



State	Grant Number	Organization	Continuation or Renewal	Baseline Funding	Min. no. of VSYS in outcome-based work plans
SC	23SCHSC001	Senior Services Inc of Chester County	Renewal	\$183,249	20
SD	24SCESD001	The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society	Continuation	\$378,513	42
TN	23SCHTN002	Knoxville Knox County Community Action Committee	Renewal	\$355,432	39
TN	24SCHTN001	Tennessee Opportunity Programs Inc	Continuation	\$186,789	21
TN	23SCHTN001	Tennessee Respite Coalition	Renewal	\$60,436	7
TX	23SCGTX003	Alamo Area Council of Governments	Renewal	\$309,802	34
TX	23SCGTX002	Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe Inc	Renewal	\$200,353	22
TX	25SCGTX001	City of Corpus Christi	Continuation	\$441,883	49
TX	25SCGTX003	Concho Valley Council of Governments	Continuation	\$256,835	29
TX	25SCGTX002	Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston	Continuation	\$289,415	32
TX	24SCGTX001	Hidalgo, County of	Continuation	\$557,534	62
TX	24SCGTX002	Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas Inc	Continuation	\$532,124	59
TX	24SCGTX003	Senior Life Midland, Inc.	Continuation	\$201,811	22
TX	23SCGTX001	South Plains Community Action Association Inc	Renewal	\$300,515	33
UT	24SCDUT001	County of Utah	Continuation	\$254,400	28
UT	23SCDUT002	Five County Association of Governments	Renewal	\$109,862	12
UT	24SCDUT002	Utah Commission on Service and Volunteerism	Continuation	\$299,565	33
UT	23SCDUT001	Weber Human Services	Renewal	\$395,544	44
VA	23SCBVA001	Clinch Valley Community Action, Inc.	Renewal	\$218,019	24
VA	25SCBVA001	Southeastern Virginia Areawide Model Program, Inc	Continuation	\$338,441	38
VT	24SCFVT001	Age Well, Inc.	Continuation	\$326,193	36

# INVITATION TO APPLY

**Federal Agency Name:** AmeriCorps  
**Funding Opportunity Title:** Fiscal Year FY 2026 AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program Continuation  
**Announcement Type:** Initial Announcement  
**Assistance Listing Number:** 94.016

## Important Dates

- Applications are due not later than **Friday, April 3, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**
- Successful applicants will be issued awards in June 2026.

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## **A. Program Description**

### **A.1. Purpose of AmeriCorps Seniors' Senior Companion Program Funding**

AmeriCorps improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. AmeriCorps brings people together to tackle some of the country's most pressing challenges through national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities and those serving. AmeriCorps helps make service a cornerstone of our national culture.

Established in 1974, the AmeriCorps Seniors' Senior Companion Program engages adults aged 55 and over to provide companionship and support to older adults in need of extra assistance to remain at home or in the community for as long as possible. AmeriCorps Seniors' volunteers in the Senior Companion program serve with most of the volunteer service taking place in the homes of their clients. Among other activities, they provide companionship to ease loneliness and social isolation, assist with transportation and light chores, help to serve as eyes and ears to professionals who can intervene in the case of medical or other deterioration on the part of the clients, and give support to informal caregivers. While serving, AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in the Senior Companion Program improve their own lives by staying active and civically engaged.

### **A.2. Invitation to Apply**

Incumbent projects that received a grant continuation letter from AmeriCorps Seniors are invited to submit continuation applications for Year 2 or 3 of the Senior Companion Program grant awarded to their organization. You are invited to apply for grant continuation based on the determination that your project is continuing to meet the eligibility criteria as detailed in Section C. of this document. Through this grant continuation application process, AmeriCorps Seniors intends to fund Senior Companion Program grant continuations from current projects that support volunteers ages 55 years and older serving one-on-one with other older adults in activities that meet specific community needs and achieve national performance measures. Senior Companion Program grant applications must:

- continue to meet the eligibility criteria;
- have satisfactory administration and management; and
- meet the national performance measure requirements and other criteria established in this Invitation to Apply.

This Senior Companion Program Invitation to Apply prioritizes grant-making in the Aging in Place objective of the Healthy Futures focus area identified by the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended by the Serve America Act. Under this focus area, grants must provide and/or facilitate access to services and resources that contribute to increased social support and the capacity to live independently for older

adults and caregivers. Activities should align with the approved National Performance Measures for the Senior Companion Program.

### **A.3. Performance Goals or Expected Outcomes**

AmeriCorps Seniors expects applicants to use National Performance Measures as part of a comprehensive performance measurement strategy that relies on both performance and evaluation data to learn from their work and make tactical and strategic adjustments to achieve their goals.

Applicants are required to use the specific performance measures outlined in this Invitation. For more information, please refer to the National Performance Measures Instructions found in [Appendix B: AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program Performance Measure Instructions](#).

Applicants must identify Healthy Futures as the Primary Focus Area. Work plans must include at least one service activity in the Aging in Place objective of the Healthy Futures focus area. The Primary Focus Area represents the area in which the incumbent aims to make the most impact.

All proposed volunteers and the intended impact of their service must be represented in the narratives, in a work plan, and in the budget.

This funding opportunity requires applicants to demonstrate cost-effective practices in achieving performance goals through the services described in the proposed work plan. Applications must include work plans that meet the following minimum requirements:

- National Performance Measure outcomes using Healthy Futures as the primary focus area.
- Federal funding requests cannot exceed \$9,000 per Volunteer Service Year (VSY\*.) At least one VSY per \$9,000 of federal funds must be placed in a work plan that results in national performance measure outcomes in the Aging in Place objective of the Healthy Futures focus area. [Appendix G: Cost Per Volunteer Calculator](#) can be used to determine a minimum number of VSYS for a funding request.

\*Volunteer Service Year (VSY) is a budget term which equals 1,044 hours of volunteer service activity. VSYS are used in the budget and work plans. The standardized stipend cost per Volunteer Service Year (VSY) is calculated by multiplying the number of hours served by the current cost per hour for the stipend (1,044 hours x \$4.00 per hour). Volunteer Service Year (VSY) also refers to work plan requirements as noted above.

#### **A.4. Program Authority**

Awards under this Invitation are authorized by the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended ([42 U.S.C. §12501 et seq.](#)), and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, as amended ([42 U.S.C. §4950 et seq.](#)).

### **B. Federal Award Information**

#### **B.1. Estimated Available Funds**

AmeriCorps anticipates approximately \$35 million for FY 2026 AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program continuation grants. The actual level of funding is subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

#### **B.2. Estimated Award Amount**

Award amounts will vary as determined by the scope of the projects. AmeriCorps expects to make awards in the range of \$0 to \$2,000,000.

#### **B.3. Period of Performance**

AmeriCorps expects to issue awards to successful applicants in June 2026.

The budget and work plans for this application should cover the one-year period from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

The AmeriCorps funding amount approved for Year 1 during Administrative Renewal is your baseline funding and the amount you will receive for each year of the grant. However, Continuation awards (Years 2 and 3) for subsequent years are not guaranteed; they depend upon availability of appropriations and satisfactory performance. While AmeriCorps may make multi-year awards, actual award periods may vary because of program requirements, the availability of future appropriations, or specific circumstances of an individual application.

#### **B.4. Type of Award**

FY 2026 AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program grants will be awarded on a cost reimbursement basis if an application is successful.

#### **B.5. Cost Sharing or Matching**

Applicants are required to match funds for their programs based on the total allowable costs as determined under [2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E-Cost Principles](#). Non-AmeriCorps federal funds are allowed as match if the Federal agency that is the source of the funds

approves its use as match. Applicants must maintain documentation of that approval. The applicant's match can be cash and/or in-kind contributions. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to meet the applicable match requirement at the time that their application is submitted. See [Section D.6. Funding Restrictions](#) for more information.

The required match contribution is at least 10 percent of the total allowable costs each year. See [Match Calculator for AmeriCorps Seniors Grantees](#).

Please see the "AmeriCorps Seniors and AmeriCorps State and National Match Waiver FAQs" and the "AmeriCorps Seniors Individual Match Waiver Request" located on the AmeriCorps website's [Manage Your Grant](#) web page. AmeriCorps encourages Tribal Nations to request match waivers to reduce barriers. Every effort will be made to reduce the match requirements to improve accessibility.

## **C. Eligibility Information**

### **C.1. Eligible Applicants**

Through this Invitation to Apply, only incumbent Senior Companion Program grantees may apply for funding.

Applicants must have a valid SAM registration and Unique Entity Identifier to receive an award. See Section [D.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#) for more information.

### **C.2. Other Eligibility Requirements**

Even if an organization is otherwise eligible under C.1, an organization is not eligible if:

- It has violated a federal criminal statute.
- It proposes activities that are not allowed under AmeriCorps' laws, rules, or terms and conditions.
- It has any unpaid federal taxes that are not being paid through an agreement with the relevant tax authority. However, this does not apply if a federal agency decided that a suspension or debarment for the corporation is not necessary.
- It is described in the [Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. §501 \(c\)\(4\)](#) and lobbies.

## **D. Application and Submission Information**

This Invitation should be read together with the AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program regulations at [45 CFR Part 2551](#).

## D.1. Address to Request an Application Package

All information associated with this funding opportunity is available through the [AmeriCorps Seniors Training Hub](#) webpage. Applicants can also email [AmeriCorpsSeniors@AmeriCorps.gov](mailto:AmeriCorpsSeniors@AmeriCorps.gov) to request a copy of the application package.

## D.2. Content and Form of Application Submission

### D.2.a. Application Content

Complete applications must include the following elements:

- Standard Form 424 (SF-424) Face Sheet: This is automatically generated when applicants complete the data elements in the eGrants system.
- Narrative Sections
  - The narrative sections will populate from your previously approved application; however, these are read-only and no updates are permitted
- Work Plans/Performance Measures
- Standard Form 424A Budget
- Clarification Summary: This section will be used if there are items that need to be resolved post review. Applicants should not include any information in this narrative at the time of original submission.
- Authorization, Assurances, and Certifications

### D.2.b. Page Limits

Because continuation applicants are not permitted to make any changes to their Narrative Sections, the page limit is not applicable.

## D.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

All applicants must [register with the System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#) and maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete. If an applicant is awarded a grant, it must maintain an active SAM registration throughout the life of the award. Use the [SAM Quick Guide for Grantees](#) for more information.

AmeriCorps suggests that applicants finalize a new registration or renew an existing one at least three weeks before the application deadline, to allow time to resolve any issues that may arise. **Applicants must use their SAM-registered legal name and physical address on all grant applications to AmeriCorps. The legal applicant's name and physical address in the grant system must match exactly the applicant's SAM-registered information.**

Applications must include a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), which is generated as part of the SAM registration process. AmeriCorps will not make awards to entities that do not have a valid SAM registration and UEI.

Applications must include an Employer Identification Number (EIN). The UEI and EIN must be entered by the organization's Grantee Administrator as an organization attribute, and this will apply the information to all applications for the organization.

## **D.4. Submission Dates and Times**

### **D.4.a. Application Submission Deadline**

Applications are due no later than **Friday, April 3, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

AmeriCorps may extend the submission deadline. If the deadline is extended, then AmeriCorps will post information on the AmeriCorps' webpage.

### **D.4.b. Additional Documents Deadline**

Additional documents are due by the application submission deadline.

### **D.4.c. Late Applications**

All applications received after the submission deadline are late. AmeriCorps will determine whether to accept a late application on a case-by-case basis. To request consideration of a late application, an organization must:

- Submit a written explanation or justification of the extenuating circumstance(s) that caused the delay, including:
  - Timing and specific cause(s) of the delay;
  - Ticket number if a request for assistance was submitted to the AmeriCorps Hotline;
  - Information provided to the applicant by the AmeriCorps Hotline; and
  - Other documentation or evidence that supports the justification.
- Ensure that AmeriCorps receives the written explanation and any other relevant evidence, via email to [AmeriCorpsSeniors@americorps.gov](mailto:AmeriCorpsSeniors@americorps.gov) no later than 24 hours after the application deadline.

Communication with AmeriCorps staff, including an applicant's AmeriCorps regional office staff or applicant's AmeriCorps Regional Mailbox, is not a substitute for a written explanation. Applicants are required to continue working in the web-based system and with the AmeriCorps Hotline to submit the application.

AmeriCorps will not consider an advance request to submit a late application. Please carefully review and follow the late application guidance and submit your application as soon as possible.

**Please note:** applicants calling the Hotline may experience long wait times. We encourage applicants to complete and submit their application at least 5 business days before the deadline so that there is time to resolve any issues before the deadline. We also encourage applicants to read the Grant Application Instructions and Appendix B: Performance Measure Instructions before calling the Hotline, as you may find that following the instructions in these resources will resolve your issue.

## D.5. Intergovernmental Review

This Invitation is not subject to [Executive Order 12372](#), "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

## D.6. Funding Restrictions

### D.6.a. Award Funding Requirements

Awards under this Invitation are subject to cost share or matching requirements. The amount of funding AmeriCorps provides will be limited to 90 percent of the total allowable costs for the funded activity, as determined under [2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E-Cost Principles](#).

There are also limitations on the use of Federal funds to recover indirect costs. As provided in [2 CFR 200.306\(c\)](#), unrecovered indirect costs may be included as part of an applicant's cost sharing or matching requirements.

### D.6.b. Indirect Costs

Application budgets may include indirect costs. Based on qualifying factors, applicants may use a Federally approved indirect cost rate, use a 15 percent *de minimis* rate of modified total direct costs if you don't have a Federally approved indirect cost rate, or claim certain costs directly, as outlined in [2 CFR 200.413](#). States, local governments, and Indian Tribes may use previously approved indirect cost allocation plans. All methods must be applied consistently across all Federal awards. Applicants that have a Federal negotiated indirect cost rate **must** enter that information in the Organization section in eGrants. Applicants claiming the 15 percent *de minimis* rate of modified total direct costs must also enter that information in the Organization section in eGrants.

Use the [eGrants Indirect Cost Rate \(IDCR\) User Instructions](#) to enter the organization's Federal negotiated indirect cost rate or the *de minimis* rate information. Applicants should not submit documentation addressing the cost rate agreement via email.

**Please note:** To request a federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, when AmeriCorps is the applicable cognizant agency for an organization's indirect costs, the applicant must submit a request to [IndirectCostRate@americorps.gov](mailto:IndirectCostRate@americorps.gov). The applicant may also obtain instructions and additional information by contacting the email address above.

### **D.6.c. Pre-Award Costs**

Applicants funded under this Invitation are approved for pre-award costs for one month prior to the start of their program. AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer stipends and volunteer reimbursements, including meals and travel, are not approved as pre-award costs.

## **D.7. Other Submission Requirements**

### **D.7.a. Electronic Application Submission in eGrants**

Applicants must submit applications electronically via [eGrants, AmeriCorps' web-based application system](#). AmeriCorps recommends that applicants create an eGrants account and begin the application at least three weeks before the deadline. Applicants should draft the application as a Word document, then copy and paste the text into the appropriate eGrants field no later than 10 days before the deadline.

The applicant's authorized representative **must be the person who submits the application**. The authorized representative must use their own eGrants account to sign and submit the application. A copy of the governing body's authorization for this official representative to sign must be on file in the applicant's office. The authorized representative and the project director may not be the same person and may not have the same email address. Applications will be returned for corrections if the authorized representative and the project director have the same name and contact information.

Applicants should contact the [AmeriCorps Hotline](#) at (800) 942-2677 if you have a problem when you create an account or prepare or submit the application. Information about the AmeriCorps Hotline hours is also posted on the [AmeriCorps Hotline webpage](#).

When contacting the AmeriCorps Hotline, be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the name of the Invitation to which the organization is applying. If the issue cannot be fixed by the deadline, applicants must continue working with the AmeriCorps Hotline to submit via eGrants.

If circumstances make it impossible for an applicant to submit in eGrants, applicants may send a paper copy of the application via overnight carrier to the address below.

AmeriCorps  
ATTN: FY 2026 AmeriCorps Seniors Q4 Invitation to Apply  
250 E Street, SW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20525

Please use a non-U.S. Postal Service carrier to avoid security-related delays. Applicants must include an explanation and related documents about why they could not submit their application electronically. Applications must be received by the deadline.

**All deadlines and requirements in this Invitation also apply to paper applications. AmeriCorps does not accept applications submitted via fax or email.**

### **D.7.b. Submission of Additional Documents**

No additional documents are required for continuations.

**Do not submit any items that are not requested in this Invitation. AmeriCorps will not review or return them.**

## **E. Application Review Information**

Organizations that have current program awards and are eligible for continuation funding must submit an application in order to be eligible to receive funding for the following year. If a continuation application is not submitted by the due date, or if the late application process outlined in [Section D.4.c](#) is not followed, this will be an indication that the organization is no longer interested in receiving funding.

To be approved for continuation funding, recipients must demonstrate satisfactory performance with respect to key program goals and requirements, as well as compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant. AmeriCorps reserves the right to award applications in an amount less than the requested level of funding.

Prior to issuance, and annually thereafter, awards will be subject to review by one or more AmeriCorps senior officials, or their designees, according to the process described in [Executive Order 14332, "Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking."](#)

### **E.1. Selection Criteria**

**Define Geographical Service Area:** Ensure your service area as identified on the SF-424 Face Sheet of the application accurately reflects your approved geographical service area. The Areas Affected by the Project field (appears on the SF-424 Face Sheet and completed in the "Application Info" section of eGrants) is where you define the geographical service area for the project. Do not make any changes other than to ensure this field follows the correct format.

List county, parish, or tribal land names only—do not list cities, towns, etc., or provide any other information. When entering the Areas Affected by the Project, use the

following format. Your application will be returned for resolution if you deviate from this format:

**If serving counties or parishes in one state**

Vermont: Addison, Orange, Washington

**If serving a tribal land**

Arizona: Fort Yuma-Quechan Tribal lands

**If serving counties or parishes in multiple states**

Arkansas: Crittenden

Mississippi: DeSoto

Tennessee: Fayette, Shelby

**Station Rosters:** Grantees may make changes to their station rosters, if applicable.

**E.1.a. Narratives**

**Do not** make any adjustments to the Narrative sections:

- Executive Summary
- Strengthening Communities
- Recruitment and Development
- Program Management
- Organizational Capability
- Other
- Clarification Summary (if used in previous years)
- PNS Amendment (if used in previous years)

**E.1.b. Work Plans/Performance Measures**

Information will automatically copy from your previously awarded application into your continuation application. Please revise work plans for the one-year period of performance beginning July 1, 2026, including adding or removing work plans as necessary.

The description of community need must be tailored to the work plan and should be different for each work plan. Applications that use the same description of community need for all work plans will be returned during resolution.

Grantees must ensure their work plans accurately reflect the **number of VSUs** (recorded in the “unduplicated volunteers” field) and the number of active volunteers enrolled in their AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program. Grantees that wish to use unexpended funds as carry forward should document this in their internal systems, including their Memo to File. They should **not** include additional VSUs in their work plans to account for carry forward funding. Please see Appendix B: Performance Measure Instructions for information on meeting the VSU requirements across the three-year grant period.

Work plans are entered into the Performance Measure Module in eGrants. Please see Appendix E: Grant Application Instructions, Appendix G: Cost per Volunteer Calculator Worksheet, and Appendix B: AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program Performance Measure Instructions, available on the [AmeriCorps Seniors Training Hub](#), for more information.

Each work plan should have:

- A description of the specific community need being addressed by the individual work plan, including:
  - Local data or statistics on the target population and the extent of the specific need for this work plan
  - The counties being served through this work plan
  - The consequences of the need going unmet in the community
  - Why AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers can be effective resources to meet the need

*Please note: The Description of Community Need field in the work plan module has a limit of 2,000 characters, including spaces.*

- A description of the service activity that will address the community need for the individual work plan, including the intervention the AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers will implement or deliver and the duration and dosage of that intervention
- An output and outcome pairing that is eligible for this Invitation and that aligns with the description of community need and service activity as defined for the individual work plan
  - The output includes a target number that is appropriate for the service activity description and number of volunteers assigned
    - If the work plan is for Other Community Priorities, the output should be "1".
  - The outcome includes a target number that is appropriate for the service activity description and number of volunteers assigned. The outcome target should not equal the output target.
    - This is not applicable for an output-only work plan
- An output and outcome instrument description that describes how these will be measured
- The number of VSYs that will be achieved under this work plan (**entered in the "# of Unduplicated Vols" field in eGrants**)
- The number of total volunteers that will contribute to this work plan

Across all work plans, reviewers will assess whether:

- The total number of VSYs assigned to the work plans as recorded in the "anticipated unduplicated volunteers" field matches what is in the Executive Summary, in the Stipend section of the budget, and in the Funding/Demographics tab in eGrants

- The total number of VSYs assigned to outcome-based work plans in the Aging in Place objective of the Healthy Futures focus area as recorded in the “anticipated unduplicated volunteers” field meets the criteria of one VSY per \$9,000 in baseline funding.
  - Once the criteria has been met, grantees may place any extra VSYs in approved work plans in Other Community Priorities focus area.

### **E.1.f. Budget Section 1 and 2**

The budget from the previous year will pre-populate in the application. Applicants should update their budget for the FY 2026 period of performance (July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027) as necessary. The federal share of the budget should not exceed the baseline funding as listed in [Appendix A](#).

Grantees that wish to use unexpended funds as carry forward should document this in their internal systems, including their Memo to File. They should **not** include carry forward in their continuation application.

All AmeriCorps Seniors grantees must budget for training and staff development for the Project Director. Grantees may budget for training for other staff assigned to the grant if funds permit. Topics are dependent on the needs of the project and professional development goals of the Project Director. There is no recommended amount for this training, but it must be clearly identified in the budget narrative. Funds may be re-budgeted later in the year depending on actual training activities.

Budgets will be evaluated based on the following items:

- The budget demonstrates that costs are reasonable, allocable, allowable, and necessary and conform to the Uniform Guidance.
  - the budget is complete with all costs itemized.
  - the extent to which match will deepen the impact of the proposed project by demonstrating sufficient support of the project.
  - the quality of the financial management system.
  - budget includes costs associated with:
    - a full-time project director unless the organization has negotiated a part-time director with AmeriCorps
    - National Service Criminal History Checks (mandatory for staff and optional for volunteers)
    - volunteer insurance
    - volunteer recognition.
- The federal share of the budget does not exceed the baseline funding as listed in [Appendix A](#).
- The federal share of the budget meets the cost per VSY requirement for the program.
- The non-AmeriCorps share of total allowable costs must be a minimum of 10%. If needed, you may request a match waiver.

- Please see the “AmeriCorps Seniors and AmeriCorps State and National Match Waiver FAQs” and the “AmeriCorps Seniors Individual Match Waiver Request” located on the AmeriCorps website's [Manage Your Grant web page](#)
- The Source of Funds fields in the budget are complete and demonstrate the exact match for each budget section. In each Source of Funds field, identify each source of matching funds separately, including:
  - Name of the entity providing the match and the dollar amount
  - Whether the match is secured or proposed
  - Whether the match is cash or in-kind
  - Source type (private, state/local, federal, etc.)
  - The total amount in the Source of Funds field for each section must match the total amount in the corresponding section of the budget narrative exactly. Define all acronyms the first time they are used. Note: Do not include the source of any excess resources (from optional Excess column) in the Source of Funds sections.
- Training and staff development costs for the project director. Training costs may be re-budgeted later depending on actual training activities.
  - If there is no travel associated with this training, costs for training should go into Section I.I Other Volunteer Support Costs
  - If there is long-distance (i.e., outside your service area) or local travel (i.e., within your service area) associated with this training, costs for training should go into the appropriate part of Section I.C

Per the FY 2025 Final Rule, grantees have the flexibility to supplement stipends with their own funds in the grantee share, allowing them to adjust hourly rates as needed to recruit and support older adults in their communities. If you intend to supplement stipends, please complete Section E.1.d.i and include the supplemental stipend in the budget.

- Add a new line item in Budget Section II. Supplemental Stipend by clicking “Add a new budget item.”
- In the “Item” field, enter: Supplemental Stipend.
- In the “Description” field, enter: “[Supplemental amount] per hour for all volunteers; [Supplemental amount] x 1044 x [Number of VSYs] VSYs = [Total Supplemental Stipend Amount]”
  - For example, if you are offering \$0.50 an hour in supplemental stipends and have 15 VSYs, you would enter:

$\$0.50 \text{ per hour for all volunteers; } \$0.50 \times 1044 \times 15 \text{ VSYs} = \$7,830$

- In the “Total Amount” field, enter the total supplemental stipend amount.
- Enter “0” in the “CNCS Share” and “Excess Amount” fields.
- Enter the total supplemental stipend amount in the “Grantee Share” field.
- Ensure you also enter the information in the Other Narrative as specified in E.1.d.i.

## **E.2. Review and Selection Process**

AmeriCorps will engage Staff Reviewers with relevant knowledge and expertise to assess and provide input on the eligible applications. The review and selection process is intended to produce a diversified set of high-quality programs that represent the priorities and strategic considerations described in this Invitation. The determinations made by AmeriCorps reviewers may be different from what the applicant self-determined upon submission of its application. The stages of the review and selection process follow:

### **E.2.a. Initial Application Compliance and Eligibility Review**

AmeriCorps will conduct an initial Compliance and Eligibility Review to determine if an application meets the eligibility requirements published in this Invitation and advances to the next stage of the review process.

An application is compliant if the applicant:

- is an eligible organization
- submitted an application by the submission deadline

Reviewing for eligibility is intended to ensure that only those applications that are eligible for award are further reviewed. However, determinations of eligibility can take place at any point during the application review and selection process. Applicants that are determined to be ineligible will not receive an award.

### **E.2.b. Application Review**

AmeriCorps Staff Reviewers will assess the applications based on the Selection Criteria (E.1). All Staff Reviewers will be screened for conflicts of interest.

### **E.2.c. Pre-Award Risk Assessment**

AmeriCorps staff will assess the risks posed by each applicant. Results from this assessment will inform funding decisions. If AmeriCorps determines that an award will be made to an applicant with risks, special conditions may be applied to the award. AmeriCorps may decide to not fund an applicant based on the level of risk.

In assessing risks, AmeriCorps may consider the following criteria:

1. Due Diligence, including:
  - Federal debt delinquency
  - suspension and debarment
  - information available through Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as:
    - [U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services](#);
    - [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#); and

- *Do Not Pay*.
  - reports and findings from single audits performed under Uniform Administrative Guidance and findings of any other available audits or investigations
  - IRS Tax Form 990;
  - [Oversight.gov](https://www.oversight.gov); and
  - Public Litigation Records
2. Operational and Financial Management, including:
    - financial stability
    - [Operational and Financial Management Survey \(OFMS\)](#) (if applicable)
  3. Past Performance, including:
    - an applicant's record in managing previous AmeriCorps awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:
      - Timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements;
      - Accuracy of data reported;
      - Validity of performance measure data reported;
      - Conformity to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards;
      - Ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients;
      - Timely closeout of other awards;
      - Meeting matching requirements;
      - Extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards; and
      - Meeting [National Service Criminal History Check \(NSCHC\) compliance](#)
  4. Other Programmatic Risks, including:
    - publicly available information, including from the applicant organization's website
    - amount of funding requested by the organization
    - Other elements considered relevant per Program Office, such as prohibited activities

Applicants will find information to help them understand pre-award due diligence checks in the [AmeriCorps Due Diligence Review Process and Compliance](#) training available on the [Manage Your Grant](#) website under the Training and Technical Assistance link. This content will help applicants obtain due diligence compliance and remain compliant throughout the grant life.

#### **E.2.d. Consideration of Integrity and Performance System Information**

Before making any award that exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold in [2 CFR 200.206](#), AmeriCorps must consider information about the applicant from the designated integrity and performance system accessible through [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov).

Any applicant may comment upon information previously entered by another Federal agency in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov). AmeriCorps may consider applicant comments when completing its review of risk. AmeriCorps may also consider other information about any applicant receiving an award.

### **E.2.e. Selection for Funding**

The review and selection process are designed to ensure existing grantees are meeting the goals and outcomes of the AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program.

AmeriCorps reserves the right to award applications in an amount other than at the requested level of funding.

**AmeriCorps reserves the right to adjust or make changes to the review process, if unforeseen circumstances make it impossible, impracticable, or inefficient to conduct the review process as planned.** AmeriCorps reserves the right to re-focus program dollars under this Invitation in the event of disaster or other compelling needs.

### **E.2.f. Applicant Resolution**

After the application review process but before any grant awards are issued, AmeriCorps may ask an applicant for additional information to address any application compliance or risk issues. If an applicant does not respond promptly to these requests, then the applicant may be denied funding.

AmeriCorps will ask all grantees post-award for a written compliance implementation plan that includes notification of waste, fraud, and abuse to the agency's Office of Inspector General.

## **E.3. Transparency in Grantmaking**

Further information about funded grants and subgrants is available on [USASpending.gov](https://USASpending.gov).

## **F. Federal Award Administration Information**

### **F.1. Federal Award Notices**

AmeriCorps will make awards following the selection announcement. AmeriCorps anticipates announcing the results of this funding opportunity in June 2026 contingent on the availability of congressional appropriations. All applicants, successful or not, will be notified of funding decisions via email.

Notification of an award is not an authorization to begin activities. The final Notice of Grant Award is the authorizing document. An awardee may not expend federal funds until the start of the Period of Performance identified on the Notice of Grant Award, unless authorized as a pre-award cost.

## **F.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

### **F.2.a. Uniform Guidance**

All awards made under this Invitation will be subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) in [2 CFR Parts 200](#) and [2205](#).

### **F.2.b. Requests for Monitoring or Payment Integrity Information**

AmeriCorps will request documentation from grantees to ensure compliance with legal requirements, including the [Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019](#). If grantees do not respond promptly to these requests, then their funds may be placed on manual hold, reimbursement only status, or other restrictions as appropriate.

### **F.2.c. AmeriCorps Terms and Conditions**

All grants must follow the FY 2026 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, and the FY 2026 Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for the particular program (when applicable). These Terms and Conditions contain mandatory compliance and reporting requirements, and applicants should review these instructions prior to any Notice of Grant Award. Current versions of the AmeriCorps General and Program-Specific Terms and Conditions for each of its programs are available on the [AmeriCorps Manage Your Grant](#) web page.

### **F.2.d. National Service Criminal History Check Requirements**

The National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) is a specific screening procedure established by law to protect the beneficiaries of national service. We encourage grantees to minimize barriers to service without putting their program beneficiaries at genuine risk. The law requires grantees to conduct and document NSCHCs on persons (including award-funded staff, national service participant, or volunteer) receiving a salary, living allowance, stipend, or education award through a program receiving AmeriCorps funds. This includes staff that receive part of their salary through a subgrant.

- Award recipients and sub-recipients must conduct an NSCHC for AmeriCorps members, AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers, and all staff funded under, or whose salary is reflected as match on, the award. Limited exceptions are described in [45 CFR 2540.201](#). AmeriCorps strongly encourages applicants to review the regulations and additional guidance to fully understand how to comply with the requirements. See [NSCHC regulations and guidance](#).

- AmeriCorps also strongly encourages award recipients to utilize the two AmeriCorps-approved vendors to conduct the required NSCHCs.
- The cost of conducting NSCHC is an allowable expense under the award and individuals subject to the NSCHC must not be required to cover the cost.
- Failure to fully comply with all NSCHC requirements will result in significant disallowed costs.

Recipients must complete the following criminal history checks:

1. National Sex Offender Public website through NSOPW.gov (nationwide check);
2. State criminal history record repository or agency-designated alternative for the individual's State of residence *and* State of service; and
3. Fingerprint-based check of the FBI criminal history record database through the State criminal history record repository or agency-approved vendor.

All checks must be conducted, reviewed, and an eligibility determination made before the individual begins work or service.

An individual is not eligible to serve or work in a position subject to the NSCHC requirements if:

- the individual refuses to consent to a criminal history check
- makes a false statement in connection with a criminal history check
- is registered, or is required to be registered, on a state sex offender registry or the National Sex Offender Registry
- has been convicted of murder, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 1111

See [45 CFR 2540.200– 2540.207](#) and [National Service Criminal History Check Resources](#) for complete information and FAQs.

### **F.3. Use of Material**

To ensure that materials generated with AmeriCorps funding are available to the public and readily accessible to recipients and non-recipients, AmeriCorps reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to obtain, use, modify, reproduce, publish, or disseminate publications and materials produced under the award, including data, and to authorize others to do so ([2 CFR §200.315](#)).

## **G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts**

For more information, email [AmeriCorpsSeniors@AmeriCorps.gov](mailto:AmeriCorpsSeniors@AmeriCorps.gov).

For technical questions and problems with the eGrants system, call the AmeriCorps Hotline at (800) 942-2677 Option 3. [AmeriCorps Hotline hours](#) are also posted. Be

prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the name of the Notice or Invitation to which the organization is applying.

## **H. Other Information**

### **H.1. Technical Assistance**

AmeriCorps will host technical assistance calls to answer questions about the funding opportunity and eGrants. AmeriCorps strongly encourages all applicants to participate in these sessions. Information for these training and technical assistance calls is available on the [AmeriCorps Seniors Training Hub](#) web page.

Resources applicants need to effectively manage their grant award and training and technical assistance materials are found on the [Manage Your Grant](#) webpage. Applicants can find AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program-specific resources, such as the AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program Operations Handbook, on the [AmeriCorps Seniors Training Hub](#) web page.

### **H.2. Re-Focusing of Funding**

AmeriCorps reserves the right to re-focus program dollars under this Invitation in the event of disaster or other compelling needs.

## **I. Important Notices**

### **I.1. Public Burden Statement**

Public reporting burden for collection of information under this Invitation to Apply is estimated to average six hours per submission, including reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing the application and reporting forms. AmeriCorps informs people who may respond to this Invitation to Apply that they are not required to respond unless the OMB control number and expiration date are currently valid. Use [5 C.F.R. 1320.5\(b\)\(2\)\(i\)](#). This collection is approved under OMB Control #: 3045-0035, Senior Corps Grant Application, Expiration Date: September 30, 2026.

### **I.2. Privacy Act Statement**

The Privacy Act of 1974 ([5 U.S.C §552a](#)) requires that we notify applicants that the information requested under this Invitation to Apply is collected pursuant to [42 U.S.C. §12592](#) and 12615 of the [National and Community Service Act of 1990](#) as amended, and [42 U.S.C. §4953](#) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 as amended.

Purposes and Uses - The information requested is collected for the purposes of reviewing grant applications and granting funding requests. Routine uses may include disclosure of the information to Federal, state, or local agencies pursuant to lawfully authorized requests.

Effects of Nondisclosure - The information requested is voluntary; however, to be a recipient of this grant program, disclosure of personal or sensitive information is required to receive federal benefits.

*This Invitation was produced and published at US taxpayer expense.*

## **Appendix A – List of Funding Opportunities**

[Appendix A – List of Funding Opportunities](#)

## **Appendix B – Performance Measures**

[Appendix B – Senior Companion Program Performance Measure Instructions](#)

## **Appendix C – Terms and Definition**

[Appendix C – Terms and Definitions](#)

## **Appendix D – Resources**

[Appendix D – Resources](#)

## **Appendix E – Grant Application Instructions**

[Appendix E – Grant Application Instructions](#)

## **Appendix F – Focus Areas**

### **AmeriCorps Focus Areas**

The National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended by the Serve America Act, emphasizes measuring the impact of service and focusing on a core set of issue areas. In order to carry out Congress's intent and to maximize the impact of investment in national service, AmeriCorps has the following Focus Areas:

#### **Disaster Services**

Helping individuals and communities prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of disasters and increase community resiliency.

#### **Economic Opportunity**

Improving the economic well-being and security of underserved individuals.

#### **Education**

Improving educational outcomes for underserved people, especially children. AmeriCorps is particularly interested in program designs that support youth engagement and service learning as strategies to achieve high educational outcomes.

**Environmental Stewardship**

Supporting communities to become more resilient through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve land and water, increase renewable energy use and improve at-risk ecosystems, especially in underserved households and communities.

**Healthy Futures**

Supporting health needs within communities, including mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 and other public health crises, access to care, aging in place, and addressing childhood obesity, especially in underserved communities.

**Veterans and Military Families**

Improving the quality of life of veterans and improving military family strength.

**Capacity Building**

Supporting *indirect services* that enable AmeriCorps-supported organizations to provide more, better, and sustained *direct services*. Capacity building activities cannot be solely intended to support the administration or operations of the organization.

**Appendix G - Cost Per Volunteer Calculator**

[Appendix G – Cost Per Volunteer Calculator](#)