

In alignment with the Serve America Act, this AmeriCorps State and National (AmeriCorps) *Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity* will focus AmeriCorps grantmaking in six Focus Areas identified by the Act:

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

In order to carry out Congress' intent and to maximize the impact of the investment in national service, CNCS is seeking to fund programs that can demonstrate community impact and solve community problems through an evidence-based approach (e.g. performance data, research, theory of change).

In the AmeriCorps competition this year, CNCS especially seeks to prioritize investment in three areas of its work. CNCS will continue to focus on national service programs that improve academic outcomes for children, youth, and young adults. This focus reflects the extensive experience and past success of national service programs in education, and aligns with the efforts of the Department of Education. In addition, CNCS seeks to increase its investment in programs that serve veterans and military families or engage veterans in service. CNCS will also focus investment in programs that increase community resiliency through disaster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation.

Brief descriptions of the six Focus Areas follow.

Disaster Services:

Grants will help individuals and communities prepare, respond, recover, and mitigate disasters and increase community resiliency. Grant activities will:

- increase the preparedness of individuals,
- increase individuals' readiness to respond,
- help individuals recover from disasters, and
- help individuals mitigate disasters.

Economic Opportunity:

Grants will provide support and/or facilitate access to services and resources that contribute to the improved economic well-being and security of economically disadvantaged people. Grant activities will help economically disadvantaged people to:

- have improved access to services and benefits aimed at contributing to their enhanced financial literacy,
- transition into or remain in safe, healthy, affordable housing, and
- have improved employability leading to increased success in becoming employed.

Education:

Grants will provide support and/or facilitate access to services and resources that contribute to improved educational outcomes for economically disadvantaged people, especially children. CNCS is particularly interested in program designs that support youth engagement and service-learning as strategies to achieve high educational outcomes.

Grant activities will improve:

- school readiness for economically disadvantaged young children,
- educational and behavioral outcomes of students in low-achieving elementary, middle, and high schools, and
- the preparation for and prospects of success in post-secondary education institutions for economically disadvantaged students.

Environmental Stewardship:

Grants will provide direct services that contribute to increased energy and water efficiency, renewable energy use, or improving at-risk ecosystems, and support increased citizen behavioral change leading to increased efficiency, renewable energy use, and ecosystem improvements particularly for economically disadvantaged households and economically disadvantaged communities. Grant activities will:

- decrease energy and water consumption,
- improve at-risk ecosystems,
- increase behavioral changes that lead directly to decreased energy and water consumption or improve at-risk ecosystems, and
- increase green training opportunities that may lead to decreased energy and water consumption or improve at-risk ecosystems.

Healthy Futures:

Grants will meet health needs within communities including access to care, aging in place, and addressing childhood obesity. Grant activities will:

- increase seniors' ability to remain in their own homes with the same or improved quality of life for as long as possible,
- increase physical activity and improve nutrition in youth with the purpose of reducing childhood obesity, and
- improve access to primary and preventive health care for communities served by CNCS-supported programs (access to health care).

Veterans and Military Families:

Grants will positively impact the quality of life of veterans and improve military family strength. Grant activities will increase:

- the number of veterans and military service members and their families served by CNCS-supported programs, and
- the number of veterans and military family members engaged in service provision through CNCS-supported programs.

Brief description of Capacity Building follows.

Capacity Building:

In addition to the six Focus Areas described above, grants also will provide support for capacity building activities provided by national service participants. As a general rule, CNCS considers capacity building activities to be *indirect services* that enable CNCS-supported organizations to provide more, better and sustained *direct services*. Capacity building activities cannot be solely intended to support the administration or operations of the organization. Examples of capacity building activities include:

- Recruiting and/or managing community volunteers.
- Implementing effective volunteer management practices.
- Completing community assessments that identify goals and recommendations.
- Developing new systems and business processes (technology, performance management, training, etc.) or enhancing existing systems and business processes.

IX. NATIONAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Tier 1: Priority Measures (in Disaster Services, Education, and Veterans and Military Families)

Disaster Services
(new) D1: Number of individuals that received CNCS-supported services in disaster preparedness
(new) D2: Number of individuals that received CNCS-supported services in disaster response
(new) D3: Number of individuals that received CNCS-supported services in disaster recovery
(new) D4: Number of individuals that received CNCS-supported services in disaster mitigation
Education
ED21: Number of children that completed participation in CNCS-supported early childhood education programs
ED23: Number of children demonstrating gains in school readiness in terms of social and/or emotional development
ED24: Number of children demonstrating gains in school readiness in terms of literacy skills
ED25: Number of children demonstrating gains in school readiness in terms of numeracy (math) skills
ED2: Number of students that completed participation in CNCS-supported K-12 education programs
ED4A: Number of disadvantaged youth/mentor matches that were sustained by the CNCS-supported program for at least the required time period
ED5: Number of students with improved academic performance in literacy and/or math
(new) ED27: Number of students in grades K-12 that participated in the mentoring or tutoring or other education program, including CNCS-supported service learning, who demonstrated improved academic engagement
ED6: Number of students that improved their school attendance over the course of the CNCS-supported program's involvement with the student
Veterans and Military Families
V1: Number of veterans that received CNCS-supported assistance
(new) V8: Number of veterans' family members that received CNCS-supported assistance
V7: Number of family members of active duty military service members that received CNCS-supported assistance
(new) V9: Number of active duty military service members that received CNCS-supported assistance
V2: Number of veterans engaged in service opportunities as a National Service Participant or volunteer.
V10: Number of military family members engaged in service opportunities as a National Service Participant or volunteer.

Tier 2: Priority Measures (in Economic Opportunity, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures and Capacity Building)

Economic Opportunity¹
O5: Number of economically disadvantaged individuals, including homeless individuals, receiving housing services
O11: Number of economically disadvantaged individuals, including homeless individuals, transitioned into safe, healthy, affordable housing
Environmental Stewardship²
EN4: Number of acres of national parks, state parks, city parks, county parks, or other public and tribal lands that are improved
EN5: Number of miles of trails or waterways (owned/maintained by national, state, county, city or tribal governments) that are improved and/or created
Healthy Futures³
H8: Number of homebound OR older adults and individuals with disabilities receiving food, transportation, or other services that allow them to live independently
(new) H9: Number of homebound OR older adults and individuals with disabilities who reported having increased social ties/perceived social support
H10 (formerly O6): Number of individuals receiving emergency food from food banks, food pantries, or other nonprofit organizations
H11 (formerly O7): Number of individuals receiving support, services, education and/or referrals to alleviate long-term hunger
(new) H12: Number of individuals that reported increased food security of themselves and their children (household food security) as a result of CNCS-supported services
Capacity Building
(new) G3-3.1: Number of community volunteers recruited by CNCS-supported organizations or National Service Participants
(new) G3-3.2: Number of community volunteers managed by CNCS-supported organizations or National Service Participants
(new) G3-3.3: Number of organizations implementing three or more effective volunteer management practices as a result of capacity building services provided by CNCS-supported organizations or National Service Participants

¹ The following Economic Opportunity measures may also be used to report on your program’s performance in providing services in the Disaster Services focus area,

² The following Environmental Stewardship measures may also be used to report on your program’s performance in providing services in the Disaster Services focus area,

³ The following Healthy Futures measures may also be used to report on your program’s performance in providing services in the Disaster Services focus area,

Tier 3: Pilot Measures

Education
ED1: Number of students who start in a CNCS-supported education program
ED3A: Number of disadvantaged youth/mentor matches that are commenced by CNCS-supported programs
ED7: Number of students with no or decreased disciplinary referrals and suspensions over the course of the CNCS-supported programs' involvement
ED8: Number of youth with decreased substance abuse, arrest, or gang involvement
ED9: Number of students graduating from high school on time with a diploma
ED10: Number of students entering post-secondary institutions
ED11: Number of students earning a post-secondary degree
ED12: Number of CNCS-Supported National Service Participants who begin serving as teachers through a Teacher Corps program
ED13: Number of CNCS-Supported National Service Participants who completed serving as teachers through a Teacher Corps program
ED14: Number of individuals teaching in high need schools
ED15: Number of students in CNCS-supported teacher classrooms with improved academic performance
ED17: Number of teachers remaining in the education field, but not teaching in a school (school support staff, school administration, district administration policy, education nonprofits, etc.) after their term of service
ED18: Number of teachers who have had a positive impact on student learning as determined by observation-based assessments of teacher performance
ED19: Number of individuals receiving certification to teach in schools after their term of service
ED20: Number of children who start in a CNCS-supported early childhood education program
ED22: Number of children accessing high quality early childhood education programs
ED26: Number of students acquiring a GED
Economic Opportunity
O1: Number of economically disadvantaged individuals receiving financial literacy services
O2: Number of economically disadvantaged individuals receiving job training and other skill development services
O3: Number of economically disadvantaged individuals receiving job placement services
O4: Number of housing units developed, repaired, or otherwise made available for low-income individuals, families or people with disabilities
O9: Number of economically disadvantaged individuals with improved financial knowledge
O10: Number of economically disadvantaged individuals placed in jobs
O12: Number of economically disadvantaged National Service Participants who are unemployed prior to their term of service
O13: Number of economically disadvantaged National Service Participants who have not obtained their high school diploma or equivalent prior to the start of their term of service
O14: Number of National Service Participants who have their high school diploma or equivalent but have not completed a college degree prior to their term of service
O15: Number of economically disadvantaged National Service Participants that secure employment during their term of service or within one year after finishing a CNCS-supported program
O16: Number of National Service Participants that obtain a GED/diploma while serving in CNCS-supported programs or within one year after finishing serving in CNCS-supported programs
O17: Number of National Service Participants that complete a college course within one year after finishing a CNCS-supported program

Environmental Stewardship

EN1: Number of housing units of low-income households and structures weatherized or retrofitted to significantly improve energy efficiency

EN2: Number of low-income households home and public building energy audits conducted

EN3: Number of individuals receiving education or training in energy-efficient and environmentally-conscious practices, including but not limited to sustainable energy and other natural resources, and sustainable agriculture

EN6: Number of tons of materials collected and recycled

Healthy Futures

H1: Number of individuals who are uninsured, economically disadvantaged, medically underserved, or living in rural areas utilizing preventive and primary health care services and programs

H2: Number of clients to whom information on health insurance, health care access and health benefits programs is delivered

H3: Number of clients enrolled in health insurance, health services, and health benefits programs

H4: Number of clients participating in health education programs

H5: Number of children and youth engaged in in-school or afterschool physical education activities with the purpose of reducing childhood obesity

H6: Number of children and youth receiving nutrition education with the purpose of reducing childhood obesity

H7: Number of clients receiving language translation services at clinics and in emergency rooms

Veterans and Military Families

V3: Number of veterans assisted in pursuing educational opportunities

V4: Number of veterans assisted in receiving professional certification, licensure, or credentials

V6: Number of housing units developed, repaired, or otherwise made available for veterans

Capacity Building

(new) G3-3.4 Number of organizations that received capacity building services from CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants

(new) G3-3.5: Number of staff and community volunteers that received training (of one or more types) as a result of capacity building services provided by CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants

(new) G3-3.6: Number of organizations that completed a community assessment identifying goals and recommendations with the assistance of CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants

(new) G3-3.7: Hours of service contributed by community volunteers who were recruited by CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants

(new) G3-3.8: Hours of service contributed by community volunteers who were managed by CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants

(new) G3-3.9: Number of organizations reporting that capacity building activities provided by CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants have helped to make the organization more efficient

(new) G3-3.10: Number of organizations reporting that capacity building activities provided by CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants have helped to make the organization more effective

(new) G3-3.11: Number of new systems and business processes (technology, performance management, training, etc.) or enhancements to existing systems and business processes put in place as a result of capacity building services provided by CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants

(new) G3-3.12: Number of organizations that monitored their progress towards the goals identified in their community assessment with the assistance of CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants

(new) G3-3.13: Number of additional activities completed and/or program outputs produced by the program as a result of capacity building services provided by CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants in a) Disaster Services, b) Economic Opportunity, c) Education, d) Environmental Stewardship, e) Healthy Futures and/or f) Veterans and Military Families

(new) G3-3.14: Number of organizations that have experienced an increase in requests for their programs and services as a result of capacity building services provided by CNCS-supported organizations or national service

participants

(new) G3-3.15: Number of additional types of services offered by organizations as a result of capacity building services provided by CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants in a) Disaster Services, b) Economic Opportunity, c) Education, d) Environmental Stewardship, e) Healthy Futures and/or f) Veterans and Military Families

(new) G3-3.16: Dollar value of cash resources leveraged by CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants

(new) G3-3.17: Dollar value of in-kind resources leveraged by CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants

(new) G3-3.18: Number of new beneficiaries that received services as a result of capacity building efforts in: Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and/or Veterans and Military Families

(new) G3-3.19: Number of new beneficiaries from one or more targeted or underserved populations (counts by target population, e.g., racial or ethnic group) that received services as a result of capacity building efforts in: Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and/or Veterans and Military Families