

**2016 AmeriCorps State - Nevada
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) for Operational and Planning Grants**

This document contains a list of the questions and corresponding answers that have been submitted during the T/TA portion of the NOFO timeline as published on Nevada Volunteers Website. Potential applicants are encouraged to read the appropriate NOFO (for operational grants and/or planning grants) and documents referenced within prior to submitting a question as part of the T/TA process.

1. Where can I find the link to the recording of the "National Service in Nevada" webinar?

Answer: All webinar recordings and corresponding materials will be posted on the Nevada Volunteers website next to the date that they were scheduled in the NOFO timeline at <http://nevadavolunteers.org/ameri-corps/ameri-corps-funding/notice-of-funding-opportunities/>

2. What is an MSY?

Answer: MSY means Member Service Year. This is a similar concept to full-time equivalent (FTE). One MSY is equivalent to at least 1700 service hours, the minimum requirement for a full-time AmeriCorps position.

3. Are AmeriCorps members required to commit to a certain weekly schedule or is it determined by the agency the person is working for?

Answer: AmeriCorps members must make a commitment to serve for a term of service. There are a range of options for terms of service depending on your program model and the types of AmeriCorps slots you apply for. The options for terms of service are outlined on page 24 of the NOFO in Table 1. If awarded a grant, the agency has discretion to determine the service schedule for the members as long as the schedule is built in such a way that the member will have ample opportunity to complete the requirements of the term of service based on the schedule and time-frame of their contract.

4. I see that there is a grant based on the per member cost of \$13,730. Would this be for a 20-hour a week volunteer?

Answer: \$13,730 is the maximum cost per MSY. MSY means Member Service Year. This is a similar concept to full-time equivalent (FTE). One MSY is equivalent to at least 1700 service hours, the minimum requirement for a full-time AmeriCorps position. The cost per MSY is determined by dividing the entire CNCS share of budgeted grant costs by the number of MSYs requested. If you are applying for member slots that are less than full-time, those slots equal some fraction of a single MSY depending on the slot type chosen. It is simply a formula to compare costs by size of program but it does not require that you budget specific amounts for members. The cost per MSY is calculated for you in the budget worksheet.

5. If the AmeriCorps member is serving full time, then would it be the agencies responsibility to provide the remaining salary?

Answer: To successfully apply for and operate an AmeriCorps program an agency must bring both in-kind and cash resources to support the grant. You have flexibility in how you divide the CNCS (federal share) and match (grantee share) in your budget line items. In some cases this may require your organization to provide additional funds to support the member living allowance on the grantee share side of the budget.

6. **I noticed that the program requires the employer to provide insurance. Does the grant provide or include the insurance premium or is the premium to be paid by the agency?**

Answer: Insurance costs must be budgeted for full-time members only. These costs can be covered by either the CNCS Share (federal) or grantee share depending on how you build your budget.

7. **I see that the grant is to be managed by the agency. Can the agency pay the volunteer in any manner that works for them such as paying them under 1099?**

Answer: While quite rare, an agency could pay a member's living allowance under a 1099 as long as the member receives the required benefits such as the minimum living allowance, health insurance (if required), etc. In most cases members are classified in a separate category but paid through typical payroll processes of the organization that include deductions for FICA.

8. **Can we budget below the maximum dollar amount listed for less-than-full-time AmeriCorps members? The chart states "n/a" for the lower limit. Does this mean we cannot go below the maximum dollar amount?**

9. **Answer:** You may go below the maximum requirement for less than full-time living allowances. The "N/A" noted in the chart is an indication that there is no requirement to pay a living allowance for less than full-time members. Nevada Volunteers highly encourages that programs do provide a living allowance for all members based on enrollment and retention concerns.

10. **What is the difference between the cost/MSY and living allowance?**

Answer: The living allowance is the amount of money that you will provide to members during their term of service to support them in making the commitment to national service. It is only one of the line items used to calculate the cost/MSY. The cost per MSY is determined by dividing the entire CNCS share of budgeted grant costs by the number of MSYs requested. It is simply a formula to compare costs by size of program but it does not require that you budget specific amounts for members. The cost/MSY is a competitive factor used in determining cost-effectiveness of a program, while the living allowance is not as long as it fits the minimum/maximum guidelines; however the living allowance amount does affect the overall cost/MSY calculation.