

Presented by CNCS program officer, Charndrea Leonard for the Nov 18, 2008 Health Disparities Service-Learning teleconference on AmeriCorps

What is the Corporation for National and Community Service?

An independent federal agency that:

- Was created to connect Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to give back to their communities and their nation.
- Is the nation's largest grantmaker supporting service and volunteering.
- Engages more than 1.5 million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service each year through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America.
- Is part of USA Freedom Corps, a White House initiative to foster a culture of citizenship, service and responsibility, and help all Americans answer the President's Call to Service.
- CNCS Mission: To support people and organizations in using citizen service as a strategy to meet critical national and community needs, and to foster an ethic of civic responsibility.

What is AmeriCorps?

- AmeriCorps is a network of local, state and national service programs that connects more than 75,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country's critical needs in education, public safety, health, environment and other needs.
- AmeriCorps provides opportunities for individuals – AmeriCorps members – to serve communities across the country.
- Since 1994, more than 500,000 men and women have provided service as AmeriCorps members.

What are AmeriCorps Members?

- Individuals enrolled for a specific term of service with an AmeriCorps program. The term of service is between 300 and 1,700 hours per year. Members can serve one or two years.
- AmeriCorps members receive an Education Award of up to \$4,725 for successfully completing a full-time term of service. Education Awards are prorated for lesser terms of service.
- Some AmeriCorps members receive a living allowance, health insurance and child care benefits to support them during their terms of service.
- AmeriCorps members must be individuals who are U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States; and are at least 17 years of age at the commencement of their term of service.

What is an AmeriCorps Grant?

- Provides funding to support AmeriCorps programs.
- AmeriCorps programs are designed by the applicant organization to address community needs through the assistance of full-time or part-time AmeriCorps members.
- Includes an allotment of AmeriCorps member positions.
- Funds are directly tied to a specific number of AmeriCorps members and are solely for program expenses.
- AmeriCorps grants partially cover the expense of operating an AmeriCorps program and do not cover general organizational expenses.
- Grant recipients must contribute match funding to support the project. Match can be cash and in-kind.

- The organizations that receive grants are responsible for recruiting, selecting, and supervising AmeriCorps members to serve in their programs.

What are the Purposes and Benefits of AmeriCorps Grants?

- To fund high-quality programs that help meet community needs through service, develop an ethic of service in AmeriCorps members and other participants, strengthen the capacity of communities to address their needs, and demonstrate the impact they are having on the community.
- AmeriCorps programs are developed by the grantee, who has identified a compelling community need, and designed a set of activities for AmeriCorps members and community volunteers that will have a direct impact on the identified need.
- Grantee receives funds to support the administration of their program, access to training and technical assistance resources, and entrance into a network of organizations across the country committed to improving their communities in different ways.
- Communities and organizations gain a dedicated, enthusiastic team of individuals who are committed to addressing the needs of the community.
- AmeriCorps members gain skills and experience, and an Education Award to be used to further their education or repay student loans.

What are the AmeriCorps*National Grant Programs?

- National Planning Grants
- National Direct
- Professional Corps
- Education Award Program (EAP)
- Indian Tribes
- Indian Tribes Planning Grants

Who is Eligible to Apply for an AmeriCorps*National Grant?

- Nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, Indian tribes, and county, city and local government entities are eligible to apply for an AmeriCorps*National grant.
- Planning Grants, National Direct and Professional Corps
 - Must propose programs in two or more states.
 - Organizations operating solely within one state would form partnerships with affiliates or organizations in other states that are facing similar community issues.
- Education Award Programs
 - Institutions of higher education or state education agencies may operate in one state; other applicants must operate in more than one state.
- Indian Tribe Programs and Tribes Planning Grants
 - Must be “A federally recognized Indian Tribe, band, nation or other organized group or community, including any Native village, Regional Corporation, or Village Corporation.”
 - May operate in only one state

What does the Current National Direct Portfolio look like?

- Organizations: National, regional, and local nonprofits;
- Programs: Public health, legal, bridging the digital divide, housing construction, teaching, tutoring, disaster preparation, volunteer management;
- Populations Served: Seniors, persons with disabilities, immigrants, homeless veterans, children & youth, urban & rural areas across the United States.

What is a Planning Grant?

- A grant to support the development of a strong AmeriCorps program design that is multi-state or Indian Tribe based.
- The maximum funds awarded are \$50,000 per grant.
- Near the end of the planning period, the organization applies and competes for a regular AmeriCorps*National or Indian Tribes implementation grant.
- No AmeriCorps members are associated with the planning grant.
- Applicants cannot have previously received an AmeriCorps*National grant.
- During the planning period, grantees are assigned a program officer and receive program development assistance.
- Current Portfolio – one organization representing \$45,000 in Corporation funds.

What is a National Direct Grant Program?

- An AmeriCorps program addressing community needs in at least two states. (Note: If an organization is interested in operating a program serving in one state, contact the appropriate state commission via www.americorps.gov and clicking Contact Us, then State ServiceCommissions.)
- The grantee organization is responsible for the implementation and oversight of local programs in different states.
- The grantee has relationships with entities in different states that will operate the local programs.
- The maximum cost per MSY is \$12,600.
- *Current portfolio – 49 organizations, representing \$55,160,000 and 10,031 MSYs and 13,600+ members.*
- 10 AmeriCorps National Direct grants were selected in the 2008 competition. They range from \$245,000 to over \$1.6 million; 30% of the grants were for greater than \$1 million, while the remaining 70% were less.

What is a National Professional Corps Program?

- An effort to address compelling community needs by creating and expanding opportunities for AmeriCorps members to serve as professionals.
- The grant funds programs that recruit and place qualified participants in positions as teachers, nurses and other health care providers, police officers, engineers or other professionals. Funds are intended to help programs meet the educational, public safety, human, or environmental needs in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals.
- AmeriCorps members could fill the roles of pre-professionals, para-professionals or experienced professionals.
- The maximum cost per MSY is \$2,500.
- AmeriCorps members can be paid salaries in excess of the maximum AmeriCorps member allowance.
- AmeriCorps member salaries and benefits are not covered by the grant.
- Program must operate in more than one state.
- *Current Portfolio – 12 organizations representing \$2,002,000 million in Corporation funds and 1,590 MSY and over 1,700 members.*
- 3 Professional Corps Grants selected in the 2007 competition. They range from \$51,000 to \$600,000.

What is an Indian Tribe Program?

- An AmeriCorps program sponsored by an Indian tribe.
- Program may operate in only one state.
- Indian tribes can also submit applications for other grant programs.
- The maximum cost per MSY is \$12,600.
- *Current Portfolio – 6 Indian tribes representing \$1,033,000 in Corporation funds and 52 members.*
- One new Indian Tribe grant was awarded through the 2008 grant competition. This grant was for \$125,000 and will support 10 members.

What is an Education Award Program (EAP)?

- Receives minimal financial support from the Corporation and has fewer fiscal reporting requirements.
- Best suited for pre-existing service programs or for organizations with other sources of funding, for whom AmeriCorps adds value to their program.
 - For instance, partnering with AmeriCorps allows an existing service program to recruit more service participants or serve more beneficiaries.
- The maximum cost per MSY is \$600.
- The award is a fixed-priced award.
- *Current Portfolio – 12 programs representing \$4,840,000 in Corporation funds and over 10,300 members.*
- 6 National Education Award Program grants were awarded in the 2008 competition ranged from \$10,000 to \$700,000.

What are AmeriCorps National Grant Funds?

- There is approximately \$19.5 million available for new National Direct grants (this figure includes funds for National planning grants and professional corps programs), \$3.5 million for all EAPs, and \$1.5 million for Indian Tribes and Tribes planning grants.
- The size of the grants approved for funding will depend on the total pool of funds requested, and reviewers' assessment of your proposal.
- Funds are directly tied to supporting the service of a budgeted number of AmeriCorps members. Funds in the budget are for member living allowance and benefits, staffing, member and staff training, member supervision, project supplies, administration of program, etc., as opposed to general organizational operating funds.
- Grant recipients contribute cash and in-kind resources to supplement the grant funds.

What are the Responsibilities and Requirements of an AmeriCorps National Grantee?

- Grantee/parent organization has overall legal, administrative, and fiscal responsibility for the entire scope of the program, even if the funds are subgranted.
- The grantee must:
 - provide strong financial management and programmatic oversight;
 - monitor financial management and program performance at operating sites;
 - train and provide technical assistance to site staff;
 - ensure the recruitment of members;
 - train members and staff;
 - act as liaison between CNCS and the sites; and
 - provide systems which allow for member hours and activities to be tracked, and which collect data on activities that is used to both measure impact/progress and to strengthen the program.

HEALTH-RELATED AMERICORPS PROGRAMS

A.T. Still University of Health Sciences

AHEC Professional Corps Program

A.T. Still University of Health Sciences is committed to educating and preparing its students to practice at the forefront of a dynamic healthcare system. AHEC (Area Health Education Center) Corps members provide diagnostic and preventative medical care, health outreach, mental health and social work services to individuals in rural and medically underserved areas.

Contacts: Janet Head jhead@atsu.edu 660.626.2247 Stephanie Sarens Sarens@ATSU.edu 660.626.2887

Campus Compact for New Hampshire

Wediko AmeriCorps Professional Corps Program

The Campus Compact New Hampshire-Wediko Children's Services AmeriCorps Professional Corps Program seeks to increase the quality of family and child mental health services provided to at-risk children and families in selected communities in New England. AmeriCorps members will serve in the following roles: residential counselors, therapists, program coordinators and special education teachers. These professionals will provide individual, group and family based services aimed at increasing clients social, emotional and academic successes. Placement sites include public schools, community-based organizations, and short and long-term residential placement sites.

Contact: Stephanie Soule Lesperance soule@compactnh.org 603.223.2302; Debby Scire scire@compactnh.org

Health Federation of Philadelphia

National Health Corps

The National Health Corps is dedicated to reducing health disparities and meeting the health and human service needs of underserved communities through partnerships, collaborations, and service activities while fostering members' pursuit of health related careers and ethic of service. The two primary goals of the NHC are to increase access to health care services for underserved communities and to promote the health and safety of each NHC community. NHC members serve as health educators, community organizers, consumer advocates, and leaders among their peers. Additionally, all members are prepared to assist partner organizations in the event of an emergency, by providing outreach and distribution of emergency and health information, and the implementation of public health emergency response plans.

Contact: Natalie Levkovich natlev@healthfederation.org 215.567.8001; Corinne Lagermasini clagermasini@healthfederation.org

Health Literacy Foundation

MedServe Professional Health Corps

The Health Literacy Foundation was established to help vulnerable and underserved populations gain access to the most reliable and relevant health information and materials, as well as to provide education on how to participate in treatment plans and navigate a complex health system. MedServe Professional Health Corps members develop health and disease prevention projects, create health literacy tools, and provide free clinic services to low-income individuals at federally qualified health centers and free clinics located in health professional shortage areas.

Contact: Brenda Dane EDD@healthliteracyfoundation.org 619.922.6802

National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc.

The Community HealthCorps

The mission of the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) is to promote high quality, comprehensive health care that is accessible, coordinated, culturally and linguistically competent, and community directed for all underserved populations. AmeriCorps members provide assistance and resources to link low-income, at-risk community residents in Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs) to community health centers. Members increase access to health care centers by conducting outreach to underserved communities, and expand service delivery capacity by performing case management, referral and follow-up services. Members also develop preventive health practices among clients through health education workshops, and increase community involvement in, and support of, health center activities by mobilizing volunteers to assist with outreach, education and service projects.

Contact: Jason Patnosh jpatnosh@nachc.com 301.347.0400 x2068

WestCare Foundation, Inc.

WestCare Empowers Direct (WE Direct)

WestCare is a national non-profit which provides a wide spectrum of community-based behavioral health service to vulnerable populations. Services provided include substance abuse and addiction treatment, homeless and runaway shelters, domestic violence treatment and prevention, and mental health programs. WE Direct represents a national, multi-site program that operates throughout the eastern United States to respond to the need for accessible behavioral health services. Through the WE Direct program, AmeriCorps members support West Care's mission to provide accessible behavioral health services, primarily focusing on at-risk youth and populations affected by substance abuse.

Contact: David Rosynsky david.rosynsky@westcare.com