

FY22 AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH AMERICORPS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Last update 10/1/2021

1. What does “in service to a public health agency” mean?

Answer: Members can serve at public health agencies or in service to public health departments at a community partner or similar. Member service activities should be aligned with the mission and goals of the public health agency/ies that serve the local community/ies. AmeriCorps encourages applicants to design programs and create or enhance local partnerships that will meet the public health needs of their communities.

2. What is the required program period for this NOFO?

Answer: Notification will take place in March, 2022. AmeriCorps expects to have national training for both Public Health AmeriCorps grantees and members. The dates have not yet been set but are likely to guide when the national initiative and, thus, the programs will begin.

3. Should I apply to the FY22 AmeriCorps State and National NOFO or the FY22 Public Health AmeriCorps program?

Answer: That is a decision that your organization needs to make. Each program has its own focus and requirements.

4. Are applicants required to apply for a minimum number of Member Service Years (MSYs)?

Answer: There is not a minimum MSY requirement, however AmeriCorps recommends that members serve in at least teams of two.

5. Can you please clarify the difference between a Public Health AmeriCorps member and a PHAP associate?

Answer: Public Health AmeriCorps and Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) are two separate programs.

Public Health AmeriCorps (PHA) is a partnership between AmeriCorps and the CDC and the Public Health Associate Program is hosted by the CDC. Public Health AmeriCorps applicants have the opportunity to design an AmeriCorps program based on the needs of the communities. Members can serve in full-time, three-quarter time, half-time, and reduced half-time terms. Most AmeriCorps members have up to 12 months to complete their term of service. The actual term may be shorter and is rarely longer than 12 months.

The PHAP program is the Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) is a competitive, two-year, paid training program with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More information can be found at [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) website.



6. Can you please clarify the page limit of 10 pages for the narrative printed out from the “review and submit” button from eGrants?

Answer: Applications must not exceed 10 double-spaced pages for the Narratives or 12 pages for Multi-State applications with more than five operating sites (as according to the pages printed out from eGrants). Multi-state applicants that list five or fewer operating sites cannot exceed 10 pages for the Narrative. AmeriCorps will use the number of locations in the “multi-state operating sites” field in AmeriCorps’ eGrants to determine whether a multi-state application has more than five operating sites. The “multi-state operating sites” field can be found by clicking on the “operating sites” link in eGrants. The application sections that count toward the page limit are the:

- *SF-424 Face Sheet*
- *Executive Summary*
- *Program Design, Organizational Capability*
- *Cost-Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy*

7. What is the minimum/maximum number of members that applicants can apply for?

Answer: AmeriCorps encourages members serve in teams of at least two members. There is no maximum number of members an organization can apply for.

8. Can you please clarify if AmeriCorps is recruiting the members/volunteers?

Answer: Applicants will be responsible for recruiting their members for Public Health AmeriCorps.

9. Are professional corps programs eligible to apply for Public Health AmeriCorps?

Answer: AmeriCorps wants to ensure that it does not unintentionally or incorrectly discourage a potential applicant. Since Professional Corps has a very specific meaning at AmeriCorps that may be different from how the term is used in other contexts, AmeriCorps suggests that potential applicants have a conversation with a member of the regional team (contact information is available at: <https://americorps.gov/funding-opportunity/fy-2022-ameri-corps-state-national-public-health-ameri-corps#assistance-info>) to understand the nuance of Professional Corps in the AmeriCorps context. Current AmeriCorps grantees administering Professional Corps programs are unlikely to be able to employ the same model and be eligible for Public Health AmeriCorps as there is no fixed price option.

10. Can a current competitive or formula grantee apply for Public Health AmeriCorps funds to take advantage of the benefits (i.e., no match, higher cost per member, etc.), and then withdraw from formula or competitive processes?

Answer: This is a State Commission and/or State Commission subgrantee decision.



11. What are the eligibility requirements to serve in Public Health AmeriCorps?

Answer: AmeriCorps members must be U.S. citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent resident aliens, be at least 17 years of age, have a high school diploma or its equivalent, and satisfy AmeriCorps' National Service Criminal History Check eligibility requirements.

12. Can AmeriCorps participants be DACA students or those who are non U.S. citizens or permanent residents?

Answer: No. AmeriCorps members must be U.S. citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent resident aliens.

13. Is there a match requirement?

Answer: Public Health AmeriCorps does not have a match requirement. This means that no Public Health AmeriCorps grant recipient will be required to raise additional funds to support the project. Recipients may raise additional funds to support the project beyond the Federal award, but this is not a requirement.

14. If a single-state applicant applies and is funded, how will they work with their State Commission?

Answer: The State Service Commission (Commission) will be consulted during the grant making process related to single state applicants from their states. Funded single-state applicants will become part of their Commission's portfolio and will receive technical assistance and monitoring from the Commission.

15. Are Public Health AmeriCorps grants fixed amount or cost reimbursement?

Answer: All Public Health AmeriCorps funds will be disbursed through cost reimbursement grants. Fixed amount grants are not offered for Public Health AmeriCorps.

16. What is a cost reimbursement grant?

Answer: A cost reimbursement grant is a financial assistance award type that provides funds for program operating costs and member support costs. The recipient draws down awarded funds incrementally from the Federal award within 3 days of incurring costs that are allowable, reasonable, necessary, and allocable to the awarded project. Cost reimbursement grants require the submission of a budget and financial reports. To learn more about best practices in budget development for Public Health AmeriCorps, register for the October 14th webinar on the Public Health AmeriCorps NOFO page (available at: <https://americorps.gov/funding-opportunity/fy-2022-ameri-corps-state-national-public-health-ameri-corps#assistance-info>).

17. Do applicants need to obtain approval from ASN HQ staff to be considered a new project if they have previously received funding from AmeriCorps for a different project? If so, please describe the process for new project approval.



Answer: Yes. The Mandatory Supplemental Information provides the following guidance about requesting a new project:

Current and previous grantees need to get approval from ASN HQ staff to be considered a new project. AmeriCorps will consider a project to be new if there is a meaningful difference between it and previous projects in a comparison of the following characteristics, among others: the objectives and priorities of the projects; the nature of the services provided; the program staff, participants, and volunteers involved; the geographic locations in which the services are provided; the populations served; and the proposed community partnerships. (§ 2522.340).

Requests to be considered a new project should include information about how the new project differs from the previous project in the characteristics noted above. The request should also include the proposed name of the new project. AmeriCorps staff will review the request to determine if the proposed project does represent a meaningful difference from the previous project or if the proposed project is an example of natural program evolution over time. If it is determined that the project is new, ASN HQ staff will create a new project in eGrants. Applicants must request new projects significantly in advance of their application deadline.

Please submit any new project requests to your current AmeriCorps Portfolio Manager. If you do not currently have a Portfolio Manager (i.e., because your previous grant award is closed), you can submit your request to AmeriCorpsGrants@cns.gov.

Please submit additional questions to AmeriCorpsGrants@cns.gov.