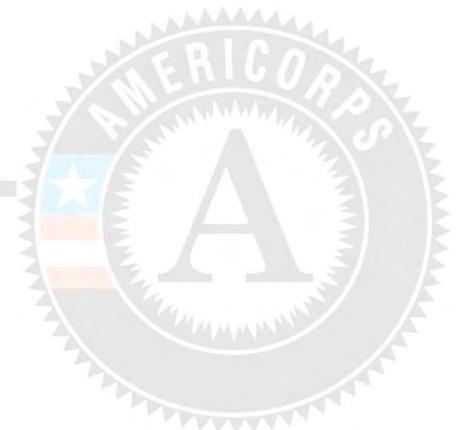




AmeriCorps State and National
presents...



Key AmeriCorps Grant Terminology and Resources

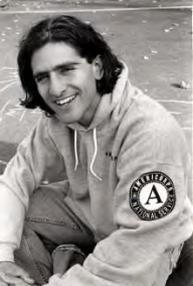
A presentation for organizations interested in learning the basics of AmeriCorps Grants



Agenda



- ★ Session Objectives
- ★ Introduction to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) & AmeriCorps
- ★ Basic AmeriCorps Concepts & Terminology
- ★ AmeriCorps Grant Applicant Resources



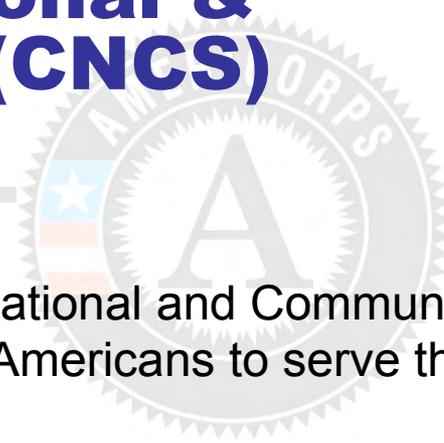
Session Objectives



- ★ Learn about CNCS and AmeriCorps
- ★ Understand Basic AmeriCorps Grant Concepts & Terminology
- ★ Know how to access and navigate online resources and materials



Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS)



- ★ was created in 1993 through the signing of the National and Community Service Trust Act which expanded opportunities for Americans to serve their communities through national service.
- ★ is the nation's largest grantmaker supporting service and volunteering
- ★ engages millions of Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service each year through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America
- ★ promotes United We Serve – www.Serve.gov

For more info on CNCS please review our strategic plan:

http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/11_0203_cnsc_strategic_plan.pdf



CNCS Continued

Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act 2009



Signed on April 21, 2009

The Serve America Act went into effect on October 1, 2009.

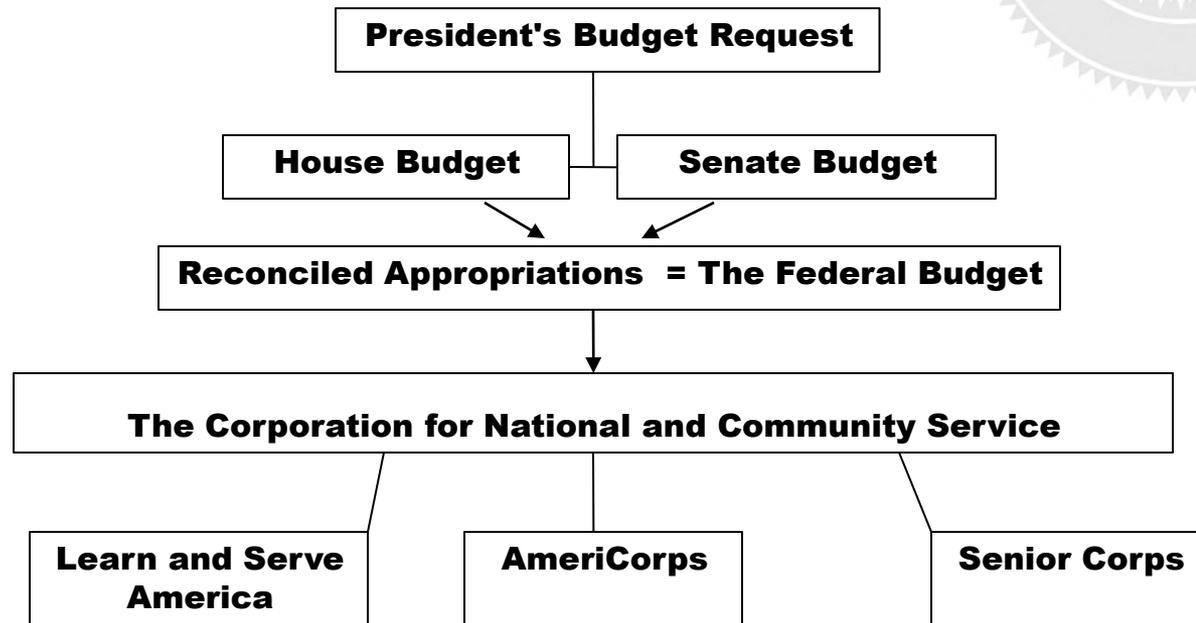
More information on the Serve America Act can be found at:

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/serveamerica/index.asp>

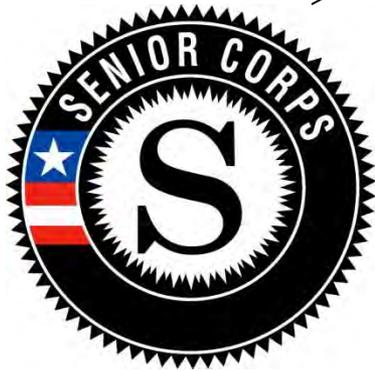


How does AmeriCorps get its funding?

CNCS receives funding annually through the federal budget making process.



Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 

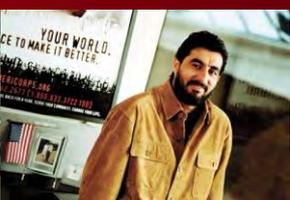


AmeriCorps

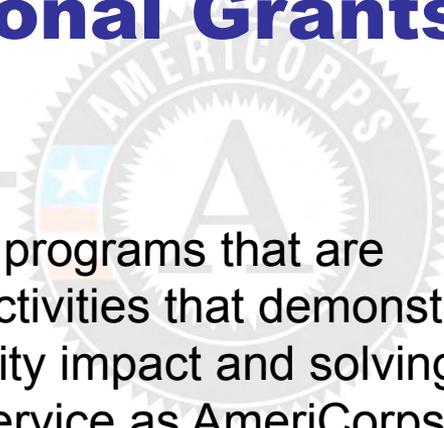
is an umbrella that consists of 3 programs:



- ★ AmeriCorps VISTA: provides full-time AmeriCorps members to community organizations and public agencies to serve in high-poverty, low-income communities.
- ★ AmeriCorps NCCC: a full-time residential program for men and women, ages 18-24 who engage in short-term service projects across the country.
- ★ AmeriCorps State and National: provides grants that support a broad range of service programs that engage thousands of Americans in intensive service to meet critical community needs.



AmeriCorps State & National Grants



AmeriCorps Grants: Provide funding to high-quality programs that are developed by an applicant who designs a set of activities that demonstrate an evidence-based approach to creating community impact and solving community problems by engaging individuals in service as AmeriCorps members.

AmeriCorps Grants:

- ★ Provide partial funding to support AmeriCorps programs
- ★ Require recipients to contribute match funding
- ★ Include an allotment of AmeriCorps member positions
- ★ Are directly tied to a specific number of member positions
- ★ Are solely for program-related expenses
- ★ Vary in type and size
- ★ Are awarded to nonprofits, faith & secular community-based organizations, public agencies, Indian tribes, and institutions of higher education

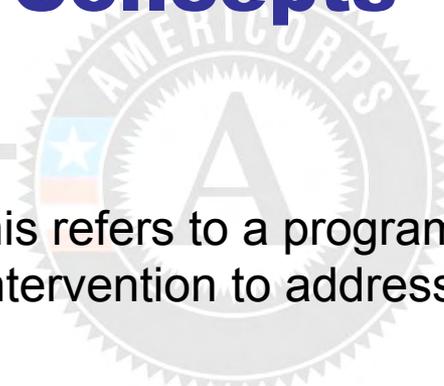


AmeriCorps Terms and Concepts

★ **Evidence-Based approach/ Evidence Basis:** This refers to a program's demonstration of why it is proposing a particular intervention to address the identified community problem.

□ Evidence for the intervention (member service activities) could be supported by:

- documented stories of success,
- research studies,
- performance data ,or
- by describing a successful program model being replicated that is making significant community impact.



AmeriCorps Terms and Concepts

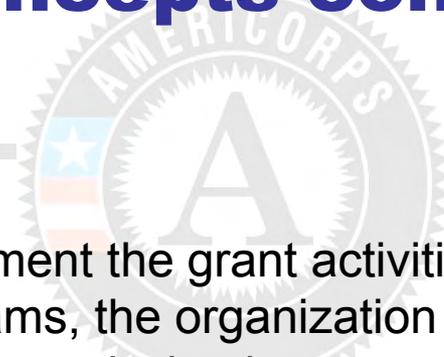


- ★ **AmeriCorps Program:** An organization that has received an AmeriCorps grant and operates a service program.
- ★ **Grantee:** The direct recipient of the grant funds.
- ★ **Single-State:** An AmeriCorps Program operating solely within one state. This program receives an AmeriCorps grant from a State Service Commission.
- ★ **Multi-State:** An AmeriCorps Program operating in two or more states. This program receives an AmeriCorps grant directly from CNCS.



AmeriCorps Terms and Concepts cont.

- ★ **Subgrantee:** The local organizations which implement the grant activities on the local level. For single-state AmeriCorps programs, the organization receiving the grant funds from the State Service Commission is a subgrantee of that Commission. For multi-state AmeriCorps programs, the subgrantee is the partner organization or affiliate that manages the program in the different states.
- ★ **Operating Sites and Service Locations:** Operating sites and service locations are terms used to describe the place where a member completes the service activities. In many programs, members are assigned to one operating site or service location for the duration of their term of service; however, some members work at multiple service locations or rotate between locations during their term.



State Service Commissions

- ★ Are comprised of boards nominated and appointed by a state's governor who oversee the implementation of national/community service and volunteer initiatives in their state.
- ★ Provide Corporation funding to single state AmeriCorps programs through annual grant competitions.
- ★ Most employ staff that manage, monitor and evaluate single state AmeriCorps programs. Staff can also administer state specific volunteer initiatives.
- ★ During the application process, they provide feedback to the Corporation on the multi-state programs operating in their state.



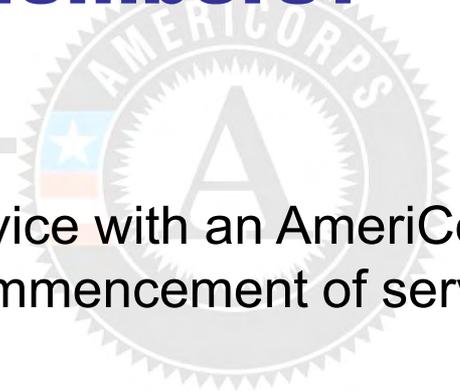
AmeriCorps Members



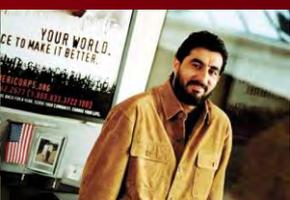
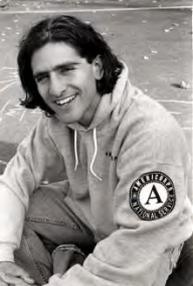
AmeriCorps Member Benefits and Eligibility



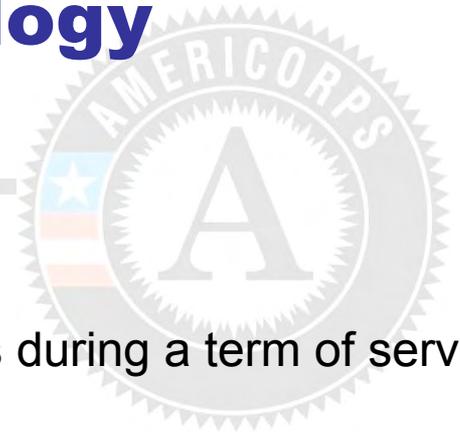
Who are AmeriCorps Members?



- ★ Individuals enrolled for a specific term of service with an AmeriCorps program. Must be at least 17 years old at commencement of service.
- ★ Members are not volunteers or employees.
- ★ Some AmeriCorps members receive a living allowance, health insurance and child care assistance to support them during their term of service.
- ★ AmeriCorps members receive the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award upon successfully completing a term of service.
- ★ All AmeriCorps members are subject to criminal history checks



Member Terminology



★ Living Allowance:

- ★ The stipend an AmeriCorps member receives during a term of service to pay for personal expenses.
- ★ The Corporation publishes a maximum living allowance for all AmeriCorps member positions and a minimum amount that a full-time member must receive.
- ★ Only full-time members are required to receive a living allowance.

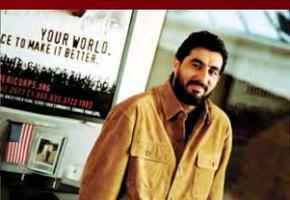


Member Terminology cont.

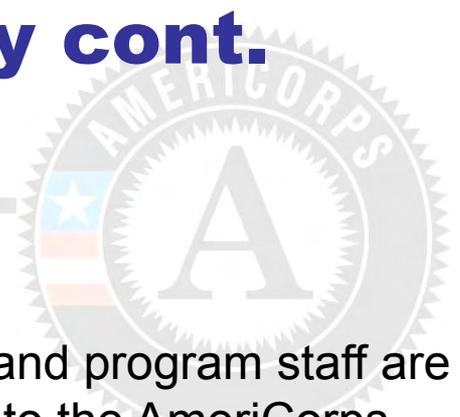


★ Segal AmeriCorps Education Award:

- ★ A benefit provided to an AmeriCorps member who has successfully completed a term of service in AmeriCorps.
- ★ Can be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training, or to repay qualified student loans
- ★ Maximum amount of the education award depends on the type of member position and the number of hours the member served at the time of the successful exit
- ★ Provided to the member through the National Service Trust
- ★ Not included within the AmeriCorps grant funds
- ★ Members have up to seven years after a term of service has ended to use the award



Member Terminology cont.



★ Prohibited Activities:

- ★ Specific activities that AmeriCorps members and program staff are not allowed to engage in when charging time to the AmeriCorps program. A complete list of prohibited activities can be found here: http://www.americorps.gov/help/ac_sn_all/2010_Megasearch_Site.html



Member Terminology cont.



- ★ **Member Service Year (MSY):** One member service year is equivalent to one full-time AmeriCorps member. AmeriCorps funds are contingent on the number of MSYs requested by the program.
- ★ **AmeriCorps member term/slot type:** There are five types of AmeriCorps member terms or slots: full time, half time, reduced half time, quarter time, and minimum time. The total MSYs a program requests depends on the number and type of slots/AmeriCorps member positions included in a particular program design.



Member Terms of Service

Member Term	Minimum Hours Served	Maximum Length of Term
Full Time (FT)	1,700	12 months
Half Time (HT)	900	24 months (usually 12)
Reduced Half Time (RHT)	675	12 months
Quarter Time (QT)	450	12 months
Minimum Time (MT)	300	12 months



Cost per MSY



- ★ **Cost Per MSY is calculated by dividing the total amount of the funds being requested from AmeriCorps by the total MSY a program is requesting.**
- ★ **The maximum amount is published annually in the Notice of Funding Opportunity**
- ★ **May vary depending on the type of AmeriCorps grant to which you apply**
- ★ **Is considered as a competitive factor during the grant application review process.**
- ★ **Programs designed and operated by Indian Tribes may request a cost per MSY higher than the maximum amount appearing in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.**



Cost per MSY



For Example:

If you intend to request \$266,000 and 20 FT AmeriCorps members for your AmeriCorps program, then the cost per MSY = \$13,300

- ★ If you multiply the maximum cost per MSY by the number of MSY you are requesting for your program, the funds requested from CNCS should not exceed that total. In the example above, \$266,000 is the maximum amount this applicant should be requesting from CNCS.
- ★ AmeriCorps programs should not exceed the maximum cost per MSY.



Ready to Learn More?



AmeriCorps web site: www.americorps.gov

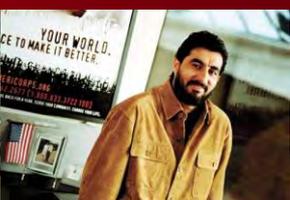
AmeriCorps FAQ: http://www.americorps.gov/pdf/american_corps_grants_faq_2012.pdf

Participate in another call with the AmeriCorps Outreach team. There is a link to our call schedule on our NOFO page:

http://www.americorps.gov/pdf/11_0926_applicant_call%20schedule_fy_2012.pdf

Calls will cover the following topics:

- ★ The different types of AmeriCorps Grants
- ★ Program grant application instructions
- ★ Planning grant application instructions
- ★ AmeriCorps Program budgets



Program Development Resources



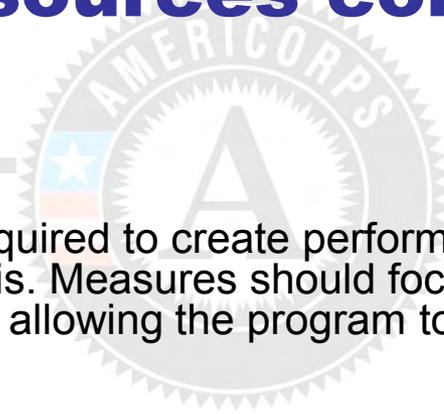
Link to The Resource Center: <http://www.nationalservicerresources.org/>

Online Resource to Help you Design your AmeriCorps Program: Learning Pathways for Program Start-Up

- ★ The [AmeriCorps Program Start-Up Online Resource](http://www.nationalservicerresources.org/program-start-up) is a learning pathway to information, resources and tools to successfully launch and sustain an AmeriCorps Program. It is designed to align online resources with each phase of the start-up of your program and navigate your organization through the steps necessary to establish the components of a strong and effective AmeriCorps Program.
- ★ <http://www.nationalservicerresources.org/program-start-up>
- ★ **Budget Tutorial for AmeriCorps Programs**
<http://www.nationalservicerresources.org/online-courses/preparing-the-grant-budget-for-ameri-corps-programs>



Program Development Resources cont.



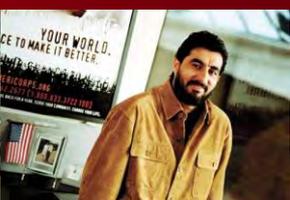
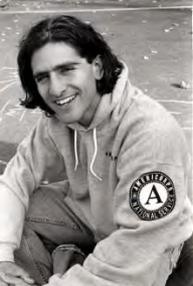
- ➔ **Performance Measures:** AmeriCorps programs are required to create performance measures to be tracked and reported on an annual basis. Measures should focus on the primary service activity of the AmeriCorps program, allowing the program to describe its impact on the beneficiaries of the service.
- ➔ **AmeriCorps performance measures** consist of **outputs** (amount of service beneficiaries reached, projects completed or services delivered by a program) and **intermediate outcomes** (changes or benefits experienced by service beneficiaries and are the results achieved during the grant cycle).
- ➔ Applicants may create their own performances or select from Corporation created National Performance Measures

Performance Measurement Resources:

<http://www.nationalserviceresources.org/star/ac>

<http://www.nationalserviceresources.org/national-performance-measures/home>

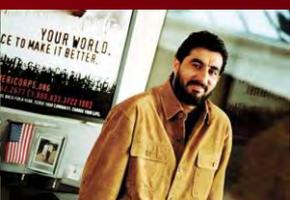
http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=91



Application Materials and Important Information



- ★ **AmeriCorps Regulations:** 45 Code of Federal Regulations Sections 2520-2550 (www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr) are the rules governing AmeriCorps programs and includes important topics such as matching requirements and program management requirements.
- ★ **For our Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) please visit:**
 - ★ http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp
- ★ **For the Application Instructions and additional application materials, please visit:**
 - ★ http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=91



Where and How to Submit Your Application

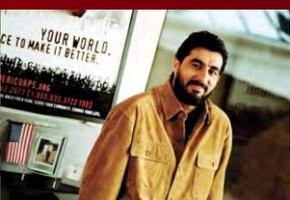


Link to eGrants

★ <http://www.nationalservice.gov/egrants/>

★ **eGrants Step by Step Online Tutorial for submitting an application:**

<https://etr.webex.com/etr/ldr.php?AT=pb&SP=MC&rID=46634707&rKey=ee4e724dc52f93b7>



For More Information



email AmeriCorpsGrants@cns.gov

call 202.606.7508

follow us on twitter @GROW_AmeriCorps



Getting Things Done for America

