Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity
Overview

Federal Agency Name:	Corporation for National and Community Service
Funding Opportunity Title:	AmeriCorps State and National Grants FY 2010
Announcement Type:	Initial announcement
CFDA Number:	94.006

Dates: Applications are due **January 26, 2010**, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Successful applicants will be notified in early June 2010.

On April 21, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act (SAA). The SAA reauthorizes and expands national service programs administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency created in 1993. This *Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity* begins the process of implementing this Act. The provisions in the Act are wide-reaching and complex; we recognize there will be many details to determine, in conjunction with our stakeholders, in the months and years to come.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

What is the purpose of AmeriCorps State and National Grants?

The mission of the Corporation for National and Community Service (the Corporation) is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. In the FY 2010 competition, the Corporation's funding priorities are projects that address compelling, unmet needs in one or a combination of the following five national service priority areas which are described more fully in Section III. B., below.

- **Education**
- **Clean Energy/Environment**
- **Healthy Futures**
- **Veterans**
- **Opportunity**

II. Award Information

How much funding is available?

Subject to the availability of appropriations for fiscal year 2010, the Corporation announces the anticipated availability of approximately $363 million to award new, re-competing, and continuation AmeriCorps State and National grants. The grant categories are: State Commission and National Competitive including Professional Corps and Fixed-Amount Grants; State and National EAP; States and Territories without Commissions; and Indian Tribes.

III. Eligibility Information

This *Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity (Notice)* should be read together with the AmeriCorps regulations 45 CFR Sections 2520 – 2550 and the Application Instructions.

A. What is the purpose of this funding?

For more than fifteen years, the Corporation for National and Community Service—through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs—has mobilized a new generation of engaged citizens. This year, more than 1.8 million individuals of all ages and backgrounds will serve through these programs. They will help thousands of national and community non-profit organizations, faith-based groups, schools, and local agencies meet local needs in education, the environment, health, veterans, economic opportunity, and other critical areas.

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations that identify an unmet need in their community that will be addressed by AmeriCorps members that the organization recruits, trains, and manages. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who is enrolled in an approved national service position and engages in community service. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members receive an education award from the National Service Trust.

AmeriCorps grant funding is distributed to Governor-appointed State Commissions and multi-state grantees. State Commissions award subgrants to organizations in their states, and the multi-state grantees work through operating sites in more than one state. These organizations recruit AmeriCorps members to respond to local needs.

B. What are priorities for this funding?
In 2010, the Corporation's national service priorities for AmeriCorps State and National are applicants that address:

Education
Unmet educational needs within communities especially those that help children and youth achieve success in school and prevent them from dropping out before high school graduation.

Healthy Futures
Unmet health needs within communities including access to health care, disease prevention and health promotion initiatives, and health literacy.

Clean Energy/Environment
Unmet energy-efficiency and environmental needs within communities.

Veterans
Unmet needs of veterans, members of the Armed Forces who are on active duty, and family members of deployed military personnel and engages veterans in service.

Opportunity
Unmet needs relating to economic opportunity for economically disadvantaged individuals within communities including financial literacy, housing assistance, job training, and nutritional assistance.

Performance Measures

Corporation-designed national performance measures, which are currently being developed and will be released in November.

The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act requires that the Corporation design and use national performance measures to collect meaningful data on the critical impact of AmeriCorps across the country. These national measures are optional in the 2010 application. The development of national measures will allow for aggregated reporting of impact across the portfolio and contribute to the growth of AmeriCorps envisioned in the Serve America Act.

The Corporation anticipates that at least 15 percent of the funds described in this *Notice* will support applicants that have not received an AmeriCorps State or National operational grant in the last five years. Applicants that have received only a formula operational grant within the last five years will be considered new for purposes of this 15 percent target.

The Corporation will make an effort to allocate not less than 10 percent of the financial assistance and approved national service positions provided through the grants to eligible entities proposing to carry out "encore service programs" unless the Corporation does not receive a sufficient number of applications of adequate quality to justify making that percentage available to those eligible entities. The term "encore service program" means a program, carried out by an eligible entity that involves a significant number of participants age 55 or older in the program and that takes advantage of the skills and experience that such participants offer in the design and implementation of the program.

The Corporation reserves the right to re-focus program dollars in the event of disaster or other compelling need for service. Additional programs and program models that may receive special consideration in the selection process are described in the AmeriCorps regulations at 45 CFR 2522.450.

C. Who is eligible for this funding?

Public or private nonprofit organizations, including labor organizations, faith-based and other community organizations; institutions of higher education; government entities within states or territories (e.g., cities, counties); Indian Tribes; and partnerships or consortia are eligible. Intermediaries are encouraged to apply. The Corporation encourages organizations that have never received funding from the Corporation or AmeriCorps to apply for the grants described in this *Notice*.

Organizations that propose to operate in one state only must apply through the State Commission for the state in which they will operate. Organizations that propose to operate in more than one state are eligible to apply directly to the Corporation.

Indian Tribes may apply through State Commissions, or directly to the Corporation. Indian Tribe is defined as a federally recognized Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Native village, Regional Corporation, or Village Corporation, as defined under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43

U.S.C. § 1602), that the United States Government determines is eligible for special programs and services provided under federal law to Indians because of their status as Indians. Indian Tribes also include tribal organizations controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by one of the entities described above.

IV. Fixed-Amount Grant Pilot for 2010

The Serve America Act authorizes the Corporation to award fixed-amount grants in 2010. In 2010, these fixed-amount grants are available for programs that enroll full-time members only. Fixed-amount grants allow programs to apply for a fixed dollar amount per member. The fixed amount awarded per member is significantly less than the cost of running an AmeriCorps program and the applicant must raise the additional revenue necessary to operate the program. EAP programs, which have been authorized to receive fixed-amount grants for many years, may continue to enroll less-than-full-time members.

An AmeriCorps program that receives a fixed-amount grant is like any other AmeriCorps program except that, unlike the more typical cost-reimbursement grant, the fixed amount grant does not require:

- Compliance with OMB Cost Principles.
- Detailed, line-item budgets.
- Corporation FFRs.
- Match or documentation of match.

Approved applicants must agree to participate in evaluations the Corporation conducts to measure success of this pilot. The maximum costs per Member Service Year (MSY) for the full-time fixed-amount pilot are currently being determined and will be released later this fall (one MSY is the equivalent of a full-time term of service). The amount per full-time member requested will be a competitive factor in the Corporation's selection process. Priority will be given in the selection process to organizations that have demonstrated capacity to track and report on performance measures. The Corporation may also prioritize those organizations that adopt specific national performance measures or are aligned with national service priority areas.

V. What are the categories of funding available?

A. State and National Competitive

These grants are awarded to organizations that are put forward to the Corporation by Governor-appointed State or Territory Commissions (in American Samoa and Guam) to participate in a nationwide competition and to organizations that apply directly to the Corporation and propose to operate AmeriCorps programs in more than one state. Applicants are eligible to apply for funding for a portion of the members' living allowance and program costs.

Prior to submission of a grant application to the Corporation, an applicant proposing to operate a program in two or more states is expected to consult with the State Commission of the state in which it intends to operate. Such an applicant must include in its application a description of the manner and extent to which the organization consulted with the State Commission in each state where the applicant intends to operate and the

nature of the consultation. The Corporation will solicit the views of State Commissions regarding applications received for programs operating in their states.

B. State and National Professional Corps

These grants are awarded to organizations that propose to operate a Professional Corps program. The Professional Corps program model places AmeriCorps members as teachers, health care providers, police officers, engineers, or other professionals in communities where there is an inadequate number of such professionals. Applicants can apply for up to $2,500 per MSY. Applicants are eligible to apply for funding for a portion of program costs, and use their own or other resources to pay the members' living allowance and additional member costs.

Applicants may also apply for up to $50,000 to support start-up costs for a new Professional Corps program that operates in more than one state. An organization proposing a Professional Corps program that operates in more than one state applies directly to the Corporation. A Professional Corps program that operates in only one state must apply for a state and national competitive or formula grant from the State Commission of the state in which it intends to operate.

C. States and Territories without Commissions

Applicants in South Dakota, Puerto Rico, the Territory of the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands apply directly to the Corporation. Applicants are eligible to apply for funds for a portion of the members' living allowance and program costs. State or territory government entities are not eligible to apply.

D. State and National Education Award Program (EAP)

Organizations nominated by Governor-appointed State Commissions and organizations that operate their AmeriCorps program in more than one state may apply. Grantees are eligible to apply for a small grant and use their own or other resources for the members' living allowance and program costs. Applicants can apply for up to $800 per MSY. There is no match requirement for EAP grants.

E. Fixed-Amount Pilot

Organizations that are put forward to the Corporation to participate in a nationwide competition by Governor-appointed State or Territory Commissions, organizations that operate their AmeriCorps program in more than one state, Professional Corps, States and Territories without Commissions, and Indian Tribes may apply to receive a fixed-amount grant for a full-time program. There is no match requirement for fixed-amount grants.

The Fixed-Amount Pilot is only available for new and recompeting applicants. Second and third year continuation applicants must submit a new application if they are interested in participating in the Fixed-Amount Pilot.

F. Indian Tribes

The Corporation sets aside 1 percent of grant funds to support programs operated by Indian Tribes selected by the Corporation on a competitive basis. Applicants are eligible to apply for funds for a portion of the members' living allowance and program costs.

VI. What are the requirements to apply for these grants?

A. What are the matching requirements for these grants?

Program requirements, including requirements on match, are specified in the AmeriCorps regulations, as modified by 2009 appropriations language, and summarized below.

Fixed-Amount Grants

There is no match requirement for fixed-amount grants.

Reimbursable Grants (non-fixed-amount)

A successful applicant is required to match at 24 percent for the first three-year funding period. Starting with the second three-year cycle, match gradually increases every year to 50 percent by year ten, according to the minimum overall share chart found in 45 CFR 2521.60.

Table 1: Match Requirements in the AmeriCorps Regulations

Competition	Match Requirement
State and National Competitive, States and Territories without Commissions, State and National Professional Corps, Indian Tribes	Minimum grantee share is 24%. Starting in Year 4, overall grantee share of total program costs increases gradually to 50% by the tenth year of funding and any year thereafter.
Fixed-Amount Pilot	There is no matching requirement for fixed-amount grants. Grantees pay all program costs and the Corporation provides a fixed amount, to be determined, per MSY.
State EAP and National EAP Fixed-Amount Grants	There is no matching requirement for fixed-amount grants. Grantees pay all program costs and the Corporation provides up to $800 per MSY.

In accordance with Executive Order 13175 "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments" the Corporation will handle any waiver request from an Indian Tribe in an expedited manner.

B. What are the requirements regarding member living allowance?

The proposed budget must include a living allowance for full-time members that is between $11,800 (minimum) and $23,600 (maximum) per member except as noted below. For reimbursable grants, this amount must be included in the proposed budget. If a program chooses to provide a living allowance to part-time members, it must comply with the maximum limits in the chart below. While fixed-amount grant applicants don't submit detailed budgets, they are still required to provide a living allowance to members following these guidelines, but need not identify that amount in the application.

Table 2: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	Ed Award	MSY	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1700	$5,350	1.000	$11,800	$23,600

One-year Half-time	900	$2,675	0.500	n/a	$12,500
Two-year Half-time	900	$2,675	0.250	n/a	$12,500
Reduced Half-time	675	$2,038	0.381	n/a	$9,370
Quarter-time	450	$1,415	0.265	n/a	$6,250
Minimum-time	300	$1,132	0.212	n/a	$4,160

C. What are the exceptions to the living allowance requirements?

1. Prior to September 21, 1993. If your program existed prior to the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 (enacted September 21, 1993), the law does not require you to provide a living allowance. If you choose to offer a living allowance, you are exempt from the minimum requirement of $11,800, but not the maximum requirement of $23,600.

2. Education Award Program Grantees. EAP grantees are not required to provide a living allowance, but if a living allowance is provided, it must comply with the maximum requirements set forth in the Living Allowance section above.

3. Professional Corps Grantees. Full-time Professional Corps members must receive a living allowance or salary, which must meet the minimum, but may exceed the maximum set for other AmeriCorps programs. Professional Corps member salaries are paid entirely by the organizations where the members serve, and are not included in the budget. Professional Corps may request funds for other costs, and must meet the 24 percent match on these budgeted costs only, unless proposing a fixed-amount grant.

D. What is the Maximum Cost per Member Service Year (MSY)?

The maximum amount an applicant may request from the Corporation is determined on an annual basis. Applicants may calculate their cost per MSY by dividing the Corporation's share of their budget request by the number of MSYs requested in the application.

Table 3: Maximum Cost per MSY

Grant Program	Maximum
Individual State Program	$16,000
Average across State Formula & State Competitive Grants	$13,000
Multi-state (National Direct)	$13,000
Indian Tribes	$13,000
Professional Corps	$2,500
Education Award Program	$800
Fixed-Amount Pilot	To be determined

E. What are the member enrollment requirements for existing grantees?

We expect grantees to enroll the full number of members included in their grant award. Enrollment rates have a direct bearing on the number of slots and the size of awards approved in the continuation and re-compete processes. Applicants that do not fully enroll are likely to receive a decrease in funding.

F. What are the member retention requirements for existing grantees?

We recognize retention rates may vary among equally effective programs depending on the program model. We expect grantees to pursue the highest retention rate possible. Retention rates will have a direct bearing on the number of slots and the size of awards approved in the continuation and re-compete processes. Applicants that do not retain members are likely to receive a decrease in funding.

G. What is the value of the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award?
As of October 1, 2009, AmeriCorps members serving in programs funded with 2010 dollars who successfully complete a term of service will receive an education award from the National Service Trust of $5,350 for a year of full-time service, with correspondingly smaller awards for less-than-full-time service. The amount of the Education Award is determined on the basis of the Pell Grant award, as required by the Serve America Act. A member has up to seven years after the term of service has ended to use the award.

Table 4: Term of Service and Education Award

Term of Service	Minimum # of Hours	Education Award
Full Time	1700	$5,350
One-Year Half Time	900	$2,675
Two-Year Half Time	900	$2,675
Reduced Half Time	675	$2,038
Quarter Time	450	$1,415
Minimum Time	300	$1,132

VII. Application and Submission Instructions

The Corporation requires that all applicants make every effort to submit their applications electronically utilizing the Corporation's web-based application system, eGrants. Applications must arrive at the Corporation by deadline in order to be considered.

In the event of prolonged unavailability of the eGrants system on the date of submission, the Corporation reserves the right to extend the eGrants submission deadline. A notice will be posted in eGrants and on www.nationalservice.gov.

If extenuating circumstances make the use of eGrants impossible, applicants may send a hard copy of the application to the following address, via overnight carrier (non-U.S. Postal Service because of security–related delays in receiving mail from the U.S. Postal Service). All deadlines and requirements in this *Notice* apply to hard copy applications.

Corporation for National and Community Service
ATT: Office of Grants Policy and Operations/ASN Application
1201 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20525

VIII. Application Review Information

What is the selection process and criteria for these grants?
In evaluating applications for funding, in addition to the five priority areas identified in the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, reviewers will assess program design, organizational capability, and cost-effectiveness and budget adequacy. The weights assigned to each category and sub-category are listed in the chart below. Reviewers will

assess application narratives against these criteria and weight them accordingly. Please see the AmeriCorps regulations, 45 CFR §§ 2522.420–2522.448, for additional detail regarding these criteria and what reviewers will assess in each category.

Corporation program officers may call applicants to seek clarification, resolve questions and issues, develop performance measures, and request revised budgets as part of the pre-award review process.

Table 5: Basic Selection Criteria: Categories, Sub-Categories, and Respective Weights

Category	Percentage	Sub-Categories and Weights
Part A: Program Design	50%	Rationale and Approach (10%)
		Member Outputs and Outcomes (20%)
		Community Outputs and Outcomes (20%)
Part B: Organizational Capability	25%	No sub-categories
Part B: Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy	25%	Cost-Effectiveness (15%)
		Budget Adequacy (10%)

IX. Award Administration Information

A. When will grants be awarded?

The Corporation will award grants following the grant selection announcement. We anticipate announcing the results of this competition in June 2010. **The project start date may not occur prior to award date.**

B. What documents govern the grant?

The AmeriCorps regulations and grant provisions are incorporated in the Notice of Grant Award (NGA). The NGA incorporates the approved application as part of a binding commitment under the grant.

C. What is the Project/Award Period?

The Corporation generally makes grant awards for three years, with funding in annual increments. Grantees will be eligible for continuation funding in the second and third year contingent on the availability of appropriations, compliance, and satisfactory performance. **AmeriCorps members may not begin service until the Corporation issues a grant award. A program may not certify any hours a member performs prior to the award being issued.**

D. What are the reporting requirements for these grants?

Grantees other than fixed-amount grantees are required to provide annual performance and bi-annual financial reports. Fixed-amount grantees are required to provide annual performance reports only. All grantees provide expense reports through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

X. Agency Contacts

This *Notice* is available at www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa.asp. The TTY number is 202–606-3472. For further information or for a printed copy of this *Notice*, call (202) 606-5000. For questions regarding multi-state or Indian Tribes applications to be submitted directly to the Corporation, please call (202) 606-7508 or send an e-mail to americorpsnational@cns.gov. If you have questions concerning a single-state application, e-mail americorpscapplications@cns.gov or contact the State Commission. A list of all State Commissions can be found here: www.americorps.gov/about/contact/statecommission.asp/.