

2017 Nevada Volunteers AmeriCorps State and National Grants NOFO Frequently Asked Questions

Webinar #1: Understanding AmeriCorps and Organization Fit – October 6, 2013

1. Will we be able to download these slides at the end of the presentation? **You are able to download the slides from each webinar presentation and the Power Point presentation for the in-person meetings.**
2. Where can I learn more about AmeriCorps VISTA and the application? **You can visit the Corporation for National and Community Service website at www.nationalservice.gov to learn more about VISTA. You can also contact Matt Johnson, CNCS Nevada State Program Director at mjohnson@cns.gov.**
3. If we do not have enough 'work' for 10 MSYs, are we disqualified from funding? **Nevada Volunteers requires that AmeriCorps grant applicants have a minimum 10 MSY to be considered eligible for funding.**
4. Is the minimum 10 MSYs for Formula Grant Funding over 10 years or one year? **It is for one program year (12 months).**
5. Can we apply/look again at this funding opportunity if our circumstances change? **Yes, contingent upon the availability of funding.**

Webinar #2: Program Design and Logic Models – October 13, 2016

1. I missed the first webinar would I be able to watch a recording of it? **Yes, recordings for each webinar and Power Point presentations for the in-person meetings are available on this website. Click on the link provided to watch any webinar and/or Power Point presentation from the in-person meetings.**
2. Can we get a copy of the Power Point Presentations with comments from the webinars? **Yes, they are available on this website, please see instructions above.**

Webinar #3: Program Narrative and Performance Measurements – October 20, 2016

1. No questions were asked.

Webinar #4: Understanding the AmeriCorps Budget and NOFO Requirements – October 27, 2016

1. Due to the rural status of the NSCP AmeriCorps Program we qualify for the 35 percent match. Would the match requirements maintain the same until year 6, which would cap at 35 percent at that time or is 35 percent reached in year 10? **The incremental match requirements increase at the same rate for the first six**

years without the alternative match requirement years: 1, 2, and 3 are 24 percent; year 4 is 26 percent; year 5 is 30 percent, year 6 is 34 percent and year 7 would be 35 percent if the alternative match is approved by Nevada Volunteers and the Corporation for National and Community Service. If the alternative match is not approved the incremental scale for Cost Reimbursement Grants would be 38 percent in year 7; 42 percent in year 8; 46 percent in year 9 and 50 percent in year 10. See pages 11 – 12 of the 2017 Nevada Volunteers AmeriCorps State and National Grants NOFO. The cap of 35 percent would remain in effect for the duration of the AmeriCorps grant.

2. In previous webinars I thought the direction was that only new grantees have to file the readiness assessment; but, I thought I just heard that it must be filed, could you please clarify? **Only new applicants applying for funding through Nevada Volunteers are required to complete the readiness assessment.**
3. What is the minimum number of members for a program? **Nevada Volunteers requires that all grantees have a minimum of 10 MSY (for example, 10 full-time equivalent members; 20 half-time equivalent members). Please refer to the NOFO for other slot/position configurations for your intended program design.**
4. Are there a sufficient number of members in a pool? How do you know if there is enough available? **An AmeriCorps member recruitment pool is not available. Nevada Volunteers does not recruit for AmeriCorps members. Individual grantees are responsible for recruitment, selection, and on-boarding of AmeriCorps members. Resources are available through the Corporation for National and Community Service to guide your recruitment process at www.nationalservice.gov. Grantees can submit their Member Assignment Listings (recruitment postings in eGrants). Nevada Volunteers is also available to consult in this process.**
5. Who recruits the AmeriCorps members? Do we get support to recruit them? **A recruitment pool is not available. Nevada Volunteers does not recruit for AmeriCorps members. Individual grantees are responsible for recruitment, selection, and on-boarding of AmeriCorps members. Resources are available through the Corporation for National and Community Service to guide your recruitment process at www.nationalservice.gov. Grantees can submit their Member Assignment Listings (recruitment postings in eGrants). Nevada Volunteers is also available to consult in this process.**

In-Person NOFO Meetings

No one attended the in-person NOFO meeting held in Reno on Friday, October 14.

At the in-person meeting in Las Vegas on October 26, 2016 several questions were posed. The following is in response to the questions asked at this meeting:

1. If you want to apply as a rural applicant in order to obtain the higher MSY of \$14,000 how is the designation of rural or economically disadvantaged determined?

In the 2017 Nevada Volunteers NOFO it states, "Cost reimbursement programs operating in rural communities (as defined in the Mandatory Supplemental Guidance) and cost reimbursement programs that recruit opportunity youth as AmeriCorps members may request up to \$14,000 cost per MSY for the AmeriCorps members that will be serving in rural areas or who are opportunity youth. Applicants requesting the higher cost/MSY must include a compelling case justifying the cost/MSY and explaining why these costs cannot be covered by the Grantee Share (Match). See page 11.

The Mandatory Supplemental Guidance outlines the process by which CNCS classifies programs as rural or urban. "CNCS uses rural-urban commuting (RUCA) codes to classify program addresses as either rural or urban for analytic purposes. Census tracts with an urban cluster population of less than 50,000 are considered rural (RUCA codes 4 - 10). Applicants are encouraged to designate themselves as rural communities if some or all service locations are in rural areas as defined by RUCA codes or if the program can provide other compelling evidence that the program is rural in the narrative portion of the application. This self-designation will be considered in grant making decisions.

RUCA codes for the State of Nevada may be found at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-commuting-area-codes.aspx>. Please visit this website to determine the RUCA code for your service location(s).

2. What are the incremental step increases in the alternative match requirement for AmeriCorps funding?

In the 2017 CNCS NOFO it reads, "Under certain circumstances, applicants may qualify to meet alternative matching requirements that increase over the years to 35 percent instead of 50 percent as specified in the regulations at 45 CFR Section 2521.60(b). To qualify, applicants must demonstrate that the proposed program is either located in a rural county or in a severely economically distressed community as defined in the Application Instructions. Applicants that plan to request an alternative match schedule must submit a request at the time the application is submitted. State programs submit requests for alternative match to the State Commission [Nevada Volunteers].

Application Instructions: Attachment G: Alternative Match Instructions, reads in part, "To qualify, you must demonstrate that your program is either located in a rural county or in a severely economically distressed community as defined below. Rural county: In determining whether a program is rural, CNCS will consider the most recent Beale code rating published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the county in which the program is located. Any program located in a county with a Beale code of 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 is eligible to apply for the alternative match requirement. All counties except Clark, Storey, Washoe, and Carson City have a designated Beale code of 4, 6, 7, 8, or 9.

Except when approved otherwise, Program Location is defined as the legal address of the program.

B. Severely Economically Distressed Counties: In determining whether a program is located in a severely economically distressed county, the Corporation for National and Community Service will consider the following list of county-level characteristics: See Attachment H for a list of website addresses where this publicly available information can be found.

- The county-level per capita income is less than or equal to 75 percent of the national average for all counties using the most recent census data or Bureau of Economic Analysis data;
- The county-level poverty rate is equal to or greater than 125 percent of the national average for all counties using the most recent census data; and
- The county-level unemployment is above the national average for all counties for the previous 12 months using the most recently available Bureau of Labor Statistics data.
- The areas served by the program lack basic infrastructure such as water or electricity.

For more information regarding the Alternative Match please refer to Attachment G of the Application Instructions found

at: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017%20ASN%20Application%20Instructions.pdf>

3. Is a salary survey available for AmeriCorps Program Directors?

Research to date indicates that there isn't a salary survey available. Applicants may wish to use compensation and class studies to determine potential salary ranges.

4. Are there copies of position descriptions for AmeriCorps Program Directors?

Again, position descriptions vary across programs because of the varied AmeriCorps program designs. Applicants may wish to use job analysis methodology in order to determine primary and secondary functions, KSAs, etc.

5. Is a Planning Grant considered year 1 or does year 1 start with the award of an Operational Grant for purposes of the matching requirements?

If a grantee is awarded a Planning Grant prior to an Operational Grant the Planning Grant award is considered to be year one for the purposes of the matching requirements.

Last updated: 11.7.2016