

Notice of Funds Available

AmeriCorps*State Formula

2022-23

Serve Connecticut is pleased to announce the availability of federal funds to support new and re-competing AmeriCorps*Connecticut programs to start in fall 2022.

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).

Founded in 1965, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) is an anti-poverty program designed to provide needed resources to nonprofit organizations and public agencies to increase their capacity to lift communities out of poverty.

[AmeriCorps*VISTA](#) provides opportunities for American aged 18 or older from varied backgrounds to dedicate a year of full-time service with an organization to help bring individuals and communities out of poverty. The power of AmeriCorps VISTA is extraordinary, and brings talented, passionate people on board to create or enhance your anti-poverty program by expanding the capacity of your organization.

[AmeriCorps*NCCC](#) is a full-time, team-based residential service program for 18-26 year olds. 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. Priority is given to projects in public safety, public health and disaster relief. AmeriCorps members serving in the NCCC program are assigned to one of four regional campuses and then placed into teams ranging between 8-12 members. The teams complete a variety of service projects, which are generally 3 to 13 weeks in duration, and respond to local communities’ needs throughout the United States and territories.

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 1100 Americans of all ages and backgrounds united to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and expand opportunity through national service

in Connecticut. AmeriCorps invested more than \$8.2 million in federal funding to support cost-effective community solutions, working hand in hand with local partners to empower individuals to help communities tackle their toughest challenges.

AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers are preparing today's students for tomorrow's jobs, helping communities and families impacted by COVID-19, reducing crime and reviving cities, connecting veterans to services, fighting the opioid epidemic, helping seniors live independently, and rebuilding communities after disasters.

AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers served at more than 300 locations across Connecticut, including schools, food banks, homeless shelters, health clinics, youth centers, veterans facilities, and other nonprofit and faith-based organizations. Through a unique public-private partnership, AmeriCorps and its partners generated more than \$4.8 million in outside resources from businesses, foundations, public agencies, and other sources in Connecticut in the last year. This local support strengthened community impact and increased the return on taxpayer dollars.

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 **2022-2023 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/MLw8v4Bis1pfQvEccmFj5U4RDbdh_to4irrZGeQK8N2EY1ZooiDQLNQZyctLyPs.UPzFd5ufHL2DF8ZD

Module 2: AmeriCorps Connecticut Funding

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Zq-dFaAkAT67G3-tWE-4HW3_W6yki0clxm5S0NeJqtYU3GNLY8n4w9oM7SuYNxB.fBrSq7Gr-zluDN09

Module 3: AmeriCorps Members

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/4EM9Yr6p9Po6pdZdPN8wH96oyTZDPzBmdriLgJGDFbyXBuXIAidfmnjAg6vuKExn.bRwOecLL2P9EYIGY>

Module 4: AmeriCorps Program Design

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/4pAhMKjhgXcvfP61b2wejiUtb2iY6VcjQ9qzOQA3wD5Rqo5fMQRiXLh7rhl_XMv.z-akk_vkvp_q_c7

Module 5: Next Steps for New Applicants

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/zEcvafddKsd47G33EVDDRszi17yzG9ft2lpsPmRD4w3cVLdNkILNH-UD-9LkOw.nRJggTT4EUyu0c0e>

AmeriCorps Connecticut 2022 Formula Application Trainings

Serve Connecticut is wholly invested in facilitating the accessibility of national service resources to all eligible entities and their community partners. As such, Serve Connecticut staff provide a slate of introductory trainings as well as ongoing technical assistance to all organizations interested in and/or applying for AmeriCorps funding.

Organizations intending to submit a new application for AmeriCorps Formula funding must participate in all trainings designated as required in order to submit an AmeriCorps Formula funding application; new AmeriCorps Formula applications from organizations who do not participate in these require trainings will not be accepted/reviewed.

One representative from the organization (i.e., the same person) must attend all required trainings; additional representatives from the organization as well as consultants (i.e. grant writers, accountants, evaluators, etc.) may also attend those trainings that are relevant to their focus or expertise.

All organizations interested in learning about AmeriCorps Formula funding are welcome to attend; attendance does not mean your organization must submit an AmeriCorps Formula funding application.

Required Live Virtual Trainings:

The Serve Connecticut AmeriCorps Formula live training suite for new AmeriCorps Formula applicants (not continuation or recomplete applicants) is comprised of three required sessions:

- Funding Application Process
- Effectively Using Evidence
- Program & Budget Design

Pre-registration for all Zoom-based trainings is required. One representative of the applicant organization must participate in all three trainings; additional representatives of the applicant organization may attend all or select trainings. Visit <http://servect.org/funding/formula/> for a complete listing of trainings and registration links.

Required: AmeriCorps Connecticut Formula - Funding Application Process

Register for one of these three options by clicking on the preferred date link:

- Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 10:00-11:00am
- Thursday, January 27, 2022, 2:00-3:00pm
- Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 9:00-10:00am*

Required: AmeriCorps Connecticut Formula - Effectively Using Evidence

Register for one of these three options by clicking on the preferred date link:

- Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 10:00-11:00am
- Thursday, February 10, 2022, 2:00-3:00pm
- Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 11:00am-12:00pm*

Required: AmeriCorps Connecticut Formula - Program & Budget Design

Register for one of these three options by clicking on the preferred date link:

- Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 10:00-11:00am
- Thursday, February 3, 2022, 2:00-3:00pm
- Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 10:00-11:00am*

*NOTE: Back-to-back sessions are offered on **Wednesday, February 9, 2022** from 9:00am-12:00pm to give participants the option to complete all three required sessions in one morning.

Commission Office Hours/Applicant Q&A Forum

Participation in the following live, virtual optional training is welcomed by representatives of all AmeriCorps Connecticut 2022-2023 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

Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 10:00-11:00am

Week of January 10, 2022

2022-2023 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 11, 2022

Applications due in eGrants.

By June 30, 2022

Notification to applicants whether proposal selected.