



Notice of Funds Available for 2010-11 AmeriCorps*State Competitive Programs

The Washington Commission for National and Community Service (WCNCS) is announcing the opportunity for eligible organizations to submit an application to operate an AmeriCorps*State program in Washington State. Eligible organizations include units of state and local government, school districts, educational service districts, private non-profit agencies, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, Indian tribes, and institutions of higher education.

Proposals must utilize AmeriCorps to address the most critical education, public safety, environmental, disaster preparedness or human service needs in Washington's communities. Successful applications will be forwarded to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) where they will compete for available funding at the national level. As of the release of this notice, the FY10 appropriation for AmeriCorps has yet to be passed by Congress. Potential applicants should carefully weigh their investment of time and effort when preparing a response in what will be an extremely competitive environment for these funds.

Beginning in PY 2010, all National Direct grants (AmeriCorps grantees operating in more than one state including Education Award Only Grants) will now be included in one single competition for 62.7% of available AmeriCorps funding. National Direct applicants must consult with the WA State Commission if they plan to operate in our state. The CNCS will consult with State Commissions on their views of whether or not a National Direct grant should receive an AmeriCorps grant award.

2010 Focus Areas: In Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, service priorities influenced by the Serve America Act include:

- 1. Education.** Unmet educational needs within communities, especially that help children and youth achieve success in school and prevent them from dropping out before high school graduation.
- 2. Healthy Futures.** Unmet health needs within communities including access to health care, disease prevention and health promotion initiatives, and health literacy.
- 3. Clean Energy/Environment.** Unmet energy-efficiency and environmental needs within communities.
- 4. Veterans.** Unmet needs of veterans, members of the Armed Forces who are on active duty, and family members of deployed military personnel and engages veterans in service.
- 5. Opportunity.** Unmet needs relating to economic opportunity for economically disadvantaged individuals within communities including financial literacy, housing assistance, job training, and nutritional assistance.

The Corporation anticipates that at least 15% of the funds described in this *Notice* will support applicants that have not received an AmeriCorps State or National operational grant in the last five years. Applicants that have received only a formula operational grant within the last five years will be considered new for purposes of this 15% target. The Corporation reserves the right to re-focus program dollars in the event of disaster or other compelling need. Additional programs and program models that may receive special consideration in the selection process are described in the AmeriCorps regulation Section 2522.450.

Encore Service Programs:

Encore Service Programs are programs that involve participants age 55 and older and take advantage of the skills and experience that such participants offer in the design, implementation and success of such a program. The CNCS plans to allocate no less than 10% of AmeriCorps grant funding and members for Encore programs.

AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is part of a family of national service programs engaging citizens of all ages and background in helping to meet pressing local needs for more than a decade. AmeriCorps also works closely with America's volunteer organizations to increase the number and impact of our nation's volunteers, and with schools and nonprofit groups to foster the ethic of good citizenship. Roughly three-quarters of all AmeriCorps grant funding goes to Governor-appointed state service commissions, which award subgrants to nonprofit organizations in their states. These organizations recruit AmeriCorps members to respond to local needs. The Corporation distributes most of the remainder of the grant funding directly to organizations operating in more than one state.

AmeriCorps members are individuals who commit to engage in community service. Members serve on a full or part-time basis, receive a modest living allowance, and earn a post-service educational award in exchange for their service commitment. Members engage in a range of activities such as recruiting and supporting community volunteers including veterans, providing translation services in community clinics, conducting safety patrols for local police departments, participating in environmental projects, conducting outreach and referral services for the homeless, tutoring and mentoring young people, helping homebound seniors and other adults maintain independence in their own homes, and responding to natural disasters. The grant funds are matched with local funds to cover expenses directly related to the AmeriCorps program. For more information please visit the Commission web site at: www.ofm.wa.gov/servewa.

WCNCS requires the administration of at least 20 Member Service Years (MSYs - also known as full time equivalents).

Organizations interested in receiving a Request for Grant Application (RFGA) are strongly encouraged to do thorough outreach and collaborate with other national service programs, nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, and other community based organizations in the same geographic area that may be applying. Interested applicants should submit a letter of intent to apply no later than October 9, 2009 to the following address: WCNCS, PO Box 43113, Olympia, WA 98504-3113 or by e-mail to: brian.lock@ofm.wa.gov. Letters of Intent should include; overview of your organization, history with national service, and service priorities to be addressed. Continuations should emphasize any new initiatives proposed. The RFGA will be available for download on the Commission website noted above, or **if requested** a hardcopy can be mailed to you, beginning October 5, 2009. For technical questions regarding the RFGA, please feel free to contact Brian Lock, Assistant Director, at (360) 902-0646 or Debbie Schuffenhauer, Associate Director, at 360-902-0669.