



AmeriCorps Competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity

Philip Murphy, Governor

**Lt. Governor Tahesha Way
Secretary of State
New Jersey Department of State**

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Executive Director
New Jersey Commission on National and Community Service**

For Program Year 2025/2026

Application Due Date: November 26, 2024 by 4PM EST

**NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AND
COMMUNITY SERVICE
P.O. Box 456
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-633-9627**

Funding provided by the AmeriCorps State and National

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I: NJ COMMISSION GRANT INFORMATION AND TIMELINE	<u>PAGE</u>
Description of the Grant Program	3
Award Information	8
Eligibility to Apply	8
Statutory/Regulatory Source & Funding	8
Technical Assistance	8
Application Submission	9
Additional Program Requirements or Benefits	10
NJ Commission Training and Events	12
Evaluation of New and Recompeting Applications	11
 SECTION II: 2025 AmeriCorps State and National NOFA http://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/2025 ASNCompetitiveNOFO August19.508 0.pdf	
 SECTION III: 2025 Mandatory Supplemental Information http://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/2025 ASNMandatorySupplementalInformation FINAL.508.pdf	
 SECTION IV: 2025 AmeriCorps State and National Application Instructions http://www.americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/ASN%20Application%20Instructions.pdf	
 SECTION V: 2025 AmeriCorps State and National Performance Measures Instructions http://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/2025 ASNPerformanceMeasures FINAL.508.pdf	
 SECTION VI: 2025 Applicant Determined Performance Measures Supplement and Suggested Applicant Determined Performance Measures for Native Nations and Bridge Building. http://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/2025 ApplicantDeterminedPerformanceMeasuresNative%20NationsBuildingBridgesPMs FINAL.508.pdf	
 SECTION VII: 2025 PHA Performance Measures Public Health http://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/2025 PHAPerformanceMeasuresPublicHealth FINAL.508.pdf	

SECTION 1: NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANT INFORMATION AND TIMELINE

DESCRIPTION OF THE GRANT PROGRAM

AmeriCorps is a national service network that provides full- and part-time opportunities for AmeriCorps members to serve their communities and build the capacity of organizations to meet local needs. In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members are provided with a living allowance (**\$20,400** for a FT term), training, and the ability to earn a Segal Education Award (about **\$7,395** currently) for eligible college tuition, cost of attendance, or eligible college loans.

The New Jersey Commission on National and Community Service, in partnership with AmeriCorps State and National (ASN), seeks single-state applicants within New Jersey to apply for this AmeriCorps Competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Single-state applicants apply through their respective state commissions. National organizations operating in more than one state would apply directly to [AmeriCorps State and National](#).

The New Jersey Commission on National and Community Service, New Jersey Department of State, seeks to fund local initiatives and utilize the AmeriCorps model to increase civic engagement and improve New Jersey's communities by deploying AmeriCorps members to provide services in the six focus areas identified in Section II of this NOFO, i.e., Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and/or Veterans and Military Families.

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.

Changes from the prior year's Competitive NOFO:

- Increased minimum living allowance for FT members to \$20,400
- Increased maximum living allowance for all members (\$40,800 FT)
- Updated Funding Priority areas
- Updated match schedule to max 30%
- Additional document submission updates
- Opportunity for reconsideration of funding — 5 business days
- Changes in criteria scoring
- Mandatory Supplemental Information – added definitions for:
 - Disadvantaged youth
 - Economically disadvantaged
 - Public Health AmeriCorps priority
 - Second chance youth
 - Slot Types

- Application Instructions Section Changes/Additions
 - Additional Document questions for all.
 - Parameters for file size submission
 - Single audit requirements for over \$1,000,000
 - Carry forward worksheet for unexpended known now or post-award
 - Clarified state commission subapplicants are not to budget for symposium
 - Equipment updated to \$10,000
 - Health-care for non-full-time changed to “non-AmeriCorps” sources
 - De Minimis updated to 15% (from 10%)
 - Alternative match schedule being phased out during FY24, unavailable for FY25
 - Match waiver criteria updating 10/1/2024

Funding Priority Areas

For this funding opportunity, AmeriCorps will prioritize consideration from organizations that:

Serve Communities:

- Serve communities with concentrated poverty, rural communities, tribal communities, and historically underrepresented and underserved individuals. These may include people of color, immigrants, refugees, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ individuals, people with arrest or conviction records, religious minorities, etc.;
- 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 with lived experience with substance use and mental health challenges to support youth mental health efforts and continued AmeriCorps work on the opioid epidemic;
- Focus on improving the quality of life for veterans, active-duty members of the Armed Forces, and their families by recruiting veterans, military spouses, and their older children into national service;
- Promote environmental stewardship to help communities (especially underserved households and communities) to be more resilient by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving land and water, increasing renewable energy use and improving at-risk ecosystems;
- Support civic bridge-building programs and projects to reduce polarization and community divisions; and providing training in civic bridge-building skills and techniques to AmeriCorps members;

Benefit AmeriCorps Members:

- Provide benefits to AmeriCorps members aimed at enhancing member experience and bolstering member recruitment and retention such as paying more than the minimum living allowance, transportation, housing, food, etc.;
- Create workforce pathways for AmeriCorps members, including deliberate training, certifications, and hiring preferences or support;
- Enhance and expand services to second chance youth and/or engage those youth as AmeriCorps members;
- Develop and train the next generation of diverse public health leaders through service while addressing pressing community health challenges. Review Public Health AmeriCorps Priority in the Mandatory Supplemental Information for eligibility information;

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;

Faith-Based

- Organizations that are faith-based; and

American Climate Corps

- Please note that applicants may propose projects to be affiliated with the American Climate Corps (ACC), which is a federal government national service and workforce development initiative focused on training young people for the clean energy and climate resilience workforce. Applicants who are interested must demonstrate that their project funds ACC eligible positions meeting the following criteria:
 - The position has verifiable climate or environmental impact.
 - The position is temporary (term-limited), and the term length is at least 300 hours.
 - The position includes skills-based training as part of the program and provides a pathway to employment.
 - The position must receive a living allowance and, in some cases, may receive additional member benefits.

Applicants submitting a workforce development project to qualify for affiliation with the ACC should note that in their application. Successful applicants will be notified if they are part of the ACC and may be subject to additional reporting requirements.

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.

Through this AmeriCorps Competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), the New Jersey Commission on National and Community Service (hereinafter, the NJ Commission) seeks submission of applications that demonstrate that they will engage AmeriCorps members in an evidence-informed and evidence-based approach to providing a service intervention that will result in intended solutions to community problems (e.g., based on proposed program's performance and evaluation data or research demonstrating the effectiveness of a similar intervention). Applicants will be awarded points for providing evidence that their proposal intervention will lead to the outcomes identified in the logic model. Applicants shall provide evidence that the proposed intervention is effective for the proposed population and community challenge.

The AmeriCorps Competitive program is federally funded and requires a local combination of significant cash and in-kind match.

A. Purpose of AmeriCorps Funding

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. Members receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members can receive 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. The Education Award can be used for a period of up to seven (7) years following successful completion of a term of service. Members over the age of 55 at the start of service may transfer their Education Award to a child, grandchild, step-child, or foster child which is held in trust for up to ten years.

Single state applicants from New Jersey will submit directly to the NJ Commission on National and Community Service on eGrants. The application will be reviewed and scored among other New Jersey applicants. Selected applications which score 75 points or above will be sent to the national competition where they will compete with submissions from other state commissions. Applications must score above 75 points in order to be elevated to the national competition. Applications submitted for the Competitive NOFO will also be eligible to apply for funding consideration in the state-level Formula NOFO process in late winter of 2025.

In reading this Competitive NOFO, applicants must follow the NJ Commission's due dates first. Section I of this NOFO contains all of the NJ Commission specific requirements. Section II will contain all of the AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL specific requirements.

The following should be read in order to develop a complete application:

- Section I: *2025 NJ Commission Grant Information and Timeline*
- Section II: *2025 AmeriCorps State and National Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)*
- Section III: *2025 Mandatory Supplemental Guidance*
- Section IV: *2025 AmeriCorps State and National Application Instructions*
- Section V: *2025 Performance Measures*
- Section VI: *2025 Applicant Determined Performance Measures Supplement and Suggested Applicant Determined Performance Measures for Native Nations and Bridge Building.*
- Section VII *2025 PHA Performance Measures Public Health*

B. Timeline:

**FY25.26 COMPETITIVE NOFO
GRANT APPLICATION TIMELINE**

DATE	ACTIVITY
September 20	Dissemination of NOFO flyer announcing the 2025/26 Competitive AmeriCorps Grants competition. NOFO goes live on the NJ DOS website: https://www.state.nj.us/state/volunteer-grant-opportunities.shtml
October 10	<i>General Technical Assistance Session</i> via ZOOM. Live at 10:00 am. Register here to attend the live session. Session will be recorded and available at the NJ Department of State AmeriCorps grants website within 24 hours. Mandatory for Competitive applicants.
November 13	<i>Notice of Intent to Apply</i> due to Commission. Form available here
November 26	Competitive applications due to Commission on eGrants by 4:00 pm EST.
December 2	Staff and Independent Readers' review of applications and budgets are begun.
December 18	Competitive Applications Reader Arena 11A via ZOOM. Arena scores and final rankings.
December 20	Notification of Competitive Applicants selected for submission to national competition. Staff and reader revisions requested for applications recommended for national competition.
January 7	Final revisions from applicants due back in eGrants.
January 9	Final staff review on revisions.
January 10	NJ Commission board vote on selected applicants.
January 17	NJ Commission target date for submission of Competitive packages to AmeriCorps. (ASN due date is January 23)
Mid-April 2025	Successful Competitive applicants to be notified by AmeriCorps National.
Mid-July 2025	Successful Competitive applicants to be issued awards.

NOTE: Attendance at the NOFO Technical Assistance Sessions is required in order to submit an application. Please click here to register to attend: [here](#)

AWARD INFORMATION

The NJ Commission is offering the opportunity to compete for a three-year cycle of Competitive AmeriCorps programs. **Awards from this Competitive NOFO will implement the first year of the program which runs from September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026.**

Types of Award

The NJ Commission will accept applications for Cost-Reimbursement Grants including Traditional Professional Corps. Professional Corps are not eligible to apply for Cost-Reimbursement. The NJ Commission will also accept Fixed Amount Grants for Full-time, Education Award Only, or Professional Corps. Please refer to Section II AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL NOFO for a fuller description of the Grant Types and Sub-Types.

Funding Period

For New or Re-competing applications, this is Year 1 of 3 of a multi-year grant period covering the following funding periods:

Year 1 September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026

Year 2 September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027

Year 3 September 1, 2027 to August 31, 2028

ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

Eligibility is open to public or private non-profit organizations, including community organizations and faith-based organizations; Local Education Agencies (LEAs) including charter schools; institutions of higher education; government entities within the state (e.g., cities/municipalities, counties, state departments); labor organizations; and partnerships or consortia consisting of the aforementioned. Organizations that have been convicted of a Federal crime are disqualified from receiving the assistance described in this NOFO. Pursuant to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, an organization described in Section 501 c(4), that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply.

STATUTORY/REGULATORY SOURCE AND FUNDING

The applicant's project must be designed and implemented in conformance with all applicable state and federal regulations. In addition to the program requirements outlined in this NOFO, applicants should refer to the new AmeriCorps regulations, [45 CFR §§ 2520-2550](#) or [AmeriCorps State and National Official Guidance](#)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A live General Technical Assistance Workshop will be held on October 10, 2024 at 10AM,. This session will be recorded and posted on the NJ Department of State website under AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities. <https://www.nj.gov/state/volunteer-grant-opportunities.shtml>.

Only applications submitted by agencies that participate in the virtual or recorded General Technical Assistance session listed in the timeline section will be accepted.

General Technical Assistance Session via ZOOM. Live at 10:00 am. Register [here](#) to attend the live session. This is a one-time live session and there will be a recording available on the NJ Department of State website 24-48 hours after the live session.
<https://www.nj.gov/state/volunteer-grant-opportunities.shtml>

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

1. Notice of Intent to Apply

Submission of a Notice of Intent to Apply is required and is due **Wed, November 13, 2024**.

Please complete the online form: [Notice of Intent to Apply for 24/25 AmeriCorps NJ Formula Funding](#)

You will need to answer the following questions

- Address
- Contact Name
- E-mail address
- Phone Number
- Focus area your organization plans to address
- Applying as New or Recompeting and Regular Cost Reimbursement or Fixed Amount.

The New Jersey Commission on National and Community Service, Department of State operates this grant program in strict conformance with procedures designed to ensure accountability and integrity in the use of public funds and, therefore, ***will not accept late applications***. The responsibility for a timely submission resides with the applicant.

**Applications must be submitted electronically on eGrants
NO LATER THAN 4:00 PM ON Wednesday, November 26, 2024.**

Applications must be submitted to the corresponding NJ Commission Prime application on eGrants.

PLEASE NOTE: *Section II of this NOFO indicates a due date of January 23, 2025 which is only for Commissions and National Directs. Single-state applicants that must apply through the NJ Commission will use the due date above of November 26, 2024.*

Submission of Additional Documents:

All documents that are requested in the Section II: AmeriCorps State and National NOFO need to be sent to the NJ Commission and not to AmeriCorps State and National. The NJ Commission will forward additional documents to AmeriCorps State and National upon selection of the application at the NJ level. Please see the Section II: AmeriCorps State and National NOFO for all of the required additional documents.

Additional Documents may be e-mailed to AmeriCorps.NJ@sos.nj.gov with the following subject line: [Legal Applicant Name]– [Application ID number]. Emails should include the following information:

- the legal applicant name and its point of contact information
- the application ID number
- a list of documents that should be attached to the email
- individually saved files that are clearly labeled
- files that include the legal applicant name and application ID number within the body of each document.

Do not submit other items not requested in this *Notice* or Application Instructions. The NJ Commission will not review or return them.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS OR BENEFITS

The NJ Commission would like to highlight the following additional requirements and benefits of AmeriCorps.

Terms of Service

Programs may engage members full-time or less than full-time. Full-time members must serve at least 1700 hours during a period of not less than nine months and not more than one year. Reduced Full-time members must serve at least 1200 hours. Half-time members must serve at least 900 hours. Programs may propose member terms of at least 675 hours for reduced half-time members; 450 hours for quarter-time members; 300 hours for minimum-time, and; 100 hours for abbreviated terms.

Living Allowance

The NJ Commission requires that all AmeriCorps members receive a living allowance regardless of the federal regulation which does not require a living allowance for less than full-time members. Full-time members must receive the minimum stipend amount listed in the chart. Recommended levels for less than full-time members are listed below:

Type of Member Position	Min. # of Hours	MSY	Min. Total Living Allowance	Max. Living Allowance
Full-time	1700	1.000	\$ 20,400	\$ 40,800
Three Quarter-time	1200	0.070	\$ 14,400	\$ 28,560
Half-time	900	0.500	\$ 10,800	\$ 20,400
Reduced HT	675	0.381	\$ 8,100	\$ 15,504
Quarter-time	450	0.265	\$ 5,400	\$ 10,608
Minimum-time	300	0.212	\$ 3,600	\$ 8,568
Abbreviated-time	100	0.056	\$ 1,200	\$ 2,448

A living allowance is not considered a wage.

In New Jersey, AmeriCorps members are not eligible for unemployment insurance, family leave or disability.

Health Insurance

Grantees must provide full-time members with health insurance at the time of acceptance into the program if the member is not otherwise covered by a health insurance policy. If a member who previously had coverage loses it through no deliberate act of his or her own, such as parental or spousal job loss, the grantee must provide the member with basic health insurance that meets AmeriCorps requirements.

In general, AmeriCorps does not pay the costs of health benefits for half-time members unless they serve full-time for a sustained period of time.

Reasonable Accommodation for Individuals with Disabilities

Increasing the participation of individuals with disabilities in national and community service programs is a key interest of AmeriCorps State and National. All AmeriCorps programs are required to actively reach out to people with disabilities for inclusion in AmeriCorps service.

Participation in National Days of Service

As part of the National Service Network, there are a number of opportunities for grantees to participate in national service days. AmeriCorps State and National and the NJ Commission expect all national service programs, including AmeriCorps programs, to participate in one or more days of service, including the 9/11 Commemorative, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday and AmeriCorps Week. In addition, AmeriCorps State and National and the NJ Commission expect programs with AmeriCorps members to participate in other national service activities such as common opening ceremonies (including the administration of an oath at Launch) orientations, and training.

NJ COMMISSION TRAINING AND EVENTS

Program Director Trainings and Meetings

All Program Directors must attend a three-day orientation known as *STARTING STRONG* held in the last week or so in July, 2026, and any other training (e.g., Site Supervisor training) developed for project directors during the contract period. Program Directors are also required to participate in all monthly conference calls or meetings.

In constructing the budget, figure in the cost for transportation, meals, and possible overnight accommodations related to *all* AmeriCorps State and National or NJ Commission training sessions.

Statewide AmeriCorps Member Trainings and Events

All AmeriCorps members and project directors are required to attend the following trainings/events:

- *AmeriCorps LAUNCH* – Fall 2025
- *END-OF-THE-YEAR Training* – Spring 2026
- Other statewide training such as *Career Day*, *Disaster Preparedness* or *GOV Volunteerism Conference*.

In constructing the budget, figure in the cost of transportation to *all* of the training sessions even though some or all may be conducted virtually.

EVALUATION OF NEW AND RECOMPETING APPLICATIONS

State-level Review Process

All applications for AmeriCorps Competitive grants will be reviewed first through the NJ Commission.

In year one, the application is evaluated and rated by a panel of three readers. The evaluation panel typically consists of one reader from the originating office, one from another office within the NJ Department of State, and one reader external to the NJ Department of State who is knowledgeable in the content area. Readers of grant applications for the NJ Department of State certify that no conflict of interest exists that would create an undue advantage or disadvantage for any applicant in the application evaluation and scoring process.

Applications are evaluated on the basis of quality, comprehensiveness, completeness, accuracy and appropriateness of response to the guidelines and requirements of the governing NOFO. Applicants may request information about their evaluation scores by writing to the NJ Commission on National and Community Service. The Commission reserves the right to withdraw from consideration any application that does not include each and every component to be evaluated and scored in the evaluation process.

Applications must receive a score of at least 75 points out of 100 and include all required components to be eligible for funding. Eligible applications are ranked and funded in descending order, from highest to lowest score. In the event of a tied score at or above the NJ Department of State's cutoff score of 75, the NJ Department of State will select the applicant with the highest combined score for the Program Design section.

Applicants that receive a score of at least 75 points will be submitted to AmeriCorps State and National for the national competition.

All applicants to the Competitive NOFO will be eligible to apply to the state-level Formula competition in the winter of 2024.

PLEASE REFER TO THE LINKS IN THE PAGE INDEX ABOVE OR THIS LINK TO ACCESS THE REMAINING REQUIRED SECTIONS FOR THE AMERICORPS COMPETITIVE APPLICATION.

<http://americorps.gov/funding-opportunity/fy-2025-americorps-state-national-grants>

Section II: 2025 AmeriCorps State and National Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

http://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/2025_ASNCompetitiveNOFO_August19.508_0.pdf

Section III: 2025 Mandatory Supplemental Guidance

http://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/2025_ASNMandatorySupplementalInformation_FINAL.508.pdf

Section IV: 2025 AmeriCorps State and National Application Instructions

http://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/508-2025_ASNApplicationInstructions_August21_0.pdf

Section V: 2025 ASN Performance Measures

http://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/2025_ASNPerformanceMeasures_FINAL.508.pdf

Section VI: 2025 Applicant Determined Performance Measures Supplement and Suggested Applicant Determined Performance Measures for Native Nations and Bridge Building.

http://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/2025_ApplicantDeterminedPerformanceMeasuresNative%20NationsBuildingBridgesPMs_FINAL.508.pdf

Section VII: 2025 PHA Performance Measures Public Health

http://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/2025_PHAPerformanceMeasuresPublicHealth_FINAL.508.pdf