



AmeriCorps Washington

FFY26 State Competitive Grants NEW/RECOMPETE RFGA

February 5, 2026 9:00am

Please sign-in via the chat box:

- Name(s)
- Organization/Program
- City/County

Welcome

- House Keeping Items
 - **Please Sign-in!** Name, organization, county in the chat box
 - Call is intended for NEW and RECOMPETE applicants
 - Recording
- Agenda
 - Purpose of AmeriCorps Funding
 - Eligibility
 - Process and Timeline
 - RFGA/NOFO Key Highlights
 - Helpful Tips and Tricks
 - Q & A



National Service in WA



[AmeriCorps.gov/WashingtonState](https://americorps.gov/WashingtonState)

SERVE WASHINGTON



AmeriCorps

<https://americorps.gov/national-service-report/wa>



AmeriCorps Funding

AmeriCorps' mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. As the federal agency for national service, it brings people together to tackle the country's toughest challenges, aiming to make service a cornerstone of American culture

Competitive Funding (annual competition)

- Larger programs (20+ members)
- Meet National Priorities
- Single Focus Area (or well established multi effort)
- Moderate to Strong Evidence

Formula Funding available in the spring.



AmeriCorps Funding

Historic Focus Areas

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



AmeriCorps Funding

- Serve communities with concentrated poverty
- Organizations that are faith-based
- Expand access to high-quality youth mental health and substance use recovery services
- Focus on improving quality of life for veterans, active-duty members of the Armed Forces, and their families
- Focus on public safety, crime prevention, and/or partnerships between law enforcement and the community
- Focus on expanding outdoor recreation opportunities for future generations
- Create workforce pathways for AmeriCorps members
- Focus on strengthening families
- Use evidence
- Benefit AmeriCorps members
 - Enhanced member experience
 - Enhance and expand services to formerly incarcerated and at-risk youth



AmeriCorps Funding

Priority Funding Areas in WA

- 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

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

B.1. Estimated Available Funds

AmeriCorps expects a highly competitive AmeriCorps grant competition. Given limited funding, AmeriCorps may prioritize funding existing grantees instead of making new awards. The actual level of funding depends on annual appropriations.

B.2. Estimated Award Amount

Award amounts will be different depending on the scope of the projects.

B.3. Period of Performance

AmeriCorps plans to make three-year grant awards. AmeriCorps generally makes an initial award for the first year of the three-year period of performance. Applicants must submit a one-year budget. Applicants may propose any project start date that fits their program design. The period of performance may not start before September 1, 2026. Continuation awards for future years are not guaranteed; they depend upon future appropriations and satisfactory performance.



AmeriCorps Members

- Engage in Direct Service
 - Minimum 70% Direct Service
 - Maximum 20% Training
 - Maximum 10% Fundraising*
 - ***Serve WA offers training waivers to allow up to 50% training for certain circumstances (i.e. apprenticeship programs)***
- Do Not Duplicate or Displace
 - Service should not duplicate activities already in locality of program
 - Position can't supplant paid employees or volunteer positions
- Are Not Employees
 - "Participant" in national service position, perform service, serve, have a position description
 - Avoid terms such as "work," "job," or "job description"



Budget Tips

Cost-Reimbursement: (app instructions pg. 22)

- Fully explain the calculations used for each amount in the budget “narrative”
- Ensure the budget “narrative” mathematically adds up to the actual amount in the associated line item
 - Staff Travel to Meeting X = \$1,186
 - Narrative = Airfare \$650, Ground Transport \$50, Lodging Two Nights \$400, Per Diem Two Days \$86 (all equals \$1,186)
 - Registration Fees = Training (not travel)
- Itemize
 - Salary and Fringe Benefits categories are per person/role, not one lump item in each category
 - Don't be overly vague or general



Budget Tips

...cont. Cost-Reimbursement: (app instructions pg. 22)

- If you change a line item in section I or II, be sure to recalculate section III – admin/indirect rate
- Do you have a federally approved ICR? Use it!
- The de minimis indirect rate is now 15%
 - This means you might get slightly more match with the de minimis than with the Corporation fixed 5%/10% option
 - Don't forget that once you use the de minimis rate on a Federal grant, you will be expected to use it on ALL Federal grants
 - The de minimis also has other limitations in its application compared to other options
- Don't forget Source of Funds section which is an explanation of funds used for grantee share – the two totals should match
- Be sure to include fingerprinting and background check costs



Budget Tips

Fixed-Amount: (app instructions pg. 33)

- Instructions to use “allowance rate” column
 - List member slots under Mbrs w/o living allowance
- Be transparent with MSY calculations
- Don’t forget Source of Funds section which is an explanation of additional funds used – this total should match the total you under “other revenue” in the demographics section

*Checklist on pg. 35 applies to all budget types



Eligible Applicants

Applications

- Minimum 20 **Members**
- Begin No Earlier Than September 1, 2026 and No Later Than January 1, 2027

Eligible Entities

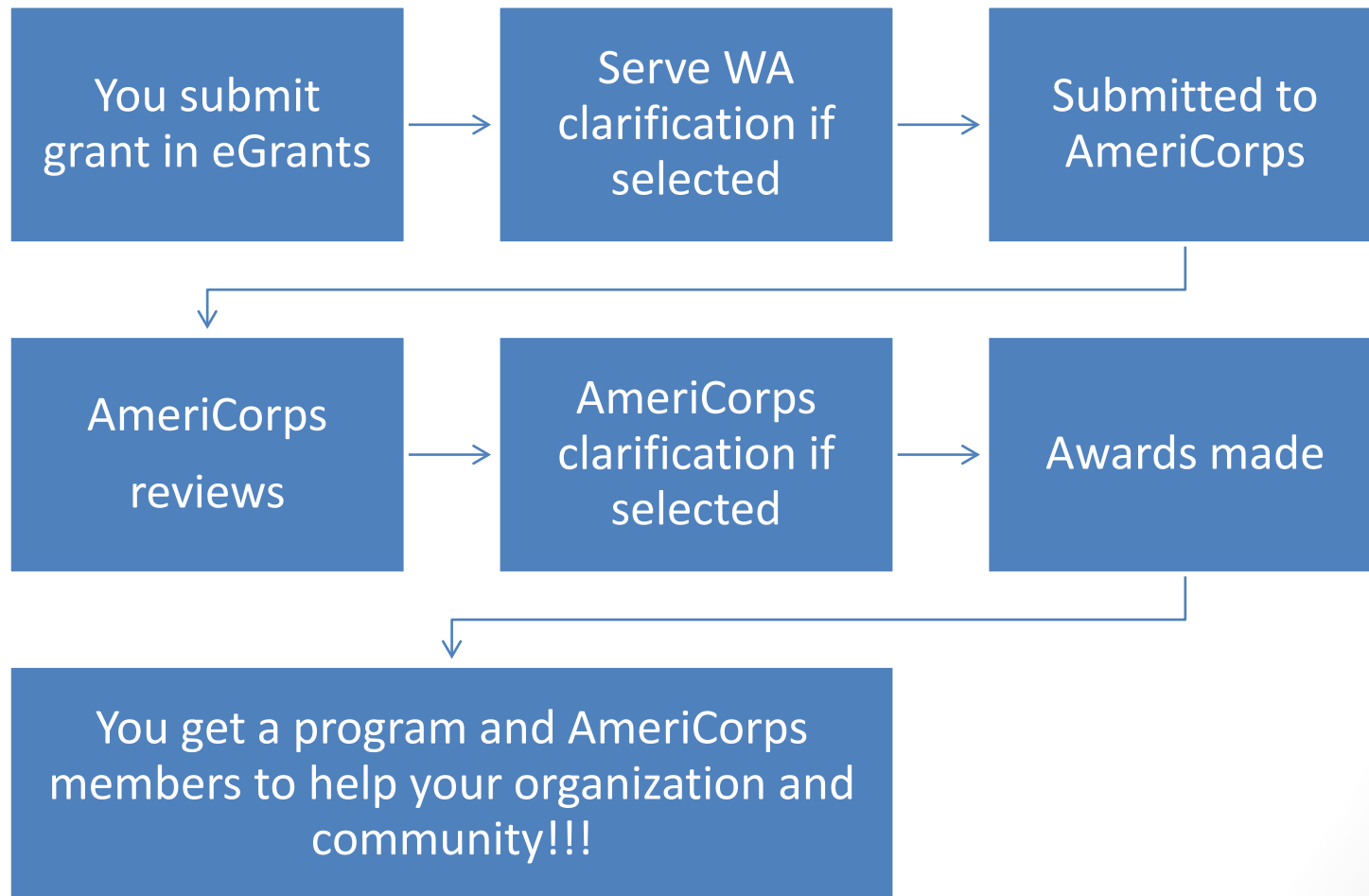
- Nonprofits
- Institutions of Higher Ed
- State and Local Governments
- Tribal Governments
 - Federally Recognized Tribes apply to AmeriCorps the Federal Agency
 - Non-Federal Tribes apply to Serve WA

Additionally

- UEI number, EIN, SAM registration



RFGA Process



IMPORTANT DATES

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

Defining Terms

NOFO vs. RFGA

NOFO:

Released by AmeriCorps for National Directs and State Commissions apps

RFGA:

Released by Serve Washington for Competitive and Formula apps

Competitive vs. Formula

National Competition held every fall*

State Competition held most springs

Cost-Reimbursement vs. Fixed Amount

New applicants, line-time budget, match required and reported

Need permission, flat rate based on MSY, match not reported

New vs. Re compete vs. Continuation

New – first time applicants

Re compete – reapplying for new 3-year grant

Continuation – entering year 2 or 3 of current cycle



Key Highlights

NOFO Items that **DO NOT** apply to Serve Washington applicants:

- Dates – instead, **follow the dates in the RFGA**
- **DO NOT** send additional documents to AmeriCorps – instead, **follow RFGA** and send to serveva@ofm.wa.gov



Key Highlights

NOFO Items that **DO** apply to Serve Washington applicants:

- Page Limits – 11 – narrative; logic model - 8
- Cost Share (match; no change):

AmeriCorps Funding Year	Years 1,2, and 3	Years 4,5, and 6	Years 7,8, and 9	Years 10 +
Grantee Share Requirements	24%	26%	28%	30%

- Maximum Cost per MSY \$25,000 (no change)
- FT Living Allowance \$20,400-\$40,800 (no change)
- Criminal History Checks (no change)
 - Approx. budget (in WA) - \$68 per staff/member + out-of-state variable costs



Key Highlights

Application “Weight”

- (Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.)

Categories/Subcategories	Percentage
Executive Summary	0
Program Design	50
• Community and Logic Model	20
• Evidence Tier	12
• Evidence Quality	8
• Notice Priority	4
• Member Experience	6
Organizational Capability	25
• Organizational Background and Staffing	15
• Member Supervision	6
-----	-
Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy	25
• Member Recruitment	8
• Member Retention	9
• Data Collection	8



Key Highlights

- NOFO Priorities
 - Added a public safety, crime prevention, and partnerships priority
 - Added an expanding outdoor recreation for future generations priority
 - Added a strengthening families priority
- New threshold requirement of a minimum of **20 AmeriCorps members per application for new and recompetete competitive applicants**. This threshold does not apply to Native Nations or formula applicants.
- **Streamlined available slot types from seven to five, removing Reduced Half Time and Abbreviated Time for new and recompetete competitive and formula applicants.**
- Applicants are approved for pre-award costs for one month prior to the start of their program.
- Changes to Selection Criteria point values for Community and Logic Model, Notice Priority, and Member Supervision.
- Disclosure: Any award made under this Notice may be terminated by the agency if it no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities.
- Disclosure: AmeriCorps reserves the right to award applications in an amount less than the requested level of funding.

Remained the same

- Maximum cost per MSY - \$25,000



Community and Logic Model

- Provide a detailed summary of the community problem, and an explanation of how the applicant's intervention(s) will lead to the outcomes identified in the Logic Model.



Community Section

Community Problem

- Describe the scope, significance and cause of the problem
- Reflect statistics and data sources that are reputable, current, and local



Relating Need to Social Vulnerability Index



Logic Model (8 page maximum)

Logic Model

Problem	Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short-Term Outcomes	Mid-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Outcomes
The community problem that the program activities (interventions) are designed to address.	Resources that are necessary to deliver the program activities (interventions), including the number of locations/sites and number/type of AmeriCorps members.	The core activities that define the intervention or program model that members will implement or deliver, including duration, dosage and target population.	Direct products from program activities.	Changes in knowledge, skills, attitudes and opinions. These outcomes, if applicable to the program design, will almost always be measurable during the grant year.	Changes in behavior or action. Depending on program design, these outcomes may or may not be measurable during the grant year.	Changes in condition or status in life. Depending on program design, these outcomes may or may not be measurable during the grant year. Some programs, such as environmental or capacity-building programs, may measure changes in condition over a period as short as one year.



Evidence

Narrative Section

- Fully summarize any study designs and key findings of any outcome or impact evaluations submitted
- Describe any other evidence that supports the proposed program design (such as past performance data or other research findings)
- If you submit evaluation reports for consideration, you must also describe in this section *how the intervention described in the submitted reports is the same as the intervention described in the application*
- *NOFO page 10 states, "Applicants rated as insufficient evidence are removed from funding consideration."* Insufficient evidence is determined by:
 - 1) An applicant being assessed as in the pre-preliminary evidence tier AND
 - 2) providing inadequate responses to the Evidence Quality review standards below."



Standards for Scoring in the Pre-preliminary Evidence Tier

- The applicant uses relevant evidence, including past performance measure data and/or cited research studies, to inform their proposed program design;
- The described evidence is relatively recent, preferably from the last six years; and
- The evidence described by the applicant indicates a meaningful positive effect on program beneficiaries or AmeriCorps members in at least one key outcome of interest.



Evidence

Two Parts Scored

- Evidence Tier (use Supplemental Guidance)
 - Each applicant will receive an evidence tier assessment. This is based on the relative strength of the applicant's evidence base and the likelihood that the proposed intervention will lead to the outcomes identified
- The quality of the applicant's evidence, how the evidence aligns with funding priorities, and how the evidence supports the proposed program.



Performance Measurement

Each program must have at least one aligned measure (composed of an output and an outcome) reflecting its **primary intervention**.



Performance Measurement

Keep performance measure module simple/to the point

Sample Problem Statement: *Many students are not reaching 3rd grade reading level benchmarks. Research shows when students get behind, they often stay behind.*



Performance Measurement

Keep performance measure module simple/to the point

Sample Described Instrument: a pre- and post student engagement assessment will be completed by all students who attend at least 4 session. Students must demonstrate at least a 25% improvement on the assessment to be counted as improved. We know that many students without support becomes less engaged, so any improvement can be considered significant.



Evaluation Plan

Recompete Applicants

- Evaluation Plan Submission – Use the FY26 Evaluation Plan Summary Form (new link in the NOFO)
 - AmeriCorps will no longer review and provide feedback on evaluation plans. All grantees are responsible for meeting all regulatory requirements including the submission of an evaluation plan summary and, if applicable, the request and approval of an Alternative Evaluation Approach.



Evaluation Report

Recompete Applicants

- Evaluation Report Submission - Submit in Microsoft Word and include a title page with:
 - the AmeriCorps grant number for the project that was evaluated
 - the name of the project,
 - the date of completion of the report,
 - the evaluator name(s),
 - evaluator organization name and,
 - evaluator type (internal or external)



Additional Docs

Submit to servewa@ofm.wa.gov – NOT the Federal Agency!

- Operational/Financial Management Survey (ONLINE ONLY)
- Audited Financials (Single Audit or other)
- *Evidence Support Documentation
- *Evaluation Plan Summary Form (Recompetes Only)
- *Required Program Evaluation Report (Recompetes Only)
- *Labor Union Concurrence
- *Tribal Eligibility

RFGA, NOFO and App Instructions all outline this.

* = if applicable



eGrants Tips

- Create application pieces outside of eGrants
- eGrants does not allow for fancy formatting
 - No bold, italics, bulleted lists, charts
 - Can use ALL CAPS for section headings
- eGrants automatically double spaces when printing
- Spacing not always perfect between Word and eGrants
- Save and validate often once in eGrants
- Use Chrome



Application Tips

- Read NOFO, App Instructions, Supplemental Guidance
- No web addresses or URL links (cite source in narrative)
- Numbers/Data/Demo should match in all sections – if you update one section, think to yourself “where else might this need updated”
 - an updated target in the LM, also needs updated in the PM module
 - an updated budget, also needs updated in the Executive Summary
- Be accurate on the Face Sheet as to the Authorized Rep vs project/program director (Auth Rep has signing authority)
- Project/Contract date: one full year (1st of the month through last day of last month)(not the same as Member Service Year)
- Print final application for review
- Give yourself an early deadline – system has been known to be down or challenging
- Impartial Reviewer



Recompete Applicants

Remember!

- New criteria for narratives
- Don't reuse old application narratives
- Update data, statistics, and evidence
- National Performance Measures sometimes change, even if using the same NPM, read the current definitions and requirements
- Verify evaluation plan and report requirements



Q&A

Are you ready for AmeriCorps?

[Serve WA Readiness Assessment](#)

[Serve WA RFGA](#)

Email questions to servewa@ofm.wa.gov

