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# Ohio AmeriCorps FY22 Application Overview

SERVE **OHIO**  
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism

# ServeOhio

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- **Ohio's Commission on Service and Volunteerism**
- ***To strengthen Ohio communities through AmeriCorps and volunteer engagement***

# What is AmeriCorps?

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- National service program, a.k.a. “domestic Peace Corps”
- Engages more than 80,000 Americans every year for a term of national service. [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov)
- AmeriCorps, the federal agency, administers grants to engage more than 4 million Americans in service through AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps Seniors and other initiatives such as the Volunteer Generation Fund

# ServeOhio

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- **Administer AmeriCorps grants in Ohio under the federal National & Community Service Trust Act of 1993.**
- **Authorized under section 121.40 of the Ohio Revised Code**
- **Through collaborations and partnerships, administer AmeriCorps funding that targets areas of education, economic opportunity, healthy futures, veterans/military families, environmental stewardship and disaster services**

# ServeOhio

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- In Ohio for the 2021-2022 program year, more than \$9 million is supporting 30 partner organizations and 900 AmeriCorps members leveraging millions in local public and private support.
- Map of all AmeriCorps service locations with program summaries can be found [here](#).

# What Can Ohio AmeriCorps Programs Do?

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AmeriCorps programs address diverse community needs.

- Health
- Employment
- Education
- Environment

Apex to AmeriCorps programs are the **AmeriCorps members** who are in communities providing direct service activities

# Who is an Ohio AmeriCorps Member?

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- ★ Not a volunteer or a staff person but an individual/member contracted for a term of public service (300-1700 hours per term).
- ★ U.S. citizen, national or legal permanent resident alien of the United States.
- ★ At least 17 years of age with no upper age limit.
- ★ AmeriCorps members receive an Eli Segal Education Award for successful completion of a term of service.
- ★ Most AmeriCorps members receive a modest living allowance, full-time members are eligible for health insurance, and some members may be eligible for childcare.
- ★ Must meet eligibility criteria.
- ★ Someone who gets things done in their community!

# Eligibility for an Ohio AmeriCorps Grant

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- ★ Non-profit organizations;
  - ★ institutions of higher education;
  - ★ government entities within states or territories;
  - ★ Indian tribes;
  - ★ and partnerships or consortiums.
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- ★ Organizations that propose to operate programs solely in Ohio must apply through ServeOhio.
  - ★ Multi-state applicants must apply directly to [AmeriCorps HQ](#)



# Application Documents

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- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- Application Instructions
- Mandatory Supplemental Information
- Intent to Apply
- Financial Management Survey
  - *Required*

All documents on Grants/Funding webpage

# **FY22 Funding Priorities**

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- **COVID-19 responses to help local communities respond to and recover from the pandemic.**
- **Educational opportunity and economic mobility for communities experiencing persistent unemployment or underemployment, and students experiencing homelessness or those in foster care.**
- **Programs that prioritize civic engagement and social cohesion.**

# FY22 Funding Priorities

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- Evidence-based interventions on the [AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange](#) that are assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence.
- Programs that improve the quality of life of veterans and improves the well-being of military families, caregivers, and survivors.
- Rural intermediaries - organizations that demonstrate measurable impact and primarily serve rural communities with limited resources and organizational infrastructure.

# FY22 Funding Priorities

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- **Environmental stewardship and climate change including renewable energy and energy efficiency, building community resilience, sustainable food systems and agriculture, and conservation and habitat preservation.**
- **Faith-based organizations providing any of the funding priorities.**

# NOFO Application Elements

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## E. Application Review Information: Page 19

A. Executive Summary – use template provided!

### B. Program Design

#### 1. Theory of Change and Logic Model

a. Theory of Change has three primary descriptive elements:

Need

Intervention (i.e. what AmeriCorps members will do)

Outcome/Expected Change

b. Logic Model is a linear representation of program

– [How to Develop a Program Logic Model](#)

– [AmeriCorps template](#) on the website.

# TOC and LM Notes

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- The logic model is a visual representation of the applicant's Theory of Change. Programs should include short, or medium or long-term outcomes in the logic model. The applicant's performance measures should be consistent with the program's Theory of Change and should represent significant program activities.
- Applicants should discuss their rationale for setting output and outcome targets for their performance measures. Rationales and justifications should be informed by the organization's performance data (e.g., program data observed over time that suggests targets are reasonable), relevant research (e.g. targets documented by organizations running similar programs with similar populations), or prior program evaluation findings.
- Applicants should briefly discuss the community need as it relates to the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>
- Applicants with multiple interventions should complete one Logic Model chart which incorporates each intervention. Logic model content that exceeds three pages will not be reviewed.

# NOFO Application Elements

2. Evidence Base - The assessment of an applicant's evidence base on the **same intervention described in the application.**

a) Evidence Tier – identify your program's evidence tier

- a) Pre-Preliminary = evidence-informed\*
- b) Preliminary = Outcome studies on the same intervention in the application
- c) Moderate evidence = positive evidence of effectiveness via experimental design with limited generalization (site specific)
- d) Strong evidence = positive evidence of effectiveness via experimental design with broader generalizations (region, state, etc.)

b) Evidence Quality is the review of reports and degree to which they support the proposed program design

*Most new programs will be pre-preliminary; include any past performance data and recent research to support design.*

# **NOFO Application Elements**

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## **3. Notice Priority**

- minimal response required

## **4. Member Experience**

- Professional development, skill-building, training
- Recruitment plan includes diverse membership & foster inclusive service experience
- DEI council, leadership, goals or plans



# NOFO Application Elements

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## C. Organizational Capability

1. **Organizational background and staffing**
  - a. Detail the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the staff implementing the AmeriCorps program; oversight and monitoring plan
  - b. DEI statement and/or plan
2. **Compliance and Accountability**
  - a. Monitoring and oversight plan to prevent and detect noncompliance and enforce compliance with AmeriCorps rules and regulations
3. **Culture that Values Learning**
  - a. Applicant's board, management, and staff collect and use information to determine its programmatic effectiveness
4. **Member Supervision**
  - a. AmeriCorps members will receive sufficient guidance and support from their supervisor to provide effective service

# NOFO Application Elements

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## D. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

1. “See Budget” is only required narrative
2. Review Based on Budget Instructions
3. Can use to elaborate on budget elements or line items but cautious of page limits

## E. Evaluation Plan

1. Enter N/A

## F. Amendment Justification

1. Enter N/A

# NOFO Application Elements

## G. Clarification Information

1. **Match Replacement:** Programs may request match replacement in FY22. The amount of match replacement must be equal to or less than the amount of cash match listed as Proposed in the Budget Narrative Source of Funds AND cannot result in your program being above the maximum cost per MSY when the match replacement amount is added to the total Grant Share.
2. For this calculation, determine the cost per MSY by adding the total grant share to the match replacement amount divided by total MSY requested in the grant. See the Table on page 15 for the maximum cost per MSY by grant type.

## H. Continuation Changes

1. Enter N/A

# NOFO Application Elements

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- **Submission of Additional Documents for NEW applicants (pgs. 17-18)**
  - Evaluation Reports, if applicable to Evidence Base section
  - Letters of Support, if applicable
  - Labor Union concurrence, if applicable
  - Financial Management Survey

Send all additional documents via email to Mary Cannon by the application deadline.

# Application Instructions

## – Performance Measure Instructions

- One performance measure (output and outcome) is required for your program's primary direct service activity
- Targets are set for one year
- Attend the October 22 grant workshop

## – Detailed Budget Instructions

- Follow the instructions, starting on page 20
- Budget for one year
- Member slots and Member Service Years for one year
- Attend October 22 grant workshop

# Ohio AmeriCorps Grants

- ★ Grants include a request for a specific number of AmeriCorps member positions and slot types:
  - ★ Full-time: 1 MSY; 1700 hours
  - ★ Three Quarter-Time: .7 MSY; 1200 hours
  - ★ Half-time: .5 MSY; 900 hours
  - ★ Reduced Half-time: .381 MSY; 675 hours
  - ★ Quarter-time: .265 MSY; 450 hours
  - ★ Minimum-time: .212 MSY; 300 hours
  - ★ Abbreviated-time: .056 MSY; 100 hours
- [See NOFO page 14](#)

**EXAMPLE:** An application requests 1 full-time, 1 half-time, 1 quarter-time and 1 minimum-time.

This is a request totaling 4 members slots and 1.977 MSY\*\*

***\*\*Note: this is not an eligible request but an example!***

# Cost-Reimbursement Budgets

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- Payments made via reimbursements
- 24% matching requirement and require the submission of a budget and financial reports.
- Must abide by Cost per MSY maximum for grant type. [See NOFO page 7](#)
- Funds are directly tied to a specific number of members and are solely for program expenses.
- Funds are not for general organizational expenses.
- **Must request no less than 5 MSY**

# Example of a Grant Request

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Applications must request a **cost per MSY**  
at or below **\$21,600**

Cost Per MSY = Federal Request Only/ Total MSY Request

Request Example = 10 MSY for 20 Half-Time Members:

10 MSY \* \$21,600 = \$216,000 Maximum Federal Request

\$216,000 (Federal) + \$68,211 (Your Share) = \$284,211 (Total Grant)

**76%**      +      **24%**      =      **100%**



# Fixed Cost Budgets

- Limited to certain applicants
- No matching requirements
- Funds dependent on member enrollment/retention
- Must abide by Cost per MSY maximum for grant type. [See NOFO page 7](#)
- Funds are directly tied to a specific number of members and are solely for program expenses.
- Funds are not for general organizational expenses.
- **Must request no less than 5 MSY**

# IMPORTANT

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- Create an eGrants account
- Must have active SAM and DUNS number throughout the entire grant period
- Abide by page limitations, NOFO pg. 11
  - Narrative
  - Logic Model
- Submit grant and additional documents by the deadline.

# Application Documents

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- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
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# Are we “mission ready?”

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## What is our capacity?

- Does my organization have the organizational, human resources, technological and fiscal capacity to manage a federal grant?
  - Are Human Resources and Legal departments included in the conversations?
- Does my organization have the resources to match the federal funds (cash and in-kind)?
- Does my organization have the resources to manage a program for **30-60 days before receiving reimbursement?**
- Can our organization administer the programmatic and fiscal reporting requirements and attend required meetings?

# Are we “mission ready?”

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## What does the research say?

- Would this program support my organization’s mission and strategic plan?
- What is the success in providing the service?

## What questions cannot we not answer on the [Intent to Apply/Concept Paper](#)?

- Who should be included in the discussion?
- Are we asking members to conduct [prohibited activities](#)?
- Will members replicate or displace current staff or volunteers?

# Are we “mission ready?”

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- Can we recruit, manage, retain, train and budget for the requested number of members and MSY?
- Review the [Financial Management Survey Pre-Award Risk Assessment](#). A requirement for new programs.
- At minimum, ServeOhio recommends at least .5 FTE to oversee and administer the program

# Why AmeriCorps?

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- **Why is an AmeriCorps program, i.e. AmeriCorps members, uniquely positioned to meet the described need?**
- **How will it expand your reach, scale, scope or improve efficiency and effectiveness?**

# Ohio AmeriCorps Grants

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- ★ Expands the capacity of organizations to meet their mission and identified critical community need
- ★ Organizations that receive Ohio AmeriCorps grants are responsible for recruiting, selecting, and supervising AmeriCorps members to serve in their programs.
- ★ All grants have required programmatic and financial reporting.
- ★ Are *not* for individual placements.
- ★ Grants must request at least 5 Member Service Years (MSY).



# Application Timeline

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- **Grant Workshop – RSVP required by 10.15**
  - **8:30-Noon on 10.22.21**
    - 8:30-9:45 am NOFO In-depth review
    - 10:00-10:45 am Budget Instructions
    - 11:00-Noon Performance Measures & Resources
- **Intent to Apply –not required**
  - **Submit by 11.1.21 for feedback**
- **Application Deadline**
  - **November 17, 2021**

# Additional Information

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- <https://www.serveohio.org/Grants-Funding/AmeriCorps-Funding>
- [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov)
- [AmeriCorps Regulations](#)
  - 45CFR, Chapter 25

# Contact

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[www.serveohio.org](http://www.serveohio.org)

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