



## PLANNING GRANT FAQs

Thank you for your interest in AmeriCorps planning grants! Below you will find more information on the requirements and expectations for planning grant applicants and successful planning grant awardees.

### **What is an AmeriCorps National planning grant?**

A planning grant assists organizations in developing an AmeriCorps program. The purpose of a planning grant is to support the development or improvement of a program so that it may be better prepared to successfully compete for an operational grant in the following grant cycle. The Virginia Service Commission awards planning grants to help organizations that wish to start a new AmeriCorps State Program fund the planning process. Planning grants provide staff and consultants to help organizations develop the policies and procedures, and partnerships needed to have a successful AmeriCorps program.

### **Is my organization eligible to receive a planning grant from Nevada Volunteers?**

The Virginia Service Commission issues planning grants to public or private nonprofit organizations, faith-based and other community organizations, institutions of higher education, government entities within states or territories (e.g., cities, counties), Indian tribes, labor organizations, partnerships or consortia and intermediaries planning to sub-grant funds.

### **What role does the Virginia Service Commission play in the grant process?**

VSC reviews and selects applicants in a competitive grant process. Once an organization has received a grant, the VSC provides oversight and support to ensure that the organization is in compliance with federal regulations.

### **Can I use this grant to pay for the overall operational needs of our organization?**

No. AmeriCorps planning grants are only for costs directly related to planning activities, rather than general organizational expenses. Fundable activities that Grant funds can be used for are directly tied to AmeriCorps program planning and development. The grant shall only be used to cover costs that directly support the development of the planning grant deliverables and reporting requirements. Fundable grant activities include, but are not limited to:

- Staff or consultants(s) to facilitate project planning and provide training and technical assistance aimed at improving the Grantee's ability to implement an AmeriCorps program effectively
- Assessing and analyzing community needs-related information to identify specific gaps or needs that can be addressed through AmeriCorps; Researching appropriate evidence-based interventions to inform service activities to be performed by AmeriCorps members
- Developing a program theory of change and logic model; Outreach and establishment of community partnership to support the planning and implementation of AmeriCorps program



- Partnership planning meetings; Meeting or office space
- Developing plans for member recruitment, selection, placement, training and supervision
- Developing plans and systems for ensuring grant compliance and accountability
- Travel to training and technical assistance sessions provided by ServeNebraska
- Travel to see and learn about program models the applicant would like to replicate.

**Is there a maximum award amount?**

Yes, planning grant applications should not exceed \$50,000.

**Will I have to contribute matching funds?**

Yes. The grantee is required to provide a match to support at least 24% of the project's total cost. Match may be cash and/or in-kind, as outlined in the RFA.

**How long is the grant period?**

AmeriCorps National Planning grants are for up to a one-year period.

**Can I have AmeriCorps members with a planning grant?**

No. Planning grants do not include any AmeriCorps member positions. During the planning period, you will define the roles and activities members will perform in the program.

**If I receive a planning grant this year, am I expected to compete for an AmeriCorps National program grant the following year?**

Yes, but it is not required. The purpose of the planning grant is to support organizations in their development of an AmeriCorps program. Towards the end of the planning period, planning grant recipients apply and compete for an AmeriCorps National program grant. There is no guarantee that planning grant recipients will receive an AmeriCorps program grant.

**Does my organization need to submit a logic model with a planning grant application?**

No. Organizations that receive planning grant funding will develop a logic model as part of their planning process.

**Where can I find additional information to help develop my grant application?**

On the Virginia Service Commission website there are resources to help you determine organizational fit and develop your application. Our website can be found at [www.virginiaservice.virginia.gov](http://www.virginiaservice.virginia.gov)