

## Questions and Answers

AmeriCorps Rhode Island Grants

Applications Due March 30, 2023 @5:00PM

Details available at [www.serverhodeisland.com/grants](http://www.serverhodeisland.com/grants)

[Posted 3/6/2024]

*Q: Can the full living allowance be supported by the grant? Does there have to be a grantee share?*

A: In a cost-reimbursement budget, grantee share can be zero for any single line item, including living allowance. The matching requirement is calculated as a percent of the total grant budget. The answer for a specific budget depends on the math problem and the amount of living allowance. It is more typical to see 25-50% of living allowance in grantee share.

One thing to consider is this scenario after a grant is awarded. If you plan to have 10 AmeriCorps members and you only have 9 individuals join your program than your actual expenses will be less than your budget in the living allowance category. If 100% of your living allowance budget is AmeriCorps share, you may need to ask for a budget amendment to access those unspent resources.

*Q: Is there a standard for duplication of roles? Can members do some of the same operations as employees?*

A: Please review page 9 “unallowable Activities” of this document - [FY 2024 ASN Mandatory Supplemental Information FINAL](#). In most cases if you are increasing the overall number of people served or numbers and types of service, you are not “duplicating.” You may want to examine the description of displacement of employees and current volunteers, but overall this is

in regards to swapping out entire individuals not overlapping the activities performed by AmeriCorps members and employees.

*Q: Is more information available about what to include in a grant budget?*

A: For a cost-reimbursement grant, you will enter a full project budget in eGrants. ServeRI has added this new resource - [ServeRI Reimbursement Budget Training 2024](#) – at [www.serverhodeisland.com/grants](http://www.serverhodeisland.com/grants). You will also find the [ServeRI Budget Template - Cost-Reimbursement Grant \(Excel File\)](#) that you can edit and put to work to calculate for you. AmeriCorps has published this sample - [FY 2023 ASN Competitive Budget Narrative - Sample \(americorps.gov\)](#).

*Q: We want to propose having some AmeriCorps members do one project, but other AmeriCorps members do something very different. Should we submit two different applications or one? How does that work?*

A: One application. One applying organization can propose to ServeRI multiple projects, operating sites, or AmeriCorps teams. The key ingredient in the application will be to determine if the results, or outcomes, of each project are unique. If the answer is yes, you will need to add separate PERFORMANCE MEASURES to the application and describe separately the LOGIC MODEL elements of the project in the PROGRAM DESIGN. For example, one project may have a Health outcome but another an Environment outcome. In the current 2024 state competition, you are limited to 14 pages printing from eGrants, so you will need to be efficient in describing the service activities and other logic model elements.

*Q: We do not know how many member Full Time positions to request. If we ask for many and ServeRI wanted to give grants to more applicants with smaller requests, would our application be less competitive or not selected?*

A: No. You should apply for the funding amount and number of positions that are aligned with your program design and organizational capacity to address a community need. The number of positions is not factored into the grant review score. After applications are selected – approved by the Commission for National and Community Service and Rhode Island Department of Education – there will be a Resolution Period to address any missing information or technical details for AmeriCorps. In some cases, this might

include a request to right-size the program design or negotiate the federal share of the budget to align with the availability of funds that ServeRI has decided to grant to you.

[Posted 2/7/2024]

*Q: I'm in eGrants and looking for the NOFA. The one I see matches the description, but the due date is 1/4/24. Is this the one I should proceed with or am I in the wrong spot?*

A: You are in the right spot. When creating an application in eGrants, please ignore the deadlines assigned by the federal government to the NOFA. If a warning pops onto your web browser, you can close it and proceed. The date identifies the due date of National Competitive applications. ServeRI cannot change this feature in the eGrants system. We must work past it. Rhode Island has set a due date of March 30, 2024. If prompted on the following screen select Rhode Island as your state.

*Q: We were questioning if our AmeriCorps model would be viewed as competitive if not aligned to the funding priorities.*

A: Yes, it can be competitive. An application does not need to address a funding priority; they may address any community need. "Successful proposals will describe how AmeriCorps service positions are an appropriate strategy to meet a community need AND will provide a service-to-career or to-education pathway for the AmeriCorps participants." The Notice states, "The primary purpose of the funding is to plan and develop new opportunities for individuals, called AmeriCorps members, to perform community service at Rhode Island nonprofit organizations, schools, or government agencies."

*Q: Municipal Partnerships for Education - is this funding priority only open to applications from municipalities or school districts?*

A: No. Nonprofit organizations, or any eligible applicant, may describe partnerships and activities that qualify for this funding priority. The Notice only requests applicants "provide evidence of collaboration."

End.