

## Notice of Funds Available

### AmeriCorps\*State Formula 2021-22

Serve Connecticut is pleased to announce the availability of federal funds to support new and re-competing AmeriCorps\*Connecticut programs to start in fall 2021.

### What is AmeriCorps?

**AmeriCorps** (pronounced *A-me-ri-core*; the “p” and the “s” are silent) is a national service program designed to strengthen citizenship and the ethic of service by engaging thousands of Americans on a full- or part-time basis to help communities to address their toughest challenges. AmeriCorps HQ administers AmeriCorps at the federal level and works in partnership with states to develop service programs and create a community-based national service network.

AmeriCorps is made up of three programs: AmeriCorps\*State and National, AmeriCorps\*VISTA, and AmeriCorps\*National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC).

For nearly 55 years, **AmeriCorps\*VISTA** members have been helping bring individuals and communities out of poverty. Members serve full-time for a year in nonprofits, public agencies and faith-based organizations throughout the country, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, increase housing opportunities, or bridge the digital divide.

**AmeriCorps\*NCCC** is a 10-month, full-time residential program for men and women between the ages of 18 and 24. AmeriCorps\*NCCC combines the best practices of civilian service with the best aspects of military service, including leadership and team building. Members serve in teams of 10 to 15 members. Priority is given to projects in public safety, public health and disaster relief. Teams are based at one of four campuses across the country but are sent to work on short-term projects in neighboring states.

### What is AmeriCorps\*State and National?

More than three-quarters of **AmeriCorps\*State and National** grant funding goes to governor-appointed state commissions, which in turn distribute and monitor grants to local nonprofits and agencies. These are **AmeriCorps\*State** programs. The other quarter goes to national nonprofits that operate in more than one state. These are **AmeriCorps\*National Direct** programs. Organizations receiving AmeriCorps\*State and National grants are responsible for recruiting, selecting, and supervising AmeriCorps members.

AmeriCorps provides full- and part-time opportunities for participants, called members, to serve their communities in a variety of ways, engaging the energy and idealism of citizens of all ages in meeting the most critical needs in our communities. AmeriCorps members in Connecticut have

devoted themselves to improving the lives of people in their communities by tutoring, providing after-school programs for youth, increasing early childhood literacy and more.

AmeriCorps is open to U.S. citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent residents aged 17 or older. In exchange for their terms of service, members receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to pay educational expenses at eligible post-secondary institutions, including many technical schools and G. I. Bill approved programs, or to repay qualified student loans. The dollar amount of the education award is equal to the maximum amount of the U. S. Department of Education Pell Grant and may change year to year. The award is named after Eli Segal, a pioneer of national service and the first CEO of AmeriCorps.

Depending on the nature of the AmeriCorps program, AmeriCorps members may also receive a modest living allowance, health insurance, childcare, and student loan deferment. Members who serve part-time receive a partial education award and do not receive health insurance benefits. A living allowance is not required for part-time members.

### What is Serve Connecticut?

Established in 1993, Serve Connecticut is the administrative agent for Connecticut’s AmeriCorps\*State portfolio. Serve Connecticut funds and supports programs that encourage all Connecticut residents to volunteer and serve their communities.

Serve Connecticut is a 25-member nonpartisan board appointed by the Governor with a mission to strengthen Connecticut communities through national service resources, community engagement and volunteerism.

Serve Connecticut achieves its mission by:

- Securing and granting funds
- Selecting and training high-quality grantees
- Overseeing and monitoring grantee results
- Recognizing the success and effectiveness of volunteer programs and activities
- Developing and sharing resources
- Creating networks among volunteer organizations
- Serving as a bridge between the public and nonprofit sectors

### Bring AmeriCorps to Your Community

Last year more than 1,900 Americans of all ages and backgrounds met local needs, strengthened communities, and expanded economic opportunity through national service in Connecticut. AmeriCorps invested more than \$9.9 million to support cost-effective community solutions, working hand in hand with local partners to empower citizens to solve problems. AmeriCorps members are preparing today's students for tomorrow's jobs, reducing crime and reviving cities, connecting veterans to services, fighting the opioid epidemic, helping seniors live independently, and rebuilding

communities after disasters. Service members served at more than 300 locations across Connecticut, including schools, food banks, homeless shelters, health clinics, youth centers, veteran's facilities, and other nonprofit and faith-based organizations.

#### ***What can AmeriCorps funding do for your community?***

Serve Connecticut is currently seeking local programs to compete for AmeriCorps\*State Formula funding at the state level. This **2021-2022 AmeriCorps\*State Formula** notice will focus grant making in the following focus areas: Advancing Racial Equality, Child Poverty, COVID-19 Recovery, Disaster Services, Economic Mobility, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and Veterans and Military Families.

In order to maximize the impact of the public investment in national service, Serve Connecticut will provide grants to programs that demonstrate that they will engage AmeriCorps members in an evidence-based or evidence-informed approach to providing a service intervention that will result in intended solutions to community problems (e.g., based on proposed program's performance and evaluation data or research demonstrating the effectiveness of a similar intervention). Applicants will be awarded points for providing evidence that their proposed intervention will lead to the outcomes identified in the applicant's theory of change (logic model). Applicants shall provide evidence that the proposed intervention is effective for the proposed population and community challenge.

Upon receipt of the proposals, Serve Connecticut will determine which applications to forward to Peer Review; final decisions are made by late June. Serve Connecticut supports high-quality community service programs with measurable outcomes and cost effective community impact.

#### ***Is your organization eligible for AmeriCorps?***

Educational institutions (local school districts, intermediate school districts, colleges and universities, etc.), local government entities, tribes, state agencies, faith-based organizations and non-profit organizations that have their 501(c)3 status and have been in existence for at least three years are eligible to apply for Connecticut AmeriCorps\*State Formula funding. AmeriCorps programs must engage a corps of AmeriCorps members in full- part-time service activities.

#### ***What types of grants are available?***

Serve Connecticut funds operating grants that support fully developed plans to establish a new Connecticut AmeriCorps program or to support, expand, or replicate an existing program. Grant awards will cover a period that includes one year of operation with an initial start-up phase for new programs. Grants may be renewed for two additional years, subject to annual review and the availability of federal appropriations.

#### ***Is your organization ready for AmeriCorps?***

Organizations considering applying for AmeriCorps Connecticut funding for the first time are strongly urged to watch the following five-part series, *Introduction to AmeriCorps Connecticut*, prior to attending any required live technical assistance webinars associated with the funding process to which you are applying.

##### Module 1: How AmeriCorps Funding Works

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/MLw8v4Bjs1pfQvEccmFjSU4RDbdh\\_to4irrZGeQK8N2EY1ZooiDQLNQZyyctLyps.UPzFd5ufHL2Df8ZD](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/MLw8v4Bjs1pfQvEccmFjSU4RDbdh_to4irrZGeQK8N2EY1ZooiDQLNQZyyctLyps.UPzFd5ufHL2Df8ZD)

##### Module 2: AmeriCorps Connecticut Funding

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Zq-dFaAkXAT67G3-tWE-4HW3\\_W6yki0clxm5S0NeJqtYU3GNLY8n4w9oM7SuYNxB.fBrSq7Gr-zIuDN09](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Zq-dFaAkXAT67G3-tWE-4HW3_W6yki0clxm5S0NeJqtYU3GNLY8n4w9oM7SuYNxB.fBrSq7Gr-zIuDN09)

##### Module 3: AmeriCorps Members

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/4EM9Yr6p9Po6pdZdPN8wH96oyTZDPzBmdriLgiGDFbyXBuXIAidfmnjAg6vuKExnbRw0ecLL2P9EylGY>

##### Module 4: AmeriCorps Program Design

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/4pAhMKjhgXcvfP61bweIjUtb2IY6VcJQ9qzOQA3wD5Rqo5fMQRiXLJh7rhl\\_XMv.zakk-\\_vkvp\\_q\\_c7](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/4pAhMKjhgXcvfP61bweIjUtb2IY6VcJQ9qzOQA3wD5Rqo5fMQRiXLJh7rhl_XMv.zakk-_vkvp_q_c7)

##### Module 5: Next Steps for New Applicants

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/zEcyafddKsd4-7G33EVDDRsI17yzG9f-i2lpsPmRD4w3cVLDnKILNH-UD-9LkOw.nRJggTT4EUyu0c0e>

## **AmeriCorps Connecticut 2021 Formula Application Trainings**

#### **Required Live Virtual Trainings:**

Participation in the following three live, virtual trainings is required by representatives of all AmeriCorps Connecticut 2021-2022 Formula grant applicant organizations.

AmeriCorps funding applications will not be accepted from organizations who do not participate in these trainings; however, participation does not obligate an organization to submit an application.

#### **Required: AmeriCorps Connecticut Formula - Funding Application Process**

Register for either Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 2:00-3:00pm or Thursday, February 11, 2021, 10:00-11:00am

#### **Required: AmeriCorps Connecticut Formula - Effectively Using Evidence**

Register for either Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 2:00-3:00pm or Thursday, February 25, 2021, 10:00-11:00am

#### **Required: AmeriCorps Connecticut Formula - Program & Budget Design Best Practices**

Register for either Thursday, February 18, 2021, 10:00-11:00am or Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 2:00-3:00pm

**Optional Live Virtual Training:**

Participation in the following live, virtual optional training is welcomed by representatives of all AmeriCorps Connecticut 2021-2022 Formula grant applicant organizations. While Serve Connecticut staff are available to answer individual applicant questions throughout the application process, applicants may find it beneficial to participate in a group setting Q&A with fellow applicants.

**Optional: AmeriCorps Connecticut Formula: Commission Office Hours/Applicant Q&A Forum**

Thursday, March 4, 2021, 10:00-11:00am

**Pre-Registration Required:**

Pre-registration for all trainings is required. Individual registrants will be provided Zoom links via email to their selected trainings. More than one representative of the applicant organization may register for each training. Interested parties are asked to please use this link to register for all three required trainings as well as the optional training listed above. <https://form.jotform.com/210214785546153>

**Week of January 25, 2021**

2021-2022 AmeriCorps\*State Formula Guidelines and Application Instructions available on-line at <http://servect.org/funding/formula/>. Please download the guidelines and application instructions. Copies will not be mailed or faxed.

**March 12, 2021**

Applications due in eGrants.

**By June 14, 2021**

Notification to applicants whether proposal selected.