

Defining Terms

NOFO/NOFA

The Notice of Funding Opportunity and the Notice of Funding Availability, better known as NOFO and NOFA, are the means by which the federal government announces grant opportunities. This is also the notice that Serve Washington applies to, as the prime grantee, on behalf of AmeriCorps State programs in Washington.

RFGA

The Request for Grant Applications, better known as RFGA, is the means by which Serve Washington announces grant opportunities for subgrantees. Applicants applying to Serve Washington must follow the RFGA for all AmeriCorps State grant opportunities. The RFGA may reference the federal NOFO/NOFA, but applicants should carefully review the RFGA as the primary means in which to apply for an AmeriCorps State program in Washington.

Competitive Funds

Competitive grants are AmeriCorps program proposals that are put into a pool of applicants from across the country for a national grant review process. Good for evidenced-based, well-established program models and organizations familiar with federal grants management. Usually 20-50 MSY. Much larger pool of funds to award from.

Formula Funds

Formula grants are AmeriCorps program proposals that are put into a pool of applicants at the state commission level for a decision on funding made by the state's commissioners. Good for evidenced-informed, newer program models and organizations just learning federal grants management. Usually 10-30 MSY. Much smaller pool of funds to award from.

Grant Opportunities

Grant opportunities for AmeriCorps State programs primarily occur fall and spring. There may be rare occasions in which Serve Washington releases a targeted RFGA for specialized programming. Upcoming opportunities include:

- **Fall 2020** – Competitive Competition – **Program Year 21-22** (apply during planning grant year; consecutive and sequential award from planning grant directly to operation grant)
- **Spring 2021** – Formula Competition – **Program Year 21-22** (apply during planning grant year; consecutive and sequential award from planning grant directly to operation grant)
- **Fall 2021** – Competitive Competition – **Program Year 22-23** (apply after planning grant year; gap year between planning grant and operation grant)
- **Spring 2022** – Formula Competition – **Program Year 22-23** (apply after planning grant year; gap year between planning grant and operation grant)

Member Positions vs MSY vs Slot Types

Member positions vary based on program design. Member positions are often referred to in terms such as a Member Service Year, or MSY, and/or as a slot type. An MSY is similar to an FTE in the employment world, it is simply a reflection of the unit of time. Similarly, a slot type, is also a reflection of the type of member position and MSY. MSYs and slot types also govern two important details; the maximum cost per MSY and member benefits. The maximum cost per MSY is the associated dollar amount applicants can request for federal funding. Member benefits, such as, living allowance and education awards, are determined by slot type. The maximum cost per MSY and member benefits vary year to year and are defined in the NOFO/NOFA/RFGA.

Slot Type	MSY Value	Minimum Hours	General Term If Serving Full-Time	Maximum Term If Serving Less than Full-Time
Full-Time (FT)	1.00000000	1700	10-12 months	-
Three Quarter-Time (TQT)	0.70000000	1200	8-9 months	12 months
Half-Time (HT)	0.50000000	900	6-7 months	12 months
Reduced Half-Time (RHT)	0.38095240	675	5 months	12 months
Quarter Time (QT)	0.26455027	450	3-4 months	12 months
Minimum Time (MT)	0.21164022	300	2-3 months	12 months
Example: PY20-21 Maximum Cost per MSY (federal share)				
Cost-Reimbursement Operational		\$15,479 (plus grantee share)		
Professional Corps		\$1,000		
Education Award Program (EAP)		\$800		
Example: PY20-21 Minimum/Maximum Living Allowance (grant expenditure)				
FT		\$14,279-\$28,558		
TQT		\$0-\$20,159		
HT		\$0-\$15,119		
RHT		\$0-\$11,339		
QT		\$0-\$7,559		
MT		\$0-\$5,040		
Example: PY20-21 Education Awards (paid directly by CNCS Trust – not a grant expenditure)				
FT		\$6,195.00		
TQT		\$4,336.50		
HT		\$3,097.50		
RHT		\$2,360.00		
QT		\$1,638.89		
MT		\$1,311.11		

Please note these are only examples and will change in upcoming grant opportunities. In addition, Serve Washington strongly encourages programs to pay an equitable living allowance to members serving in a full-time capacity no matter the slot type/term of service.