

AmeriCorps*State

**Becoming a Virginia Program Sponsor
Program Year 2012 - 2013**

Virginia Office on Volunteerism & Community Service

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** ★★★



Key Questions

- What is AmeriCorps?
- What areas of need does AmeriCorps target?
- How can AmeriCorps benefit my organization and community?
- How does AmeriCorps benefit the participants?
- Is AmeriCorps a fit for my organization?



AmeriCorps*State is . . .

one of several programs funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), which is an independent federal agency that annually engages more than 2.5 million Americans of all ages and backgrounds into improving communities through an array of service opportunities.

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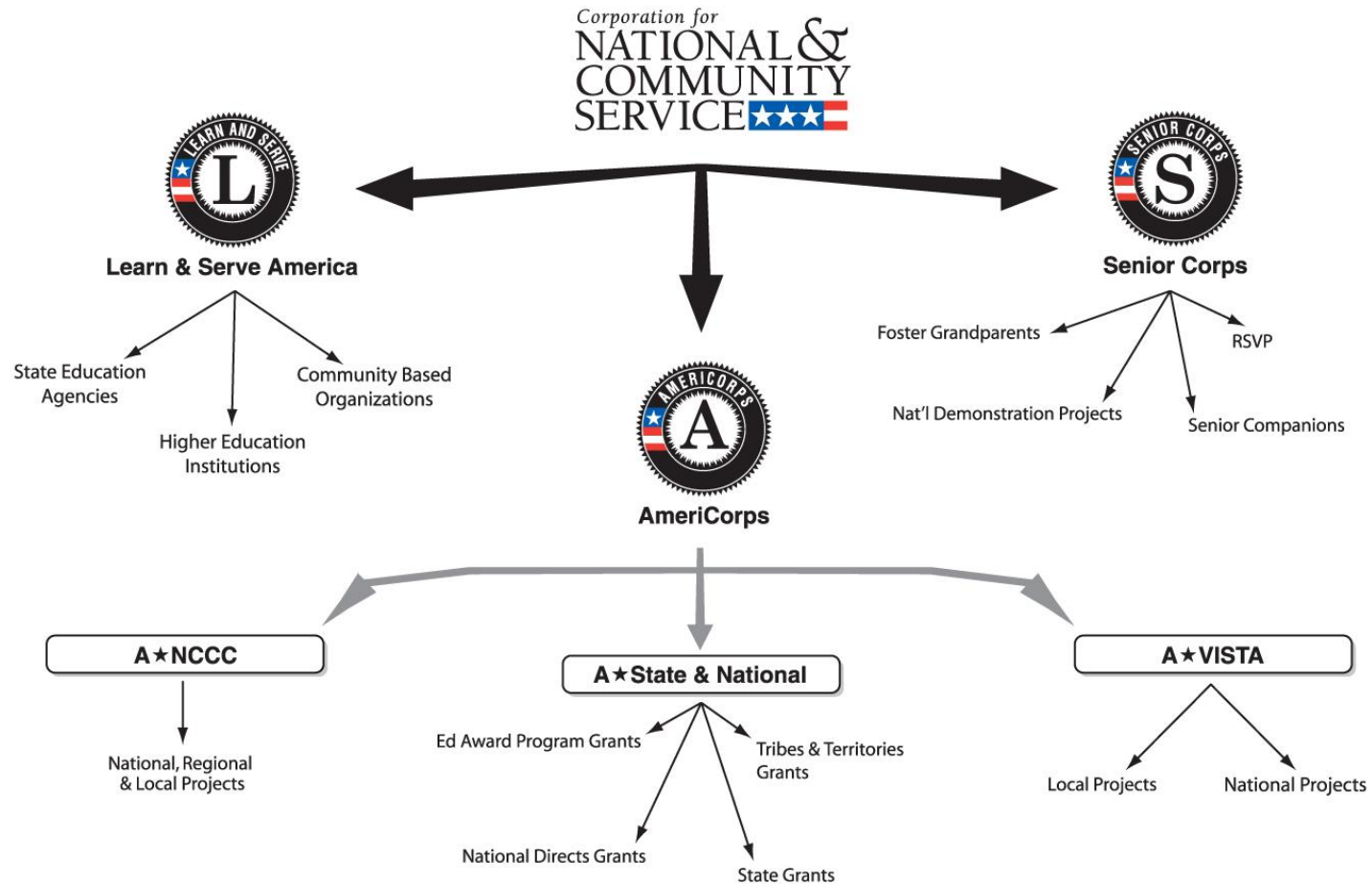
CNCS Programs

AmeriCorps*State
AmeriCorps*VISTA
**AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian
Community Corps)**
Senior Corps

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The National Service Network



What is AmeriCorps*State?

AmeriCorps*State is a national service network that provides service opportunities for participants (referred to as members) to serve their communities and to meet urgent local needs.

Virginia's AmeriCorps*State Priority

All proposals and programs must address the priority of Strengthening Families, and include activities that will achieve at least one of the following outcomes:

- a. Reduce non-marital births;
- b. Connect and reconnect fathers with their children;
- c. Encourage the maintenance and formation of two-parent families.

Virginia's Additional Priority Areas

- Education
- Opportunity (primarily economic)
- Veterans, active military, and military families

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- Subrecipient organizations engage AmeriCorps members in **direct service** to address unmet community needs.
- Subrecipient organizations are responsible for recruiting, selecting, and supervising AmeriCorps members to serve in their program.
- Subrecipient organizations are accountable to OVCS for all aspects of the program's management.



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- OVCS
- Direct service
- Critical community need
- Provide service to individuals
- Match requirement
- Full- to part-time members

AmeriCorps*VISTA

- CNS State Office/Federal
- Indirect service
- Anti-poverty focus
- Build organizational infra-structures
- Intense capacity building
- Cost-share encouraged
- Full-time members

Appropriate Service Activities

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- Direct services as:
 - Teaching computer skills
 - Assisting with job placement
 - Teaching conflict resolution
 - Building or rehabilitating homes
 - Assisting crime victims
 - Working with veterans

AmeriCorps*VISTA

- Indirect services, such as:
 - Organizing fundraising events
 - Public speaking
 - Conducting outreach
 - Developing community partnerships
 - Managing and organizing volunteers
 - Grant writing

Subrecipient Requirements

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- Must be a non-profit, an educational institution, or governmental agency (including Native American Tribal Governments).
- Engage AmeriCorps members in **direct service** to address unmet community needs.
- Ensure appropriate stewardship of federal funds.
- Adhere to all regulations and federal laws pertaining to management of the AmeriCorps Program.

Member Requirements

AmeriCorps*State

- 17 years and older
- Reside in VA as U.S. citizen or legal resident
- Serve full-time (1700 hrs) or part-time over a 10-12 month period
- Have high school diploma or GED



Community Benefits

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- Committed individuals address compelling unmet community needs
- Members become role models in their communities
- Members can be recruited from the community and may receive the benefits of AmeriCorps service (living allowance, education award, etc.)
- Development of engaged citizens:
 - Knowledgeable about community and problems it faces
 - More likely to choose public service careers



Organizational Benefits

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- Increases the number of people an organization can serve: 92% of participating organizations report that members helped them to increase the number of persons served
- Recruitment of additional community volunteers to help serve an organization's target population
- Enhances visibility/reputation



Member Benefits

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- Valuable training and experience
- Development of ethic of service and civic engagement
- In some cases, a modest living allowance
- Education Award tied to maximum Pell Grant (2012-13 - \$5,550 for full-time members)
- In some cases, health insurance and childcare



Is AmeriCorps Right for My Organization?

Is My Organization Right for AmeriCorps?

- How will my organization manage a labor intensive and demanding federal grant with extensive administrative, technological, and fiscal requirements?
- How will my organization identify, document, and address compelling needs and community demands for strengthening families through efforts in education, economic opportunity, or service to veterans, active military, and their families?
- What will be the change in the status quo of families and the community as a result of the presence of AmeriCorps members?
- How will this AmeriCorps Program provide services not already offered in the community?
- How will AmeriCorps fit my organization's mission and strategic plan?



More Questions to ask if considering AmeriCorps*State:

- Are we seeking five (5) or more full-time members or the equivalent?
- Do we have the resources to carry the cost of this program for 30-60 days before receiving any reimbursement?
- Would any of the required match funds come from other federal sources?



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OVCS Request for Proposals Timeline

- January 12, 2012: RFP released on Office of Volunteerism and Community Service (OVCS) Website and eVa
- February 1, 2012 – Pre-proposal Conference at 10 a.m. (register by 1/26)
- February 6, 2012: Intent to apply deadline for prospective applicants
- February 9, 2012: Mandatory eGrants training for prospective applicants
- March 8, 2012: Deadline to submit proposals to OVCS
- Late April: Notification made to tentatively-awarded applicants
- July – September 2012: Members begin service

Please consult RFP found at www.vaservice.org for more information on deadlines and other requirements

Thank You!

This information presented by:

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and Community Service**

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