![ServeNebraska - Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission logo]

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www.serve.nebraska.gov

2024 AmeriCorps Formula
Notice of Funding Opportunity

![AmeriCorps Nebraska logo]

Applications due March 1, 2024

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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.

2024 – 2025 ServeNebraska AmeriCorps Formula Grant Timeline

This timeline is subject to change due to ServeNebraska announcements and other events.

January 8, 2024	Release Notice of Funding Opportunity
March 1, 2024	Grant Applications due to ServeNebraska
March 13-26, 2024	Clarifications, corrections, and updates
April 22-26, 2024	Applications submitted into the AmeriCorps electronic system.

State Entity Name:	ServeNebraska
Funding Opportunity Title:	Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 AmeriCorps State and National Formula Funding
Announcement Type:	Initial Announcement
CFDA Number:	94.006

Summary Statement: This is a funding opportunity for Institutions of higher education, local governments, including 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 by serving.

Disclosure: Publication of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (Notice) does not obligate ServeNebraska to award any specific number of grants or to commit any particular amount of funding. The actual level, 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 March 1, 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 11-12, 2024 – Program Leader Launch Omaha UNO engagement center
  - Monthly Program Leader webinar trainings, (schedule posted on ServeNebraska portal)
  - October 2024 – AmeriCorps Kick Off Event (Members and Program Leaders)
  - January 2025 – MLK Day of Service
  - February 2025 – Legislative Visits Lincoln
  - March 2025 – 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 budgeted for program year 2024-2025 administrative costs. All applicants are required to budget the maximum allowable federal resources for administrative/indirect costs and spend those administrative resources.

ServeNebraska will provide the most updated information on their website regarding the Notice of Funding, 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 and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities and those serving. AmeriCorps helps make service a cornerstone of our national culture.

The 2024 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding seeks to award AmeriCorps grants to eligible community partnerships that will engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions/practices 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.

Please see the AmeriCorps Focus Areas in Appendix I.

B. Funding Priorities

AmeriCorps released its 2022-2026 Strategic Plan which defines the agency's goals and objectives to advance the agency's mission to improve lives and strengthen communities. AmeriCorps will execute the following goals to better position the agency to respond to national and local needs and help the communities it serves prosper:

- Partner with communities to alleviate poverty and advance racial equity;
- Enhance the experience for AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers;
- Unite Americans by bringing them together in service;
- Effectively steward federal resources; and
- Make AmeriCorps one of the best and most equitable places to work in the federal government.

AmeriCorps will invest in existing and new partnerships with non-profit, faith-based, and Tribal organizations, and State Service Commissions to get things done for America. The agency will prioritize investment in the most critical issues of our time — public health, climate and the environment, and education and economic opportunity — within AmeriCorps' Focus Areas (Appendix 1) and will increase its efforts to ensure AmeriCorps members, AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers, and community-based volunteers reflect the communities where they serve. We will target our investments toward communities where the need is greatest, particularly those with populations that face racial inequality and poverty. These steps will enable more Americans than ever to strengthen the communities that need it most across the nation through their service.

ServeNebraskas' priorities for this funding opportunity are:

- 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;

- Evidence-based interventions on the [AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange](#) that are assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence. Please note that many of these interventions have demonstrated effectiveness in improving outcomes for individuals living in underserved communities and that the agency has committed resources to supporting grantees seeking to replicate and evaluate these interventions in similar communities;
- Veterans and Military Families, Caregivers, and Survivors – a program model that improves the quality of life of veterans and improves the well-being of military and veteran families, caregivers, and survivors;
- Faith-based organizations;
- 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;
- Environmental Stewardship, including supporting communities to become more resilient through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve land and water, increase renewable energy use and improve at-risk ecosystems, especially in underserved households and communities;
- Community-based programs that enhance and expand services to second chance youth and/or engage those youth as AmeriCorps members;
- Programs that support civic bridgebuilding programs and projects to reduce polarization and community divisions; and providing training in civic bridgebuilding skills and techniques to AmeriCorps members;
- Programs focused on implementing or expanding access to high-quality early learning and those that prepare AmeriCorps members to enter early learning careers.

To receive priority consideration, applicants must show that the priority area is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes and must include a high-quality program design. Proposing programs that receive priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

C.   Performance Goals or Expected Outcomes
National Performance Measures
ServeNebraska expects applicants to use National Performance Measures as part of a comprehensive performance measurement strategy that relies on both performance and evaluation data to learn from their work and make tactical and strategic adjustments to achieve their goals.

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. Award amounts will vary, as determined by the scope of the projects.

B. Estimated Availability of Funds

ServeNebraska expects a highly competitive AmeriCorps grant competition. Award amounts will vary as determined by the scope of the projects. ServeNebraska reserves the right to prioritize providing funding to existing awards over making new awards.

C. Period of Performance

ServeNebraska anticipates making three-year grant awards. The application is submitted with a one-year budget. Applicants may propose any program start date that aligns with their program design; however, the period of performance may not be before August 1, 2024. Continuation awards for subsequent years are not guaranteed; they depend upon availability of future appropriations and satisfactory performance. For fully funded awards (those who have received more than one year of funding), those funds are guaranteed. 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 or a Fixed Amount grant, to any successful applicant, but the availability of a Full-Cost Fixed Amount grant is limited to certain applicants.

Professional Corps applicants are ineligible to receive Cost Reimbursement grants. See the C. Eligible Applicants section 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 to apply 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. New applicants are eligible to apply for EAP grants.

Grant Types	Cost Reimbursement	Fixed Amount			
Available Subtypes	Traditional	Full-Cost	Education Award Program (EAP)	Professional Corps See MSI for further requirements	No Cost Slots
Maximum Cost per MSY*	$27,000	$27,000	$800 or $1,000**	$1,000	$0
Type of Slots in the National Service Trust***	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT	FT Only	FT, TQT, HT, RHT, QT, MT, AT
Budget Submission Required	Yes	No		No	No
Availability of Funds linked to enrollment and 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 & not included in budget.	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).

** Per 42 U.S.C. § 12581a, the Corporation may provide the operational support under this section for a program in an amount that is not more than $800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position, or not more than $1,000 per such individual if at least 50 percent of the persons enrolled in the program are disadvantaged youth.

***FT = Full-Time, TQT = Three-Quarter Time, HT= Half-Time, RHT = Reduced Half-Time, QT = Quarter-Time, MT = Minimum-Time, AT = Abbreviated-Time

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 to receive an award. See Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM) for more information.

New Applicants
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 (for Single-State Applicants)
Organizations that propose to operate in only one state must apply through the Governor-appointed State or Territory Commissions. Each Commission administers its own selection process and submits the applications it selects 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 the AmeriCorps deadlines and may have additional requirements.

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. If an entity applies for an award as a tribal organization that is controlled or chartered by one or more Indian Tribes, the organization must provide copies or links to documentation which demonstrates that the organization is controlled or chartered by a federally recognized Indian Tribe. If an entity applies as an organization authorized by a federally recognized tribe, or multiple specific federally recognized tribes, it must submit a resolution or other authorization, adopted by the Tribal Council (or comparable tribal governing body) of each Indian Tribe. The authorization(s) must identify the entity applying for an AmeriCorps award by name as a tribal organization that is authorized by the Indian Tribe(s) for the purpose of applying for AmeriCorps funding (or federal grant funds generally).

In addition to being eligible to apply under this Notice, 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. AmeriCorps may request applicants apply under the Tribal competition, rather than under this Notice.

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 (e.g., tutoring programs: 45 CFR 2522.910-.940), the applicant must describe how the program will meet these requirements.
- In order to be considered for funding, all applicants must propose program designs that are either evidence-based or evidence-informed. Applicants assessed as lower than the Preliminary evidence tier (i.e., Pre-Preliminary) must provide adequate responses to the Evidence Quality review.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

There is no cost share or matching requirement for Fixed Amount grants. ServeNebraska/AmeriCorps does not provide all the funds necessary to operate the program, therefore organizations should raise the additional revenue required to operate the program.

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 demonstrate the ability to meet the match requirement at the time of application submission. See Section D.6. Funding Restrictions for more information.

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 year to 50 percent by year ten, according to the minimum overall share chart found in 45 CFR 2521.60 and below.

AmeriCorps Funding Year	1, 2, 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
Grantee Share Requirements	24%	26%	30%	34%	38%	42%	46%	50%

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.

Alternative Match

Under certain circumstances, applicants may qualify to meet alternative matching requirements that increase over the years to 35 percent instead of 50 percent as specified in 45 CFR 2521.60(b). To qualify, applicants must demonstrate that the proposed program is either located in a rural county or in a severely economically distressed community as defined in the Application Instructions. Applicants who plan to request an alternative match schedule should submit a request at the time the application is submitted. Programs applying through ServeNebraska must submit requests for alternative match, who will submit it to AmeriCorps on their behalf. Commissions and National Directs will submit requests via the Alternative Match Request form located on the AmeriCorps.gov Manage Your Grant webpage.

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.

Applications that propose to engage in activities that are prohibited under AmeriCorps's statutes, regulations, or the terms and conditions of its awards are not eligible to receive AmeriCorps funding.

Note that under appropriations provisions annually enacted by Congress, if AmeriCorps is aware that any corporation has any unpaid federal tax liability
- that has been assessed; and
- for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed; and
- that not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability,

that corporation is not eligible for an award under this Notice. However, this exclusion will not apply to a corporation that a Federal agency has considered for suspension or debarment and determined that suspension or debarment is not necessary to protect the interests of the federal government.

Pursuant to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, an organization described in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. §501 (c)(4) that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply for AmeriCorps funding.

C. 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 SAM Quick Guide for Grantees.

SAM registration must be renewed annually. ServeNebraska suggests 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 issues that may arise. **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 eGrants must match exactly the applicant's SAM-registered information.

ServeNebraska will not make awards to entities that do not have a valid Unique Entity Identifier, which is generated as part of the SAM registration process. If an applicant has not fully complied with these requirements by the time ServeNebraska is ready to make an award, ServeNebraska may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

The federal government has implemented Unique Entity Identifiers (UEI) as part of the SAM registration process to replace DUNS numbers. Applicants must include their UEI to their application as part of the clarification or pre-award process.

Applications must include a Employer Identification Number. The UEI number does not replace an Employer Identification Number.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Submission to ServeNebraska

Applicants must submit all required documents electronically by the application deadline of March 1, 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 webpage.

1. Download the following documents from the ServeNebraska website:
    - 2024 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity
    - 2024 Mandatory Supplemental Guidance
    - 2024 AmeriCorps Application Instructions
    - 2024 National Performance Measures instructions
    - 2024 Budget template
    - 2024 Performance Measure template
    - 2024 Logic Model template

2. Follow the instructions included in the 2024 AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity and 2024 AmeriCorps Application Instructions documents for completing and submitting an 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 eGrants system at the time of entry after clarifications
    - Narrative Sections
        o   Executive Summary:
        o   Program Design
        o   Organizational Capability
        o   Cost-Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy
        o   Evaluation Summary/Plan
    - Logic Model
    - Performance Measures
    - Standard Form 424A Budget
    - Continuation Changes
    - Clarification
    - Authorization, Assurances, and Certifications

4. All applications and supplemental items must be submitted electronically to the ServeNebraska email, dhhs.americorps@nebraska.gov.

5. Email all application documents using the following format:
    - Subject Line: Legal Applicant Name
    - Body of the email: Identify the legal name and point of contact information
    - A list of documents that are attached to the email by filename, labeling each document type according to the above numbered list
    - Individually attached files that are clearly labeled, and that include the legal applicant name within the file name and heading of each document. To ensure that all required

additional documents are considered, please provide each document as a separate single file, labeled appropriately. Please do not send multiple documents in one combined file, and do not send a single document in multiple files.

Failure to submit the required additional documents, following the email instructions in this section, by the deadline may have a negative effect on the assessment of an application.

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 10, double-spaced pages The Narrative includes:
    - SF-424 Face Sheet (created after awarding of grant funds)
    - Executive Summary
    - Program Design for, Organizational Capacity, and Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy narratives.

    The application page limit does not include:
    - Evaluation Plan/Summary
    - Clarification Summary
    - Continuation Changes
    - Budget, performance measures
    - Operational and Financial Management Survey (Submit the OFMS as a Word document. Forms submitted as a PDF or any other document format may not be accepted).

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

NOTE: The length of a document in word processing software may be different than what will print out in the AmeriCorps web-based system, eGrants, where you will submit your final and approved application. This applies to both the Application and Logic Model page limits. ServeNebraska will not consider any submitted material that exceeds the page limits in the printed report.

Supplemental Documents
The following supplemental documents are not included in the page limits:
- Evaluation briefs, reports, studies. Please refer to the *Evidence Base* section of the *Notice* 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 eGrants system. At that time, you will agree to all assurances and certifications.

Re-compete applicants who have previously received three or more years of funding for the same project being proposed:
- Evaluation plan. Please use the evaluation plan template available on the Notice webpage. Evaluation plans are not scored and will not be reviewed until after funding decisions are made.

Re-compete applicants who have previously received six or more years of funding for the same project being proposed:
- Evaluation report. Please submit as a Word document. The evaluation report should include a title page with the AmeriCorps grant number for the project that was evaluated, the name of the project, and the date of completion of the report. 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 the OFMS as a Word document. Forms submitted as a PDF or any other document format may not be accepted.

B. Application Submission Deadline
Applications must be submitted electronically to ServeNebraska no later than **March 1, 2024 by 5:00pm CST** to be considered.

ServeNebraska will not consider applications received after the deadline, expect when noted in 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 published in this Notice of Funding Opportunity are presumed to be non-compliant. ServeNebraska may, at their discretion, consider an application received after the deadline, but only if the applicant submits a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstances(s) that caused the delay, including the timing and specific cause(s) of the delay and any evidence that supports the circumstance(s). This must take place within one business day after the application deadline stated 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.

V. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

A. Minimum Program Size
The minimum program size by 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. Exceptions are noted below.

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.

Table: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1,700	$18,700	$37,400
Three Quarter-time	1,200	n/a	$26,180
Half-time	900	n/a	$18,700
Reduced Half-time	675	n/a	$14,212
Quarter-time	450	n/a	$9,724
Minimum-time	300	n/a	$7,854
Abbreviated-time	100	n/a	$2,244

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 not the maximum requirement set forth in the Living Allowance table in this Notice.
- **Education Award Program (EAP) Grantees** are not required to provide a living allowance, but if a living allowance is provided, it must comply with the maximum requirements set forth in the Living Allowance Table in this Notice.
- **Professional Corps Grantees** must provide members a living allowance or salary, which must meet the minimum, but may exceed the maximum living allowance set in the Living Allowance Table in this Notice. 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). The MSY is similar to a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE), measuring positions as a fraction of full-time. A full-time member is 1 MSY and half-time member is .5 MSY. An AmeriCorps grant is determined based on the number of MSY's that a grantee will support.

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 CNCS Share 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.

Table: Maximum Cost per MSY

Grant Program	Maximum
Individual Competitive State/Territory Program (cost reimbursement)	$27,000
Professional Corps competitive Fixed Amount Applicants/Grantees	$1,000*
Full-cost competitive Fixed Amount Grant	$27,000
Education Award Program (EAP) Fixed Amount Grant (competitive and formula)	$800 or $1,000**

*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.

** Per 42 U.S.C. 12581a, the Corporation may provide the operational support under this section for a program in an amount that is not more than $800 per individual enrolled in an approved national service position, or not more than $1,000 per such individual if at least 50 percent of the persons enrolled in the program are disadvantaged youth.

***$18,000 adjusted for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers.

ServeNebraska reserves the right to 1) treat an applicant that meets the statutory requirements of a Professional Corps as such, whether or not they submitted their application as a Professional Corps program; and 2) determine whether an applicant has demonstrated inability to effectively operate in the absence of AmeriCorps operating funds.

D. 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. Use the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award webpage for more information.

E. Indirect Costs

Application budgets may include indirect costs. Based on qualifying factors, applicants may either use a Federally approved indirect cost rate or a 10 percent *de minimis* rate of modified total direct costs, or may claim certain costs directly, as outlined in 2 CFR 200.4133 states, local governments, and Indian Tribes may use previously approved indirect cost allocation plans. All methods must be applied consistently across all federal awards. Applicants that have a federal negotiated indirect cost rate, or that will be using the 10% de minimis rate, must enter that information in the Organization section in eGrants. However, 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, no more than five percent of award funds may be used to recover indirect costs on AmeriCorps State and National grants.

See the AmeriCorps eGrants Indirect Cost Rate (IDCR) User Instructions for how to enter the organization's indirect cost rate. Applicants should not submit documentation addressing the indirect cost rate agreement via email.

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@cns.gov. The applicant may also obtain instructions and additional information by contacting the email address above.

F. 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 be reviewed for funding using a multi-stage process that includes ServeNebraska Staff Review, Clarification and Feedback, and ServeNebraska Commission approval.

Compliance Check

ServeNebraska staff will review all applications to determine compliance with eligibility, deadlines, and completeness of the requirements. Applications that are submitted by eligible organizations by the deadline and that meet minimal compliance check requirements will advance to Staff Review.

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 receive requests to provide clarifying information and/or make changes to their application and/or budget. This information is used by ServeNebraska staff in making funding recommendations. Applications may be recommended for funding even if they are not asked clarifications or questions. An applicant's failure to respond to a request for clarification adequately and in a timely manner may result in the removal of its application from the award process. A request for clarification does not guarantee funding.

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

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

Applicant Resolution

Applicants may be requested to provide additional information after notification of competition results to resolve any issues prior to award. ServeNebraska will ask all grantees for a written compliance implementation plan that includes notification of waste, fraud, and abuse to ServeNebraska. An applicant's failure to respond adequately and in a timely manner may result in the removal of its application from the award process.

Transparency in Grant Making
ServeNebraska is committed to transparency in grant-making. A list of all approved applications for new and re-competing applications will be published on the ServeNebraska website.

Information about funded grants and subgrants is also available on USASpending.gov.

B. **Selection Criteria**
Each applicant must clearly describe a project that will deploy AmeriCorps members effectively to solve a significant community need. ServeNebraska urges applicants to submit a high-quality application that carefully follows the guidance in this Notice of Funding and in the Application Instructions. The quality of an application will be an important factor in determining whether an organization will receive funding.
   1. **Pre-Award Risk Assessment**
   ServeNebraska staff will assess the risks to the program posed by each applicant to determine an applicant's ability to manage Federal funds. This evaluation is in addition to those about the applicant's eligibility and the quality of its application on the basis of the Selection Criteria. Results from this assessment will inform funding decisions. If ServeNebraska determines that an award will

be made to an applicant with assessed risks, special conditions that correspond to the degree of assessed risk may be applied to the award. Additionally, if ServeNebraska concludes that the reasons for applicants having poor risk assessment are not likely to be mitigated, those applications may not be selected for funding.

In assessing risks, ServeNebraska may consider the following criteria:
   a. Due Diligence, including:
      • Federal debt delinquency
      • Suspension and debarment
      • Information available through Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as:
         o Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)
         o U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services
         o System for Award Management (SAM)
         o "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
      • Public Litigation Records

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

   c. Past Performance, including:
      • Applicant's record in managing previous AmeriCorps awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:
         o Timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements
         o Conformance to the terms and conditions of previous federal awards
         o Applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients
         o Timely closeout of other awards
         o Meeting matching requirements
         o The extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards
         o National service criminal history check 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
      • Other elements, such as keyword searches for prohibited activities

2. **Consideration of Integrity and Performance System Information**
Prior to making any award that exceeds the $250,000, ServeNebraska/AmeriCorps is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and

performance system accessible through SAM.gov (See 41 U.S.C. §2313). Additionally, AmeriCorps may expand upon these requirements and use its discretion to review and consider information about any applicant receiving an award, including those under $250,000.

Any applicant may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM.gov and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM.gov.

ServeNebraska may consider comments by any applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing its review of risk posed by the applicant under the E.2.c. Risk Assessment Evaluation section of this Notice.

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**	7
• **Member Retention**	8
• **Data Collection**	7
• **Budget Alignment to Program Design**	3

Executive Summary (0 percent):

Please fill in the blanks of these sentences to complete the Executive Summary. Do not deviate from this template:

"The [Name of the organization] will have [Number of] AmeriCorps members who will [service activities the members will be doing] in [the locations the AmeriCorps members will serve]. 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].

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."

Fixed-Amount grant applicants (EAP, Full-Cost Fixed, No Cost Slots) should list their Other Revenue (use the Mandatory Supplemental Information) in the Executive Summary because they are not required to provide a specific amount of match, but still raise significant additional resources to operate the program.

Program Design (50 percent):

Reviewers will consider the quality of the application's response to the criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value. Please ensure the Community and Logic Model incorporates the funding priorities listed above, for example supporting communities historically excluded and/or underserved from government services, addressing structural and institutional inequities, or increasing opportunity in order to achieve sustainable change in communities.

Community and Logic Model (24 points)
The applicant will provide a detailed summary of the community problem, including:
- The role current or historical inequities faced by underserved communities may play in contributing to the problem.
- The community need as it relates to the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index and to communicate the severity and prevalence of the problem.

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 will depict in the Logic Model:
- The inputs or resources that are necessary to deliver the intervention, including but not limited to:
  o Locations or sites in which members will provide services
  o Context in which the intervention is delivered (e.g., the setting where the intervention is delivered)
  o Number of AmeriCorps members who will deliver the intervention
  o Characteristics of AmeriCorps members, including specific knowledge, skills, and abilities required to implement the intervention
- The core activities that define the intervention or program model that members will implement or deliver, including:
  o Duration of the intervention (e.g., the total number of weeks, sessions or months of the intervention)
  o Dosage of the intervention (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 demonstrate 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 (use the A.2 Funding Priorities section), will be assessed and scored.

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.

In 2024, the evidence tiers of successful AmeriCorps State and National applicants that were competing were as follows: Strong 25 percent, Moderate 12 percent, Preliminary 20 percent, and Pre-Preliminary 43 percent. As these figures indicate, AmeriCorps values and funds programs at all points along the evidence continuum and expects programs to progress along the evidence continuum over time. Thus, **applicants should not be deterred from applying for funding due to their current evidence level**.

Applicants who have outcome or impact evaluation reports of the same intervention described in the application and Logic Model (use the [Mandatory Supplemental Information](#) for a definition of "same intervention") may submit up to two of those reports, plus (if applicable) the evaluation report from their last three-year grant cycle, to qualify for the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tier. In order to qualify for consideration, the intervention evaluated in the submitted report(s) must match the intervention proposed by the applicant in the following areas, all of which must be clearly described in the Community and Logic Model sections of the application:
- Characteristics of the beneficiary population, including evidence of current or historic inequities facing the population;
- Characteristics of the population delivering the intervention;
- Dosage (frequency and duration) and design of the intervention, including all key components and activities;
- The context in which the intervention is delivered; and
- Outcome of the intervention.

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.

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In the Evidence Tier section of the application narrative, applicants must (1) summarize the study design and key findings of any outcome or impact evaluation report(s) submitted and (2) 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, if applicable; however, reviewers will not review any documents external to the application other than evaluation report(s) submitted in accordance with the Notice instructions.

Applicants must meet all requirements of an evidence tier in order to be considered for that tier.

If the evaluation reports submitted by the applicant do not meet the definitions in the Mandatory Supplemental Information, the applicant may be considered for a lower evidence tier.

Evidence Quality (8 points)
After the applicant's evidence tier has been assessed, the quality of the applicant's evidence and the extent to which it supports the proposed program design will be assessed and scored.

Applicants who are assessed as being in the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tiers, reviewers will score the submitted evaluation reports using the following standards:
- The submitted reports 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.);
- The submitted reports describe evaluations that were conducted relatively recently, preferably within the last six years;
- The submitted reports show a meaningful and significant positive effect on program beneficiaries or AmeriCorps members in at least one key outcome of interest.

Applicants that are assessed as being in the Pre-Preliminary evidence tier, reviewers will score the narrative provided in the Evidence Base section of the application using the following standards:
- 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;
- 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.

Applicants assessed in the Pre-Preliminary evidence tier that do not provide adequate responses to the Evidence Quality standards will not meet the threshold requirements for this Notice and will not be considered for funding.

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 the A.2

and more fully described in the .

Member Experience (6 points)
- The applicant details how AmeriCorps members will be provided an opportunity to be leaders and gain skills during their term of service that will be valued by future employers (e.g., workforce pathways, increasing levels of responsibility and leadership roles for members).
- The applicant details how AmeriCorps members will be provided a high quality orientation to the community they will serve in that is from an asset based frame and guided and informed by the community.

Organizational Capability (25 percent):

Reviewers will consider the quality of the application's response to the following criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

1. Organizational Background and Staffing (15 points)
- The applicant details the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the staff that will be implementing, providing oversight, and monitoring the program.
- The applicant has facilitated, partnered, or participated in educational or workforce development programs (i.e., pre-apprenticeship/registered apprenticeship, work experience and job training programs, etc.)
- 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.

2. Member Supervision (6 points)
- The applicant details 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 details how AmeriCorps supervisors will be adequately trained/prepared 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 is demonstrated by the organization (e.g., diversity on the Board of Directors, agency staff and leadership, and/or volunteers) and the organization upholds a supportive and safe environment for individuals of diverse backgrounds.

Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 percent):

Reviewers will assess the quality of the application's response to the following criteria below.

1. Member Recruitment (7 points)
- The applicant provides a description of budget expenses to support successful recruitment of AmeriCorps members best suited to serve the community, for example from geographic or demographic communities in which the program operates.

2. Member Retention (8 points)
- The applicant provides a description of budget expenses to support retention of AmeriCorps members (e.g., additional member benefits such as increasing 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 (7 points)
- The applicant provides a description of budget expenses to support data collection, continuous improvement activities, and evaluation in service to evaluating the interventions and impact on the community and the member experience).

4. Budget Alignment to Program Design (3 points)
- The applicant's budget is aligned to the program design outlined in the narrative, meaning activities discussed in the narrative are incorporated in the budget in the agency or applicant share.

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 submit an evaluation plan as an attachment (use the D.7.b Submission of Additional Documents section for more information). If the applicant has previously received six or more years of competitive funding for the same project being proposed, the applicant must submit both an evaluation plan and an evaluation report as attachments.

Applicants should use the evaluation plan template found on the Notice webpage to craft their evaluation plans. The template document provides detailed information about the AmeriCorps evaluation requirements (45 CFR 2522.700 -.710)and specifies the information that must be provided for the evaluation plan to be approved by AmeriCorps. 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.

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

ServeNebraska will make awards following the selection announcement to 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 will be subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 2205

Requests for Monitoring or Payment Integrity Information

ServeNebraska 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. 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 2024 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, and the FY 2024 Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for the particular program (when applicable). These Terms and Conditions contain detailed, 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 webpage.

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. We encourage grantees to minimize barriers to service without putting their program beneficiaries at genuine risk. The law requires grantees to conduct and document NSCHCs on persons (including award-funded staff, national service participant, or volunteer) receiving a salary, living allowance, stipend, or education award through a program receiving AmeriCorps funds. This includes staff that receive part of their salary through a subgrant.

- Award recipients and subrecipients must conduct an NSCHC for AmeriCorps members, AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers, and staff funded under, or whose salary is reflected as match on the award. Limited exceptions are described in 45 CFR 2540.201.

- AmeriCorps strongly encourages applicants to review the regulations and additional guidance to fully understand how to comply with the requirements. Use the [NSCHC regulations and guidance](#).
- AmeriCorps also strongly encourages award recipients to utilize the two AmeriCorps-approved vendors to conduct the required NSCHCs.
- The cost of conducting NSCHC is an allowable expense under the award and the individual subject to the NSCHC must not be required to cover the cost.
- Failure to fully comply with all NSCHC requirements will result in significant disallowed costs.

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.

See [45 CFR 2540.200– 2540.207](#) and [National Service Criminal History Check Resources](#) for complete information and FAQs.
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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 ([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](#). Final financial and progress reports are due 120 days after the end of the agreement.

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 2024 are considered continuation applicants. Continuation applicants must submit an application in order to be eligible to receive funding for the FY 2024 program year. Continuation applicants must follow the requirements for continuation application content as outlined in the Application Instructions.

Continuation application review will also be based on progress reports, the federal financial report, evaluation plans, and ServeNebraska 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 in an amount less than the requested level of funding and will document the rationale for doing so.

Refocusing of Funding
ServeNebraska 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 current valid. (Use 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, 2023.

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.

APPENDIX I – AMERICORPS FOCUS AREAS

AmeriCorps Focus Areas

The National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended by the Serve America Act, emphasizes measuring the impact of service and focusing on a core set of issue areas. In order to carry out Congress's intent and to maximize the impact of investment in national service, and to achieve the goals laid out in AmeriCorps' Strategic Plan (2022-2026), AmeriCorps has the following Focus Areas:

Disaster Services
Helping individuals and communities prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of disasters and increase community resiliency.

Economic Opportunity
Improving the economic well-being and security of underserved individuals.

Education
Improving educational outcomes for underserved people, especially children. AmeriCorps is particularly interested in program designs that support youth engagement and service learning as strategies to achieve high educational outcomes.

Environmental Stewardship
Supporting communities to become more resilient through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve land and water, increase renewable energy use and improve at-risk ecosystems, especially in underserved households and communities.

Healthy Futures
Supporting for health needs within communities, including mitigating the impacts of public health crises, access to care, aging in place, public health, and addressing childhood obesity, especially in underserved communities.

Veterans and Military Families
Improving the quality of life of veterans, military families, caregivers, and survivors.