

# Virginia AmeriCorps

## Becoming a Program Sponsor Overview

Virginia Office on Volunteerism & Community Service  
and  
CNCS Virginia State Office

Corporation for  
NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE ★★★



# Today's Objectives

- 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?



# Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

..an independent federal agency that each year engages more than 2.5 million Americans of all ages and backgrounds into improving communities through an array of volunteer service opportunities.

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# CNCS Overview

Programs meet needs in education, healthy futures, clean energy/environment, veterans, and opportunity.

Our main programs are:

- **Senior Corps**
- **AmeriCorps**
- **Learn and Serve America**

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# CNCS Mission

- To Improve Lives
- To Strengthen Communities
- To Foster Civic Engagement through Service and Volunteering

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# Serve America Act Priority Areas

- Education
- Healthy Futures
- Clean Energy/Environment
- Veterans
- Opportunity

# CNCS Programs

**Senior Corps** offers a network of programs that tap the rich experience, skills and talents of older citizens to meet community challenges.

**Learn and Serve America** provides grants to schools, higher education institutions and community-based organizations that engage students, their teachers and others in service to meet community needs.

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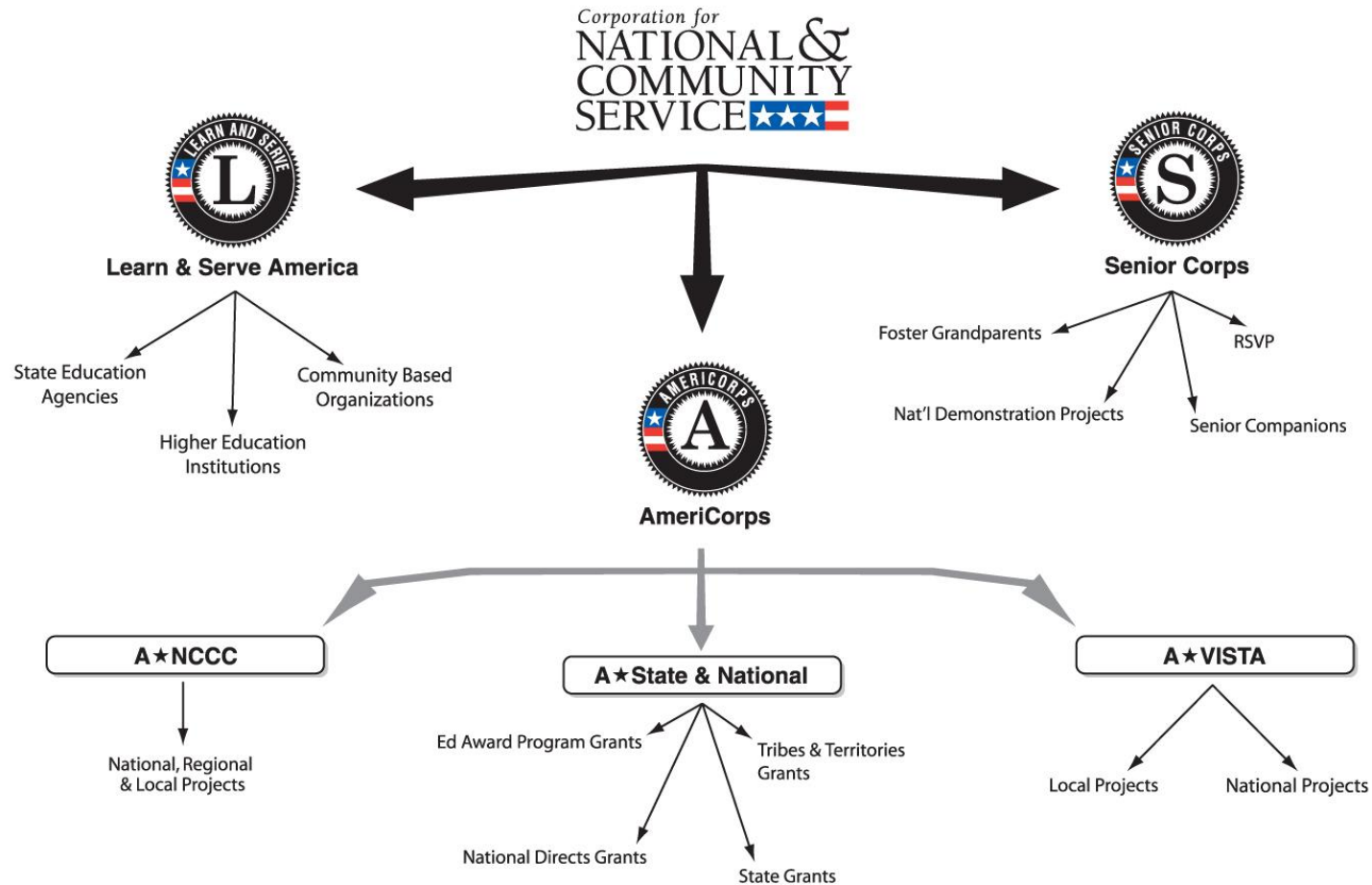


# Overview of AmeriCorps

- AmeriCorps\*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps)
- AmeriCorps\*State & National
- AmeriCorps\*VISTA (Volunteers In Service to America)



# The National Service Network



# What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is a national service network that provides part-time and full-time service opportunities for participants (referred to as members) to serve their communities and build the capacity of nonprofit organizations to meet local needs related to Education, Healthy Futures, Clean Energy/Environment, Veterans, and Opportunity.

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# AmeriCorps\*NCCC

(National Civilian Community Corps)

- Full-Time Program for young people (ages 18-24)
- Team-based residential program with a 10-month term of service
- Members live on one of five campuses
- Members operate in teams called “*Spikes*” that travel to perform *Direct Service* to local communities in need.



# AmeriCorps\*State

- Engages AmeriCorps members in **direct service** and capacity-building to address unmet community needs. Local programs design service activities for a team of members serving full- or part-time service terms for one year or during the summer.
- Organizations that receive grants are responsible for recruiting, selecting, and supervising AmeriCorps members to serve in their programs.



# AmeriCorps\*VISTA

- Focuses exclusively on anti-poverty efforts.
- AmeriCorps members provide **in-direct service** to address unmet community needs.
- Sponsoring organizations must be able to direct the project, recruit and supervise the members, and provide necessary administrative support to complete the goals and objectives of the project.



# AmeriCorps\*State

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

# AmeriCorps\*VISTA

- CNS State Office/Federal
- In-direct service
- Full-time members
- Anti-poverty focus
- Build permanent infra-structures in organizations
- Intense capacity building
- Cost-share encouraged

# Appropriate Service Activities

## AmeriCorps\*State

- Tutoring and mentoring at-risk youth
- Teaching computer skills
- Teaching conflict resolution
- Environmental conservation activities
- Building homes
- Restoring parks
- Assisting crime victims

## AmeriCorps\*VISTA

- Training direct service providers
- Public speaking
- Organizing fundraising events
- Conducting outreach
- Developing community partnerships
- Creating volunteer assignments
- Grant writing

# Grantee Requirements

## AmeriCorps\*State & AmeriCorps\*VISTA

- Must be a non-profit, an educational institution, or governmental agency (including Native American Tribal Governments)
- Ensure appropriate stewardship of federal funds entrusted to them
- Adhere to all regulations and federal laws pertaining to the sponsorship of members



# Organizational Benefits

## AmeriCorps\*State & AmeriCorps\*VISTA

- 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 Requirements

## AmeriCorps\*State

- 17 years and older
- Reside in VA as U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident alien
- Serve Full-Time (1700 hrs) over 10-12 month period
- Various Part-Time options also available
- Have high school diploma or GED

## AmeriCorps\*VISTA

- 18 years and older
- U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident alien
- Commit to one year of full-time service
- Cannot have any other type of employment.
- Cannot go to school (except under certain limited exceptions).

# Member Benefits

## AmeriCorps\*State

- Valuable training and experience
- Development of ethic of service and civic engagement
- Living allowance
- Education Award tied to maximum Pell Grant (2011-12 - \$5,550 for full-time members)
- In some cases, health insurance and childcare



# Member Benefits

## AmeriCorps\*VISTA

- Valuable training and experience
- Living Allowance
- Health Coverage in the VISTA Health Plan
- Optional Life-Insurance and Child Care
- Relocation Assistance
- An Education Award of \$5,550 or Stipend of \$1,200 paid upon completion of service
- Non-Competitive Eligibility for federal jobs for one year



# Community Benefits

## AmeriCorps\*State & AmeriCorps\*VISTA

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



# Is AmeriCorps Right for My Organization?

- Is my organization a public/private nonprofit, tribe, school district, government agency, or higher education institution?
- Does my organization address compelling needs in education, healthy futures, clean energy/environment, veterans and opportunity?
- Does my organization have the organizational, technological and fiscal capacity to manage a federal grant?
- Will this program offer services not already offered in the community?
- Would this program support my organization's mission and strategic plan?



# More Questions to ask if considering AmeriCorps\*State:

- Are we seeking funds for a program that would recruit five (5) or more full-time members or the equivalent?
- Do we have the resources to manage a program for 30-60 days before receiving reimbursement?



# AmeriCorps\*State

## OVCS Request for Proposals Process:

- **Mid-January**: RFP released on Office of Volunteerism and Community Service (OVCS) Website and eVa
- **Early February**: Intent to apply deadline for prospective applicants
- **Mid-February**: Mandatory eGrants training for prospective applicants
- **Mid-March**: Deadline to submit proposals to OVCS
- **April**: Notification made to tentatively-awarded applicants
- **July – August** – Members begin service

**See RFP found at [www.vaservice.org](http://www.vaservice.org) for exact dates**

# AmeriCorps VISTA

## VA State Office Application Process:

- **Concept Papers/Applications received on an ongoing/rolling basis**
- **Distribution of MSY begins at the start of the Federal fiscal year (October or with the approval of the Federal budget)**
- **If resources are not available at time of application, organizations will be placed on a waiting list**

# **Thank You!**

## **This information presented by:**

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