

South Carolina's AmeriCorps
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) 2017-18
South Carolina Commission on National and Community Service



INTRODUCTION:

The South Carolina Commission on National and Community Service (SC Commission) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) are pleased to announce the opportunity of federal funds to support South Carolina's AmeriCorps programs for the 2017-18 grant year.

Publication of this Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity (Notice) does not obligate the SC Commission to award any specific number of grants or to obligate any particular amount of funding.

INTENDED AUDIENCE:

This NOFO is for New, Recompeting, and Continuation SC applicants. In the attached NOFO, key policies specific to South Carolina have been highlighted in purple. Please be aware that this is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather, a helpful indication. It is likely that some SC-specifics remain un-highlighted.

APPLICATION PHASES AND IMPORTANT DATES:

The SC Commission will utilize a new two-step application process. All new or re-competing applicants must attend a technical assistance workshop. Applicants should be available to provide clarifications throughout the application process.

TRAINING

- **Required Technical Assistance Workshops: February 6 at 1 PM or February 9 at 1 PM**
All New and Recompeting applicants are required to attend an AmeriCorps Applicant Technical Assistance Workshop in February 2017 in order to be considered for funding. Workshops will be held at 1pm on February 6th and 9th in Columbia. Applicants do not need to attend both workshops; it will be a repeat course. All application materials will be released during the workshops. To RSVP, please email Carson.Carroll@uwasc.org.

PHASE 1: CONCEPT PAPER

- **Concept Paper Deadline: March 9 at 5 PM EST**
The concept paper will be a highly condensed preliminary paper with key information. Applicants with strong concept papers applicants will be invited to submit a full application.
- **Notification of Advancement to Full Application: March 21 by 5 PM EST**
Commission staff will notify applicants if their proposal is invited to advance to the second phase of application by the above date.

PHASE 2: FULL APPLICATION + SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTS

- **Technical Assistance Webinar (Optional): March 23 at 3 PM EST**
- **Full Application Deadline: Submit via eGrants by April 28 at 5 PM EST**
- **Supplemental Documentation Deadline: Submit via email to Carson.Carroll@uwasc.org by April 28, 2017 at 5 PM EST**
 - A. A copy of the organization's most recent IRS Form 990 (*Only applicable to organizations with 501c3 status*)
 - B. A copy of the organization's most recent audit report. If no audit report is available, please submit the organization's most recent financial statement.
 - C. A copy of the organization's Federally-Approved Indirect Cost Rate. (*Only applicable to organizations choosing to use method "B" to calculate the program's administrative costs.*)
 - D. Completed Financial Management Survey.
- **Clarification Timeframe: May 12-26**

AWARD NOTIFICATION: The SC Commission anticipates announcing the results of this competition by **July 1, 2017**, dependent on the availability of appropriations.

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PART I: OVERVIEW

A. Background

CNCS is a federal agency whose mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic participation through service and volunteering. For nearly two decades, CNCS — through its AmeriCorps/Senior Corps, Programs, Volunteer Generation Grants and the Social Innovation Fund—has helped to engage millions of citizens in meeting community and national challenges through service and volunteer action.

In South Carolina, CNCS funds for AmeriCorps*State programs are administered through the Governor-appointed SC Commission on National and Community Service, housed within the United Way Association of South Carolina (UWASC). Governor-appointed Commissioners and UWASC Board Members oversee the legal and policy governance of the South Carolina Commission program portfolio. A description of programs funded during the 2016-17 grant year can be found at <http://www.uwasc.org/AmeriCorpsPrograms>.

On April 21, 2009, President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, the most sweeping expansion of national service in a generation, which amends the National and Community Service Act of 1990. This landmark law not only expands service opportunities, but also focuses national service on key outcomes; builds the capacity of individuals, nonprofits, and communities to succeed; and encourages innovative approaches to solving problems.

In alignment with the Serve America Act, South Carolina's AmeriCorps will focus AmeriCorps grant making in six Focus Areas identified by the Act:

- Disaster Services
- Economic Opportunity
- Education
- Environmental Stewardship
- Healthy Futures
- Veterans and Military Families

PART II: Detailed Information about the Funding Opportunity

A. Eligible Applicants and Requirements

The following Non-Federal entities (as defined in 2 C.F.R. §200.69) who have a DUNS number and are registered in System for Award Management (SAM) are eligible to apply:

- Indian Tribes (2 C.F.R. §200.54)
- Institutions of higher education (2 C. F.R. §200.54)
- Local governments (2 C.F.R. §200.64)
- Nonprofit organizations (2 C.F.R. §200.70)
- States (2 C.F.R. §200.90)

Previously receiving funding from CNCS or another Federal agency is not a prerequisite to applying under this *Notice*.

Under section 132A(b) of the NCSA, organizations that have been convicted of a federal crime may not receive assistance described in this Notice.

Note that under section 745 of Title VII, Division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, A similar restriction may be enacted if CNCS is aware that any corporation has any unpaid Federal tax liability which—

- has been assessed
- for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and
- that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, that corporation is not eligible for an award under this Notice.⁴

Pursuant to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, an organization described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(4) that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply for CNCS funding.

B. Purpose of AmeriCorps Funding

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations (see *Eligible Applicants* section above) proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed (e.g., based on proposed program's data or a similar program's data) interventions to strengthen communities. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award from the National Service Trust.

CNCS and the SC Commission require that programs co-brand as AmeriCorps programs and that their participants consistently identify, and are recognized, as AmeriCorps members providing value to the community.

Section XIII of this *Notice* includes a description of the review and selection process. Publication of this *Notice* does not obligate CNCS or the SC Commission to award any specific number of grants or to obligate the entire amount of funding available.

C. Focus Areas

In order to carry out Congress' intent and to maximize the impact of investment in national service, CNCS and the SC Commission are targeting AmeriCorps funds to the following focus areas:

Disaster Services

Grant activities will increase the preparedness of individuals, improve individuals' readiness to respond, help individuals recover from disasters, and help individuals mitigate disasters. Grantees also have the ability to respond to state and national disasters under CNCS's cooperative agreements and FEMA mission assignments.

Economic Opportunity

Grants will provide support and/or facilitate access to services and resources that contribute to the improved economic well-being and security of economically disadvantaged people. Grant activities will help economically disadvantaged people, including youth identified in My Brother's Keeper (see *Appendix A*) to have improved access to services that enhance financial literacy; transition into or remain in safe, healthy, affordable housing; and/or have improved employability leading to increased success in becoming employed.

Education

Grants will provide support and/or facilitate access to services and resources that contribute to improved educational outcomes for economically disadvantaged individuals, especially children; improve school readiness for economically disadvantaged young children; educational and behavioral outcomes of students in low-achieving elementary, middle, and high schools; and/or support economically disadvantaged students prepare for success in post-secondary educational institutions. The SC Commission is particularly interested in program designs that support youth engagement and service-learning as strategies to achieve improved academic outcomes.

Environmental Stewardship/Clean Energy

Grants will provide support for increased individual behavioral change leading to increased energy efficiency, renewable energy use, and ecosystem improvements particularly for economically disadvantaged households and communities. Grant activities will decrease energy and water consumption; improve at-risk ecosystems; increase behavioral changes that lead directly to decreased energy and water consumption or improved at-risk ecosystems; and/or increase green training opportunities that may lead to decreased energy and water consumption or improved at-risk ecosystems.

Healthy Futures

Grants will provide support for health needs within communities including access to care, aging in place, and childhood obesity. Grant activities will improve access to primary and preventive health care for communities served by CNCS-supported programs; increase seniors' ability to remain in their own homes with the same or improved quality of life for as long as possible; and increase physical activity and improve nutrition in youth with the purpose of reducing childhood obesity.

Veterans and Military Families

Grants will positively impact the quality of life of veterans and improve military family strength. Grant activities will increase the number of veterans and military service members and their families served by CNCS-supported programs and increase the number of veterans and military family members engaged in service through CNCS-supported programs. To the greatest extent possible, proposed activities should be aligned with the Veteran and Military Family National Performance Measures.

D. Program Services

AmeriCorps SC Programs funded through this *Notice* must provide direct services to communities within the focus areas previously noted. Capacity building may be a small portion of the activities, as it specifically relates to the direct services.

Capacity Building

As a general rule, the SC Commission considers capacity building activities to be *indirect services* that enable the CNCS-supported organizations to provide more, better, and sustained *direct services* in the CNCS' six focus areas. For the purpose of this funding, capacity building activities cannot be solely intended to support the administration or operations of the organization. Examples of capacity building activities include recruiting and/or managing community volunteers; implementing effective volunteer management practices; completing community assessments that identify goals and recommendations; developing new systems and business processes (technology, performance management, training, etc.); or enhancing existing systems and business processes.

E. SC Funding Priorities and Target Communities for 2017-2018

The SC Commission will seek to build a diversified portfolio across all six of the CNCS focus areas. Organizations submitting an application under one of the SC Commission's Priorities or Target Communities are not guaranteed funding. Furthermore, programs must demonstrate significant program focus, design, and outcomes to receive priority consideration.

Evidence-Based or Evidence-Informed Priority Consideration

In order to maximize the impact of the public investment in national service, The SC Commission will provide grants to programs that demonstrate that they will engage AmeriCorps members in an evidence-based or evidence-informed approach to providing a service intervention that will result in intended solutions to community problems (e.g., based on proposed program's performance and evaluation data or research demonstrating the effectiveness of a similar intervention).

Underrepresented Populations Priority Consideration

The SC Commission believes that all Americans should have opportunities to participate in national service, including those that have been traditionally underrepresented in national service, such as rural residents, people with disabilities, veterans/military families, and Native Americans. Additionally, The SC Commission also specifically seeks applications focused on the following demographics:

Encore Programming

Programs that engage a significant number of participants age 55 or older.

Opportunity Youth

The one in six young people (ages 16-24) who are disconnected from school or work. (Please see additional information in the Definitions section of this Notice. Page 26.)

Target Communities

The SC Commission accepts and is willing to fund applications that propose to provide services to any South Carolina community, but specifically seeks to receive applications proposing to serve communities located in the following counties.

High Need

Allendale (Promise Zone), Bamberg (Promise Zone), Cherokee, and Williamsburg.

Significant Need

Colleton (Promise Zone), Barnwell (Promise Zone), Hampton (Promise Zone), Jasper County (Promise Zone) Florence, Chester, Darlington, Dillion, Marlboro, and Marion.

Disaster Recovery Need

Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillion, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Richland, Sumter, and Williamsburg.

F. Performance Measures

National Performance Measures allow CNCS to demonstrate the aggregated impact of all AmeriCorps programs. These measures are aligned with CNCS's Strategic Plan and South Carolina's State Service Plan. New applicants in South Carolina are required to utilize at least one of the aligned National Performance Measures (output and outcome) as part of their grant application. Additionally, the SC Commission expects that applicants include a performance measure for all significant member activities outlined in an applicant's grant narrative. Applicants who also opt to create a program-specific Performance Measure in addition to their National Performance Measure must use evidence-based best practices to develop the measure.

CNCS and the SC Commission expect applicants to use Performance Measures as part of their comprehensive performance measurement strategy that relies on both performance and evaluation data to learn from their work, as well as make tactical and strategic adjustments to achieve their goals. For more information, please refer to the National Performance Measure Instructions <https://www.nationalservice.gov/documents/main-menu/2016/2017-performance-measures-instructions> .

Applicants must include all their information about their proposed performances measure in the Performance Measure section of the applications in eGrants (CNCS's web-based grants management system). All information requested in the National Performance Measure Instructions must be included in the text of the performance measures themselves, and it must be evident in the performance measure text that all definitions and requirements outlined in the National Performance Measures Instructions and Notice FAQs are met. Providing performance measures information elsewhere in the narrative cannot be in lieu of providing full information in the Performance Measures section of the application in eGrants. Applications that do not include performance measures will not be considered.

The SC Commission will host a webinar on Thursday, March 23th at 3pm to help guide SC applicants in the development and input of their proposals' performance measures. An invitation to the Performance Measure Webinar will be sent to organizations that RSVP to attend one of the Applicant Technical Assistance Workshop taking place in early February. The Performance Measure Webinar is optional; however, the SC Commission strongly encourages all applicants to attend.

Grantees will be expected to have data collection and data management policies and practices that provide reasonable assurance that they are providing the SC Commission with high quality performance measure data. At a minimum, Grantees should have policies and practices which address the following five aspects of data quality:

- The data measures what it intends to measure;
- The Grantee collects data in a consistent manner;
- The Grantee takes steps to correct data errors;
- The Grantee ensures that the data reported is complete; and
- The Grantee actively reviews data prior to submission.

Overview of AmeriCorps National Performance Measures:

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/resources/performance-measurement/ameriCorps>

2017/18 AmeriCorps National Performance Instructions and Specific Definitions:

https://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017%20Performance%20Measures%20Instructions_edited8-29-16.pdf

Instructions for entering performance measures into the eGrants system:

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/resources/performance-measurement/eGrants-performance-measures-module-ameriCorps>

**After following web link, select 'non-litmos user' to access course.*

G. Program Authority

CNCS's legal authority to award these grants is found in the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, (NCSA) (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.)

PART III. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Estimated Available Funds

The SC Commission expects a highly competitive AmeriCorps 2017/18 grant competition. The SC Commission expects to award New, Re-competing, and Continuation AmeriCorps grants. The actual level of funding will be subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

The SC Commission will set aside a small percentage of the State's formula allocation to ensure that funds are available to support budget line items that are required by the SC Commission. Required line may include, but are not limited to; statewide consultation/evaluation fees. The SC Commission will add these required line-items to each applicable subgrantee budget at the end of the grant review process. Each applicant will have the opportunity to view and approve these budget revisions.

B. Estimated Award Amount

Grant awards have two components: operating funds and AmeriCorps member positions. Grant award amounts vary – both in the level of operating funds and in the type and amount of AmeriCorps member positions – as determined by the scope of the projects.

The SC Commission will review applications and determine the appropriate award amount, if any. Award amounts vary. The SC Commission is not obligated to fund grant proposals in their entirety and reserves the right to request applicants to make revisions to any portion of their organization's proposal.

The SC Commission's current AmeriCorps grant awards range from \$100,000 to \$400,000, with an average grant award being around \$150,000

****Only Applicable to Continuation Applications****

The SC Commission recognizes that programs may experience an increased cost of doing business from year-to-year based on increases in staff salaries, mileage costs, contracts, etc. **For this reason, applicants may request up to \$10,000 in additional funding from the organization's FY16 grant award without being considered a request for expansion.** All requests for additional funding must be described in both the Continuation Changes and Budget Narrative sections of the program's application. The SC Commission reserves the right to approve or deny these requests.

C. Award Period

The program year for this grant cycle will begin August 1, 2017 and end on July 31, 2018. Projects must be designed to take place within the program year.

Unless otherwise specified, the grant generally covers a three-year project period. In approving a multi-year project period, the SC Commission generally makes an initial award for the first year of operation. Applications should be submitted with a one-year budget. Continuation funding is not guaranteed. Factors considered in awarding continuation grants include satisfactory performance, demonstrated capacity to manage the grant, compliance with grant requirements, agency priorities, and the availability of appropriated funds. The SC Commission reserves the right to adjust the amount of a grant or elect not to continue funding for subsequent years.

The SC Board of Commissioners will review any proposed changes to program design, slot allocation, or budget submitted as part of a program's Continuation application. The SC Board of Commissioners reserves the right to approve or reject any of the proposed changes.

D. Types of Grants

AmeriCorps grants can be awarded on a cost reimbursement or fixed amount basis. The SC Commission will not provide both types of grants for the same project in one fiscal year. See Definitions in the Appendix. Fixed-amount grants are only available to re-competing programs.

General Summary

Grant Types	Cost Reimbursement		Fixed Amount		
Available Subtypes	Traditional	Professional Corps	Full-Time/Less than FT serving in a full time capacity	EAP (Education Award Program)	Professional Corps
Recommended Cost per MSY	>13 MSY=\$14,000 <13MSY=\$15,500	Up to\$1,000	\$13,430 FT \$6,715 FTC	\$800	Up to \$1,000
Type of Slots in the National Service Trust	All	All	Full-Time or Less than Full-Time serving in a full time capacity	All	Full-Time Only
Budget Submission Required	Yes		No		Yes, if requesting operating funds
Availability of Funds linked to enrollment and retention of awarded MSY	No		Yes		
Special Requirements	N/A	Must place qualified professionals in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals. Member salaries must be paid entirely by organization where member serves and not included in the budget.	N/A	N/A	Must place qualified professionals in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals. No CNCS funds may be used to pay
Match Requirements	Yes	Yes; Living allowance or salary paid to members may not be counted toward the match requirement.	No, but organizations must raise the additional revenue required to operate the program.		
Financial Tracking Requirements	Yes		No		
Available to New Applicants	Yes		No	Yes	Yes

PART IV: Grant Expectations and Requirements

A. Program Size

Organizations should aim to engage the equivalency of at least eight full-time AmeriCorps members. Applicants should use the formulas below for calculating MSY.

Full-time (1700 Hours) members x 1.000
 1 Year Half-time (900 Hours) members x 0.500
 Reduced Half Time (675 hours) members x 0.3809524
 Quarter Time (450 hours) members x 0.26455027
 Minimum time (300 hours) members x 0.21164022

B. Member Enrollment Requirements

We expect Grantees to enroll all the members included in their grant award. Enrollment rates have a direct bearing on the number of slots and the size of awards approved in the Continuation and Recompete processes. Continuation and Recompeting Grantees that have not achieved full enrollment in the previous year must provide an explanation and a corrective action plan in their application. Successful applicants that do not fully enroll are likely to receive a decrease in funding in subsequent years.

C. Member Retention Requirements

The SC Commission expects grantees to pursue the highest retention rate possible. Retention rates will have a direct bearing on the number of slots and the size of awards approved in the continuation and re- compete processes. Successful applicants that do not retain their members are likely to receive a decrease in funding in subsequent years. The SC Commission also recognizes retention rates may vary among equally effective programs depending on the program model. Continuation or Recompeting Grantees that have not achieved an 80% retention in the most recently completed program year must provide an explanation and a corrective action plan in their application.

D. Member Living Allowance

The proposed budget must include a living allowance for full-time members that is between \$12,630 (minimum) and \$24,930 (maximum) per member except as noted below. A living allowance is not considered a salary or a wage.

Programs are not required to provide a living allowance for members serving in less than full-time terms of service (*Note: Programs that choose to not provide a living stipend to part-time members oftentimes experience challenges with recruiting and meeting full enrollment.*) If a program chooses to provide a living allowance to a less than full-time member, it must comply with the maximum limits in the Table below. For cost-reimbursement grants, the amount must be included in the proposed budget as either CNCS or grantee share.

While full-time fixed-amount grant applicants are not required to submit detailed budgets, they are still required to provide a living allowance that complies with the minimum and maximum requirements to members. (EXCEPTION: as noted in section below.) Fixed-amount grant applicants are not required to indicate that amount in the application and request those positions as “without living allowance” in the budget.

Table 1: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1700	\$12,630	\$24,930
One-year Half-time	900	n/a	\$13,199
Reduced Half-time	675	n/a	\$9,899
Quarter-time	450	n/a	\$6,599
Minimum-time	300	n/a	\$4,400

i. Exceptions to the Living Allowance Requirements

EAP Fixed amount Grantees are not required to provide a living allowance, but if a living allowance is provided, it must comply with the maximum requirements set forth in the Living Allowance Table above.

Professional Corps Grantees

Professional Corps programs recruit and place qualified members in positions as teachers, health care providers, police officers, engineers, or other professionals in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals. Applicants are eligible to apply for funding for a portion of the program costs. Professional Corps members' salaries are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve, and are not included in the budget. In order to be considered for funding, applicants must demonstrate that there are an inadequate number of professionals in the community(ies) where the corps seeks to place members. These grants can either be fixed amount or cost reimbursement grants.

Professional Corps programs members must receive a living allowance or salary, which must meet the minimum, but may exceed the maximum living allowance set in the Living Allowance Table above.

E. Maximum Cost per Member Service Year (MSY)

** Please review Appendix A - Definitions section of this Notice for more information regarding Member Service Year (MSY)*

The SC Commission considers comparative costs per MSY in making funding decisions.

The recommended cost per MSY for programs proposing to host less than 13 MSY is no more than \$15,500/MSY.

The recommended cost per MSY for programs proposing to host more than 13 MSY is no more than \$14,000/MSY.

The maximum cost per MSY that an applicant can request is \$18,000/MSY. Please note that request for maximum cost per MSY is rarely approved.

F. Amount of the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award for FY 2017

AmeriCorps members serving in programs funded with FY 2017 dollars who successfully complete a term of service will receive an Education Award from the National Service Trust of \$5,815 for a year of full-time service, with correspondingly smaller awards for less-than-full-time service. The amount of the Education Award is determined on the basis of the Pell Grant award. A member has up to seven years after his or her term of service to use the Education Award. The Segal Education Award is distributed to AmeriCorps alumni through the National Service Trust and should not be included as a line item in the AmeriCorps program budget.

Table 2: Term of Service and FY17 Education Award

Term of Service	Minimum # of Hours	FY17 Education Award
Full Time	1700	\$5,815.00
One-Year Half Time	900	\$2,907.50
Reduced Half Time	675	\$2,215.24
Quarter Time	450	\$1,538.36
Minimum Time	300	\$1,230.69

PART V. FISCAL REQUIREMENTS

A. Match Requirements

Fixed amount Grants

Only re-competing programs are eligible for fixed amount grants.

Below is an overview of the requirements governing AmeriCorps Fixed-Amount awards:

- There is no specific match requirement for fixed amount grants, but the SC Commission does not provide all the funds necessary to operate the program. Organizations must raise the additional revenue required to operate the program.
- Only Full-Time (1700hr) and Half-Time (900hr) member slots are available through fixed-amount grants. Participants serving in Half-Time positions must serve in a “full-time capacity.” In alignment with UWASC policies, the SC Commission defines full-time capacity as members serving an average of 30+ hours per week.
- Applicants may not request more than \$13,430 per full-time slot or \$6,715 per half-time slot.
- Reimbursement for fixed-amount grants are based on the number of members enrolled/retained. Fixed-Amount grantees are reimbursed monthly based on corpsmembers progress towards meeting their service hour requirements and retention.
- Fixed Amount grantees are required to meet the same programmatic requirements as Reimbursement grantees including all programmatic requirements listed in the Reimbursement Grant Budget Instructions.

Additional resources regarding fixed-amount grants can be found here:

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/resources/financial-management/fixed-amount-grants>

Cost Reimbursement Grants (non-fixed amount)

Grantees are required to meet an overall minimum matching rate of the total cost of operating the AmeriCorps program that increases over time. Grantees have the flexibility to meet the overall match requirements in any of the three budget areas, as long as the minimum match of 24% for the first three years, and the increasing minimums in years thereafter, are maintained. See 45 CFR § 2521.60 for the specific regulations.

In addition to federal regulations, the SC Commission requires that programs who have received SC Formula funding for more than 10 years to increase their match commitment by 5% for every year past year 10. Under certain circumstances, applicants may qualify to remain at a 50% matching requirement. To qualify, applicants must demonstrate that the proposed program is either located in a severely economically distressed community or that the organization faces substantial challenges in raising non CNCS resources. (For more information on applying for an alternative match, please reference the Application Instructions.)

An applicant’s match obligation can be met through either cash or in-kind contributions.

- Example of Cash Contribution: The host organization pays 50% of the program Director’s salary.
- Example of In-Kind Contribution: The host organization establishes an agreement with a local church that allows its AmeriCorps members to use an office space valued at \$400/month to provide after school tutoring services.

Many organizations choose to contribute matching resources that exceed the required minimums outlined in the table below. Applicants whose match contribution exceeds the minimum amount are usually viewed favorably by grant reviewers. It is important to note that organizations are required to meet and provide documentation for the match percentage that appears in their application’s Budget Narrative, even if it exceeds the minimum percentage outlined in the table below. Your program’s required match percentage can be found by reviewing the Grantee Share column of the “Budget Totals” line item of the Budget Narrative.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11+
24%	24%	24%	26%	30%	34%	38%	42%	46%	50%	An additional 5% each year past year 10

Section 121(e)(5) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, requires programs that use other federal funds as match for an AmeriCorps grant to report the amount and source of these funds to the SC Commission on the Federal Financial Report. Grantees must track and be prepared to report on that match separately each year.

The living allowance or salary provided to AmeriCorps members in Professional Corps programs does not count toward the matching requirement.

B. Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and System for Award Management (SAM)

Applications must include a DUNS number and an Employer Identification Number. The DUNS number does not replace an Employer Identification Number. All applicants must be registered with the Systems for Award Management (SAM).

DUNS numbers may be obtained at no cost by calling the DUNS number request line at (866) 705-5711 or by applying online: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. The website indicates a 48-hour e-mail turnaround time on requests for DUNS numbers; however, we suggest registering at least 30 days in advance of the application due date. After obtaining a DUNS number register with SAM at <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/>.

SAM collects, validates, stores, and disseminates data in support of Federal agency contracts, grant awards, cooperative agreements, and other forms of federal assistance. All grant recipients are required to maintain a valid SAM registration, which must be renewed annually. Applicants that are not already registered with SAM are urged to begin the registration process immediately in order to avoid any delays in submitting applications. Applicants must have a DUNS number in order to register with SAM. To register online go to <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/>.

C. Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards

Grants under this program are subject to 2 CFR Part 200 and CNCS regulations issued to implement Part 200. Those regulations supersede and streamline requirements the from OMB Circulars A-21, A-87, A- 110, and A-122 (which have been placed in OMB guidances); Circulars A-89, A-102, and A-133; and the guidance in Circular A-50 on Single Audit Act follow-up.

PART VI. National Service Criminal History Check Requirements

The National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) is a screening procedure established by law to protect the beneficiaries of national service. The law requires recipients to conduct and document NSCHCs on any person (including award-funded staff, national service participant, or volunteer) receiving a salary, living allowance, stipend or education award through a program receiving CNCS funds. An individual is ineligible to serve in a position that receives such CNCS funding if the individual is registered, or required to be registered, as a sex offender or has been convicted of murder. The cost of conducting NSCHCs is an allowable expense under the award.

Unless CNCS and the SC Commission has provided a recipient with a written exemption or written approval of an alternative search procedure, all award-funded staff, national service participants, and volunteers must undergo the following NSCHCs :

1. A nationwide name-based search of the National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW); *and*
2. A name- or fingerprint-based search of the statewide criminal history registry in the person's state of residence and in the state where the person will serve/work; *and*
3. A fingerprint-based FBI criminal history check.

Inability of a grantee to demonstrate that they have conducted all components of the NSCHC, as specified in SC Commission policies and procedures documents may result in sanctions and fines.

PART VII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Programmatic and Fiscal Reporting

Both Reimbursement and Fixed-Amount Grantees are required to provide progress reports, semi-annual financial reports, monthly reimbursement requests, End-Of-Year Closeout Packets, and participate in annual site visits and monthly training/monitoring events scheduled by the SC Commission.

Fixed Amount Grantees reimbursement request must include verification of member hours served.

Reimbursement Grantees reimbursement requests are required to include documentation that supports all expenditures, regardless of amount, for which reimbursement is requested.

The required documentation for reimbursement is submitted along with a written request for payment signed by the host organization's Chief Financial Officer, or any authorized personnel. The supporting documentation is due at the Commission **no later than** the 15th workday of each month

Submission Process:

- a. Commission receives the request for payment from the subgrantee's Fiscal Officer.
- b. Commission Fiscal Officer reviews all applicable documentation and approves the reimbursement.
- c. The Director of the SC Commission will receive the reimbursement requests eligible to be processed for payment on the 5th of each month for review and approval. In addition to the requests a list of sub grantees who are missing items of documentation or who have not submitted a request will be also be provided. The Commission Fiscal Officer will contact sub grantees on this list via email to let them know their request(s) will not be processed until the following month providing documentation is complete. The Director of the SC Commission will complete the review and approval process within 24 hours of receiving the requests.
- d. Commission Fiscal Officer will process all payments approved by the Director of the SC Commission by the 10th of the month following submittal.

All staff listed under the Personnel Section of the Grant Budget Narrative are required to complete timesheets that utilize OMB best practices. Personnel timesheets must:

- Be completed and approved at a minimum of once per month.
- Be signed by both the employee and his or her supervisor.
- Represent the actual time spend conducting activities directly associated with management of the AmeriCorps grant/program.

PART VIII. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. How to Apply

Organizations that propose to operate solely in South Carolina should apply directly to the SC Commission. Applicants who attend a Mandatory Training Session will receive all application instructions and material necessary to submit a grant proposal.

This *Notice* should be read together with the AmeriCorps Regulations, 45 CFR §§ 2520–2550, the Application Instructions, eGrants Instructions, and the Performance Measure Instructions.

The SC Commission is using a two-step application process. The deadlines to submit are as follows:

Submission Deadlines	
Concept Paper	March 9, 2017 at 5 pm
Full Application and Supplemental Documents	April 28, 2017 at 5 pm

Except when noted below, the SC Commission will not consider applications received after the deadline. The SC Commission reserves the right to extend the submission deadline and any notice of such extended deadline will be distributed via email.

B. Late Applications

South Carolina Commissioners determine whether or not to accept a late application for review on a case-by-case basis. To submit a late application, the applicant must complete the following:

- Submit an email, no later than three business days after the application deadline, to Carson.Carroll@uwasc.org explaining the extenuating circumstance that caused the delay. If the applicant experiences technical difficulties with eGrants that are unresolved, the correspondence must include the eGrants help desk ticket number. (Communication with SC Commission staff is not a substitution for sending a letter.)

If extenuating circumstances make the use of eGrants impossible, applicants may send a hard copy of the application to:

Carson Carroll
 United Way Assoc. of SC
 400 Arbor Lake Dr. Suite B-500
 Columbia, SC 29223

Applicants must use a non-U.S. Postal Service carrier because of security-related delays in receiving mail from the U.S. Postal Service. All deadlines and requirements in this *Notice* apply to hard copy applications. Hard copy applications must include a cover letter detailing the circumstances that make it impossible to submit via e-Grants. The SC Commission does not accept applications submitted via fax or e-mail.

C. Content and Form of Application Submission

i. *Concept Paper*

The concept paper will be submitted to Carson Carroll via email attachment to carson.carroll@uwasc.org. All material and further instruction will be provided at the in-person training. The concept paper will have a 3 page limit.

ii. *Full Application Submission in eGrants*

Applicants must submit their applications electronically via the eGrants web-based system. Because it is a unique system, it is strongly encouraged that applicants create an eGrants account and begin the eGrants application creation process at least three weeks before the deadline. Applicants should draft the application as a word processing document, then copy and paste the document into the appropriate eGrants fields no later than 10 days before the deadline. Please note the length of a document in your word processing software likely will be different than what will appear in eGrants. See more details under Section D. Page Limits.

Contact the National Service Hotline at 800-942-2677 or https://questions.nationalservice.gov/app/ask_eg if a problem arises while creating an account or while preparing or submitting an application in eGrants. Be prepared to provide the application ID, organization's name, and the *Notice* to which your organization is applying.

If technical issues will prevent an applicant from submitting an application on time, please contact the National Service Hotline prior to the deadline to explain the technical issue and receive a ticket number. If the issue cannot be resolved by the deadline, the applicant must continue working with the National Service Hotline to submit via eGrants.

National Service Hotline hours are as follows: Mon - Fri, 9 am – 7 pm ET (Jan, Aug, Sept) Mon - Thu, 9 am – 7 pm EST (Oct, Nov, Dec).

An application is only complete if it includes all required documentation and is received by the application due date. Incomplete applications will not be considered. All additional required documents that are not possible to attach in eGrants are due by the application deadline. See below for a list of required documentation. All documents should be attached to an email and sent to Carson.Carroll@uwasc.org. Your email subject should include your organization name and Application ID number.

Required Supplemental Documents:

- A. A copy of the organization's most recent IRS Form 990 (*Only applicable to organizations with 501c3 status*)
- B. A copy of the organization's most recent audit report. If no audit report is available, please submit the organization's most recent financial statement.
- C. A copy of the organization's Federally-Approved Indirect Cost Rate. (*Only*

applicable to organizations choosing to use method “B” to calculate the program’s administrative costs.)

D. Completed Financial Management Survey.

D. Page Limits

The Concept Paper has a 3 page limit, as described in the application instructions.

Full Applications may not exceed **13 pages** for the Narratives, including the Executive Summary and SF 424 Facesheet, as the pages print out from eGrants. The SC Commission strongly encourages applicants to print out the application from the “Review and Submit” page prior to submitting it to check that the application does not exceed the page limit. This limit does not include the budget, performance measures, evaluation plan, logic model, or required supplementary materials (e.g. Form 990, Financial Management Survey, Audit Report).

Reviewers will not consider submitted material that is over the page limit, even if eGrants allows an applicant to enter and submit text over the limit. Do not submit non-required supplemental materials such as videos, DVDs, brochures, or any other item not requested in the *Notice* or application instructions. The SC Commission will not review or return them.

The Logic Model may not exceed more than three pages when printed from the application.

PART IX. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. Assessment Criteria

Each applicant must clearly describe a project that will deploy AmeriCorps members effectively to solve a significant community problem. We urge your organization to submit a high quality application carefully following the guidance in the *Notice* and in the Application Instructions. The quality of your application will be an important factor in determining whether your organization will receive funding.

B. Threshold issues

Applications should reflect that they meet the threshold requirements for the grant type for which they are applying. (Example: If an applicant wants a grant for a Professional Corps, its application should demonstrate that the community, in which it will place professionals, has an inadequate number of said professionals.)

C. Goals of the review and selection process

The assessment of applications involves a wide range of factors and considerations. SC Commission staff and the SC Board of Commissioners will apply their experience and expertise in evaluating applications. In the end, the review and selection process will produce a diversified set of high- quality programs that represent the priorities and selection factors described in this *Notice*.

Specifically, the review and selection process will:

1. Identify eligible applications that satisfy the following considerations:

- High alignment with criteria.
- Applicants proposing to implement an AmeriCorps program serving a CNCS Focus Area, SC Priority Funding Criteria, or SC Target Community.
- Relative risk and opportunity.

2. Consider:

- Recruitment and deployment of community volunteers to leverage impact
- The strength of the need and evidence base for the program

3. Yield a diversified portfolio based on the following strategic considerations:

- Geographic representation.
- Meaningful representation of
- Rural and urban communities
- Small and large programs
- Faith- and community-based organizations
- Focus area representation
- Organizations and/or program models that build capacity for individuals, nonprofits and communities to solve problems
- Organizations and/or program models that recruit and engage traditionally underrepresented populations such as rural residents, people with disabilities, veterans and military families, Native Americans Opportunity Youth or individuals 55 years of age or older.
- Organizations that embrace innovative approaches to solving problems, including service- learning

D. Stages in the review and selection process

1. SC Board of Commissioners Review of Concept Papers

Commission Staff will supply the Commissioners with all complete Concept Papers submitted prior to the deadline of March 9th at 5 PM. The SC Board of Commissioners External reviewers will assess concept papers based on all criteria listed in this notice and application instructions.

2. SC Board of Commissioners Selects Applications to Advance

With the goal of a diversified portfolio based on the NOFO priorities, available funding, and strategic considerations, South Carolina Commissioners will select applications to advance to the second round of application. Applicants will be notified of their application's status by March 21.

3. SC Board of Commissioners Review Full Applications

Applicants must be invited to continue beyond the first stage of the application process to be considered. Of those invited, applications must be submitted compliance with eligibility, deadline, and completeness requirements to be considered.

In order to be compliant and advance to further review, an applicant must satisfy all the following requirements:

- Submit an application by the submission deadline: **April 28, 2017 at 5:00 p.m EST.**
- Submit all Supplemental Documentation by: **April 28, 2017 at 5:00 p.m EST.**

During this stage of the process, several elements of review will take place:

Commission Staff Assessment:

Commission staff will complete a Program Assessment based on their review of the applicant's proposal and, if previously funded, the past performance/compliance of the organization. Program Assessments for each application will be provided to the SC Board of Commissioners for review in conjunction with the applicant's grant proposal.

SC Commission staff will assess Program Design, particularly focusing on the theory of change and evidence-basis for the proposed solution(s) to the identified community problem(s), appropriateness of AmeriCorps service as a solution, and potential quality of the member experience; Organizational Capability; Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy, and Continuation Changes.

Risk Assessment Evaluation:

SC Commission staff will evaluate the risks to the program posed by each applicant, including conducting due diligence to ensure an applicant's ability to manage federal funds. This evaluation is in addition to the evaluation of the applicant's eligibility or the quality of its application on the basis of the selection criteria. Results from this evaluation will inform funding decisions. This step may include SC Commission staff or SC Commissioners scheduling a time to visit the applicant's place of business. In evaluating risks, the SC Commission may consider the following:

- Financial stability;
- Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in applicable OMB Guidance;
- History of performance as reflected in the applicant's record in managing previous SC Commission awards.
- Reports and findings from single audits performed under OMB Circular A-133 and findings of any other available audits;
- IRS Tax Form 990;
- Information contained in the applicant's Financial Management Survey.
- An applicant organization's annual report;
- Publicly available information including information from an applicant organization's website; and
- The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.
- Information gathered during in-person visits by SC Commission Staff or Commissioners.

Application Clarification

Clarification Time Period: May 12 - 26

Some applicants may receive requests to provide clarifying information and/or make changes to their application including the budget. A request for clarification does not guarantee a grant award. Failure to respond to requests for additional information in a timely fashion will result in the removal of applications from consideration.

4. Selection for funding

With the goal of a diversified portfolio based on the NOFO priorities and strategic considerations, South Carolina Commissioners and the UWASC Board of Directors will select the final portfolio. We anticipate the results of this competition will be announced by July 1, 2017.

5. Feedback to Applicants

Upon request, SC Commission staff will provide feedback gathered during the review process to organizations not selected for funding. Feedback will not include completed scoring tools or the final score given to the grant application, the names/contact information of individuals who were involved in the review of the grant application, or how far the grant progressed in the review process.

PART X. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Award Notice

The SC Commission will award grants following the grant selection announcement. We anticipate announcing the results of this competition by July 1, 2017, dependent on the availability of appropriations. Programs may not begin charging expenses to the AmeriCorps grant until a signed MOA and Grant Award are in place with the SC Commission. The SC Commission anticipates that MOA/Grant Awards will be issued by August 1, 2017.

B. Documents that Govern the Grant

The AmeriCorps grant is governed by the National and Community Service Act of 1990 & 1993, Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act of 2009, FY17 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Provisions, SC Operations Manual, Memorandum of Agreement for SC Subgrantees, and the FY17 SC Notice of Funding Opportunity and Application Instructions.

These documents provide a detailed description of the responsibilities of both the subgrantee and the Commission and are made available to subgrantees in advance of the Commission issuing the Grant Award and MOA.

C. Use of Material

To ensure that materials generated with CNCS funding are available to the public and readily accessible to Grantees and non-Grantees, CNCS and the SC Commission 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. 45 CFR § 2543.36; 2541.30

D. Re-Focusing of Funding

SC Commission reserves the right to re-focus funding in the event of disaster, other compelling need for service, or if a grantee indicates that a substantial amount of funds will be left unexpended at the end of the grant term.

PART XI. COMMISSION CONTACT

All questions regarding this notice should be directed to Carson Carroll, Director – SC Service Commission at Carson.Carroll@uwasc.org or 803.608.9143

Appendix A - DEFINITIONS

New applicants are those that have never had AmeriCorps State and/or National funding before. Current and former formula Grantees are not new.

Recompete applicants are those that have received AmeriCorps State and/or National funding before and are in Year 3 of their grant cycle and are applying for continued funding for the program for another three years.

Continuation applicants are those that are in their first or second year of a funding cycle.

Previous applicants are those that have been funded through state formula grants and/or were unsuccessful applicants in previous years.

Capacity Building: A set of activities that expand the scale, reach, efficiency, or effectiveness of programs and organizations. These activities achieve lasting positive outcomes for the beneficiary populations served by CNCS-supported organizations (i.e. AmeriCorps programs.) As a general rule, CNCS considers capacity building activities to be indirect services that enable CNCS-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. Capacity building activities must:

- 1) Be intended to support or enhance the program delivery model.
- 2) Respond to the program's goal of increasing, expanding, or enhancing services in order to address the most pressing needs identified in the community, and
- 3) Enable the program to provide a sustained level of more or better direct services after the capacity building services end.

Cost Reimbursement Grants: These grants fund a portion of program operating costs and member living allowances with flexibility to use all of the funds for allowable costs regardless of whether or not the program recruits and retains all AmeriCorps members. Cost reimbursement grants include a formal matching requirement and require the submission of a budget and financial reports.

Encore Programs: Congress set a goal that 10 percent of AmeriCorps funding should support encore service programs that engage a significant number of participants age 55 or older. CNCS seeks to meet that 10 percent target in this competition and encourages encore programs to apply. Encore will provide an opportunity for current evidence-based Senior Corps Foster Grandparents Program and Senior Companion Program grantees to expand their programs through AmeriCorps funding.

Enrollment Rate: Enrollment rate is calculated as slots filled, plus refill slots filled, divided by slots awarded.

Fixed Amount Grants: These grants provide a fixed amount of funding per Member



Service Year (MSY) that is substantially lower than the amount required to operate the program. Organizations use their own or other resources to cover the remaining costs. Programs are not required to submit budgets or financial reports, there is no specific match requirement, and programs are not required to track and maintain documentation of match. However, CNCS provides only a portion of the cost of running the program and organizations must still raise the additional resources needed to run the program. Programs can access all of the funds, provided they recruit and retain the members supported under the grant based on the MSY level awarded. Professional Corps programs applying for operational funding through a Fixed Amount Grant must submit a budget in support of their request for operational funds.

- **Full Time Fixed amount grants:** Fixed amount grants are available for programs that enroll full-time members or less than full-time members serving in a full time capacity only. Professional Corps may only have full-time members.
- **Education Award Grants (EAP) fixed amount grant:** Programs apply for a small fixed amount per MSY, can enroll less than full-time members, and use their own resources to cover all other costs. Programs can access funds under the grant based on enrolling the full complement of members supported under the grant. As with full-time fixed amount grants, there are no specific match or financial reporting requirements for EAP fixed amount grants.

Member Service Location: A member service location is the site at which an AmeriCorps member is placed to provide his/her service to the community.

Member Service Year (MSY): One Member Service Year (MSY) is equivalent to a full-time AmeriCorps position (at least 1700 service hours.) The following calculations can be used to determine the MSY value of each position type.

Full-time (1700 Hours) members x 1.000
1 Year Half-time (900 Hours) members x 0.500
Reduced Half Time (675 hours) members x 0.3809524
Quarter Time (450 hours) members x 0.26455027
Minimum time (300 hours) members x 0.21164022

My Brother's Keeper: President Obama launched the My Brother's Keeper initiative to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential.

Through this initiative, the Administration is joining with cities and towns, businesses, and foundations who are taking important steps to connect young people to mentoring, support networks, and the skills they need to find a good job or go to college and work their way into the middle class. In order to qualify for this priority area, applicants must demonstrate that their program addresses one or more of the five milestones:

6. Getting a Healthy Start and Entering School Ready to Learn: All children should



- have a healthy start and enter school ready – cognitively, physically, socially and emotionally.
7. Reading at Grade Level by Third Grade: All children should be reading at grade level by age 8 – the age at which reading to learn becomes essential.
 8. Graduating from High School Ready for College and Career: Every American child should have the option to attend postsecondary education and receive the education and training needed for quality jobs of today and tomorrow.
 9. Successfully Entering the Workforce: All those who want jobs should be able to find work that allows them to support themselves and their families.
 10. Keeping Kids on Track and Giving Them Second Chances: All children should be safe from violent crime; and individuals who are confined should receive the education, training and treatment they need for a second chance.

In order to qualify for this priority area, applicants must demonstrate that their program addresses one or more of the five milestones

Opportunity youth: Opportunity youth are economically disadvantaged individuals ages 16-24 who are disconnected from school or work for at least six months prior to service. CNCS defines “economically disadvantaged” consistent with the definition used in the member development performance measures, “Receiving or meet the income eligibility requirements to receive: Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), Food Stamps (SNAP), Medicaid, SCHIP, Section 8 housing assistance.” CNCS defines “disconnected from school or work” as unemployed, underemployed, and not in school for at least six months prior to their term of national service. A member who was not economically disadvantaged prior to becoming an AmeriCorps member, but became economically disadvantaged because the living allowance was low enough to make them eligible for SNAP, etc., cannot be counted as economically disadvantaged. In order to apply under this priority the applicant must demonstrate the programmatic elements they will implement in order to recruit and support opportunity youth as members and/or program beneficiaries, and a substantial portion of their requested MSYs must consist of or be devoted to serving opportunity youth.

Other Revenue: Funds necessary to operate an AmeriCorps program that are not CNCS funds or grantee share (match) identified in the budget. Programs should not enter the total operating budget for their organization unless the entire operating budget supports the AmeriCorps program. Programs that have additional revenue sources not included in the matching funds section of the budget should provide the amount of this additional revenue that supports the program. This amount should not include the CNCS or grantee share amounts in the budget. Fixed amount grantees should enter all non-CNCS funds that support the program in this field. All fixed grants will have other revenue.

Professional Corps: Professional Corps programs recruit and place qualified members in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals in positions as teachers, health care providers, police officers, engineers, or other professionals. Professional Corps members’ salaries are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve, and are not included in the budget. In



order to be considered for funding, applicants must demonstrate that there are an inadequate number of professionals in the community (ies) where the program seeks to place members. These grants can either be fixed amount or cost reimbursement grants.

Prohibited Activities: While charging time to the AmeriCorps program, accumulating service or training hours, or otherwise performing activities supported by the AmeriCorps program or CNCS, staff and members may not engage in the following activities (see 45 CFR § 2520.65):

1. Attempting to influence legislation;
2. Organizing or engaging in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes;
3. Assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing;
4. Impairing existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements;
5. Engaging in partisan political activities, or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to any public office;
6. Participating in, or endorsing, events or activities that are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties, political platforms, political candidates, proposed legislation, or elected officials;
7. Engaging in religious instruction, conducting worship services, providing instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious instruction or worship, constructing or operating facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship, maintaining facilities primarily or inherently devoted to religious instruction or worship, or engaging in any form of religious proselytization;
8. Providing a direct benefit to— a. a business organized for profit; b. a labor union; c. a partisan political organization; d. a nonprofit organization that fails to comply with the restrictions contained in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 related to engaging in political activities or substantial amount of lobbying except that nothing in these provisions shall be construed to prevent participants from engaging in advocacy activities undertaken at their own initiative; and e. an organization engaged in the religious activities described in paragraph C. 7. above, unless CNCS assistance is not used to support those religious activities;
9. Conducting a voter registration drive or using CNCS funds to conduct a voter registration drive;
10. Providing abortion services or referrals for receipt of such services; and Such other activities as CNCS may prohibit.

AmeriCorps members may not engage in the above activities directly or indirectly by recruiting, training, or managing others for the primary purpose of engaging in one of the activities listed above. Individuals may exercise their rights as private citizens and may participate in the activities listed above on their initiative, on non-AmeriCorps time, and using non-CNCS funds.

Promise Zones: Promise Zones are high poverty communities where the federal government partners with local leaders to increase economic activity, improve

educational opportunities, leverage private investment, reduce violent crime, enhance public health and address other priorities identified by the community. Through the Promise Zone designation, these communities will work directly with federal, state and local agencies to give local leaders proven tools to improve the quality of life in some of the country's most vulnerable areas. The current promise zones in South Carolina are: Barnwell, SC and the Low Country of South Carolina

Retention Rate: Retention rate is calculated as the number of members exited with education award (full or partial award) divided by the number of members enrolled.

Safer communities: activities that focus on public safety, preventing and mitigating civil unrest, and/or partnerships between police and community. CNCS is looking for program models that create, support, and initiate activities that provide opportunities for law enforcement and community members to become constructively engaged in building or re building public spaces and opportunities for constructive dialogue via sports and community team building such as block watch organizations. Some examples are summer programming or engaging communities that are part of The National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention and programs that are developed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) (<http://www.iacp.org/Police-Foundations-Section>) such as programs that engage youth between the ages of 14-21 living in high crime areas of the city who have been identified as "leaders" in good and/or bad way. The youth are paired with School Resources Officers who meet with them several times during the week to engage them in a variety of leadership building exercises i.e., camping, rafting, community clean- up and much more.

School Turnaround AmeriCorps: School Turnaround AmeriCorps is an initiative to place AmeriCorps members in schools implementing turnaround models under the Department of Education's School Improvement Grants (SIG) program or turnaround principles under Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility to improve student academic performance, academic engagement, attendance outcomes, or some combination thereof, in eligible schools. School Turnaround AmeriCorps grantees must meet special program design requirements that are described in the Appendix. Applicants for a School Turnaround AmeriCorps program must provide high quality responses to special selection criteria, submit additional documents and demonstrate that they meet the special program design requirements.

Single-State Applicants: Organizations that propose to operate in only one state must apply through the Governor-appointed State or Territory Commissions. Each state and territory commission administers its own selection process and submits to CNCS the applicants it selects to compete for funding. Single-State applicants must contact their State Commissions to learn about their state or territory processes and deadlines which may be significantly earlier than the CNCS deadlines and may have additional requirements. The list of State and Territory Commissions can be found here: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/contact-us/state-service-commissions>.

A single state application submitted directly to CNCS by the applicant rather than the State Commission will be considered noncompliant and will not be reviewed.

Unallowable Activities: In addition to the Prohibited Activities, the following restrictions also apply to the service of AmeriCorps members:

Nonduplication.

Corporation assistance may not be used to duplicate an activity that is already available in the locality of a program. And, unless there is nondisplacement, Corporation assistance will not be provided to a private nonprofit entity to conduct activities that are the same or substantially equivalent to activities provided by a State or local government agency in which such entity resides.

Nondisplacement.

2. An employer may not displace an employee or position, including partial displacement such as reduction in hours, wages, or employment benefits, as a result of the use by such employer of a participant in a program receiving Corporation assistance.
3. An organization may not displace a volunteer by using a participant in a program receiving Corporation assistance.
4. A service opportunity will not be created under this chapter that will infringe in any manner on the promotional opportunity of an employed individual.
5. A participant in a program receiving Corporation assistance may not perform any services or duties or engage in activities that would otherwise be performed by an employee as part of the assigned duties of such employee.
6. A participant in any program receiving assistance may not perform any services or duties, or engage in activities, that—
 - a. Will supplant the hiring of employed workers; or
 - b. Are services, duties, or activities with respect to which an individual has recall rights pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement or applicable personnel procedures.
7. A participant in any program receiving assistance may not perform services or duties that have been performed by or were assigned to any—
 - a. Presently employed worker;
 - b. Employee who recently resigned or was discharged;
 - c. Employee who is subject to a reduction in force or who has recall rights pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement or applicable personnel procedures;
 - d. Employee who is on leave (terminal, temporary, vacation, emergency, or sick); or
 - e. Employee who is on strike or who is being locked out.