

Responses to Questions for RFP# 1037
AmeriCorps Formula

Q1	Section 4.2.A. states that AmeriCorps programs under this RFP must propose a minimum of ten (10) MSYs. How do we calculate the MSYs needed for less than full-time positions, for example, a 1,200-hour three-quarter time position?
A1	<p>One Member Service Year (MSY) is equivalent to a full-time AmeriCorps position (at least 1,700 service hours).</p> <p>See the 2020 Application Instructions Attachment D Section II (Page 29) Member Costs to assist you in calculating MSYs. As you enter MSYs into the MSY column of the chart, the corresponding percentage of MSYs will calculate automatically. When you have finished entering your MSYs, the total percentage of MSYs in the chart must be 100%. The total number of MSYs in the chart must equal the number of MSYs in your budget.</p> <p>You may apply in different slot configurations as long as it meets the minimum of 10 MSY. For the calculation of each slot configuration, please see the formula in “ATTACHMENT D: Detailed Budget Instructions for Fixed Amount Grants (eGrants Budget Section)” starting from page 29 of the 2020 AmeriCorps Application Instructions .</p>
Q2	Are member living allowances required for less than full-time members? (Section 4.2.B)
A2	<p>Programs are not required to provide a living allowance for members serving in less than full-time terms of service. (See Section D [Applications and Submission Information], subsection 6 [Funding Restrictions], page 10 of Notice of Funding Opportunity for more information).</p>
Q3	We understand that new applicants must provide a 24% match on total operating costs. Is this in addition to 24% of the cost of member stipends and 24% of administrative costs?
A3	<p>By AmeriCorps Regulations, new applicants must provide a 24% match on the total of program operating costs in budget section I, member costs from budget section II and administrative costs in budget section III. For additional details, please see page 9 and the Attachment B budget section beginning on p.19 of the 2020 AmeriCorps Application Instructions.</p> <p>.</p>
Q4	Are there any Changes to the Application Match Requirements?
A4	<p>On April 9, 2020, the Corporation for National and Community Service announced a blanket waiver of match requirements for all AmeriCorps programs for 2020-2021: “CNCS is waiving all match requirements for all AmeriCorps State and National (ASN) cost reimbursement grants that were awarded in FY 2019 and FY 2020, including ASN grants that will be awarded during the remainder of FY 2020. CNCS has the authority to issue a blanket waiver under 42 U.S.C. § 12571(e)(4) and consistent with 45 CFR 2521.70 when CNCS</p>

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	<p>“determines that such a waiver would be equitable due to lack of available financial resources at the local level.” This information was included in RFP#1037, New York State AmeriCorps 2020 Formula Pool Amended on 4/20/20.</p> <p>On April 30, 2020, the Corporation required that applicants submit their applications with the required match and any alternate match schedule even though a blanket match waiver has been granted. An amendment to Section 4.2E of RFP# 1037, New York State AmeriCorps 2020 Formula Pool, has been posted to reflect this requirement. The Corporation will note the one-year match waiver on any Notice of Grant Award it issues.</p> <p>Matching requirements for planning grants are the same as cost reimbursement grants.</p>
Q5	Page 7, NYS Supporting Documents: We are a CONTINUING program, submitting our application for year 2 of 3. Documents A - H are NOT required for us.
A5	<p>If your organization is operating a Formula Pool AmeriCorps grant under contract terms that will not end prior to January 31, 2021, under the Commission’s new procedures, you need not respond to the Commission RFP #1037 for new and re-competing (those contracts completing a three-year cycle of AmeriCorps funding) applicants to submit a continuation request. And should refer to the Continuation Instructions sent to you by your Commission Program Administrator.</p> <p>If you are in year two (2) of a 3-year contract, awarded under AmeriCorps Formula RFP#2019-01, all of your documents must be up to date, (e.g. You must be pre-qualified in Grants Gateway, Your Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire must be updated and recertified, and your SAM.gov registration must be active.</p>
Q6	Page 20, AmeriCorps Planning Grant Applications: Can an agency with an existing program ALSO apply for a Planning Grant to explore a different Priority we are seeing as a result of COVID-19?
A6	Yes. See Section 1.4 Submission of Written Questions and Section 2.3 Purpose and Funding Availability for more information.
Q7	Page 21, Maximum Cost per Member Service Year: The RFP refers us to the NOFO. The NOFO states a maximum of \$15,479 per MSY. Last year the Commission stated a maximum of \$16,000 per MSY. Our current budget is based on the \$16,000 amount. Please confirm correct Maximum per MSY?
A7	The information that you have quoted in your question is inaccurate. The NOFO states a maximum of \$20,000 for Individual State/Territory FORMULA Programs. The Maximum amount an applicant may request CNCS per MSY is determined on an annual basis. New

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	and recompeting Commission Subgrantees/applicants will be held to the maximum cost per MSY for their grant type (See section D, subsection 6 of NOFO for additional information).
Q8	What is the Maximum Cost per MSY for this AmeriCorps Formula procurement?
A8	See A 7-The NOFO states a maximum of \$20,000 for Individual State/Territory FORMULA Programs.
Q9	Page 21, Cost Sharing or Match Requirements: I understand CNCS has waived all Match Requirements for the remainder of our 2019-2020 program year, and for our upcoming 2020-2021 continuation. Should we include ANY match in our Continuation application/budget?
A9	See Answers 3 & 4 above.
Q10	<p>2.3 New, Same or Additional Projects and 4.1 Funding Priorities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is it possible to submit both our standard operating proposal and a planning grant proposal? 2. If we haven't received permission from CNCS before 5/20 do we submit through e-grants anyway? 3. Will e-grants permit two open applications at the same time? 4. If yes, then is this something that the Commission is open to - supportive of in principle?
A10,	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, See Answer 6 above. 2. No, per section 2.3 the request must be approved by the Corporation before the application can be submitted. E-grants does not allow you to submit same or additional projects without permission from the Corporation. 3. Yes, with permission from the Corporation. 4. The Commission can only pass on the request to the Corporation for consideration; all decisions on these requests are in the sole discretion of the Corporation.
Q11	Should the budget reflect regular match obligation? Does the narrative need to specify that there is a one-year match waiver?
A11	See Answers 3 & 4 above.
Q12	If we are completing a Continuation request, should we fill out the “Program Start and End Dates” in the Application Info section of eGrants? (The ASN Application Instructions’ Continuation Instructions state to update that section “if necessary”—

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	but that section in eGrants is not pre-populated with the Start and End Date from our Year 1 application, so I'm not sure if this means we need to update those fields.)
A12	Yes, continuation applicants have been sent instructions under separate cover and should contact your Commission Program Administrator if you have questions.
Q13	When requesting approval for planning grant – do they have to site evidence in that request. Make sure to check the criteria – not the score for the evidence section is not as high as it used to be but there is a section you need to site certain evidence in your planning grant. At this point we understand that if we are given permission to submit, we don't have the evidence yet. In the request, do we have to site evidence?
A13	Applicants for planning grants must describe how they will develop evidence for the intervention in the application narrative to support implementation of an operational grant in 2021-2022. (See section 5.1, subsection H.2).
Q14	Can we clarify whether our planning grant can only address a single measure, or can it address multiple focus areas?
A14	You can have multiple focus areas and are not restricted to one.
Q15	We are a rural intermediary, so I have a clarifying question on new/same project. We usually have healthy futures PMs, but we want to ADD 3-4 MSY under education. It will be same sites and same communities, but the education PM will be "new" and in addition to our regular Healthy Futures PMs. Healthy Futures will be prime. We already work with students but want to look at some other areas. Is this new? Do I submit the form to you to review?
A15	Neither the Commission nor OCFS has the ability to issue a determination whether a program design is considered new or neutral evolution of your existing program. CNCS has the sole authority to make such decision. We recommend applicants to submit their request for new projects if they are uncertain after reviewing the criteria and definition listed in the CNCS Mandatory Supplemental Guidance.
Q16	Is there any competitive advantage in connecting a proposed program to more than one priority? And if we added a second focus area in our proposal, would we need to request permission from the Commission?
A16	No, there is no competitive advantage in having more than one of the AmeriCorps funding priorities in an applicant's proposed program design. You are not required to get permission from the Commission to have more than one AmeriCorps funding priority in your proposal.

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Q17	<p>1. For the 10 MSY (Member Service Year) minimum requirement of the RFP, can I submit a proposal with configurations other than 10 FT (Full-Time) and still be eligible? 2. May I apply with 20 HF (Half-Time) instead?</p>
A17	<p>1. Yes, 2. Yes, see Answer 1 above.</p>
Q18	<p>What costs are allowable for this grant?</p>
A18	<p>For Allowable and Non-Allowable Costs, please see Section 5.3 (Proposed Costs) of the RFP and ATTACHMENT B: Detailed Budget Instructions for Cost Reimbursement Grants (eGrants Budget Section)” starting from page 20 of the 2020 AmeriCorps Application Instructions .</p>
Q19	<p>Am I required to submit performance measures with my AmeriCorps grant application?</p>
A19	<p>All applications must include at least one aligned performance measure (output paired with outcome) that corresponds to the proposed primary intervention. Please see RFP section 5.2 (Performance Measures) for additional information.</p>
Q20	<p>Which Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) and Grant Application ID do I apply to in the eGrants system?</p>
A20	<p><u>AmeriCorps Cost Reimbursement Grant</u></p> <p>Grant Application ID: 20AC225140 Grant #: 19AFHNY001</p> <p>NOFA: FY 2020 AmeriCorps State and Territory Commission (New and Continuations)</p> <p>Type: Continuation Status: Open for Sub applications</p> <p>Summary: This application is for new, re-competing, or continuation state commission applicants, including territories with commissions, applying for cost reimbursement grants.</p> <p><u>AmeriCorps Fixed Amount Grant</u> Grant Application ID: 20ES225141</p>

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Grant #: 18FXHNY001

NOFA: FY 2020 AmeriCorps State and Terr Comm Fixed Amount, EAP (New and Continuation)

Type: Continuation

Status: Open for Sub applications

Please note: The deadline date listed in eGrants does not apply to applicants responding to this RFP. Please see RFP Section 1.2 Calendar of Events for deadlines for applicants submitting proposals in response to this RFP.