EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
SERVE DC – THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON VOLUNTEERISM

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

2015 AmeriCorps State Competitive Grant Competition

NOTICE: ATTENDANCE AT ONE OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SESSIONS IS **REQUIRED** IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THIS GRANT. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SESSIONS ARE SCHEDULED MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2014 (CONTINUATION APPLICANTS ONLY), TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2014, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2014 (CALL) AND WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014. PLEASE SEE THE REMAINDER OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.

Summary:
Serve DC – The Mayor's Office on Volunteerism announces the availability of AmeriCorps State Competitive funding for Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016 to eligible organizations. Subject to the availability of appropriations for Fiscal Year 2015 (FY2015) and release of Application Instructions by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), new applicants with high-quality proposals will compete nationally with other State and National programs for Competitive funds made available through Serve DC and CNCS. The total amount of an applicant's grant request must not exceed $13,730 per Member Service Year. Applicants must request no less than five (5) Member Service Years and $68,650. For Professional Corps, the applicant's grant request must not exceed $1,000 per Member Service Year and must request no less than five (5) Member Service Years and $5,000.

Following Serve DC's initial review of all applications, a decision will be made as to which programs Serve DC will recommend to CNCS for Competitive funding consideration. The remaining applications – and those not selected by CNCS for Competitive funding – will be considered for AmeriCorps Formula funds. Serve DC reserves the right to reject applicants from both the Competitive process and from consideration for Formula funding. Serve DC anticipates notifying Competitive awardees by early May 2015 and anticipates making Competitive grant awards in the first week of July 2015. Applicants considered for Formula funding will follow the Formula application timeline.

AmeriCorps is a national service network that provides full- and less than full-time opportunities for participants, called members, to serve their communities and build the capacity of nonprofit organizations to meet local environmental, educational, public safety, homeland security, or other human needs. Within these issue areas, programs may submit proposals that address specific problems of local communities.

On April 21, 2009, President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, the most sweeping expansion of national service in a generation. This landmark law not only expands service opportunities, but also focuses national service on key outcomes; builds the capacity of individuals, nonprofits, and communities to succeed; and encourages innovative approaches to

solving problems. In alignment with the Serve America Act, this AmeriCorps State *Notice of Funding Opportunity* will focus AmeriCorps grant making in six Focus Areas identified by the Act:

- Disaster Services
- Economic Opportunity
- Education
- Environmental Stewardship
- Healthy Futures
- Veterans and Military Families

In order to carry out Congress' intent and to maximize the impact of the investment in national service, CNCS and Serve DC are seeking to fund programs that can demonstrate community impact and solve community problems through an evidence-based approach (e.g. performance data, research, theory of change).

Subject to the release of Application Instructions by CNCS, CNCS and Serve DC will give priority consideration to focus areas as outlined in the Request for Application. CNCS and Serve DC will continue to focus on national service programs that improve academic outcomes for children, youth, and young adults. This focus reflects the extensive experience and past success of national service programs in education, and aligns with the efforts of the Department of Education. In addition, CNCS and Serve DC seek to increase its investment in programs that serve veterans and military families or engage veterans in service. CNCS and Serve DC will also focus investment in programs that increase community resiliency through disaster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation.

Continuation requests for expansion will receive priority consideration and preference in the same manner.

Applicants proposing programs that receive priority consideration are not guaranteed funding. CNCS and Serve DC will pursue a balanced portfolio across the Focus Areas. Furthermore, programs must demonstrate significant program focus, design and impact to receive priority consideration.

What types of AmeriCorps grants are available in this competition?
The types of AmeriCorps grants in this competition are described below. CNCS and Serve DC will not provide more than one grant for the same project in one fiscal year. Also see the AmeriCorps State and National Fit Finder to decide which type of grant aligns with the proposed project (http://www.nationalservice.gov/serve-your-community/how-get-involved/fit-finder).

1. Competitive: These grants are awarded to fund a portion of program costs and members' living allowance.

2. Professional Corps: These grants are awarded to organizations that propose to operate a Professional Corps program. Professional Corps programs place AmeriCorps members as teachers, health care providers, police officers, engineers, or other professionals in communities

where there is a documented shortage of such professionals. Applicants are eligible to apply for funding for a portion of program costs. Professional Corps member salaries are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve, and are not included in the budget.

Match Requirements

1. Cost Reimbursement Grants (non-fixed-amount): 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.

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 the regulations at 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 that plan to request an alternative match schedule must submit a request by January 5, 2015. State programs submit requests for alternative match to the State Commission.

Section 121(e)(5) of the National Community Service Act requires that programs that use other federal funds as match for an AmeriCorps grant report the amount and source of these funds to CNCS on the Federal Financial Report.

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

What are the requirements regarding member living allowance?
The proposed budget must include a living allowance for a full-time member is between $12,530 (minimum) and $25,060 (maximum) per member except as noted below.

For cost-reimbursement grants, this amount must be included in the proposed budget. The living allowance is not required 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 chart below.

Table 1: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1700	$12,530	$25,060
One-year Half-time	900	n/a	$13,265

Reduced Half-time	675	n/a	$9,950
Quarter-time	450	n/a	$6,635
Minimum-time	300	n/a	$4,420

2015 AmeriCorps Funding Priorities
In the FY2015 AmeriCorps competition, CNCS seeks to prioritize the investment of national service resources in:
- Disaster Services -- improving community resiliency through disaster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation
- Economic Opportunity -- increasing economic opportunities for communities, specifically opportunity youth (see Glossary), both as the population served and as AmeriCorps members.
- Education -- improving student academic performance including STEM
- Environment -- 21st Century Service Corps (see Glossary)
- Veterans and Military Families -- positively impacting the quality of life of veterans and improving military family strength
- Programing that supports My Brother's Keeper (see Glossary)
- Multi-focus intermediaries that demonstrate measureable impact and primarily serve communities with limited resources and organizational infrastructure. i.e. rural and other underserved communities. (See Glossary)

Glossary is located at:
http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2015_NOFO_Glossary_0.pdf

In order to receive priority consideration, applicants must demonstrate that the priority area is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes and must include a high quality program design. Responses that propose programs for the purpose of receiving priority consideration are not guaranteed funding.

Criteria for Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants are local nonprofit organizations and/or state and local units of government. Programs applying to Serve DC for funding *must* operate their program only within the District of Columbia. Organizations that have been convicted of a Federal crime are disqualified from receiving funds. An organization described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(4), that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply, serve as a host site for members, or act in any type of supervisory role in the program. **Individuals are not eligible to apply.**

New Applicants: CNCS and Serve DC encourage organizations that have never received funding from CNCS or AmeriCorps to apply for the grants described in this Notice. New organizations should submit applications commensurate with the community need with the understanding that the general practice is to award no more than 50 member slots for new grantees. All eligible applicants must meet all of the applicable requirements contained in the Request for

Applications (RFA). The RFA will be available in late October 2014 on Serve DC's website at http://serve.dc.gov/service/grant-competitions or in person at Serve DC's office.

The deadline for submission is December 9, 2014, by 5:00 pm. Applications must be entered in to the CNCS eGrants online system and all required hard-copy documents must be submitted to Serve DC. Late applications will not be accepted. An application is considered late at 5:01 p.m. Additionally, applicants are **required** to attend one of the following technical assistance (TA) sessions: November 3rd, from 2:00-3:00pm, Continuation applicants only (Conference Call); November 4th, or November 12th, from 5:30-6:30pm in the Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center, Serve DC – The Mayor's Office on Volunteerism, 2000 14th Street, NW, Suite 101, Washington, DC 20009 (**TA sessions will automatically close at 5:45pm. No exceptions will be made and late individuals will not be allowed to enter the office);** or November 6th from 2:00-3:00pm (Conference Call). Call information will only be available to those who RSVP.

For additional information or to RSVP for one of the technical assistance sessions, please contact by telephone or email:

Sarah Watkins
Serve DC – The Mayor's Office on Volunteerism
Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center
2000 14th Street, NW, Suite 101
Washington, DC 20009
sarah.watkins@dc.gov
(202) 727-7937