

Serve Kentucky Request for Application (RFA) Updates



Session Outline

- Review: [FY23 AmeriCorps Grants – Overview of Serve Kentucky's Request for Applications Process](#) ****link to public pdf**
- Discuss: how to include these new criteria in the application narrative
- Tips to consider
- Resources

FY23 NOFO Changes and Highlights

- Minimum living allowance for Full-Time members is **\$17,600**
- Added QT, MT, AT to the slot types available for Public Health AmeriCorps

Table: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1,700	\$17,600	\$35,200
Three Quarter-time	1,200	n/a	\$24,640
Half-time	900	n/a	\$17,600
Reduced Half-time	675	n/a	\$13,376
Quarter-time	450	n/a	\$9,152
Minimum-time	300	n/a	\$7,392
Abbreviated-time	100	n/a	\$2,112

FY23 NOFO Changes and Highlights

Maximum Cost per Member Service Year (MSY)

- **\$23,000** per MSY for competitive programs
- **\$28,800** per MSY for Public Health AmeriCorps programs

Table: Maximum Cost per MSY

Grant Program	Maximum
Individual Competitive State/Territory Program (cost reimbursement)	\$23,000
Multi-state competitive (cost reimbursement)	\$23,000
Professional Corps competitive Fixed Amount Applicants/Grantees	\$1,000*
Full-cost competitive Fixed Amount Grant	\$23,000
Education Award Program (EAP) Fixed Amount Grant (competitive and formula)	\$800 or \$1,000**
All non-EAP formula subgrants***	\$28,800***

FY23 NOFO Changes and Highlights

- Additional Documents: Removed the Diversity Questionnaire.
- Added a Post-Review Quality Control.
 - After the initial review process is complete, AmeriCorps staff will review the initial results for fairness and consistency. Some applications may be selected for a Post-Review Quality Control assessment. This additional level of review will be used to ensure fairness and provide assurances that an application was not disadvantaged in the original review.
- Clarification and Resolution will be combined and take place after notification and before awarding.

FY23 NOFO Changes and Highlights

- New NOFO priorities:
 - Organizations leading service in communities with concentrated poverty, rural communities, tribal communities, and those organizations serving historically underrepresented and underserved individuals, including but not limited to communities of color, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community, people with arrest and/or conviction records, and religious minorities;
 - Programs that provide additional 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.
 - Programs that create workforce pathways for AmeriCorps members, including deliberate training, certifications, and hiring preferences or support

FY23 NOFO Changes and Highlights

- New NOFO priorities for Public Health AmeriCorps:
 - Organizations leading service in communities with concentrated poverty, rural communities, tribal communities, and those organizations serving historically underrepresented and underserved, individuals, including but not limited to communities of color, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, people who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community, people with arrest and/or conviction records, and religious minorities;
 - Programs creating pathways to good-quality public health-related careers through onsite experience and training (including pre-apprenticeship or registered apprenticeship programs, work experience and job training programs, and other workforce training and development programs)

FY23 NOFO Changes and Highlights

Added criteria to the Member Experience section:

- AmeriCorps members receive additional benefits.
- Description of the demographics of the community served and plans to recruit AmeriCorps members from geographic or demographic communities in which the program operates. This could include but is not limited to the following historically underserved, under-represented, and disadvantaged populations of:
 - Communities of color
 - LGBTQI+ communities
 - Individuals with varying degrees of English language proficiency
 - Individuals with disabilities
 - Veterans and military family members as volunteers

FY23 NOFO Changes and Highlights

- Added criteria to the Organizational Background and Staffing section:
 - The leadership and staff of the organization has the same lived experience as the beneficiary population and/or community being served.
 - For Public Health AmeriCorps: The organization has created pathways to good-quality public health-related careers through onsite experience and training (including pre-apprenticeship or registered apprenticeship programs, work experience and job training programs, and other workforce training and development programs)
- Removed Culture that Values Learning

FY23 Application Scoring

Categories/Subcategories	Percentage
Executive Summary	0
Program Design	50
Theory of Change and Logic Model	24
Evidence Tier	12
Evidence Quality	8
Notice Priority	0
Member Experience	6
Organizational Capacity	25
Organizational Background and Staffing	13
Compliance and Accountability	8
Member Supervision	4
Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy	25

Kentucky-specific changes

- Only **1%** to Serve Kentucky for Administrative/Indirect Costs
- AmeriCorps-compliant member management and reporting system, such as [America Learns](#)' AmeriCorps Impact Suite or [OnCorps Reports](#).
 - **Any other system requires approval from Serve Kentucky before use.**

Reminders

- AmeriCorps members **must** wear an AmeriCorps logo while serving.
- Serve Kentucky strongly recommends grantees utilize the two AmeriCorps-contracted vendors to conduct the required NSCHC processes: [Fieldprint and Truescreen](#).

How to address the new criteria...

- If you are New/Recompete, your proposal MUST address each of the criteria
- Submitting a narrative that is missing a response to any of the criteria will very likely result in feedback that says “proposal did not address...”
- The changes (additions and removals) from year to year in the NOFO are a result of AmeriCorps agency priorities, which are typically based on the Presidential administration priorities

How to address the new criteria...

- How much of the narrative you devote to each criteria is dependent on your program design
- For example:
 - If your program has a significant focus on recruiting AmeriCorps members from communities of color and those with disabilities, you will likely want to spend a relatively significant piece of your Member Experience section highlighting that.
 - If your program offers additional member benefits, you should absolutely highlight those. It should be more than just: “Members receive bus passes and a higher than minimum living allowance.” Explain why these benefits are given – what is it about the program design, service location, etc. that makes those benefits important?

How to address the new criteria...

- If your program does not offer additional benefits and does not fit the description of demographics of community for services or AmeriCorps member recruitment, you will want to seriously consider adding something to fit the new criteria
 - Though criteria may change each year, these new criteria are items that will improve member experience
- The same logic applies to the new criteria for Organizational Background & Staffing section

Tips to consider

- Avoid using acronyms. When they are used, make sure it is spelled out fully the first time.
- Type the entire narrative outside of eGrants first, then copy/paste it into eGrants
 - This will cause some formatting issues, but it is better than eGrants issues that cause you to lose your application. Upside-down question marks will be the main formatting issue you will need to fix.
- No prohibited activities, and no language that could allude to prohibited activities occurring
- Do not assume the reviewers' knowledge
 - Your organization or program may be generally well known, but that does not mean your reviewers are familiar with it