FY 2022 Individual Match Waiver Overview and Process
for AmeriCorps Seniors and AmeriCorps State and National

In December of 2020, AmeriCorps issued a blanket match waiver on Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 grants for AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps Seniors, Volunteer Generation Fund, Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service, and Commission Support Grants. The blanket waiver was responsive to the widespread uncertainty that the pandemic was having on the economic conditions across the nation. This followed a similar blanket match waiver for most grant programs for FY 2019 and FY 2020 grants for the same reason.

As we approach the start of AmeriCorps' FY 2022 grantmaking, we want to formally share that the conditions that warranted blanket waivers for many of our grants awarded in AmeriCorps' FY 2019-2021 grants do not currently exist. More specifically, the economic conditions that provided AmeriCorps the authority for blanket match waivers do not exist nearly universally as they did previously. The current impact of the pandemic and recovery is uneven across communities and therefore warrant individual consideration. Additionally, non-AmeriCorps match is more than a requirement for most of our programs. It enables our programs to leverage critical non-AmeriCorps resources to implement their full program models.

AmeriCorps recognizes that some grantees continue to experience hardships securing matching resources. As a result, we are returning to the long-standing prior practice that is rooted in the applicable regulations in 45 CFR for AmeriCorps Seniors and AmeriCorps State and National programs and we created a centralized process for AmeriCorps Seniors and AmeriCorps State and National grantees to apply for match waivers.

It is important to note that requests should be submitted only during the last year of the project period for the direct program or the commission prime. AmeriCorps expects that grantees will do their due diligence throughout the entire project period so that the overall match will be met by the end of the third year. However, if circumstances are that grantees are unable to secure the required match in year one or two of their project period, they may request a waiver in year three of the direct program or commission prime. Match waivers should not be requested in year one or two of a project period.

This is separate and distinct from the process for AmeriCorps State and National applicants outlined in the respective Application Instructions to request alternative match schedules and remains an option for those applicants, in addition to the process outlined below for full match waivers. Alternative Match Schedules are not an option for any AmeriCorps Seniors grantees.

For AmeriCorps Seniors:

[§2551.92 (SCP), §2552.92 (FGP), §2553.72 (RSVP)]

AmeriCorps Seniors grantees must demonstrate that they meet at least one of the following criteria for a full match waiver for awards that will be issued in FY 2022:

   (1)   Initial difficulties in the development of local funding sources during the first three years of operations; **or**

   What to submit: documentation that non-AmeriCorps funding requests were denied during the final year of the grant period such as letters or denial or other independent documentation that requests were not approved or are not likely to be approved.

   (2)   An economic downturn, the occurrence of a natural disaster, or similar events in the service area that severely restrict or reduce sources of local funding support; **or**

   What to submit: documentation that any of the above impacted grantees' ability to secure non-AmeriCorps funds.

   (3)   The unexpected discontinuation of local support from one or more sources that a project has relied on for a period of years.

   What to submit: documentation that prior match providers will not provide match for FY 2022 grant.

AmeriCorps Seniors grantees must also identify what activities on the grantee share would not happen if the waiver is granted.

Grantees will submit the request and all supporting documentation in a single email to **matchwaivers@cns.gov**.

For AmeriCorps State and National:

AmeriCorps National Direct grantees will submit their waiver requests and all supporting documentation in a single email to **matchwaivers@cns.gov**.

AmeriCorps State subgrantees will submit their waiver requests to the State Service Commission for review and approval. If the commission approves the sub grantee(s) waiver request, the commission will submit the request(s) and all supporting documentation on behalf of the sub grantee(s) in a single email to **matchwaivers@cns.gov**. As stated above, the expectation is that request for

[§2521.70]

(a) The Corporation may waive, in whole or in part, the requirements of §§2521.45 and 2521.60 of this part if the Corporation determines that a waiver would be equitable because of a lack of available financial resources at the local level.

(b) If you are requesting a waiver, you must demonstrate:

(1) The lack of resources at the local level; **and**

What to submit: documentation specific to the local community(s) that the program serves of a lack of resources.

(2) That the lack of resources in your local community is unique or unusual; **and**

What to submit: documentation specific to the local community(s) that the program serves of a lack of resources.

(3) The efforts you have made to raise matching resources; **and**

What to submit: documentation of effort, including denial letters for funding requests, that matching efforts have not been successful.

(4) The amount of matching resources you have raised or reasonably expect to raise.

What to submit: documentation of matching resources secured or likely to be secured that ties back to the "source of funds" section of your budget narrative.

(c) You must also provide with your waiver request:

(1) A request for the specific amount of match you are requesting that the Corporation waive; and

(2) A budget and budget narrative that reflects the requested level in matching resources.