.578). The process for federal funding as outlined in this document is established as a requirement by the federal awarding agency for disbursement of AmeriCorps federal funds and does not conflict with the state procurement process outlined in KRS 45A.085 Competitive negotiation.

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions/practices 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.

Serve Kentucky Competitive RFA Timeline

January 30, 2026	Serve Kentucky RFA Guidance released.
February 27, 2026	Grant application, additional documents, and match waiver requests due to Serve Kentucky. No extensions will be granted.
February 27-March 13, 2026	Internal and External Grant Review.
March 13, 2026	Grant review feedback provided to applicants.
March 20, 2026	Revised competitive grant applications due to Serve Kentucky.
March 20-31, 2026	Serve Kentucky Resolution period.
March 31, 2026	Kentucky competitive applications submitted to AmeriCorps via eGrants.

Required Resources

Applicants are **required** to complete applications for funding in accordance with this guidance and:

- [2026 AmeriCorps State and National Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO or Notice\)](#)
- [2026 Mandatory Supplemental Information](#)
- [2026 Application Instructions](#)
- [2026 Performance Measure Instructions](#)

Serve Kentucky serves as the State Commission referenced in the NOFO and other AmeriCorps documents. These and other resources are located on both the [Serve Kentucky website](#) and [AmeriCorps website](#).

Note: Dates referenced in the NOFO materials are for National Directs (programs operating in multiple states) and State Commissions such as Serve Kentucky. At no time during the process should applicants contact AmeriCorps directly.

Submitting Additional Documents

All documents must be submitted via email to Alexis.Matthews@ky.gov.

Note: Do not send additional documents to the AmeriCorps inbox referenced in the NOFO; it is for State Commission (Serve Kentucky) use only.

Training and Technical Assistance

Current and potential applicants may request one-on-one training and technical assistance before the grant application deadline.

Serve Kentucky Requirements

All recompetete competitive subgrantees and all formula subgrantees must apply for competitive funds. The only exceptions to this are Teach For America, Teach Kentucky, and Senior Connections.

Note: Applications not approved by the Serve Kentucky Commission for submission to the national competition and submitted applications that do not make it through the competitive process, may apply for formula funding in Spring 2026.

Application

Please refer to the Mandatory Supplemental Information (MSI) for definitions of AmeriCorps terms.

- The grant period is a twelve-month period, beginning Sept. 1, 2026 and ending August 31, 2027.
- The minimum living allowance for full-time members is **\$20,400**.
- The maximum allowable federal reimbursement is **\$25,000** per member service year (MSY). For Professional Corps and Education Award Programs, refer to the Maximum Cost Per MSY table.

Application Review Information

Serve Kentucky's internal and external application review will align with the application review information criteria published within the NOFO. Serve Kentucky staff will review all applications to determine compliance with eligibility, deadline, and completeness requirements. If an application meets compliance standards, Serve Kentucky staff will assess each application's content. Some applicants may receive requests to provide clarifying information and/or make changes to their application, including program design, budget, or statistical support information. A request for clarification from AmeriCorps or Serve Kentucky does not guarantee a grant award. Failure to respond to requests for additional information in a timely fashion may result in the removal of the application from consideration.

Grant Review Panel and Program Committee

Serve Kentucky Commissioners and an external Grant Review Panel will review applications. The panel is comprised of current and former commissioners, individuals familiar with AmeriCorps National Service programs, and volunteers with federal grant experience. All grant reviewers are required to certify (1) that they have no real or perceived conflicts of interest, and (2) that they will not disclose any confidential information about the programs until after the grant review process is completed.

Assessment Criteria

The grant review panel will assess each of the applications based on how well the applicant answers the questions and follows the directions in the AmeriCorps NOFO. Funding is not guaranteed for any applicant. The Commission assesses applications on risk and past performance, when applicable. In addition to the feedback provided by the grant review panel, the Commission may take other factors into consideration, including governor-identified priorities, state and local needs, funding priorities, geographical, and target populations.