



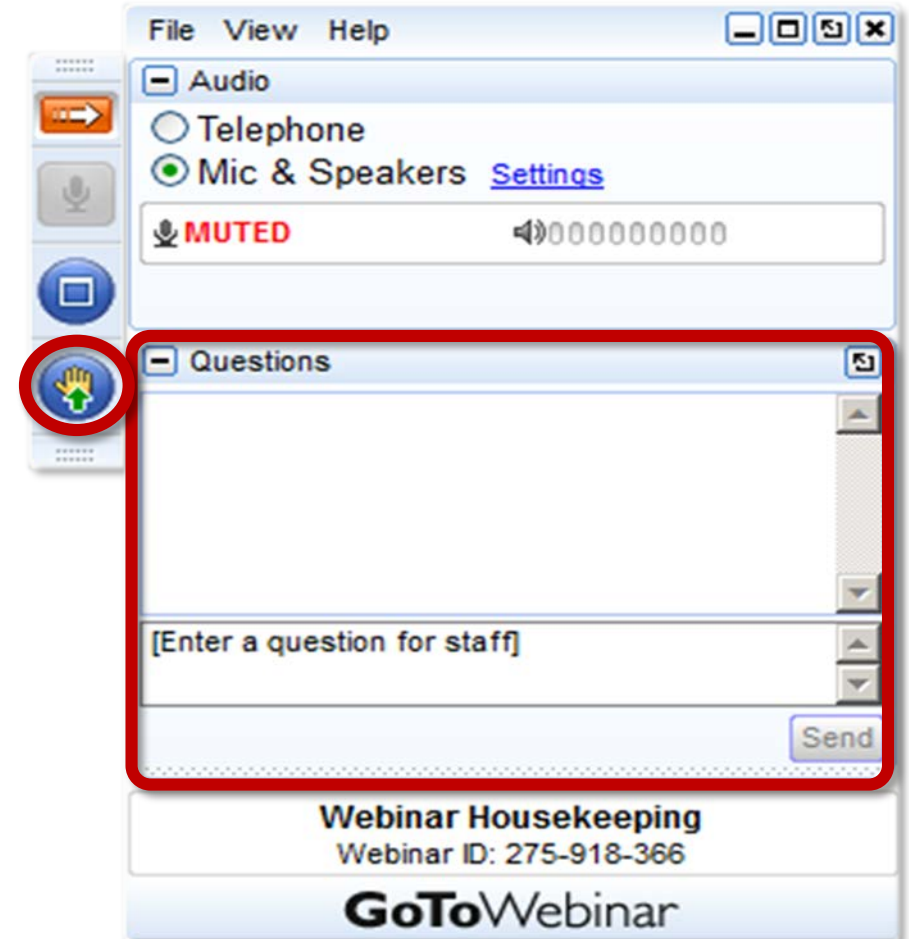
Understanding AmeriCorps and Determining Organization Fit

Amy Salinas and Jennifer Cowart

Tips for Participating



- Phones are muted;
- To ask questions, use the Questions panel OR
- Click on the hand icon to let us know you have a question; and
- Links and recording will be available after the session – www.nevadavolunteers.org



Guest Speakers



Amy Salinas

On3Learn

Austin, TX



Jennifer Cowart

On3Learn

Austin, TX

In Person Meetings



1. Thursday, October 12

- 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM
- United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra – 639 Isbell Road, Suite 460, Reno

2. Tuesday, October 17

- 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
- Griddle, 460 West Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca

To register for either meeting, go to www.nevadavolunteers.org.

Advance registration is not required.

Webinars



ALL webinars are
from 10:00 a.m. –
11:30 a.m.

- October 10 – Understanding AmeriCorps and Determining Organization Fit
- October 17 – Developing Your Program Design and Logic Model – The Pre-Application Phase
- October 24 – Understanding the AmeriCorps Budget & Budget Narrative
- October 31 – Understanding the NOFO Narrative and Performance Measures

Our Purpose



1. Understand the fundamentals of AmeriCorps and the NOFO; and
2. Help you determine if your organization has the capacity to implement and manage an AmeriCorps program.

Session Topics



- National and State Landscapes
- AmeriCorps State and National Programs
- AmeriCorps Members
- Organization Fit
- NOFO Overview

National Service Umbrella



Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

AmeriCorps

Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF)

Social Innovation Fund (SIF)

Senior Corps

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC)

AmeriCorps State & National

AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)

SIF Classic

SIF Pay for Success

Foster Grandparents

Senior Companion Program

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

AmeriCorps

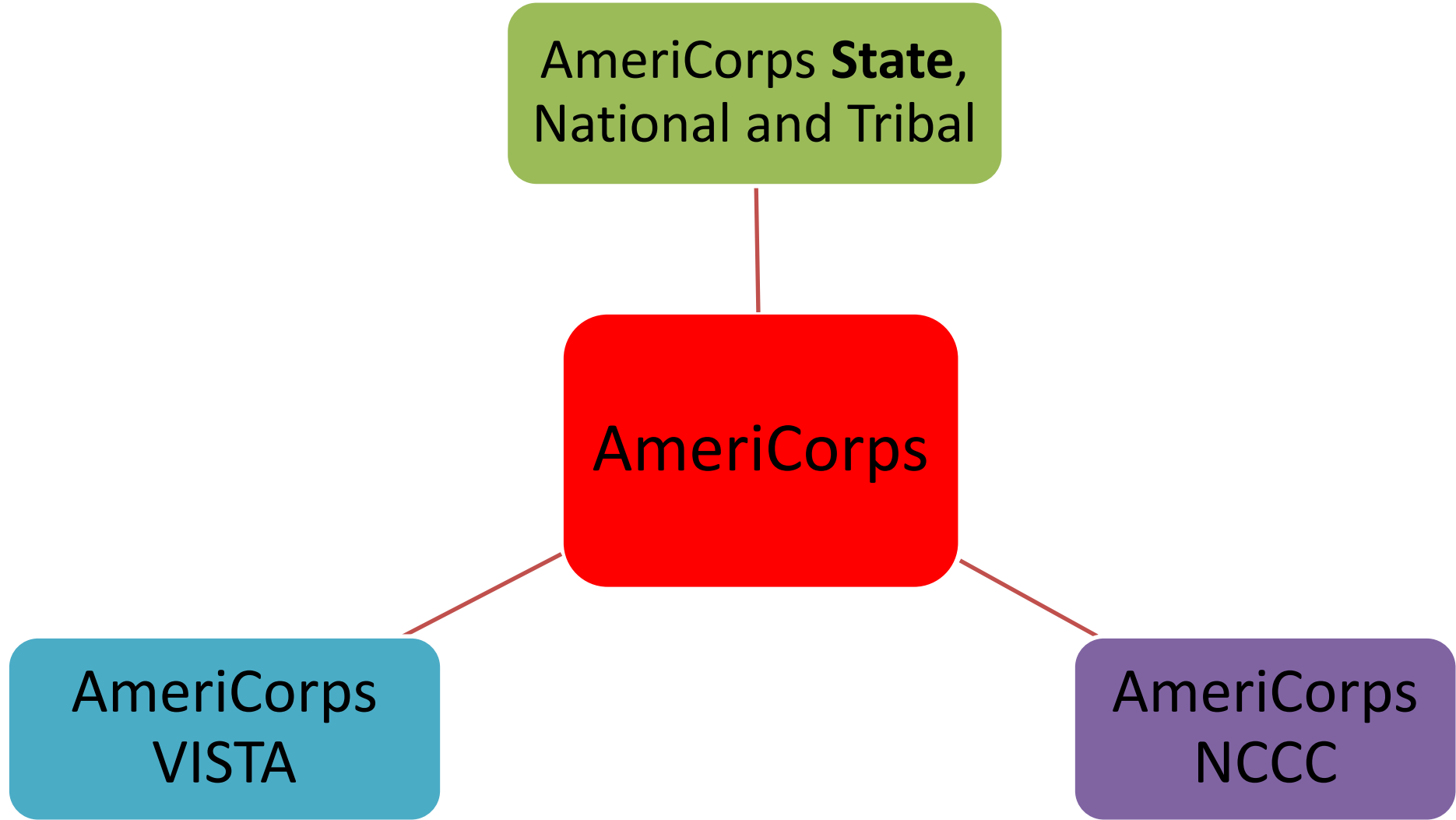


AmeriCorps **State,**
National and Tribal

AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps
VISTA

AmeriCorps
NCCC



AmeriCorps State & National



AmeriCorps National - operate in 2 or more states with one organization that serves as the legal applicant.

- Required to apply directly to CNCS and complete a consultation form on the Nevada Volunteers website.
- Grant submission information can be found at www.nationalservice.gov.

AmeriCorps State & National



AmeriCorps State - operated by 1 legal applicant that places members in 1 state.

- Required to apply directly to State Service Commission - Nevada Volunteers.
- Grant submission information can be found at www.nevadavolunteers.org.



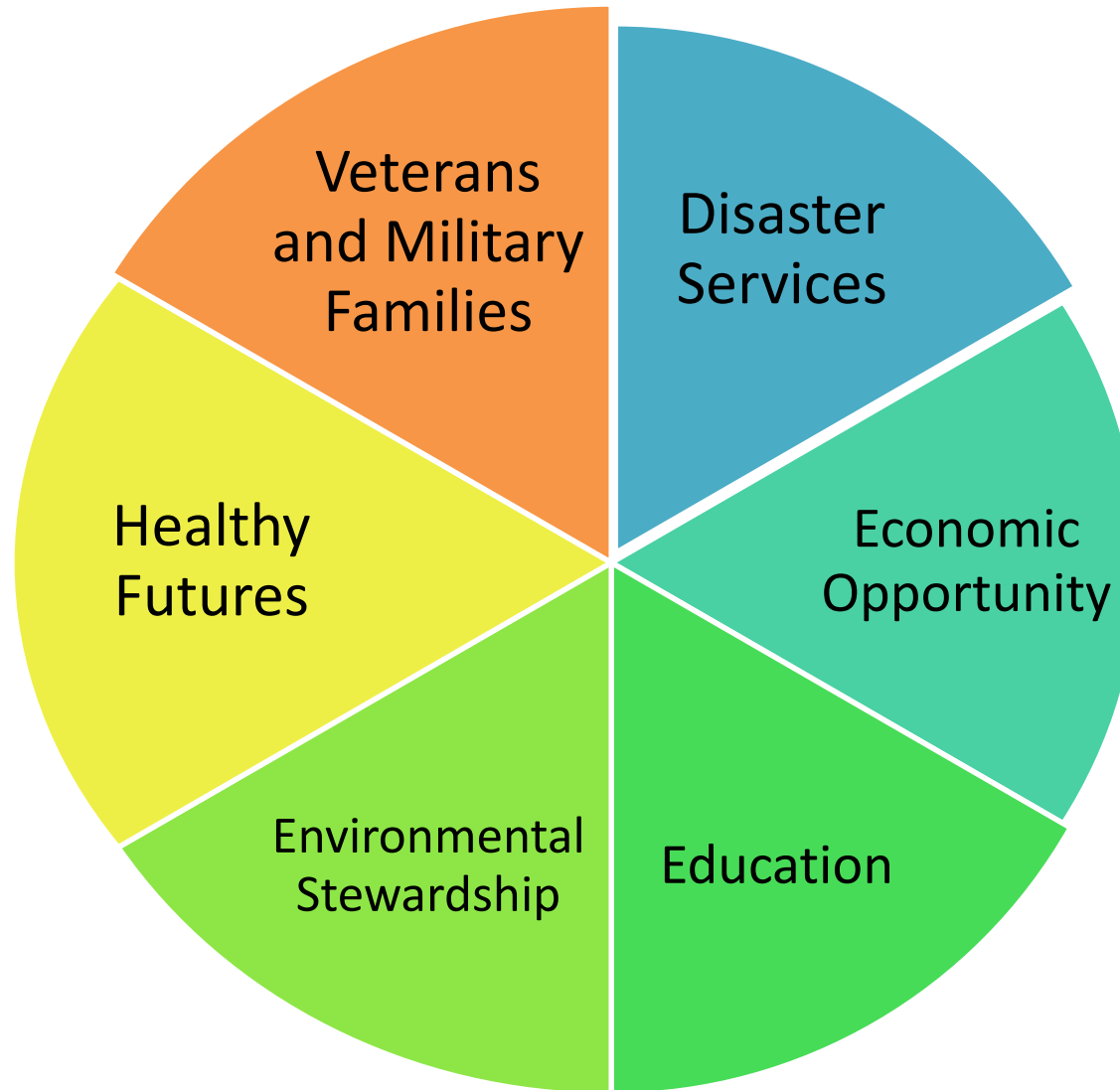
AmeriCorps State & National



Strengthening
Nevada Through
AmeriCorps and
Volunteerism



AmeriCorps Focus Areas



AmeriCorps Focus Areas



- Increase the preparedness for disaster
- Improve readiness to respond to disasters
- Help individuals recover from disasters
- Help individuals mitigate disasters



Disaster
Services

AmeriCorps Focus Areas



- Help economically disadvantaged people
 - Enhance financial literacy
 - Transition into or remain in affordable housing
 - Improve employability



Economic
Opportunity

AmeriCorps Focus Areas



- Improve educational outcomes or school readiness for economically disadvantaged children
- Improve educational & behavioral outcomes for students in low-achieving schools
- Support economically disadvantaged students in post-secondary institutions



Education

AmeriCorps Focus Areas



Environmental Stewardship

- Responsible stewardship of the environment
- Preparing communities for challenging circumstances
- Helping Americans respond and recover from disruptive life events

AmeriCorps Focus Areas



Healthy Futures

- Improve access to primary & preventative health care
- Increase seniors' ability to remain in their homes
- Increase physical activity & improve youth nutrition

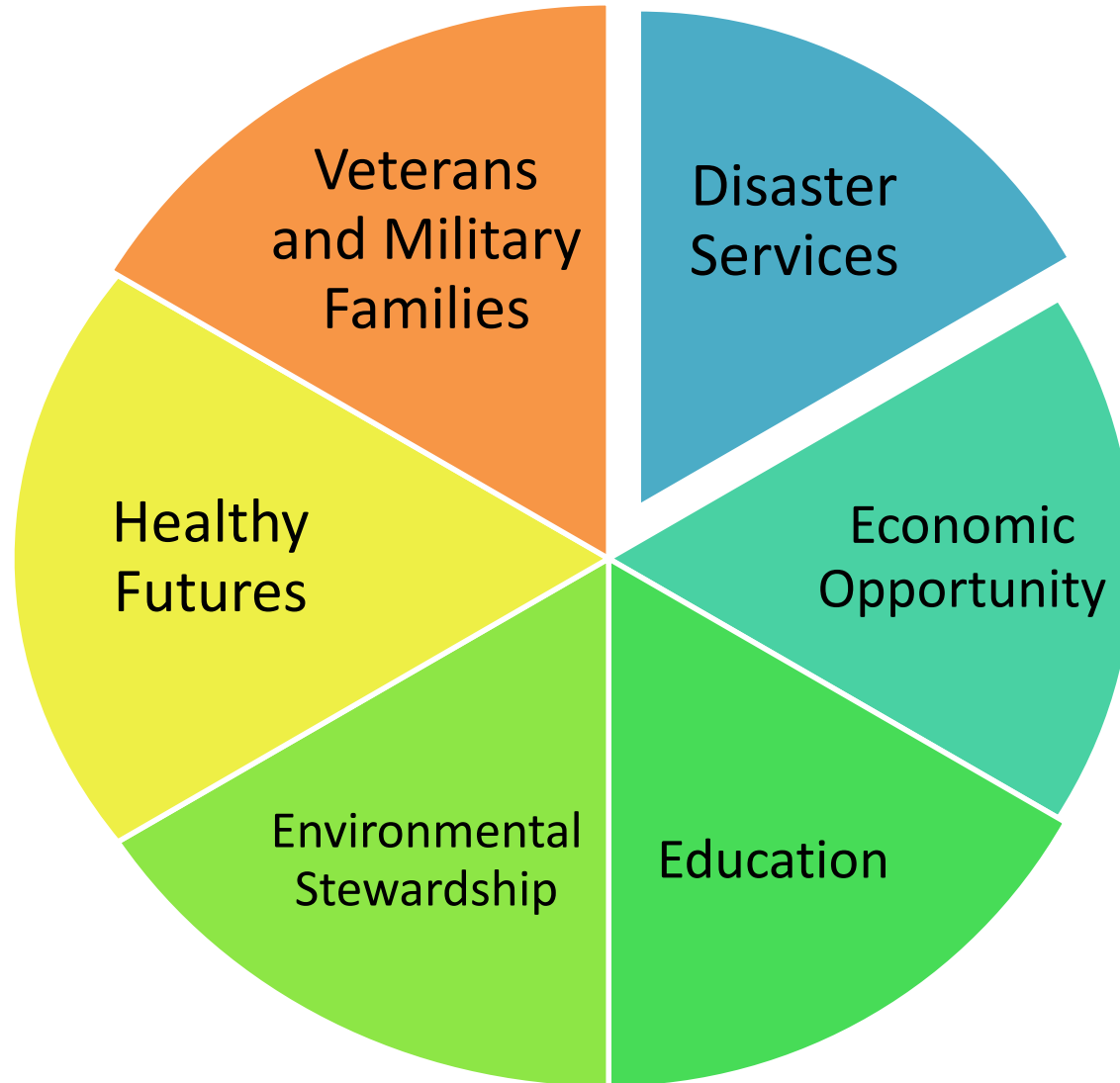
AmeriCorps Focus Areas



Veterans and Military Families

- Positively impacts veterans' quality of life and improves military family strength
- Increase veterans, military service members & families:
 - Served by CNCS programs
 - Engaged in service through CNCS programs

AmeriCorps Focus Areas



CNCS Funding Priorities



- Disaster Services
- Economic Opportunity
 - Engaging opportunity youth either as the population served and/or as AmeriCorps members
- STEM education
- Healthy Futures
 - Reducing and/or preventing prescription drug and opioid abuse
- Veterans and Military Families
- Governor and Mayor Initiatives

CNCS Funding Priorities



- **Rural Intermediaries**
 - Demonstrate measurable impact and primarily serve communities with limited resources and organizational infrastructure
- **Safer Communities**
 - Activities focused on public safety, preventing and mitigating civil unrest and/or partnerships between law enforcement and the community
- **Evidence-based Intervention Planning Grants**
- **Encore programs**

Nevada Volunteers Funding Priorities



- Veterans and Military Families
- Education
 - Improve school readiness, education outcomes and prepare students for success in post-secondary institutions
- Direct service and capacity building activities in the area of recruitment, management, and effective volunteer practices and apply an intermediary program design
- Focus on urgent community needs in rural areas

Question Break



Questions

AmeriCorps Guiding Principles



Get Things
Done

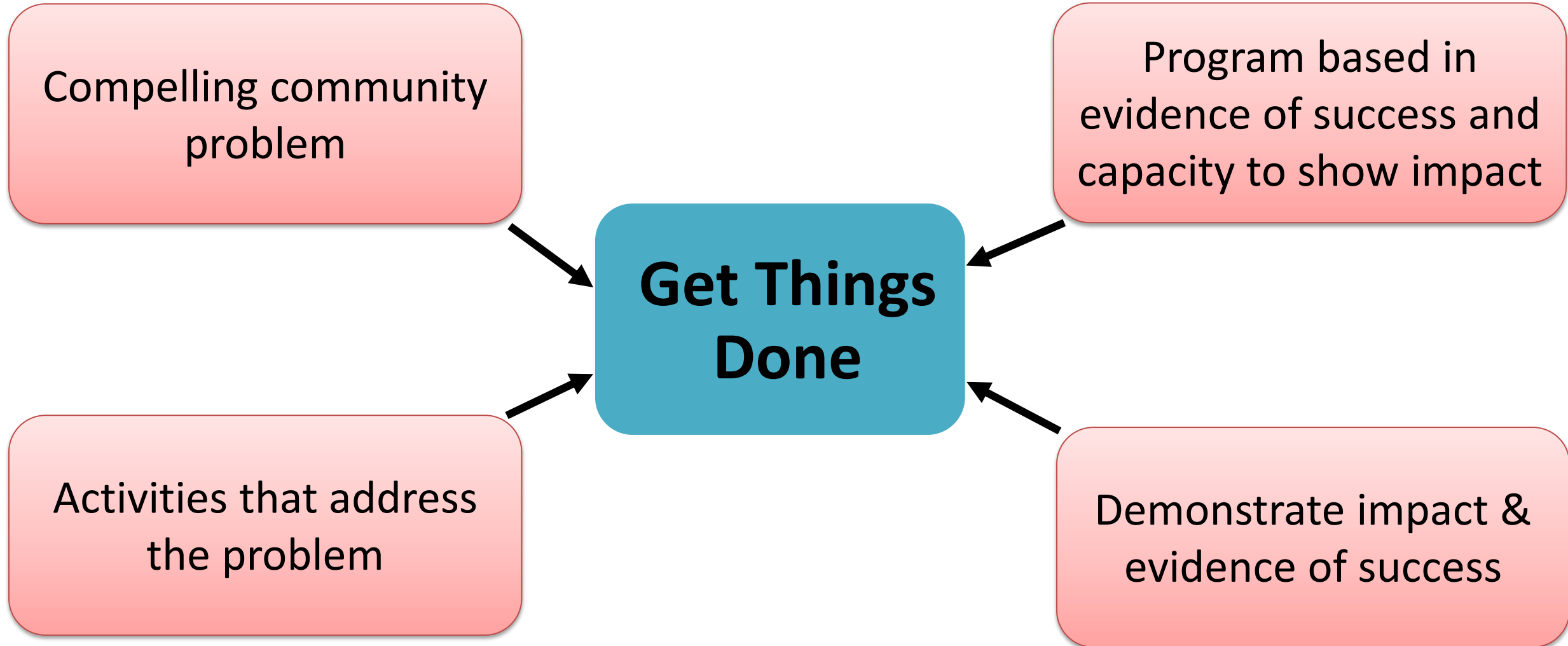
Strengthen
Communities

Develop
Participants

Encourage
Responsibility

Expand
Opportunity

AmeriCorps Guiding Principles



AmeriCorps Guiding Principles



Compelling Community Problem

- Demonstrate there is a need in your community or communities.
 - Do you have data you can share to show the readers of your grant that there is a problem? Is it compelling?

AmeriCorps Guiding Principles



Activities that
address the
problem and
based in
evidence of
success

- Well thought out plan on how you are going to use AmeriCorps members.
 - AmeriCorps members - individuals who you recruit and select who will serve for a period of time, typically 10-12 months, for a specific amount of time per year i.e. 900 hours.
- Well thought out position descriptions
- Members are not given to you . . . you have to do outreach and recruit them yourself.
- Activities you propose for members to do have some likelihood of working.

AmeriCorps Guiding Principles



**Demonstrate
impact &
evidence of
success**

- Be able to report on and document key indicators or success - Outputs and Outcomes
 - How many people served will be a success?
 - How will you know when members are doing something that will help to eventually move the needle on the issue or issues your community faces?

AmeriCorps Guiding Principles



**Strengthen
Communities**

Engage a diverse group of individuals as members

Accessible and welcoming

Participate in National Days of Service

AmeriCorps Guiding Principles



Equip members
for position
specific duties

Develop stronger
ethic of service

**Develop
Participants**

Enhance personal
& professional
selves

Increase civic &
community
engagement post
service

Rules & Regulations



- 1.** National and Community Service Act of 1990 (as amended by the Serve America Act)
- 2.** AmeriCorps Regulations
- 3.** AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions
 - a.** 2017-2018 General Terms and Conditions
 - b.** 2017-2018 Specific Terms and Conditions for AmeriCorps State

AmeriCorps Members



**AmeriCorps Members
are NOT:**

Staff

Employees

Volunteers

**AmeriCorps Members
CANNOT replace:**

Existing Staff

Existing Employees

Existing Volunteers

Terms of Service



Service Term	Minimum # of Hours
Full Time	1,700
Half Time	900
Reduced Half Time	675
Quarter Time	450
Minimum Time	300

Terms of Service

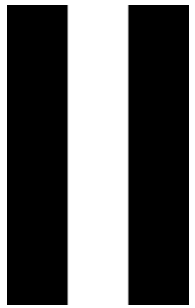


- How many members?
- What length of time members need to serve?
- Number of hours that will be required to get their service completed and address the need.

Slots and MSYs



1 slot



1

AmeriCorps
Member

Service Term	MSY Value	Minimum # of Hours
Full Time	1.00	1,700
Half Time	.500	900
Reduced Half Time	.3809524	675
Quarter Time	.26455027	450
Minimum Time	.21164022	300

Question Break



Questions

Member Eligibility



<p>Citizenship</p>	<p>✓ Must be U.S. Citizen or lawful permanent resident</p>
<p>Age</p>	<p>✓ Must be 17 years of age or older (If 17, need parental consent).</p> <p>✓ No upper age limit</p>
<p>High School</p>	<p>✓ Must be high school graduate or GED recipient agree to obtain a high school diploma or GED before utilizing the education award.</p>
<p>National Service Criminal History Check</p>	<p>✓ Subject to all facets of the National Service Criminal History Check</p>

Prohibited Activities

AmeriCorps members may not engage **directly** in very specific activities **or indirectly** by recruiting, training, or managing others for the primary purpose of engaging in one of the activities on the list that follows.



Prohibited Activities



- a.** Attempting to influence legislation;
- b.** Organizing or engaging in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes;
- c.** Assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing;
- d.** Impairing existing contracts for services

Prohibited Activities



- e. Engaging in partisan political activities, or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to any public office;
- f. Participating in, or endorsing, events or activities that are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties, political platforms, political candidates, proposed legislation, or elected officials;
- g. Engaging in religious instruction, conducting worship services, providing instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious instruction or worship, constructing or operating facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship, maintaining facilities primarily or inherently devoted to religious instruction or worship, or engaging in any form of religious proselytization;

Prohibited Activities



h. Providing a direct benefit to—

- i.** A business organized for profit;
- ii.** A labor union;
- iii.** A partisan political organization;
- iv.** A nonprofit organization that fails to comply with the restrictions contained in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 related to engaging in political activities or substantial amount of lobbying except that nothing in these 9 provisions shall be construed to prevent participants from engaging in advocacy activities undertaken at their own initiative; and
- v.** An organization engaged in the religious activities described in paragraph g, unless CNCS assistance is not used to support those religious activities;

Prohibited Activities



- i.** Conducting a voter registration drive or using CNCS funds to conduct a voter registration drive;
- j.** Providing abortion services or referrals for receipt of such services; and
- k.** Such other activities as CNCS may prohibit

Prohibited Activities



Also apply to:

- ✓ Staff (including host site staff)
- ✓ Volunteers recruited by AmeriCorps members
- ✓ Volunteers managed by AmeriCorps members



Member Activities



Allowable Activities

Activities that are consistent with the approved **grant application, performance measurements, program documents, budget, and larger national priorities.**



Allowable Activities



Examples:



- Tutoring and mentoring
- Providing relief after a natural disaster
- Helping build safe and affordable housing
- Maintaining or building trails
- Conducting outreach to veterans and military families

Unallowable Activities

Activities that **fall outside the scope** of the approved grant, measures, and position description.



Member Benefits



- Living allowance
- Health insurance
- Childcare assistance
- Education award

Member Benefits



<p>Living Allowance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Stipend to help support the member with basic needs during their term
<p>Health Insurance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Must be offered to full-time members ✓ Can be offered to less than full-time members serving in a full-time capacity
<p>Childcare Assistance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Available to full-time members who meet qualifications around household income, child age and burden to successfully serve their term. ✓ Can be offered to less than full-time members serving in a full-time capacity
<p>Education Award</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Available upon successful program completion ✓ Can be utilized toward qualified educational costs at eligible post-secondary educational institutions and/or to pay qualified student loans

Question Break



Questions

Minimum Eligibility



Organization Type

1. Indian Tribe
2. Institutions of Higher Education
3. Local Governments
4. Non-profit organizations
5. States

AmeriCorps Funds



Competitive

National pool of dollars that the Corporation for National and Community Service allocates across the country.



Formula

State pool of dollars that each state gets, including Nevada.

Minimum Eligibility



Competitive

- ✓ Must propose at least 20 member slots
- ✓ New applicants generally have no more than 50 member slots



Formula

- ✓ Requires at least 10 MSY's (full-time equivalents)
- ✓ Will consider a minimum of 3 MSY for programs serving rural NV.

Organizational Capability



PROGRAMMATIC

- ? Do you have enough direct service activities for members to do so they are able to successfully complete their hours?
- ? Will my agency have access to the necessary data from member host sites to report on the selected performance measures?
- ? How do you ensure the integrity of the data and data collection methods where member host sites are responsible for the performance measures?

Organizational Capability



MANAGEMENT

- ? Per the NOFO, Nevada Volunteers requires that a full-time program director manage the AmeriCorps program. Is this possible?
- ? Does my agency have the administrative (i.e. HR, accounting, etc.) support to assist in the management of the AmeriCorps program?

Organizational Capability



FISCAL

- ? Does my agency have the funds available to operate the AmeriCorps program pending reimbursement?
- ? Does my agency have available funds and/or in-kind resources to support the proposed program budget?
- ? Is the AmeriCorps program sustainable for my agency with match increases that occur after year 3?
- ? Has my agency managed Federal and/or State grants in the past?

NOFO Overview

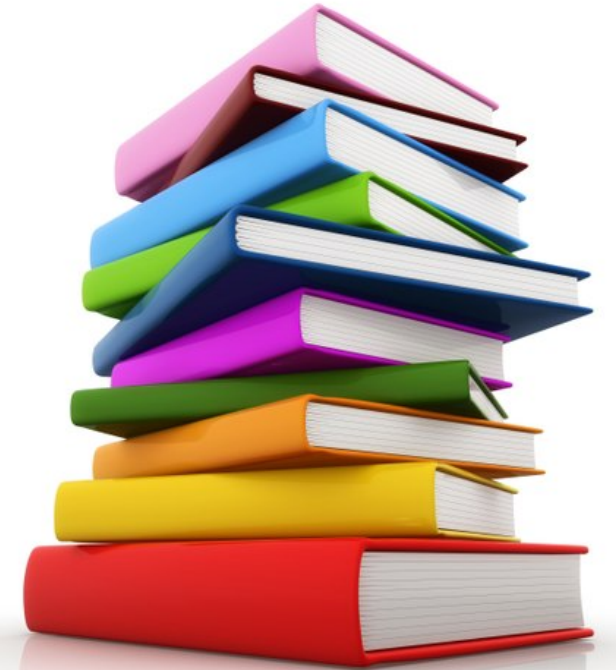


- NOFO Intent and Purpose: announce the availability of grant funding to plan for and establish AmeriCorps State programs in Nevada.
- Key Dates and Requirements
- Information and materials can be accessed on the Nevada Volunteers website shown here:
 - <http://nevadavolunteers.org/ameriCorps/ameriCorps-funding/notice-of-funding-opportunities/>

Resources



- Webinar Power Point
- Fact Sheets
 - CNCS
 - Senior Corps
 - AmeriCorps
- Prohibited Activities List
- 2017-2018 AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions
 - General and Specific to AmeriCorps State





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