



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
SERVE WASHINGTON

*Insurance Building, P.O. Box 43113 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3113 • 360-902-0656*



**AmeriCorps**  
**Washington**

## **Request for Grant Applications**

**AmeriCorps State Competitive Grant  
Federal Fiscal Year 2026**

State Solicitation Number: 26-100

**Release Date:**  
**Application Due Date:**

**January 30, 2026**  
**February 25, 2026**

## OVERVIEW

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>State Entity:</b>                | Serve Washington               |
| <b>Federal Agency:</b>              | AmeriCorps                     |
| <b>Federal Funding Opportunity:</b> | 2026 AmeriCorps State Grants   |
| <b>Announcement Type:</b>           | Request for Grant Applications |
| <b>Assistance Listing Number</b>    | 94.006                         |

Serve Washington is pleased to announce the *2026 AmeriCorps State Competitive* Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) to meet state and local challenges through service and volunteer action.

### Serve Washington

Serve Washington advances national service, volunteerism, and civic engagement to improve lives; expands opportunities to meet the local critical needs of residents of Washington; and strengthens community capacity while creating healthy and resilient communities.

Authorized by Executive Order 24-07, a 20-member board of Governor-appointed commissioners supports and advises Serve Washington. Its role is to carry out the mission and goals of the State Service Plan and to fulfill the statutory responsibilities for state service commissions authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 12638 and outlined in 45 CFR 2550.50 National and Community Service Trust Act of 1990 as amended by the Serve America Act.

### AmeriCorps

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.

### Purpose of AmeriCorps Funding

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions/practices to strengthen communities. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members earn a [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) from the National Service Trust that members can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

## FUNDING PRIORITIES

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Serve Washington seeks to develop a varied grant portfolio of programs that meet AmeriCorps and/or Serve Washington priority areas:

### Serve Washington Funding Priorities

- Service strategies are driven by community identified priorities;
- Organizations that are led and staffed by people that reflect the communities being served;
- Programs that strive to recruit and select national service members that reflect communities being served;
- Programs that strive to recruit and select national service members with high school credentials and/or informal education;
- Models that utilize service as a strategy to develop career pathways and/or lead to industry recognized credentials, address the housing crisis, and support child wellness;
- Programs that provide additional benefits to members such as Member Assistance (mental health), housing assistance, transportation, childcare, etc.;
- Models that engage older adults, tribes, rural, and communities with concentrated poverty as identified by need.

### AmeriCorps Funding Priorities (see NOFO materials for additional information)

Faith-Based:

- **Organizations that are faith-based.**

Serve Communities:

- **Serve communities with concentrated poverty**, rural communities, and tribal communities.
- Implement programs for or **expand access to high-quality youth mental health and substance use recovery services** and prepare AmeriCorps members to enter behavioral health careers. These may include individuals who have experienced substance use and mental health challenges.
- **Focus on improving quality of life for veterans, active-duty members of the Armed Forces, and their families** through models that provide effective interventions or services or that are designed to recruit veterans, military spouses, and their older children into national service, e.g., veterans serving in mentorship roles.
- **Focus on public safety, crime prevention, and/or partnerships between law enforcement and the community.**
- **Focus on expanding outdoor recreation opportunities for future generations** by maintaining public lands; supporting wildland fire mitigation and sustainable forest management; and providing reforestation services.
- **Create workforce pathways for AmeriCorps members**, including deliberate training, such as pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship opportunities, certifications, and hiring preferences or support;
- **Focus on strengthening families**, e.g., activities that aim to support low-income parents through parenting education, responsible parenting and healthy relationship skills.

Benefit AmeriCorps Members:

- **Enhanced member experience** by providing opportunities for skill attainment, personal growth and connection to the community they are serving in support of a lifetime of civic participation.
- **Enhance and expand services to formerly incarcerated and at-risk youth** and/or engage those youth as AmeriCorps members.

Use Evidence:

- Utilize reports from the [AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange](#) on programs assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence to scale, replicate, or adapt the intervention.

To receive priority consideration, applicants must show the priority area is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes. Priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

# APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

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## General Information

Applicants are required to complete applications for funding in accordance with the 2026 *AmeriCorps State Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)* and the *Application Instructions*. These and other resources are located at the Serve Washington [website](#).

*Note: The dates referenced in the NOFO materials are for State Commissions. At no time during the state competition should single-state applicants contact the federal agency.*

## Application Deadline and Additional Documents

All application materials must be completed and submitted in eGrants by 5:00 p.m. (PT) on **February 25, 2026**. Additionally, all required additional documents must be submitted to [servewa@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:servewa@ofm.wa.gov) by the same deadline.

*Note: DO NOT send additional documents directly to the AmeriCorps inbox referenced in the NOFO; the inbox in the NOFO is for State Commission use only.*

## Creating Your Application

### New and Recompeting (renewal) Applicants

- Create an eGrants account ONLY IF you do not currently have one by going to: <https://egrants.cns.gov/espan/main/login.jsp> and selecting “Don’t have an eGrants account? Create an account.”
- Start a **New or Renewal** Grant Application. (*Bottom left of eGrants home page.*)
- Select a Program Area: AmeriCorps.
- Select the applicable Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO):  
FY 2026 AmeriCorps State and Territory Commission  
FY 2026 AmeriCorps State and Territory Commission Fixed and EAP
- Select State: Washington.
- Select the applicable Prime Application Identification number from the drop-down list:
- Select the applicable Prime Application Identification number from the drop-down list:  
Reimbursable Grant Application ID:  
26AC280033  
  
Fixed Amount Grant Application ID:  
26ES280032

### Continuation Applicants

- Start a **Continuation** Grant Application (*bottom left of the eGrants home page*). You will be shown a list of grants that are eligible to be continued. Select the grant you wish to continue. **Make sure you select the correct one. Do not start a new application.**
- Edit your continuation application as directed on page 14 of the *AmeriCorps Application Instructions*.

## Application Materials in EGrants

The following components will be entered directly into the AmeriCorps web-based grants management system: eGrants.

### New and Recompeting Applicants

- Standard Form 424 (SF-424) Face Sheet. This is automatically generated when applicants' complete elements in the system, such as Applicant Info and Application Info.
- Narrative Section:
  - Executive Summary
  - Program Design
    - Community and Logic Model
    - Evidence Tier
    - Evidence Quality
    - Notice Priority
    - Member Experience
  - Organizational Capability
    - Organizational Background and Staffing
    - Member Supervision
    - Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy
    - Member Recruitment
    - Member Retention
    - Data Collection
  - Evaluation Summary/Plan
- Logic Model
- Performance Measures
- Program Information
- Budget
- Funding/Demographics
- Authorization, Assurances, and Certification

### Continuation Applicants

- Standard Form 424 (SF-424) Face Sheet. This is automatically generated when applicants' complete elements in the system, such as Applicant Info and Application Info.
- Narrative:
  - **Continuation Changes Field ONLY** (do not edit original grant narratives)
- Performance Measures (only if edits are needed)
- Program Information (review for changes)
- Budget
- Authorization, Assurances, and Certification

## Additional Documents Submitted via Email

The following additional documents, as applicable, will be sent via email to Serve Washington.

### New and Recompeting Applicants

- [Operational and Financial Management Survey](#) (submit online only)
- Audited financial statements; most recent single audit, or audited financials if not subject to federal single audit requirement (PDF is preferred, however, if the document is too large, a link is acceptable)
- Up to two evaluation briefs, reports, and/or studies that support preliminary, moderate, or strong evidence tiers, if applicable (see AmeriCorps supplemental information for further

- description of evidence tiers)
- Program evaluation plan template (**recompetes only**)
- Program evaluation report, if applicable (**recompetes only**)
- Labor union concurrence, if applicable
- Federally Recognized Tribal eligibility documentation, if applicable

### **Continuation Applicants**

- Audited financial statements; most recent single audit, or audited financials if not subject to federal single audit requirement (PDF is preferred, however, if the document is too large, a link is acceptable)

Submit additional documents as described on pages 5-6 with the following subject line: **legal applicant name – application ID number**. Emails should include:

- **Point of contact**
- **List of attachments**
- **Clearly labeled attachments**

### **Requirement for Minimum Number of Members**

A Member Service Year (MSY) is equivalent to one 1700-hour full-time AmeriCorps position. The purpose of this RFGA is to solicit grant applications from programs that will be most likely to succeed in the national competition for federal funding from AmeriCorps. As such, **to be considered for competitive funding, Serve Washington and AmeriCorps require that grant applications request a minimum of 20 members for new and recompeting applicants. Note, however, that the minimum of 20 AmeriCorps members does not apply to FY 2026 continuation competitive applicants in Year 2 or Year 3**, Indian Tribe applicants, Tribal organizations that are controlled, authorized, or chartered by Federally recognized Indian Tribes.

If your organization is interested in enrolling less than 20 members, (and are not a continuation applicant), for example an independent placement AmeriCorps member or a small AmeriCorps team, this is not the appropriate application process. We recommend that you contact an AmeriCorps program in your area or a statewide intermediary to determine if a partnership may be feasible. Refer to the [AmeriCorps Program Directory](#) for a listing of programs in your county. If your organization is looking for AmeriCorps VISTA opportunities, please refer to the [AmeriCorps VISTA](#) website.

New and Recompete applications that don't meet the minimum of 20 members at the application deadline may not be eligible for review or consideration of funding.

## IMPORTANT DATES

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|--|---|
| Serve WA Releases FY26 Competitive Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) | January 30, 2026  |
| Serve WA Technical Assistance Call for Applicants                        | February 5, 2026<br>New/Recompete: 9:00 – 10:00 am<br>Continuation: 10:00 -11:00 am |
| <b>Completed Applications Due from Applicants</b>                        | <b>February 25, 2026: 5:00pm</b>  |
| Serve WA Staff Review for Compliance (Dyann)                             | February 26, 2026   |
| Serve WA Internal Review   | February 27 – March 9, 2026   |
| Serve WA Clarification/Revision Period for Some Applicants               | March 9 – 24, 2026  |
| Serve WA Staff Ranking   | March 25, 2026  |
| <b>Serve WA Submits Applications to AmeriCorps (by)</b>                  | <b>March 26, 2026: 5:00pm</b>   |
| AmeriCorps Notifies Successful Applicants                                | Mid-June 2026: ASN  |
| AmeriCorps Clarification/Revision Period                                 | TBD (after notification, before award)  |
| AmeriCorps Issues Awards   | Mid-August 2026: ASN  |

### Technical Assistance Virtual Meeting

Applicants are highly encouraged to participate in an online technical assistance call via Teams on **Thursday, February 5** to review application instructions and as an opportunity for applicants to ask questions about the process.

#### **NEW/RECOMPETE 9:00am – 10:00 am PST**

[Join Online Here](#)

(564) 999-2000 or (833) 322-1218

Phone Conference ID: 537090813#

#### **CONTINUATION 10:00 – 11:00 am PST**

[Join Online Here](#)

(564) 999-2000 or (833) 322-1218

Phone Conference ID: 921587398#

## APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

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### Serve Washington Staff Review and Clarification/Revision Periods

Serve Washington staff will conduct an immediate technical review at the application deadline. The technical review will include timeliness, eligibility, submission of additional required documents, application page limits, and budget sections (including maximum award amount and match requirements). If substantial and substantive errors are found the application may be declined for further review. If declined, organizations will be offered consultation on the successes and challenges of the application.

For applications that make it past the technical review, Serve Washington staff will be reviewing applications. Staff will begin working with some applicants on clarification and revision items. Serve Washington staff will notify applicants of status of submission to AmeriCorps in late March. If declined, organizations will be offered consultation on the successes and challenges of the application.

### Planning Grant Opportunity

If applicants are not awarded operational grants (the primary grant opportunity in this RFGA) **and** funding is available, Serve Washington reserves the right to offer prospective applicants a planning grant. Planning grants are used to develop national service models. No members are awarded. Planning grants are awarded for a single year, and usually only cover minimal personal costs/consultation costs, training, and travel. Full details will be communicated upon offer. If you wish to wait and apply directly for a planning grant, that opportunity will

## QUESTIONS

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Please submit questions about this funding opportunity to [servewa@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:servewa@ofm.wa.gov). Serve Washington is committed to a fair and open competition, and as such, **staff will not be able to answer questions about the funding opportunity unless the questions are asked through the [servewa@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:servewa@ofm.wa.gov) email address or through the technical assistance call.**

We will attempt to answer all questions in a timely manner; however, we cannot guarantee effective or efficient responses near the deadline. Please ask all questions no later than one week before the deadline, or February 18, 2026. Questions submitted after this deadline may not be addressed.

If you require accommodation for this RFGA process, such as language translation or cultural translation technical assistance, please email your specific request to [servewa@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:servewa@ofm.wa.gov).

## FAQS

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Frequently asked questions are listed below:

### **What is the difference between the Competitive grant opportunity and the Formula grant opportunity?**

The “Competitive” process is the current process for this Request for Grant Applications. It is the process by which single-state applicants in Washington apply for AmeriCorps funding through the Serve Washington Commission. Serve Washington reviews these applications and identifies which projects should move forward to the national competition. At that point, AmeriCorps, the Federal Agency evaluates the applications and determines which will be funded. This competition is a good fit for large programs (20+ members), programs that meet the state and/or national priorities, programs that propose to operate in one single focus area, and/or programs with moderate to strong evidence.

In contrast, the spring “Formula” process is the local state competition. The applications in the Formula competition only compete against applicants in our state (they are not forwarded on to compete against other programs across the nation) and funding decisions are made by Serve Washington. The Formula process, however, has a much smaller allocation of money to draw from. The Formula competition is a good fit for smaller programs (10-30 MSYs), programs that meet local priorities, programs that propose to operate in single or multiple focus areas, and/or programs that are building their evidence-base.

To sign up for information about the Formula process, you can [register](#) on the Grant Information page of Serve Washington’s website to receive e-mail notification of future grant opportunities.

### **What is the project award period?**

The project award period is one full year, generally the 1st of the month through the last day of the 12th month. Applicants determine their project period based on the following example.

- The earliest project award period allowed is September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027.
- The latest project award period allowed is January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027.

## **How does an AmeriCorps member's term of service connect to the project award period?**

Within the project year, the start and end dates for members may vary. It may be appropriate to have a buffer before and after members' terms of service. Applicants determine their member term(s) of service. Below is just one example.

- Project Period Example: September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027
- Full-Time Member Service Year Example: September 16, 2026 – July 15, 2027
- Part-Time Member Service Year Example: January 1, 2027 – July 31, 2027

## **Our organization tracks more outputs and outcomes than are listed in application performance measures, how should we address this?**

This is a program design question that must be addressed at the program level. However, it is noteworthy that the logic model represents the organization's total theory of change. Not all items listed in the logic model require an associated performance measure. Programs are only required to track one output and one aligned outcome to meet performance measure requirements. Additional data tracked at the organizational level will be valuable for narrative reports, great stories, and stakeholder engagement.

## **How do I know if I apply to the cost-reimbursement prime application or the fixed-amount prime application?**

All NEW Serve Washington applicants must apply for a cost-reimbursement application. (Unless you have Serve Washington permission as a long-time fixed awardee under a different AmeriCorps funding stream or your program is a New Education Award Only Program (EAP) – EAP programs apply for the fixed-amount application.)

Recompeting applicants previously awarded under the fixed-amount model or recompeting applicants who have discussed switching to the fixed-amount model with Serve Washington may apply for the fixed-amount application.

Continuation applicants must remain in the prime associated with their current financial model.

- The earliest project award period allowed is September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027.
- The latest project award period allowed is January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027.