

Service as a Solution: Introduction to Ohio AmeriCorps

January 28, 2022

12:00pm

[Zoom](#)

ServeOhio

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

ServeOhio

- To administer AmeriCorps grants in Ohio under the federal National & Community Service Trust Act of 1993. Created the Corporation for National and Community Service, AmeriCorps the agency, whose mission is to provide Americans with service and volunteer opportunities.
- ServeOhio administers \$9 million with 30 partner organizations and more 900 AmeriCorps members at 500+ service locations leveraging millions in local public and private support.

What is AmeriCorps?

- One national service program that engages more than 80,000 Americans every year for a term of national service. www.americorps.gov
- Additional programs include AmeriCorps Seniors, NCCC and the Volunteer Generation Fund

What is an Ohio AmeriCorps program?

- Organizations design AmeriCorps programs & member positions that address locally-identified community needs that engaging AmeriCorps members and community volunteers.
- Ohio AmeriCorps Grants are provided to organizations to operate AmeriCorps programs that strengthen organizational capacity to meet its mission.
- An AmeriCorps program must be in line with an organization's mission and enhance, augment or expand services.

What can Ohio AmeriCorps programs do?

Including but not limited to:

- Reducing homelessness/increasing access to safe & affordable housing.
- Increasing the number of public awareness/education programs around a particular topic (literacy, health, etc.).
- Connect individuals with health resources.
- Mentor youth and adults
- Improving graduation rates.
- Reducing youth obesity.
- Increasing number of individuals receiving their GED's.
- Improving school performance and school readiness.

How do those things get done?

Apex to AmeriCorps programs are the **AmeriCorps members** who provide direct service activities that might include:

- ★ Connecting families to adequate healthcare.
- ★ Conducting community awareness programs.
- ★ Implementing nutrition and physical activity programs.
- ★ Assisting families with securing safe/affordable housing.
- ★ Assisting veterans with seeking employment.
- ★ Providing educational enrichment programs for youth.
- ★ Tutoring/mentoring students and adults.
- ★ Developing and conducting environmental education programs.

What is an AmeriCorps member?

- Not a volunteer or a staff person but an individual/member contracted for a national service term (100-1700 hours/term).
- U.S. citizen, national or legal permanent resident alien of the United States.
- May have specific age requirements; must be 17 with no upper age limit
- AmeriCorps members can 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 - depends on the program.
- Someone who gets things done in their community!

AmeriCorps Members Get Things Done!

AmeriCorps provides human capital.
A different resource from other funding!

Eligible organizations

- **Nonprofit Organizations**
 - Community/Regional/Statewide
 - Faith-based
 - Secular
- **Government**
 - State/County/Local
 - Education
 - Districts, Collaborative, Higher Education

FY22 Funding Priorities

- 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.
- Evidence-based interventions on the [AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange](#) that are assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence.

FY22 Funding Priorities

- Program models that increase economic opportunities for communities by preparing people for the workforce.
- Efforts to increase access, information and/or resources to safe, healthy, affordable, and/or more efficient housing.
- Program models that reduce and/or prevent prescription drug and opioid abuse; Increase access to health information/knowledge, resources and/or services; Improve individual and/or community health conditions
- Programs that improve the quality of life of veterans and improves the well-being of military families, caregivers, and survivors.

FY22 Funding Priorities

- Rural intermediaries - organizations that demonstrate measurable impact and primarily serve rural communities with limited resources and organizational infrastructure.
- 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.
- Efforts to mobilize volunteers to meet regional community needs utilizing ServeOhio's Get Connected platform

Application Documents

- Found on our [Grants/Funding page](#)
- Operational Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- Operational Grant Application Instructions
- Planning Grant NOFO & application instructions
- Mandatory Supplemental Guidance
- Intent to Apply
- Financial Management Survey –required for all new, renewal and planning grant applicants
- Organizational Readiness Assessment – required for planning grant applicants

Ohio AmeriCorps Operational Grants

- Grants include an allotment of AmeriCorps member positions. Full-time, Three-Quarter-time, Half-time, Reduced Half-time, Minimum-Time, Quarter-time, Abbreviated-Time
- Ohio AmeriCorps programs must request at least 5 MSY's.
 - Member Service Year (MSY) = 1 Full-time Member
- Organizations that receive grants are responsible for recruiting, selecting, and supervising AmeriCorps members to serve in their programs.
- AmeriCorps grants have required financial and programmatic reporting.

Ohio AmeriCorps Planning Grants

- Planning grants allow one year of funding for organizations to determine and explore AmeriCorps program feasibility to develop an AmeriCorps program including a Logic Model and Theory of Change; Member service plans in response to the identified community need(s); hire/onboard new staff or position; and build organizational capacity to host an AmeriCorps program.
- Planning grants do not support AmeriCorps members.
- Planning grants allow organizations to become better prepared to compete for an AmeriCorps operational grant; however, planning grants do not guarantee organizations will obtain an AmeriCorps operational grant.

Ohio AmeriCorps Planning Grants

- Ohio AmeriCorps planning grants may not exceed \$75,000.
- Ohio AmeriCorps planning grants are awarded on a cost-reimbursement basis only.
- Applicants are required to match at 24% either through cash or in-kind resources.
- The planning grant project period is from August 1, 2022-July 31, 2023.
- Planning grants have required financial reporting.
- Planning grantees will be expected to follow ServeOhio guidance and reach benchmarks throughout the project/award period. If selected, grantees will receive a basic curriculum and technical assistance opportunities throughout the project/award period.

Ohio AmeriCorps Grants

- ★ Grants provide partial funding to support AmeriCorps projects/programs; funds are not for general organizational expenses.
- ★ Cost-Reimbursement Grants must contribute a portion of the total grant cost to support the project – 24%. Cash and in-kind resources.
- ★ Funds are directly tied to a specific number of members and are solely for program expenses, such as member living allowance and benefits, member and staff training, supervision, supplies, and evaluation.
- ★ Review Operational Grant Types and Eligibility in NOFO on pages 7-8: Cost Reimbursement and Fixed Amount Awards.

Benefits of an Ohio AmeriCorps Grant

- ★ Expands the capacity of organizations to meet identified critical community needs.
- ★ Entrance into a national network of organizations.
- ★ Allows organizations to recruit individuals from the community to serve as AmeriCorps members.
- ★ Members and volunteers gain a better understanding of community needs/challenges and how to solve them.
- ★ Community members who serve as AmeriCorps members gain skills, experience, and an Education Award to be used to further their education or repay student loans.

ServeOhio Resources

- Access to training and technical assistance resources
- Site and monitoring visits
- Stakeholder Outreach
- Staff

Upcoming Webinars

- February 11 @ Noon – 1:30pm
 - Application Overview
 - [Click here to connect](#)

- February 25 @ 8:30am – Noon
 - Grant Workshop
 - Email [Mary Cannon to RSVP](#)

For more information

- [2021-22 Ohio AmeriCorps Program Directory](#)
- [Ohio AmeriCorps Funding webpage](#)

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www.serveohio.org

www.americorps.gov