![ServeNebraska - Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission]

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www.serve.nebraska.gov

2025 AmeriCorps Competitive
Notice of Funding Opportunity

![AmeriCorps Nebraska]

Applications due October 31, 2024

Important Notice to Applicants: The following documents are necessary to complete a 2025-2026 grant application for AmeriCorps funding. All can be found on the ServeNebraska website: www.serve.nebraska.gov

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Contact Information

Notice of Funding Opportunity and application documents are available on the
ServeNebraska webpage.

Please submit questions about this funding opportunity to dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov. Responses will be included in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS) that will be updated on the ServeNebraska funding website. ServeNebraska encourages questions and to submit questions well in advance of the deadline. ServeNebraska is not obligated to answer and/or respond to questions that are received within 48 hours prior to the application due date.

2025 – 2026 ServeNebraska AmeriCorps Competitive Grant Timeline
This timeline is subject to change due to ServeNebraska announcements and other events.

September 3, 2024   Release Notice of Funding Opportunity

October 31, 2024   Grant Applications due to ServeNebraska

November 22, 2024   Clarifications, corrections, and updates

December 12, 2024   Final Grant Applications with corrections due to ServeNebraska.
                           Applications submitted into the AmeriCorps electronic system.

State Entity Name:	ServeNebraska
Funding Opportunity Title:	Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 AmeriCorps State and National Competitive Grants
Announcement Type:	Initial Announcement
CFDA Number:	94.006

Summary Statement: This is a funding opportunity for Institutions of higher education; local governments, school districts, nonprofit organizations; State Service Commissions, States and US Territories; Indian Tribes; and public health departments to apply for AmeriCorps members to strengthen communities through service.

Disclosure: Publication of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) does not obligate ServeNebraska to award any specific number of grants or to commit any amount of funding. The actual amount, timing, and process of grant funding will be subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

Important Dates and Key Factors to consider when creating your application:
Read the Notice of Funding Opportunity and attachments fully and carefully before beginning to work on your grant application.

- Grant applications must be emailed to [ServeNebraska](#) by October 31, 2024, by 5:00pm CST.
    - Completed applications include:
    - Application narratives in a Word document
    - Performance Measures
    - Logic Model template
    - Budget
- Mandatory participation in all ServeNebraska events, program leader meetings, events, and days of service.
    - June 2025 – Program Leader Launch
    - Monthly Program Leader webinar trainings, (schedule posted on ServeNebraska portal)
    - October 2025 – AmeriCorps Kick Off Event (Members and Program Leaders)
    - January 2026 – MLK Day of Service
    - February 2026 – Legislative Visits Lincoln
    - March 2026 – AmeriCorps Week
- ServeNebraska requires programs to have a dedicated program leader identified, appropriate to the size of the program, responsible to operate the AmeriCorps program and manage members.
- Due to recent disaster(s) that have happened across our state, ServeNebraska is requesting that applications provide a one to three sentence narrative on how your agency would respond in times of disaster.
- ServeNebraska elects to retain a 2 percent share of the 5 percent of federal dollars available and budgeted for program year 2025-2026 administrative costs. All applicants are required to budget the maximum allowable federal resources for administrative/indirect costs and spend those administrative resources.
- Programs must select AmeriCorps member(s) as determined by ServeNebraska to participate in Leadership Council.

ServeNebraska will provide the most updated information on their [website](#) regarding the Notice of Funding Opportunity, grant documents, and technical assistance opportunities. Please submit any questions to dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Funding Program Description

Purpose of AmeriCorps State and National Funding
ServeNebraska mobilizes Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration, and national service programs. ServeNebraska is committed to uniting individuals in service to their communities and achieving demonstrable results by funding AmeriCorps programs that address Nebraska's unmet educational, economic, environmental, health, veterans, and disaster response needs. ServeNebraska receives federal funds from the AmeriCorps Agency to invest in AmeriCorps programs.

AmeriCorps improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. AmeriCorps brings people together to tackle some of the country's most pressing challenges through national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps members serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities and those serving.

The 2025 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding seeks to award AmeriCorps grants to eligible community organizations that engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities (e.g., based on the proposed program's performance and evaluation data or research demonstrating the effectiveness of similar intervention) to address state and local community problems.

B. Funding Priorities
For this funding opportunity, ServeNebraska/AmeriCorps will prioritize consideration from organizations that:

Serve Communities:
- Serve communities with concentrated poverty, rural communities, tribal communities, and historically underrepresented and underserved individuals. These may include people of color, immigrants, refugees, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ individuals, people with arrest or conviction records, religious minorities, etc.
- Implement programs for or expand access to high-quality youth mental health and substance use recovery services and prepare AmeriCorps members to enter behavioral health careers. These may include individuals with lived experience with substance use and mental health challenges to support youth mental health efforts and continued AmeriCorps work on the opioid epidemic.
- Focus on improving the quality of life for veterans, active-duty members of the Armed Forces, and their families by recruiting veterans, military spouses, and their older children into national service.
- Promote environmental stewardship to help communities (especially underserved households and communities) to be more resilient by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving land and water, increasing renewable energy use and improving at-risk ecosystems.
- Support civic bridgebuilding programs and projects to reduce polarization and community divisions; and providing training in civic bridgebuilding skills and techniques to AmeriCorps members.

Benefit AmeriCorps Members:
- Provide 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.
- Create workforce pathways for AmeriCorps members, including deliberate training, certifications, and hiring preferences or support.
- Enhance and expand services to second chance youth and/or engage those youth as AmeriCorps members.
- Develop and train the next generation of diverse public health leaders through service while addressing pressing community health challenges. Review Public Health AmeriCorps Priority in the Mandatory Supplemental Information for eligibility information.

Use Evidence
- Utilize reports from the [AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange](#) on programs assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence to scale, replicate, or adapt the intervention;

Faith-Based
- Organizations that are faith-based; and

American Climate Corps
- Please note that applicants may propose projects to be affiliated with the American Climate Corps (ACC), which is a federal government national service and workforce development initiative focused on training young people for the clean energy and climate resilience workforce. Applicants who are interested must demonstrate that their project funds ACC eligible positions meeting the following criteria:
  o The position has verifiable climate or environmental impact.
  o The position is temporary (term-limited), and the term length is at least 300 hours.
  o The position includes skills-based training as part of the program and provides a pathway to employment.
  o The position must receive a living allowance and, in some cases, may receive additional member benefits.

Applicants submitting a workforce development project to qualify for affiliation with the ACC should note that in their application. Successful applicants will be notified if they are part of the ACC and may be subject to additional reporting requirements.

To receive priority consideration, applicants must show the priority area is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes. Priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

C. Performance Goals or Expected Outcomes
National Performance Measures

All applications must include at least one aligned performance measure, output and outcome, that corresponds to the proposed primary intervention. This may be a National Performance Measure or an applicant-determined measure. For more information, please refer to the [National Performance Measure Instructions](#).

D. Program Authority
Awards under this Notice are authorized by the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §12501 et seq.

II. Federal Award Information

A. Available Funds
ServeNebraska receives AmeriCorps grant funding from the AmeriCorps Agency through two federal pots of money: formula and competitive funds. ServeNebraska receives formula funds from the AmeriCorps Agency through a population-based allocation. Competitive funds are awarded to ServeNebraska to support a select number of programs that have competed successfully at the state competition through ServeNebraska, and national grant competition administered by the AmeriCorps Agency. All applicants first apply for funding through ServeNebraska, then ServeNebraska selects which applications are submitted to the AmeriCorps Agency for AmeriCorps State and National competitive funding consideration. Applications submitted to the national competition are not guaranteed funding at any level. The AmeriCorps Agency makes final award decisions for competitive funds; those applicants approved for competitive grant awards are considered grantees for ServeNebraska. Unsuccessful applicants submitted to the AmeriCorps Agency national grant competition will return to rank-order list for consideration for formula funds based on results from ServeNebraska state grant review process.

B. Estimated Availability of Funds
ServeNebraska expects a highly competitive AmeriCorps grant competition. ServeNebraska reserves the right to prioritize funding to existing grantees instead of making new awards. The actual level of funding depends on annual appropriations. Award amounts will vary as determined by the scope of the projects.

C. Period of Performance
ServeNebraska plans to make three-year grant awards. AmeriCorps generally makes an initial award for the first year of the three-year period of performance. Applicants must submit a one-year budget. Applicants may propose any project start date that fits their program design. The period of performance may not start before August 1, 2025. Continuation awards for future years are not guaranteed; they depend upon future appropriations and satisfactory performance.

AmeriCorps members may not enroll prior to the start date of the award. AmeriCorps members may not begin service prior to the beginning of the member enrollment period as designated in the grant award. A program may not certify any hours a member performs prior to the beginning of the member enrollment.

D. Type of Award ServeNebraska may award Operating Grants, including a Cost Reimbursement grant or a Fixed Amount grant, to any successful applicant. The chart below summarizes these grant types and their distinct characteristics. Full-Cost Fixed Amount grant availability is limited to certain applicants.

Professional Corps applicants are ineligible to receive Cost Reimbursement grants. See Section III. Eligibility and the Mandatory Supplemental Information for more information, including definitions of terminology. AmeriCorps will not provide both types of grants for the same project in one fiscal year.

Applicants must indicate which type of grant they are applying for in their application. The following two types of AmeriCorps grants are offered through this funding opportunity:

Cost Reimbursement

These grants fund a portion of program operating costs and member living allowances with flexibility to use all the funds for allowable costs regardless of whether the program retains all its AmeriCorps members. Traditional Cost Reimbursement grants include a formal match requirement and require the submission of financial budget and financial report. Two types of cost reimbursement grants are available through this funding opportunity: Traditional Cost Reimbursement Grants and Fixed Amount Grants.

1. **Traditional Cost Reimbursement Grants**
    In a traditional AmeriCorps operating grant, all program expenses are based on an approved budget as part of the grant award and are reimbursed through the submission of expense reports to ServeNebraska. Grant funds can only be spent on costs approved in the budget. A cost reimbursement grant provides funding to pay for program costs such as member support, operational costs, and administrative costs associated with the implementation of an AmeriCorps program. An applicant that applies for a cost reimbursement grant must provide and include cash and/or in-kind match in the budget to support its overall program costs. The minimum match level required varies for applicants depending on the number of years an applicant has received AmeriCorps funding.

Fixed Amount Grants

These grants provide a fixed amount of funding per Member Service Year that is substantially lower than the amount required to operate the program. Grantees can access all their federal funds, provided they recruit and retain the members supported under the grant based on the MSY level awarded. Successful applicants are not required to enter a detailed budget and there is no specific match requirement. An AmeriCorps program that receives a fixed-amount grant must adhere to all AmeriCorps Regulations and Provisions, including the administrative and programmatic requirements related to the recruitment, placement, training, and management of members, as well as the required documentation.

1. **Full-Cost Fixed Amount**
    These grants are only available for experienced applicants that propose to enroll all types of member slots. Professional Corps may only have full-time members. New applicants are not eligible for this type of grant. The final grant amount that a fixed-amount grantee may retain under its award is tied to the number of service hours completed by each member. If a member completes their term of service and has earned their education award, the program is entitled to the full amount approved per MSY. If a member did not complete their term of service, the program is entitled to a pro-rated approved amount based on the percentage of hours served. Programs can access all the funds, provided they recruit and retain the members supported under the grant.

2. **Education Award Program**
    Applicants apply for a small, fixed amount up to $800 per Member Service Year (MSY), can enroll less than full-time members, and use their own resources to cover all other costs (e.g. majority of member living allowance, staffing, training, etc.). Successful applicants can access funds under the grant based on enrolling the full complement of members supported under the grant. As with full-time fixed amount grants, there are no specific math or financial reporting requirements for EAP fixed amount grants. Because of the minimal grant amount received, EAP grants are best suited for pre-existing service programs or for organizations with other

sources of funding, for whom becoming part of AmeriCorps will add value to their program.

Grant Types	Cost Reimbursement	Fixed Amount			
Available Subtypes	Traditional	Full-Cost	Education Award Program, EAP	Professional Corps***	No Cost Slots
Maximum Cost per MSY*	$25,000	$25,000	$800 or $1,000**	$1,000	$0
Type of Slots in the National Service Trust	All slot types	All slot types	All Slot types	FT Only	All slot types
Matching Funds Required	Yes	No			
Budget Submission Required	Yes	No			
Availability of Funds Linked to Enrollment /Retention of Awarded MSYs	No	Yes			No
Special Requirements	N/A	N/A		Must place qualified professionals in communities with an inadequate # of such professionals. Member salaries/benefits must be paid entirely by organization where member serves.	N/A
Financial Reporting Requirements	Yes	No			
Available to New Applicants	Yes	No	Yes		

* Member Service Year (MSY): One Member Service Year (MSY) is equivalent to a full-time AmeriCorps position (at least 1,700 service hours). Multiple positions at less than full-time can be combined to equal one MSY.

** For the Education Award Program, AmeriCorps may provide a maximum of $800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position. If at least 50 percent of a program's enrollees are disadvantaged youth, AmeriCorps may provide $1,000 per enrollee, Per 42 U.S.C. § 12581a.

*** Use Mandatory Supplemental Information (MSI) for further requirements

E. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Reimbursement Grants

Applicants are required to match funds based on the chart below. The applicant's match can be non-AmeriCorps cash and/or in-kind contributions. Applicants must indicate whether the match is proposed or secured. Applicants must show that they can meet the match requirement when they submit the application. Applicants must say in their application if they have already secured the match funding.

A first-time successful applicant is required to match at 24 percent for the first three-year funding period. Starting with year four, the match requirement gradually increases every three years to 30 percent by year ten.

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%

[42 U.S.C. §12571(e)](#) requires grantees that use other Federal Funds as matching funds for an AmeriCorps grant to report those amounts and sources to ServeNebraska on a Federal Financial Report. Grantees must track and be prepared to report on that match separately each year and at closeout.

The legal applicant is the entity responsible for meeting matching funds requirements. The legal applicant may request that partnering organizations provide a share of the match necessary to meet matching fund requirements. Programs may match their share of operating costs through cash or in-kind resources. Matching funds must be verifiable, not be included as match for other federal programs, be necessary and reasonable for the purpose of the proposed program and be allowable under OMB cost principles. Successful applicants are required to maintain the awarded match and support any new costs not included in the grant award through match or its own or other resources.

Match Waiver
In accordance with 45 CFR §§ 2521.70, applicants may request a full or partial waiver of match requirements. Requests for match waivers must be submitted to ServeNebraska for review and consideration. Every effort will be made to reduce the match requirements to improve accessibility to funding.

Fixed Amount Grants
There is no cost share or matching requirement for Fixed Amount grants. AmeriCorps does not provide all the funds necessary to operate the program. Organizations should raise the funds needed to operate the program.

III. Eligibility

A. Eligible Applicants
The following non-federal entities (as defined in [2 CFR §200.1](#)) are eligible to apply:

- Indian Tribes
- Institutions of higher education
- Local governments, including school districts.
- Nonprofit organizations
- State Service Commissions
- States and U.S. Territories

Applicants must have a valid [SAM registration and Unique Entity Identifier](#) and an Employer Identification Number (EIN) to receive an award.

B. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)
All applicants **must** register with the [System for Award Management (SAM)](#) and maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete. If an applicant is awarded a grant, it must maintain an active SAM registration throughout the life of the award. See the [SAM Quick Guide for Grant Registrations](#).

SAM registration must be renewed annually. ServeNebraska recommends that applicants finalize a new registration or renew an existing one at least four weeks before the application deadline to allow time to resolve any potential issues. **Applicants must use their SAM-registered legal name and physical address on all grant applications to ServeNebraska. The legal applicant's name and physical address in web-based system must match exactly the applicant's SAM-registered information.**

ServeNebraska will not award funding to entities that do not have a valid Unique Entity Identifier, which is obtained through the SAM registration process. If an applicant has not fully met these requirements by the time ServeNebraska is ready to make an award, ServeNebraska may consider the applicant ineligible and may use that determination as a basis for awarding funds to another applicant.

Applications must include an Employer Identification Number (EIN). The UEI and EIN must be entered by the organization's Grantee Administrator as an organization attribute, and this will apply the information to all applications for the organization.

New Applicants

ServeNebraska encourages organizations that are new to AmeriCorps funding (e.g., small community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, etc.) to apply.

New applicants are eligible to apply for Cost Reimbursement and Education Award Program (EAP) grants but are not eligible to apply for Full Cost Fixed Amount grants.

Types of Applicants

1. State and Territory Service Commissions (Single-State Applicants)

Organizations that that plan to operate in only one state must apply through the Governor-appointed State or Territory Commissions. Each Commission manages its own selection process and submits chosen applications to compete for funding directly to AmeriCorps. Single-State applicants must contact their Commission to learn about their state or territory processes and deadlines. State deadlines may be significantly earlier than AmeriCorps deadlines and may have additional requirements. **A Single-State application submitted directly to AmeriCorps by the applicant, rather than through the Commission will be considered noncompliant and will not be reviewed. To be considered as a National Direct applicant instead of a Single-State applicant, the application must name at least two specific states in the "multi-state operating sites" section at the time of submission.** See the Mandatory Supplemental Information for descriptions of National Direct and Single-State applicants.

2. National Direct Applicants (Multi-State Applicants)

Organizations that propose to operate AmeriCorps programs in more than one State or Territory apply directly to AmeriCorps.

Although National Direct applicants do not have to apply to Commissions, there are substantial requirements to coordinate with the Commissions for states in which national service programs will operate, see Section IV Application and Submission Information, coordination among State Service Commissions and National Direct Applicants section for information on these important requirements.

States and Territories without State Service Commissions: Applicants in South Dakota, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands apply directly to AmeriCorps because they do not have an established Commission.

Federally recognized Indian Tribes: Applicants who are Indian Tribes apply directly to AmeriCorps.

In addition to Indian Tribes as defined in 2 CFR 200.1, tribal organizations that are controlled, authorized, or chartered by Federally recognized Indian Tribes are also eligible to apply directly to AmeriCorps.

Federally recognized Indian Tribes will also be eligible to apply for operating or planning grants under a separate Notice of Funding Opportunity for Indian Tribes at the AmeriCorps.gov Funding Opportunities webpage with an application deadline in the spring.

Threshold Issues

Applicants should reflect that they meet the following threshold requirements for the grant type for which they are applying:

- Professional Corps applicants and/or applicants determined to be a Professional Corps by AmeriCorps must demonstrate that the community in which it will place AmeriCorps members serving as professionals has an inadequate number of said professionals.
- If the proposed service activities require specialized member qualifications and/or training, such as tutoring programs, see 45 CFR 2522.910-.940, the applicant must describe how the requirements will be met.
- For funding consideration, all applicants must propose program designs that are either evidence-based or evidence-informed. Applicants assessed as lower than the Preliminary evidence tier must provide adequate responses to the Evidence Quality review.

Other Eligibility Requirements
Under section 132A(b) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, organizations that have violated a Federal criminal statute may not receive assistance described in this Notice.

Organizations that propose activities that are not allowed by AmeriCorps' statutes, regulations, rules, or terms and conditions cannot receive AmeriCorps funding.

Organizations that have any unpaid federal tax liability are not allowed to receive an award. AmeriCorps cannot provide funding to any corporation that has unpaid federal taxes that are not being paid through an agreement with the relevant tax authority. However, this does not apply if a federal agency decided that a suspension or debarment for the corporation is not necessary.

Organizations that are described in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. §501 (c)(4) that lobby cannot receive AmeriCorps funding according to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Submission to ServeNebraska
Applicants must submit all required documents electronically by the application deadline of October 31, 2024, by 5:00 p.m. Central Time. This Notice should be read together with the AmeriCorps regulations, 45 CFR 2520-2550. Full regulations are available online at AmeriCorps.gov Funding Opportunities.
1. Download the following documents from the ServeNebraska website:
   - 2025 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity
   - 2025 Mandatory Supplemental Guidance
   - 2025 AmeriCorps Application Instructions
   - 2025 National Performance Measures instructions
   - 2025 Budget template
   - 2025 Performance Measure template
   - 2025 Logic Model template

2. Follow the instructions included in the 2025 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity and 2025 AmeriCorps Application Instructions documents for submitting a complete application.

3. Complete applications must include the following elements:

- Standard Form 424 (SF-424) Face Sheet: Automatically generated when applicants complete the data elements in the AmeriCorps grants system when notified by ServeNebraska.
- Narrative Sections:
  - Executive Summary
  - Program Design
  - Organizational Capability
  - Cost-Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy; and
  - Evaluation Summary/Plan
- Performance Measures
- Logic Model
- Standard Form 424A Budget
- Continuation Changes
- Clarification
- Authorization, Assurances, and Certifications.

4. All applications and required supplemental items must be submitted electronically to the ServeNebraska email, dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov, no later than 5:00p.m. CST, October 31, 2024.

5. Submitted applications must use the following format:
- Subject Line: Legal Applicant Name.
- Body of the email: Identify the legal name and point of contact information.
- A list of the attached documents in the email, with each file labeled according to the type indicated in the list above. Ensuring each attachment is identified by its filename.
- The quantity of each document type.

- Attach each document individually as a single file, clearly and appropriately labeled. Each file name *and* document heading should include:
  - The legal applicant name.
  - The application ID number

Failure to submit the required additional documents according to the email instructions above and by the deadline may negatively affect the assessment of your application. Please ensure that each document is submitted as a separate file, properly labeled, and avoid sending multiple documents in a single file or sending a single document in multiple files.

After the application deadline, all applicants that have a difference between the number of documents emailed and the number of documents reported will receive an email. This email will request proof that the missing documents were emailed on time to the correct email address. If applicants do not reply to this email, then their evidence documents might not be reviewed.

Do not submit any items that are not requested in this Notice or Application Instructions. ServeNebraska will not review or return them.

Page Limits

There are page limits that must be adhered to for the Narratives and the Logic Model.

- The Narrative must be in a Word document, 10 pt. font, Calibri. Applications must not exceed 11, double-spaced pages for the Narrative. The Narrative includes:
    - o SF-424 Face Sheet (created after awarding of grant funds)
    - o Executive Summary
    - o Program Design, Organizational Capacity and Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy narratives.

    The application page limit does not include:
    - o Evaluation Plan/Summary
    - o Clarification Summary
    - o Continuation Changes
    - o Budget, Performance Measures; and
    - o Any required additional documents
    - o [Operational and Financial Management Survey](#) (OFMS submissions will only be accepted through the link provided)

- Logic Model
    - o The Logic Model may not exceed eight pages when printed.

Note: The length of a document in word processing software may differ from what appears when printed or submitted in the AmeriCorps web-based system. This discrepancy affects both the Application and Logic Model page limits. ServeNebraska will not review any submitted material that exceeds the page limits as printed in the report.

Supplemental Documents
The following supplemental documents are not included in the page limits:
- Evaluation briefs, reports, studies. Please refer to the Evidence Base portion of Section [VI.B.2](#) for detailed instructions by evidence tier.
- Organizational Chart
- List of all other Federal grants your organization holds.
- Labor Concurrence (if applicable)
- Indirect cost rate determination letter (if applicable)

Once your application has been approved by ServeNebraska, direction will be given on how to enter the application into the AmeriCorps web-based system. At that time, you will agree to all assurances and certifications.
Note: Page counts are determined by the number of pages that print out from the web-based system. ServeNebraska strongly encourages applicants to print out the application from the system prior to submission to ensure that page limits are not exceeded.

Re-compete applicants who have received three or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed must submit:
- Evaluation plan using the provided template. Note evaluation plans are not scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions are made.

Re-compete applicants who have received six or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed must submit:

> Evaluation report submitted as a Word document. The evaluation report should include a title page that includes:
> - o   AmeriCorps grant number for the project that was evaluated.
> - o   Name of the project
> - o   Date of completion of the report.
> - o   Evaluator name(s)
> - o   Evaluator organization name
> - o   Evaluator type of internal or external

If any of this required information is missing, the applicant may not receive credit for meeting their evaluation requirements.

Entities applying on behalf of a federally recognized Tribe (New and Re-competing)
- Tribal organization eligibility documentation (see [Eligible Applicants](#)).

Operational and Financial Management Survey (New and Re-competing)
- All new and re-competing applicants, regardless of funding level, are required to submit an Operational and Financial Management Survey (OFMS). Submit electronically using the [Online Form](#). Documents submitted in any other format may not be accepted.

B.   Application Submission Deadline

Applications must be submitted electronically to ServeNebraska no later than **Tuesday, October 31, 2024, by 5:00pm CST** to be considered.

ServeNebraska will not consider applications received after the deadline, except when noted in IV.B.1. Late applications, below. ServeNebraska reserves the right to extend the submission deadline. Any notice of such extended deadline will be posted at ServeNebraska.gov.

1. Late Applications

All applications received after the submission deadline specified in this Notice of Funding Opportunity will be considered non-compliant. ServeNebraska may, at its discretion, consider an application received after the deadline, if the applicant provides a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstances that caused the delay. This explanation must include details about the timing and specific cause(s) of the delay, along with any supporting evidence. Any such request must be submitted within one business day following the application deadline specified in the Notice.

C.   Intergovernmental Review

This Notice is not subject to [Executive Order 12372](#), "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

D.   Requests for Monitoring or Payment Integrity Information

ServeNebraska may request documentation from recipients in order to monitor the award or to comply with other legal requirements, such as the [Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019](#). Failure to make. timely responses to these requests may result in award funds being placed on manual hold, reimbursement only status, or other remedies may be applied as appropriate.

E. Coordination Among State Service Commissions and National Direct Applicants

Before application submission, ServeNebraska expects new and recompete Commissions and National Direct applicants, to consult and coordinate activities at the local level, as specified in 42 U.S.C. § 12583. This consultation aims to ensure the optimal use of national service resources and lead to enhanced coordination. A complete list of Commissions is available on the AmeriCorps State Service Commissions page.

V. Funding Restrictions

A. Minimum Program Size

The minimum program size funded by ServeNebraska is three Member Service Year (MSY).

B. Member Living Allowance

A living allowance is not considered a salary or a wage. Programs are not required to provide a living allowance for members serving in less than full-time terms of service. If a program chooses to provide a living allowance to a less than full-time member, it must comply with the maximum limits in the table below. For Cost Reimbursement grants, the amount must be included in the proposed budget as either AmeriCorps or grantee share.

While Fixed Amount grant applicants are not required to submit detailed budgets, they are still required to provide a living allowance to members that complies with the minimum and maximum requirements. Exceptions are noted below. Fixed Amount grant applicants should indicate that amount in the application.

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

Exceptions to the Living Allowance Requirements
- **Programs existing prior to September 21, 1993**, are not required to offer a living allowance. If an applicant chooses to offer a living allowance, it is exempt from the minimum requirement, but cannot exceed the maximum.
- **Education Award Program (EAP) Grantees** are not required to provide a living allowance. If an applicant chooses to offer a living allowance, it is exempt from the minimum requirement, but cannot exceed the maximum.
- **Professional Corps Grantees** must provide members a living allowance or salary, which must meet the minimum, but may exceed the maximum. Professional Corps member salaries and benefits including childcare are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve; and are not included in the budget request to AmeriCorps (Federal share).

C. Maximum Cost per Member Service Year (MSY)

Applicants request the number and types of AmeriCorps member positions that are needed to address the community need stated in their application. A 1700-hour (full-time) AmeriCorps member position is equivalent to one Member Service Year (MSY).

An applicant's cost per MSY is determined by dividing the total federal share budgeted grant costs by the number of MSYs requested. For example, a request for $81,401 to support 6 MSYs would have a cost per MSY of $13,567 ($81,401÷6 MSY). The cost per MSY does not include childcare or the value of the education award a member may earn, which is covered directly by AmeriCorps outside of the grant award.

Successful applicants are required to maintain their awarded cost per MSY throughout the grant period. The cost per MSY is augmented by match funding secured by the legal applicant to supplement the costs of the program, which can include member living allowances, staff salaries, and other program expenses.

New and recompeting State Service Commission subgrantees/applicants will be held to the maximum cost per MSY for their grant type. Other grant types may have lower cost per MSY limits. New and re-competing applicants will be held to the maximum cost per MSY for their grant type. See below for more information on each grant type.

Maximum Cost per MSY

Grant Program	Maximum
Individual Competitive State/Territory Program (cost reimbursement)	$25,000
Multi-state competitive (cost reimbursement)	$25,000
Professional Corps competitive Fixed Amount Applicants/Grantees	$1,000*
Full-cost competitive Fixed Amount Grant	$25,000
Education Award Program (EAP) Fixed Amount Grant (competitive and formula)	$800 or $1,000**
All non-EAP formula subgrants	$25,200***

*AmeriCorps requires Professional Corps programs to cover the operating expenses associated with the AmeriCorps program through non-AmeriCorps resources. AmeriCorps will only consider operating funds of up to $1,000 per MSY if an applicant is able to demonstrate significant organizational financial need.

** For the Education Award Program, AmeriCorps may provide a maximum of $800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position. If at least 50 percent of a program's enrollees are disadvantaged youth, AmeriCorps may provide $1,000 per enrollee, 42 U.S.C. § 12581a.

***$18,000, adjusted for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. ServeNebraska reserves the right to: 1) classify an applicant as a Professional Corps if they meet the statutory requirements, regardless of whether their application was submitted as such; 2) assess whether an applicant has demonstrated an inability to effectively operate without AmeriCorps operating funds.

D. Costs Associated with Evidence Building Activities e.g. performance data collection and management, foundational research, program evaluation, etc.

As noted in 2 CFR § 200.455, costs associated with evidence building activities are allowable expenses or match under AmeriCorps grants. This includes costs related to performance data collection and management, foundational research, program evaluation, and related activities.

E. Segal AmeriCorps Education Award

AmeriCorps members who successfully complete a term of service will be eligible for an Education Award from the National Service Trust. The amount of the Education Award is linked to the value of the Pell Grant. A member has up to seven years after their term of service to use the Education Award. Visit the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award website for more information.

F. Indirect Costs

Application budgets may include indirect costs. Based on qualifying factors, applicants may use a Federally approved indirect cost rate if they have one, use the AmeriCorps-Fixed Percentage method (five/ten percent fixed administrative cost option) outlined in AmeriCorps' Indirect Cost Guidance, or a 15 percent de minimis rate of modified total direct costs, or may claim certain costs directly. However, no more than five percent of award funds may be used to recover indirect costs on AmeriCorps State and National grants under section 121(d) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended and AmeriCorps' regulations at 45 CFR 2521.95 and 2540.110.

The agency's Indirect Cost Guidance provides more information on applicant's options for Indirect Cost Rates. Use the Indirect Cost Rate (IDCR) User Instructions to enter the organization's indirect cost rate. Applicants should not submit documentation addressing the cost rate agreement via email.

Please note: To request a federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, when AmeriCorps is the applicable cognizant agency for an organization's indirect costs, the applicant must submit a request to IndirectCostRate@americorps.gov. The applicant may also obtain instructions and additional information by contacting the email address above.

G. Pre-Award Costs

Pre-award costs, where authorized, are allowed after receiving written approval from ServeNebraska.

VI. Application Review and Selection Information

A. ServeNebraska Review and Selection Process

Applications will undergo a multi-stage review process for funding, which includes: ServeNebraska Staff Review, Clarification and Feedback, and final approval by the ServeNebraska Commission. Stages of the review and selection process are detailed below.

The review and selection process are designed to:
- Identify how well eligible applications align with the selection criteria.
- Build a diversified portfolio based on the following strategic considerations:
    o Funding priorities
    o Meaningful representation of:
        ▪ Rural communities
        ▪ Innovative community strategies

Eligibility and Compliance Check

ServeNebraska staff will evaluate all applications to ensure they comply with eligibility criteria, deadlines, and completeness of requirements. (See Section III. Eligibility) Applications submitted by eligible organizations by the deadline that meet the minimum compliance requirements will advance to the Staff Review stage. The eligibility and compliance assessment are designed to ensure that only applications meeting the eligibility criteria are reviewed further. However, eligibility determinations can occur at any stage of the review and selection process. Applicants deemed ineligible will not be considered for an award.

Staff Review
Reviewers will evaluate each application against a selection matrix based on Program Design, Organizational Capacity, Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy, and Evidence Selection criteria.

Clarification and Feedback
Applicants may be asked to provide clarifying information and/or make adjustments to their application and/or budget. This information will assist ServeNebraska staff in making funding recommendations. Applications may be recommended for funding even no clarifications or questions are requested. Failure to respond adequately and promptly to a request for clarification may result in the removal the application from the award process. Please note that a request for clarification does not guarantee funding.

Selection
Primary consideration in the selection of AmeriCorps programs is based on merit and addresses all clarification issues. ServeNebraska staff will make recommendations to the ServeNebraska Board of Commissioners for final approval.

ServeNebraska reserves the right to adjust or modify the review process if unforeseen challenges or exigent circumstances render it impossible, impractical, or inefficient to execute as planned. Any adjustments or changes will not impact the selection criteria used to assess applications submitted in response to this Notice.

Applicant Resolution
Applicants may be requested to provide additional information after receiving notification of competition results to address any issues before an award is finalized. ServeNebraska will require all grantees to provide a written compliance implementation plan, which must include procedures for reporting waste, fraud, and abuse for submission to the AmeriCorps Office of Inspector General. Failure to respond adequately and promptly may result in the removal of the application from the award process.

Feedback to Applicants
Applicants will receive feedback from the ServeNebraska Staff Review on their compliant applications. This feedback will be based solely on the original application and will not take into account any information provided during the clarification process.

Post-Review Quality Control
After the initial review process is complete, AmeriCorps staff will assess the results for fairness and consistency. Some applications may be selected for a Post-Review Quality Control assessment. This

additional review will ensure fairness and verify that no application was disadvantaged during the original review.

Transparency in Grant Making
AmeriCorps Agency is committed to transparency in grant-making. A list of all approved applications for new and re-competing applications will be published on [AmeriCorps Funded Grants](#) within 90 business days after all grants are awarded.

Further information about funded grants and subgrants is also available at [USASpending.gov](#).

B. Selection Criteria
Each applicant must clearly describe a project that will effectively utilize AmeriCorps members to address a significant community need. ServeNebraska encourages applicants to submit a high-quality application that meticulously follows the guidance in this Notice of Funding and the Application Instructions. The quality of the application will be a key factor in deciding whether an organization will receive funding.

    1. Pre-Award Risk Assessment
    ServeNebraska staff will evaluate the risks associated with each applicant to assess their ability to manage Federal funds. This evaluation complements the assessments of the applicant's eligibility and the quality of the application based on the Selection Criteria. The results of this risk assessment will influence funding decisions. If ServeNebraska decides to award funding to an applicant with assessed risks, special conditions corresponding to the level of risk may be applied. Furthermore, if ServeNebraska determines that the issues leading to a poor risk assessment are unlikely to be resolved, those applications may not be selected for funding.

In assessing risks, ServeNebraska may consider factors such as:
    a. Due Diligence, including:
- Federal debt delinquency
- Suspension and debarment
- Information available through Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-designated sources of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as:
  - Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)
  - [U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services;](#)
  - [System for Award Management (SAM); and](#)
  - Do Not Pay"
- Reports and findings from single audits performed under Uniform Administrative Guidance and findings of any other available audits or investigations.
- IRS Tax Form 990
- [Oversight.gov; and](#)
- Public Litigation Records

    b. Operational and Financial Management, including:
- Financial stability
- Operational and Financial Management Survey (OFMS)

    c. Past Performance, incorporating:

- Applicant's record in managing previous AmeriCorps awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards inclusive of:
  - Timely compliance with applicable reporting requirements.
  - Accuracy of data reported.
  - Validity of performance measure data reported.
  - Conformity to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards.
  - Ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients.
  - Timely closeout of other awards.
  - Meeting matching requirements.
  - Extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards; and
  - Meeting National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) compliance

d. Other Programmatic Risks, Financial, Organizational, Compliance, and Fraud including:
  - Publicly available information, including from the applicant organization's website.
  - Amount of funding requested by the organization; and
  - Other elements, such as keyword searches for prohibited activities.

2. Consideration of Integrity and Performance System Information
ServeNebraska and AmeriCorps, prior to making any award that exceeds $250,000, must consider information about the applicant from the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM.gov.

Any applicant may review and provide comment on information previously entered by another federal agency in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM.gov.

Applicant comments may be considered, along with other information in the designated integrity and performance systems, when assessing the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and performance record under federal awards during the process.

Categories/Subcategories	Percentage
Executive Summary	**0**
Program Design	**50**
• **Community and Logic Model**	24
• **Evidence Tier**	12
• **Evidence Quality**	8
• **Notice Priority**	0
• **Member Experience**	6
Organizational Capability	**25**
• **Organizational Background and Staffing**	15
• **Member Supervision**	6
• **Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility**	4
Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy	**25**
• **Member Recruitment**	8

• **Member Retention**	9
• **Data Collection**	8

Executive Summary (0 percent):
Please fill in the blanks of these sentences to complete the Executive Summary. There are two options for the second paragraph; please choose the appropriate language for your application. Do not deviate from this template:

Paragraph 1:
"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].

Paragraph 2:

1. Cost Reimbursement grant applications:
   "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."

2. Fixed amount grant applicants e.g., EAP, Full-Cost Fixed, No Cost Slots:
   "In addition to the AmeriCorps investment, $[amount of local, state, and Federal Funds] in public funding and $[amount of non-governmental funds] in private funding will support the project."

Program Design (50 percent):
Community and Logic Model (24 points)
The applicant will provide a detailed summary of the community problem, including:
- How the inequities faced by underserved communities may contribute to the problem.
- How the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index explains the extent of the problem.
- How the applicant's intervention(s) will lead to the outcomes identified in the organization's Logic Model.

The applicant's intervention is likely to lead to the outcomes identified in the organization's Logic Model. No narrative is needed other than what is contained within the logic model.

The applicant must describe in the Logic Model:
- The inputs or resources that are necessary to deliver the intervention, including but not limited to:
  - Locations or sites in which members will provide services.
  - Setting and community condition where the intervention is delivered.
  - Number of AmeriCorps members who will deliver the intervention.
  - Characteristics of AmeriCorps members, including specific knowledge, skills, and abilities required to implement the intervention.
- The core activities that members will deliver, including:

- o Length of each activity (e.g., the total number of weeks, sessions, or months of the intervention)
- o Dosage of each activity (e.g., the number of hours per session or sessions per week)
- o Target population for the intervention (e.g., disconnected youth, third graders at a certain reading proficiency level)
- The measurable outputs that result from delivering the intervention (i.e., number of beneficiaries served, types and number of activities conducted, equity gaps closed). If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as output indicators.
- Outcomes that result from the intervention, including meaningful changes in knowledge/skill, attitude, behavior, or condition that occur as a result of the intervention. If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as outcome indicators.

Note: The Logic Model is a visual representation of the applicant's Theory of Change. Programs should include short, medium, or long-term outcomes in the Logic Model. Applicants are not required to measure all components of their Logic Model. The applicant's performance measures should be consistent with the program's Logic Model and should represent significant program activities.

Rationales and justifications should be informed by the organization's performance data (e.g., program data observed over time that suggests targets are reasonable), relevant research (e.g. targets documented by organizations running similar programs with similar populations), or prior program evaluation findings.

Applicants with multiple interventions should complete one Logic Model chart which incorporates each intervention. Logic Model content that exceeds eight pages will not be reviewed.

Evidence Base (20 points)
The assessment of an applicant's evidence base has two parts. First, the applicant will be assigned to an evidence tier (use the Mandatory Supplemental Information). Second, the quality of the applicant's evidence and the degree to which it supports the proposed program design, including program aligned with the priority areas (See Funding Priorities, Section I), and how the evidence supports the proposed program.

Evidence Tier (12 points)
An evidence tier will be assessed for each applicant for the purpose of understanding the relative strength of each applicant's evidence base and the likelihood that the proposed intervention will lead to outcomes identified in the Logic Model.

To qualify for the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tier. In order to qualify for consideration, the intervention evaluated in the submitted report(s), applicants may submit up to two evidence documents, plus the evaluation report from their last three-year grant cycle, if applicable. If multiple evidence documents are submitted by the applicant, the most recent – as measured by the date of completion or publication– will be reviewed first, and any documents submitted beyond the allowable number will not be reviewed.

The intervention evaluated in the submitted evidence documents must match the intervention proposed by the applicant in the Community and Logic Model sections of the application. Use the Mandatory Supplemental Information for a definition of same intervention. Applicants must meet all requirements of an evidence tier to be considered for that tier.

Submitted reports that do not sufficiently match the intervention proposed by the applicant in all of these areas will not be considered applicable and will not be reviewed or receive any points. Submission of additional documents that are not consistent with the guidance and requirements described in the Notice (e.g., advocacy pieces, policy briefs, other narratives that are not research studies or program evaluations) will not be reviewed.

In the Evidence Tier section of the application narrative, applicants must:
- Summarize the study design and key findings of any outcome or impact evaluation report(s) submitted, and;
- Describe any other evidence that supports their program, including past performance measure data and/or other research studies that inform their program design.

Applicants who submit evaluation reports for consideration must also describe in the Evidence Base section of the application narrative how the intervention described in the submitted reports is the same as the intervention described in the application (use the Mandatory Supplemental Information.)

Applicants should provide citations for the studies they describe.

Evidence Quality (8 points)
Reviewers will score the quality of an applicant's evidence and the extent to which it supports the proposed program design.

Standards for scoring in the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tiers:
Submitted evidence documents:
- Are of satisfactory methodological quality and rigor for the type of evaluation conducted e.g., adequate sample size and statistical power, internal and/or external validity, appropriate use of control or comparison groups, etc.
- Describe evaluations that were conducted relatively recently, preferably within the last six years; and
- Show a meaningful and significant positive effect on program beneficiaries or AmeriCorps members in at least one key outcome of interest.

Standards for scoring in the pre-preliminary evidence tier:
- The applicant uses relevant evidence, including past performance measure data and/or cited research studies, to inform their proposed program design.
- The described evidence is relatively recent, preferably from the last six years; and
- The evidence described by the applicant indicates a meaningful positive effect on program beneficiaries or AmeriCorps members in at least one key outcome of interest.
- The evidence described by the applicant indicates a meaningful positive effect on program beneficiaries or AmeriCorps members in at least one key outcome of interest.

Notice Priority (0 points)
The applicant proposed program fits within one or more of the AmeriCorps funding priorities and meets all of the requirements within that bullet/section as outlined in Section I, Funding Priorities.

Member Experience (6 points)
- 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.

Organizational Capability (25 percent):
1. **Organizational Background and Staffing (15 points)**
   - The applicant describes the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the staff that will be implementing and providing oversight of the program.
   - The applicant describes their organization's mission and relevant experience in areas such as volunteer recruitment and management, community outreach, overcoming project implementation challenges, etc.
   - The applicant describes their organization's experience managing grants, especially federal or state grants. Include your past performance in meeting:
     - Grant goals and objectives.
     - Compliance and reporting requirements.
     - The applicant has facilitated, partnered, or participated in educational, or workforce development programs e.g. work experience or job training programs, etc.

   Note: if you do not have experience with managing grants, please indicate that.

2. **Member Supervision (6 points)**
   - The applicant describes 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.
   - The applicant describes how AmeriCorps supervisors will be adequately trained to follow AmeriCorps and program regulations, priorities, and expectations. E.g., structure for support of supervisors, training plan for supervisors related to supervision and AmeriCorps rules and regulations, cadence, and format of AmeriCorps supervisors/their supervisors check ins, opportunities to assess strengthens and opportunities for growth of supervisors, etc.

3. **Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (4 points)**
   - The leadership and staff of the organization have similar lived experience as the beneficiary population and/or community being served.
   - The applicant's definitions of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility are demonstrated by the organization. For example, diversity within the Board of Directors, agency staff and leadership, and/or volunteers. The organization upholds a supportive and safe environment for individuals of diverse backgrounds.

Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 percent):
1. **Member Recruitment (8 points)**
   - The applicant describes budget expenses to support successful recruitment of AmeriCorps members best suited to serve the community, for example 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.

2. **Member Retention (9 points)**
   - The applicant provides a description of budget expenses to support retention of AmeriCorps members. E.g., additional member benefits such as paying above the minimum living allowance, supporting workforce pathways, certifications, coaching for members, resume building, individual benefit as well as community building, network building, member recognition, alumni programming, etc.

3. **Data Collection (8 points)**
   - 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.

Evaluation Plan (Required for recompeting applicants - 0 percent):
If the applicant has previously received three or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed (use the Mandatory Supplemental Information for the AmeriCorps definition of "same project"), the applicant must upload an evaluation plan in AmeriCorps' web-based application system as part of the application submission.

Applicants must use the evaluation plan template found on the Notice webpage to craft their evaluation plans. The evaluation plan will not be scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions have been made.

All applicants should enter "N/A" in the *Evaluation Summary* or *Plan* field of the Narrative. Any other text entered in this field will not be reviewed.

Amendment Justification (0 percent):
Enter N/A. This field will be used if the applicant is awarded a grant and needs to amend it.

Clarification Information (0 percent):
Enter N/A. This field will be utilized should an applicant be funded.

Continuation Changes (0 percent):
Enter N/A. This field will be used to enter changes in the application narratives in continuation requests.

VII. Award Administration Information

AmeriCorps will make awards following the selection announcement. AmeriCorps anticipates announcing the results of this funding opportunity by mid-April 2025 contingent on the availability of appropriations. All applicants, successful or not, will be notified of funding decisions via email.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Uniform Guidance
All awards made under this Notice are subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 2205.

Requests for Monitoring or Payment Integrity Information
AmeriCorps will request documentation from award recipients In order to monitor the grantee and award to ensure compliance with legal requirements, including the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019. ServeNebraska will implement oversight mechanisms and conduct regular reviews. Failure to make timely responses to these requests may result in award funds being placed on manual hold, reimbursement only status, or other remedies may be applied as appropriate.

AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions
All awards made under this Notice will be subject to the FY 2025 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, and the FY 2025 Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for the particular program (when applicable). These Terms and Conditions contain mandatory compliance and reporting requirements. Current versions of the AmeriCorps General and Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for each of its programs is available on the AmeriCorps Manage Your Grant website.

National Service Criminal History Check Requirements
The National Service Criminal History Check, NSCHC, is a specific screening procedure established by law to protect the beneficiaries of national service. Use 45 CFR 2540.200– 2540.207 and National Service Criminal History Check Resources for complete information and FAQs.

Recipients must complete the following criminal history checks:
1. National Sex Offender Public website through NSOPW.gov (nationwide check).
2. State criminal history record repository or agency-designated alternative for the individual's State of residence and State of service; and
3. Fingerprint-based check of the FBI criminal history record database through the State criminal history record repository or agency-approved vendor.

All checks must be conducted, reviewed, and an eligibility determination made before the individual begins work or service.

An individual is **not eligible** to serve or work in a position subject to the NSCHC requirements if the individual:
- Refuses to consent to a criminal history check.
- Makes a false statement in connection with a criminal history check.
- Is registered, or is required to be registered, on a state sex offender registry or the National Sex Offender Registry; or
- Has been convicted of murder, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 1111.

Use of Material
To ensure that materials generated with AmeriCorps funding are available to the public and readily accessible to recipients and non-recipients, AmeriCorps reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and

irrevocable right to obtain, use, modify, reproduce, publish, or disseminate publications and materials produced under the award, including data, and to authorize others to do so per 2 CFR 200.315.

Reporting
Recipients are required to submit a variety of reports that are due at specific times during the life cycle of an award. All reports must be accurate, complete, and submitted on time.

Cost Reimbursement grantees are required to provide quarterly progress reports, monthly periodic expense reimbursement reports, and an internal or external evaluation report as required by the AmeriCorps regulations 45 CFR 2522.500-2522.540 and 2522.700-2522.740.

Fixed Amount grantees are required to provide quarterly progress reports and an internal or external evaluation report.

Final financial and progress reports must be cumulative over the entire award period and consistent with the closeout requirements. Fixed Amount grantees are exempt from the final financial report requirement.

Once the grant is awarded, recipients will be expected to have in place data collection and data management policies, processes, and practices that provide assurance that they are reporting high quality performance measure data. At a minimum, recipients should have policies, processes, and practices that address the following five aspects of data quality for themselves and for subrecipients (if applicable):
- Data measures what it intends to measure.
- Data reported is complete;
- Grantee collects data in a consistent manner.
- Grantee takes steps to correct data errors.
- Grantee actively reviews data for accuracy prior to submission.

Failure to submit accurate, complete, and timely required reports may affect the recipient's ability to secure future AmeriCorps funding.

Continuation Funding Information and Requirements
Organizations that have current AmeriCorps State and National awards that will be in program Year 2 or Year 3 in FY 2025 are considered continuation applicants. Continuation applicants must submit an application in order to be eligible to receive funding for the FY 2025 program year. Continuation applicants must follow the requirements for continuation application content as outlined in the Application Instructions.

Please use the Application Instructions for how to request use of unexpended funds.

Requests by existing continuation applicants for increases in the level of funding or number of positions will be assessed, see Section VI.B Selection Criteria.

Continuation application review will also be based on progress reports, the federal financial report, evaluation plans, and AmeriCorps staff's knowledge of the grant program. To be approved for

continuation funding, recipients must demonstrate satisfactory performance with respect to key program goals and requirements, as well as compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to award applications an amount less than the requested level of funding and will document the rationale for doing so.

Refocusing of Funding
AmeriCorps reserves the right to re-focus program dollars under this Notice in the event of disaster or other compelling needs.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Public Burden Statement
Public reporting burden for collection of information under this Notice of Funding is estimated to average six hours per submission, including reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing the application and reporting forms. AmeriCorps informs people who may respond to this Notice of Funding that they are not required to respond unless the OMB control number and expiration date are currently valid. See 5 CFR 1320.5(b)(2)(i). This collection is approved under OMB Control #: 3045-0047, Application Instructions, State and National Competitive, New and Continuation, Expiration Date: September 30, 2026.

Privacy Act Statement
The Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C §552a, requires that we notify applicants that the information requested under this Notice of Funding is collected pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §12592 and 12615 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 as amended, and 42 U.S.C. §4953 of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 as amended.

Purposes and Uses - The information requested is collected for the purposes of reviewing grant applications and granting funding requests. Routine uses may include disclosure of the information to Federal, state, or local agencies pursuant to lawfully authorized requests. In some programs, the information may also be provided to Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to determine the existence of any prior criminal convictions. The information may also be provided to appropriate Federal agencies and contractors that have a need to know the information for the purpose of assisting the government to respond to a suspected or confirmed breach of the security or confidentiality or information maintained in this system of records, and the information disclosed is relevant and unnecessary for the assistance.

Effects of Nondisclosure - The information requested is voluntary; however, to be a recipient of this grant program, disclosure of personal or sensitive information is required to receive federal benefits.