

NOTICE of FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Federal Agency Name: AmeriCorps
Funding Opportunity Title: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 AmeriCorps State and National Native Nation Planning Grants
Announcement Type: Initial Announcement
Assistance Listing Number: 94.006

Summary Statement: This is an opportunity for Indian Tribes to apply to plan for AmeriCorps members to strengthen communities by serving.

Disclosure: Publication of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (Notice) does not obligate AmeriCorps 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

- Applications are due not later than **Friday, April 5, 2024** by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
- Successful applicants will be notified by **end of May 2024**.
- Successful applicants will be issued awards by **end of July 2024**.

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FULL TEXT OF THE NOTICE

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A.1. Purpose of AmeriCorps State and National Native Nation Planning Grant Funding

AmeriCorps is committed to working on a Nation-to-Nation basis with Tribal Nations and upholding the federal government's Tribal trust responsibility.

AmeriCorps planning grants provide support to a grant recipient to develop an AmeriCorps program that will engage AmeriCorps members in implementing evidence-based interventions to solve community problems. Grant recipients are awarded up to \$240,000 for a 12-month planning period and are encouraged to compete for an AmeriCorps program grant in the following grant cycle if they deem the fit with AmeriCorps to be of use to their community. A planning grant may not be used to support AmeriCorps members. Applicants will apply for a Cost Reimbursement grant. The project period is no more than a year, with a start date proposed by the applicant. The project start date may not occur prior to the date AmeriCorps awards the grant.

Please use the AmeriCorps Focus Areas in [Appendix I](#).

A.2. 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:

1. Partner with communities to alleviate poverty and advance racial equity
2. Enhance the experience for AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers
3. Unite Americans by bringing them together in service
4. Effectively steward federal resources
5. 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.

AmeriCorps' priorities for this funding opportunity are:

- The needs/challenges in your communities and
- The ability to translate the planning grant award into an application for AmeriCorps programming next year.

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.

A.3. Performance Goals or Expected Outcomes

National Performance Measures

AmeriCorps 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](#).

A.4. 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.](#))

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

B.1. Estimated Available Funds

AmeriCorps welcomes Native Nation applications. The actual level of funding is subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

B.2. Estimated Award Amount

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

B.3. Period of Performance

AmeriCorps anticipates making one-year grant awards. No applicants should plan on starting their AmeriCorps grant prior to August 15, 2024.

B.4. Type of Award

Award recipients will be assigned to an AmeriCorps Portfolio Manager, who will be responsible for assessing recipient performance, providing training and technical assistance, and serving as the agency's primary point of contact.

AmeriCorps State and National grants will be awarded if an application is successful.

Grant Types	Cost Reimbursement
Available Subtypes	Planning Grants
Budget Submission Required	Yes
Financial Reporting Requirements	Yes
Available to new Applicants	Yes

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

C.1. Eligible Applicants

The following non-Federal entities (as defined in [2 CFR 200.1](#)) are eligible to apply:

- Indian Tribes

Applicants must have a valid SAM registration and Unique Entity Identifier to receive an award. Use [Section D.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#) for more information.

New Applicants

AmeriCorps encourages organizations that have not received prior funding from AmeriCorps to apply.

Types of Applicants

1. *Federally recognized Indian Tribes*: Applicants that are Indian Tribes apply directly to AmeriCorps.

2. 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).

**C.2. Cost Sharing or Matching
Cost Reimbursement Grants**

Applicants are required to match funds based on the chart below. The applicant’s match can be non-AmeriCorps cash and/or in-kind contributions. Applicants must indicate whether the match is proposed or secured. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to meet the match requirement at the time of application submission. Use 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 AmeriCorps on a Federal Financial Report. Grantees must track and be prepared to report on that match separately each year and at closeout.

Match Waiver

Please use the Match Waiver information for AmeriCorps State and National Grantees located on the AmeriCorps.gov [Manage Your Grant](#) webpage. Native Nations will submit requests via the Alternative Match Request form located on the AmeriCorps.gov [Manage Your Grant](#) webpage.

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. Native Nations will submit requests via the Alternative Match Request form located on the AmeriCorps.gov [Manage Your Grant](#) webpage.

C.3. 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' 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;
- for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed; and
- that is 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.

D. Application and Submission Information

This Notice should be read together with the [AmeriCorps regulations, Application Instructions, Performance Measure Instructions, and Mandatory Supplemental Information](#). These documents are available online at [AmeriCorps.gov Funding Opportunities webpage](#).

D.1. Address to Request an Application Package

All information associated with this funding opportunity is available through the AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities webpages. Applicants should refer to [AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities](#) for more information and instructions on how to fully respond to this Notice. Applicants can also send an email to americorpsgrants@cns.gov or call (202) 606-7508 for a printed copy of the Notice, Guidance, and Application Instructions.

D.2. Content and Form of Application Submission

D.2.a. Application Content

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.
- Narrative Sections
 - Executive Summary:
 - Program Design

- Organizational Capability
- Cost-Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy
- Evaluation Summary/Plan
- Logic Model
- Performance Measures
- Standard Form 424A Budget
- Continuation Changes
- Clarification
- Authorization, [Assurances](#), and [Certifications](#)

D.2.b. Page Limits

There are page limits for the Narratives and Logic Model:

- Narratives
 - Applications must not exceed 5 double-spaced pages for the Narrative as the pages print out from eGrants.
 - The application sections that count towards the page limit include:
 - SF-424 Face Sheet
 - Executive Summary
 - Program Design, Organizational Capability, and Cost-Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy narratives
 - The application page limit does not include:
 - Evaluation Summary/Plan
 - Clarification Summary
 - Continuation Changes
 - Budget, Performance Measures
 - Any required additional documents.
- Logic Model
 - The Logic Model may not exceed eight pages when printed with the application from the “Review” tab in AmeriCorps’ web-based management system.

Please note that the length of the application as a word processing document may differ from the length of the document printed out from eGrants. The character limits in eGrants do not align with page limits set in the Notice. **AmeriCorps strongly encourages applicants to print out the application from the “Review and Submit” tab in eGrants prior to submission in order to confirm that the application does not exceed the page limit.**

AmeriCorps will not consider the results of any alternative printing methods when determining if an application complies with the page limit. Reviewers will also not consider material that is over the page limit, even if eGrants allows applicants to enter and submit additional text.

D.3. 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. Use the [SAM Quick Guide for Grantees for more information](#).

SAM registration must be renewed annually. AmeriCorps suggests that applicants finalize a new registration or renew an existing one at least three 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 AmeriCorps. The legal applicant's name and physical address in eGrants must match exactly the applicant's SAM-registered information.**

Applications must include a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), which is generated as part of the SAM registration process. AmeriCorps will not make awards to entities that do not have a valid SAM registration and UEI.

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

If an applicant has not fully complied with these requirements by the time AmeriCorps is ready to make a federal award, AmeriCorps 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.

D.4. Submission Dates and Times

D.4.a. Application Submission Deadline

Applications are due not later than **Friday, April 5, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

AmeriCorps will not consider applications submitted after the deadline, except as noted in [Section D.4.c. Late Applications](#). AmeriCorps reserves the right to extend the submission deadline. AmeriCorps will post a notification in the event of an extended deadline on AmeriCorps' funding opportunities webpage.

D.4.b. Additional Documents Deadline

Additional documents are due by the application submission deadline. Use Sections [D.4.a. Application Submission Deadline](#) and [D.7.b. Submission of Additional Documents](#) for more information.

D.4.c. Late Applications

All applications received after the submission deadline published in this Notice, of **Friday, April 5, 2024 at 5:00 pm Eastern Time**, are presumed to be non-compliant.

To overcome this presumption, the applicant must:

- Submit a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstance(s) that caused the delay, including:
 - Timing and specific cause(s) of the delay
 - Ticket number if a request for assistance was submitted to the AmeriCorps Hotline
 - Information provided to the applicant by the AmeriCorps Hotline

- Other documentation or evidence that supports the justification
- Ensure that AmeriCorps receives the written explanation or justification and any other evidence that substantiates the claimed extenuating circumstance(s), via email to LateApplications@cns.gov no later than 24 hours after the application deadline as stated in the Notice.

Communication with AmeriCorps staff, including an applicant's Portfolio Manager, is not a substitute for a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstance that caused the delay as outlined above. Applicants are required to continue working in [eGrants, AmeriCorps' web-based application system](#), and with the AmeriCorps Hotline to submit the application. AmeriCorps will determine whether or not to accept a late application on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants that do not meet the application submission deadline and do not submit a written explanation or justification or any other evidence to overcome the presumption of non-compliance within the published timeframe will be deemed noncompliant. If AmeriCorps sustains a noncompliant determination, the application will not be reviewed or selected for award.

AmeriCorps will *not* consider an advance request to submit a late application. Please carefully review and follow the guidance in this section and submit your application as soon as possible.

D.5. Intergovernmental Review

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

D.6. Funding Restrictions

D.6.a. Award Funding Requirements

N/A

D.6.b. 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 [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.

Use 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.

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

D.6.c. Pre-Award Costs

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

D.7. Other Submission Requirements

D.7.a. Electronic Application Submission in eGrants

Applicants must submit applications electronically via [eGrants, AmeriCorps' web-based application system](#). AmeriCorps recommends that applicants create an eGrants account and begin the application at least three weeks before the deadline. Applicants should draft the application as a Word document, then copy and paste the text into the appropriate eGrants field no later than 10 days before the deadline.

The applicant's authorized representative must be the person who submits the application. The authorized representative must use their own eGrants account to sign and submit the application. A copy of the governing body's authorization for this official representative to sign must be on file in the applicant's office.

Applicants should contact the [AmeriCorps Hotline](#) at (800) 942-2677 if they have a problem when they create an account, prepare, or submit the application. Information about the [AmeriCorps Hotline hours](#) are also posted on the AmeriCorps Hotline webpage.

Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the name of the Notice to which the organization is applying. If the issue cannot be resolved by the deadline, applicants must continue working with the AmeriCorps Hotline to submit via eGrants.

If circumstances make it impossible for an applicant to submit in eGrants, applicants may send a paper copy of the application via overnight carrier below. Applicants must include a written explanation and any other documentation or evidence that support their inability to submit their application electronically.

AmeriCorps
ATTN: Office of Grant Administration (OGA)/AmeriCorps State and National
Application
250 E Street, SW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20525

Please use a non-U.S. Postal Service carrier to avoid security-related delays. **All deadlines and requirements in this Notice also apply to paper applications. AmeriCorps does not accept applications submitted via fax or email.**

D.7.b. Submission of Additional Documents

All documents must be submitted by the Prime Applicants (State Service Commissions or National Directs). Subapplicants cannot submit documentation on behalf of the Commission

in the Notice.

All applicants:

1. All applicants regardless of funding level are required to submit an [Applicant Operational and Financial Management Survey](#). Please submit the OFMS using the [link to the online form](#), where applicants will be required to submit their response electronically. Forms submitted as a PDF, or any other document format may not be accepted.

Entities applying on behalf of a Federally Recognized Tribe (New and re-competing)

1. Tribal organization eligibility documentation (*Use Section [C.1 Eligible Applicants](#)*)

Additional documents must be emailed to AdditionalDocuments@cns.gov with the following subject line: "Legal Applicant Name" - "Application ID Number." Emails should include:

- Legal applicant name and its point of contact information
- Application ID number
- 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 and application ID number 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.
 - If the size of an applicant's files requires multiple emails, please also include an ordering system in the subject line, such as "(1 of 3)"
- Prime applicants should send separate emails with each subapplicant's materials, referencing the subapplicant's Application ID

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. AmeriCorps will not review or return them.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

E.1. Selection Criteria

Each applicant must describe a project to plan a project that will deploy AmeriCorps members effectively to solve a significant community problem. AmeriCorps urges applicants to submit high quality applications that carefully follow the guidance in this *Notice* and in the Application Instructions. The quality of an application will be an important factor in determining whether an organization will receive funding.

Applications should include a well-designed plan with clear and compelling justifications for receiving the requested funds. Reviewers will assess the quality of applications by using the

selection criteria described below and will rate them accordingly. They will also consider the weights assigned to each criterion.

Categories/Subcategories	Percentage
Executive Summary	0
Program Design	50
• Problem/Need	20
• Planning Process/Timeline	30
Organizational Capability	25
• Organizational Background and Staffing	25
Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy	25

E.1.a. Executive Summary (Required - 0 percent):

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

The [Name of the organization] proposes a planning grant to focus on [what the community interventions will be.]

E.1.b. 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.

1. Problem/Need (20 points)

- The applicant will provide a 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 provides a clear explanation for why a planning grant is needed.

2. Planning Process/Timeline (30 points)

- The applicant describes a clear and logical planning process:
 - The applicant describes a detailed description of who is leading the planning process.
 - The applicant describes how the planning period will be used to develop the necessary components to effectively manage an AmeriCorps program in the future.
 - The applicant describes a detailed plan for program sustainability.
- The planning process includes development of the following program elements:
 - Theory of Change/Logic Model
 - Intervention and evidence base
 - Member training and supervision plans
 - Program Compliance and Accountability
 - Securing Match Support for the Program

E.1.c. 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 (25 points)

- The applicant describes how it has the experience, staffing, and management structure to plan the proposed program.
- The applicant describes its plans to engage community members and partner organizations in the planning process.
- The applicant has sufficient policies, procedures, and controls in place to prevent, detect, and mitigate the risk of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, such as appropriate segregation of duties, internal oversight activities, measures to prevent timekeeping fraud, etc.
- The organization’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).

E.1.d. Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 percent):

Reviewers will assess the quality of the application’s budget to the following criteria below. Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.

These criteria will be assessed based on the budget submitted. Do not include narrative in the narrative box except for “See budget”.

1. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 points)

Budget complies with the [Application Instructions](#) (Cost Reimbursement Applicants: See Appendix B and C; Fixed Amount Applicants: See

- Appendix D and E)
- Cost Reimbursement applicant meets match requirements proposes sufficient additional revenue to adequately support the program. Applicant identifies sources in the Source of Funds section of the budget

E.1.e. Evaluation Plan (Required for recompeting applicants - 0 percent):

Planning grant applicants should enter “N/A” in this section. Any other text entered in this field will not be reviewed.

E.1.f. Amendment Justification (0 percent):

Enter N/A. This field will be used if the applicant is awarded a grant and needs to amend it.

E.1.g. Clarification Information (0 percent):

Enter N/A.

E.1.h. Continuation Changes (0 percent):

Enter N/A.

E.2. Review and Selection Process

AmeriCorps will engage External Reviewers with relevant knowledge and expertise to assess and provide input on the eligible applications. The review and selection process is intended to produce a diversified set of high-quality programs that represent the priorities and strategic considerations described in this Notice. The determinations made by AmeriCorps reviewers may be different from what the applicant self-determined upon submission of its application. The stages of the review and selection process follow:

E.2.a. Initial Application Compliance and Eligibility Review

AmeriCorps will conduct an initial Compliance and Eligibility Review to determine if an application meets the eligibility requirements published in this Notice and advances to the next stage of the review process.

An application is compliant if the applicant is:

- An eligible organization,
- Submitted an application by the submission deadline

Reviewing for eligibility is intended to ensure that only those applications that are eligible for award are further reviewed. However, determinations of eligibility can take place at any point during the application review and selection process. Applicants that are determined to be ineligible will not receive an award.

E.2.b. Application Review

External Review

External Reviewers will assess applications based on the Program Design, Organizational Capability, Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy, and Evidence Selection Criteria. AmeriCorps will recruit and select reviewers on the basis of demonstrated expertise in AmeriCorps State and National programming and/or the Focus Areas, as well as experience assessing applications. All External Reviewers will be screened for conflicts of interest.

Internal Review

AmeriCorps staff will also assess budget compliance and review for prohibited activities.

Post-Review Quality Control

After the initial review process is complete, AmeriCorps staff will review the initial results for fairness and consistency. Some applications may be selected for a Post-Review Quality Control assessment. This additional level of review will be used to ensure fairness and provide assurances that an application was not disadvantaged in the original review.

E.2.c. Pre-Award Risk Assessment

AmeriCorps 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 [E.1. Selection Criteria](#). Results from this assessment will inform funding decisions. If AmeriCorps 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. Applicants may not

be selected for funding if AmeriCorps determines that the applicant's risks cannot be mitigated.

In assessing risks, AmeriCorps may consider the following criteria:

1. 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:
 - [U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services](#)
 - [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#)
 - "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
2. Operational and Financial Management, including:
 - Financial stability
 - [Operational and Financial Management Survey \(OFMS\)](#)
3. Past Performance, including:
 - Applicant's record in managing previous AmeriCorps awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:
 - Timely compliance with applicable reporting requirements
 - Accuracy of data reported
 - Validity of performance measure data reported
 - Conformity to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards
 - Ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients
 - Timely closeout of other awards
 - Meeting matching requirements
 - Extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards
 - Meeting National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) compliance (Use section F.2.d. [National Criminal History Check Requirements](#) and the [NSCHC webpage](#) for more information)
4. 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

Applicants will find information to help them understand pre-award due diligence checks in the AmeriCorps Due Diligence Review Process and Compliance training available on the

[Manage Your Grant](#) webpage. This content will help applicants obtain due diligence compliance and remain compliant throughout the grant life.

E.2.d. Consideration of Integrity and Performance System Information

Prior to making any award that exceeds the \$250,000, 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](#).

AmeriCorps 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.

E.2.e. Selection for Funding

The review and selection process are designed to:

- Identify how well eligible applications are aligned with the [E.1 application selection criteria](#)
- Build a diversified portfolio based on the following strategic considerations:
 - AmeriCorps Funding Priorities (Use [Section A.2. Funding Priorities](#))
 - meaningful representation of
 - rural communities
 - innovative community strategies
 - CEO discretion to advance strategic goals

AmeriCorps will assess an applicant's strategic considerations. Applicants must check the relevant boxes in the Program Information tab in AmeriCorps' web-based management system. Applicants should only check the boxes if the strategic consideration is a significant and intentional part of their program design and if implementation strategies are described in the application.

In selecting applicants to receive awards under this Notice, the Chief Executive Officer will endeavor to include a diverse portfolio of applications based on staff recommendations, alignment with selection criteria, and strategic considerations.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to prioritize funding existing awards over making new awards.

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

AmeriCorps reserves the right to adjust or make changes to the review process, if unforeseen challenges or urgent circumstances make it impossible, impracticable, or inefficient to conduct the review process as planned. Any such adjustments or changes will not affect the [selection criteria \(E.1.\)](#) that will be used to assess applications.

E.2.f. Applicant Resolution

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

E.3. Feedback to Applicants

Each compliant applicant will receive feedback from the External Review of its application.

E.4. Transparency in Grantmaking

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

Submitted program narratives, executive summaries, a blank template of the external review worksheet, and a list of all external reviewers who completed the review process for successful applications will be available upon request via email to AmeriCorpsOGA@cns.gov.

Further information about funded grants and subgrants is also available in [USASpending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov).

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

F.1. Federal Award Notices

AmeriCorps will make awards following the selection announcement. AmeriCorps anticipates announcing the results of this funding opportunity by mid-April 2024 contingent on the availability of congressional appropriations. All applicants, successful or not, will be notified of funding decisions via email.

Notification of an award is not an authorization to begin activities. The Notice of Grant Award (NGA) signed by the Office of Grant Administration is the authorizing document. An awardee may not expend Federal Funds until the start of the Period of Performance identified on the Notice of Grant Award.

F.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

F.2.a. 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](#)

F.2.b. Requests for Monitoring or Payment Integrity Information

AmeriCorps will request documentation from award recipients in order to monitor the grantee and award to ensure compliance with legal requirements, including the [Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019](#). 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.

F.2.c. 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](#).

F.2.d. Official Guidance

AmeriCorps active Guidance is available on the [agency's Guidance webpage](#). The contents of these documents do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way unless incorporated into a contract or grant agreement. These documents are intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

F.3. 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](#)).

F.4. 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 annual progress reports and semi-annual financial reports through eGrants, AmeriCorps' web-based grants management system and an internal or external evaluation report as required by the AmeriCorps regulations [45 CFR 2522.500-2522.540 and 2522.700-2522.740](#).

In addition, at the end of the award period, a grantee must submit final financial and progress reports that are cumulative over the entire award period and consistent with the closeout requirements. The final reports are due 120 days after the end of the period of performance.

Award recipients will be required to report at [Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act Subaward Reporting System \(FSRS\)](#) on all subawards over \$30,000, and may be required to report on executive compensation for the recipient organization and its subrecipients. Recipients and subrecipients must have the necessary systems in place to

collect and report this information. Use [2 CFR Part 170](#) for more information and to determine how these requirements apply.

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.

G. FEDERAL AWARDING Agency Contacts

For more information, call (202) 606-7508 or email AmeriCorpsGrants@cns.gov.

For technical questions and problems with the eGrants system, call the AmeriCorps Hotline at (800) 942-2677, selecting Option 3. Information about the AmeriCorps Hotline hours are also posted on the [AmeriCorps](#) Hotline webpage. Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the name of the Notice to which the organization is applying.

H. Other Information

H.1. Technical Assistance

AmeriCorps will host technical assistance calls to answer questions about the funding opportunity and eGrants. AmeriCorps strongly encourages all applicants to participate in these sessions. Information for these technical assistance calls is available on the [AmeriCorps' Funding Opportunities website](#).

Resources applicants need to effectively manage their grant award, including eGrants instructions, terms and conditions, individual match waiver, pre-award requirements, financial reporting requirements, and training and technical assistance materials are found on the [Manage Your Grant webpage](#).

H.2. Re-Focusing of Funding

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

I. IMPORTANT NOTICES

I.1. 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.

I.2. 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.