



**2027-2028 New Mexico State
AmeriCorps Request for Operational Program Applications
Cost Reimbursement, Education Award, and Fixed Cost Grants
Request for Applications (RFA)**

RFA: #27-631-7004-00067

Apply Now: <https://nmdws.bonfirehub.com/projects/256354/details>

Issued By:

The Serve New Mexico Commission (“the Commission”) & the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (“NMDWS”)

Application Timeline			
Action		Responsible Party	Due Dates
1.	Issue RFA	Commission/NMDWS	October 2, 2026
2.	Notice of Intent to Apply submission	Potential Applicants	October 9, 2026
3.	Deadline to Submit Questions	Potential Applicants	October 16, 2026
4.	Response to Written Questions	Commission	October 20, 2026
5.	Application Deadline	Applicants	October 30, 2026
6.	Clarification Period	Commission	October 31, 2026- March 15, 2027
7.	Commission Funding Recommendations	Commission Board	November 20, 2026
8.	Deadline to enter application into eGrants and submit additional documents	Applicant	January 6, 2027
9.	Intent to Award Funding	AmeriCorps/Commission	Mid-April 2027 (tentative)
10.	Grant Agreement Negotiations	Commission/Awardees	Mid-June 2027 (tentative)
13.	Protest Deadline	Commission/NMDWS	+15 days of Notice of Funding

Even if you have applied to the Commission for AmeriCorps funding previously, it is important that you read and understand the procedures explained here.

The Department of Workforce Solutions and AmeriCorps have partnered with Euna Procurement to launch Bonfire, a free portal for vendors to receive opportunities and submit bids and proposals online.

Register at <https://www.dws.nm.gov/en-us/Active-Bids-and-Proposals> .

Questions regarding access to or using Bonfire

Contact Euna Procurement Support at support.procurement@eunasolutions.com , Monday–Friday, 8 AM–8 PM Eastern.

Electronic submissions must be uploaded to the Agency’s e-procurement system, Bonfire, to be deemed responsive. Electronic submissions must be submitted via the following website:

<https://nmdws.bonfirehub.com/projects>

Response to Written Questions

Inquiries and responses regarding this Request for Applications (RFA) will be issued through the Bonfire portal. All questions and answers will be posted in the “Public Q&A” section under Messages on or before the date specified in the Events section of the Bonfire portal. All potential Offerors will have access to these responses.

Disclosure: Publication of this RFA does not obligate AmeriCorps, Serve New Mexico Commission, or the Department of Workforce Solutions to award any specific number of grants or to obligate any amount of funding.

INTRODUCTION: OPERATIONAL AMERICORPS PROGRAMS REQUEST FOR 2027-2028 APPLICATIONS

The Serve New Mexico Commission (hereafter “the Commission”) is a Governor-appointed Commission. It is a diverse, non-partisan body of, among others, representatives of business, labor, education, government, human service agencies and community-based organizations. The Commission directs national service policy for the state and directly administers funding awarded by AmeriCorps to support New Mexico AmeriCorps programs.

Should you receive an award under this Request for Applications (hereafter “RFA”), the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS) will issue a Funding Agreement. Therefore, you will see instances within this Request for Applications of documents, forms and other information requested by NMDWS. You must submit all documents and forms requested by NMDWS and, if awarded funding, you must agree to comply with all NMDWS funding agreements and reporting procedures.

Purpose of AmeriCorps Funding

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations (see *Eligible Applicants* section) proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions/practices 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 earn an Eli Segal Education Award from the National Service Trust that members can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

THIS APPLICATION IS FOR BOTH 2027-2028 COMPETITIVE AND FORMULA AMERICORPS FUNDING ONLY

This RFA is for both the Competitive and Formula pools of AmeriCorps national service funding (hereafter the “Operational AmeriCorps”) that is determined on the basis of a statewide competition and selected by the Commission. Any application in response to this RFA is for this statewide Operational AmeriCorps funding.

You should only respond to this RFA if you are proposing an AmeriCorps program that will operate and provide service solely within the geographic borders of New Mexico. IF YOUR APPLICATION ENCOMPASSES PROGRAMMING THAT WILL CROSS THESE BORDERS, OR IF YOU WILL PLACE AMERICORPS MEMBERS FUNDED UNDER THIS APPLICATION AT SITES OUTSIDE OF NEW MEXICO, PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS RFA. You are proposing a National Direct Program and must respond directly to AmeriCorps’ national Notice of Funding Opportunity.

This RFA will be reviewed by the Commission with three overall goals as guideposts:

- That any programs selected by the Commission from within the Operational AmeriCorps pool will be of value to New Mexico citizens and will achieve demonstrable results within the state and its communities.
- Only well-written, well-designed, quality applications are forwarded to the Commission Board for funding consideration.
- The Commission will determine which of the applications will be recommended for Competitive funding consideration by AmeriCorps and which applications will be considered under the Formula pool.

Your application must respond to this New Mexico State RFA, and must meet all the minimum requirements, deadlines and criteria called for in this RFA.

Please see the “Important Documents” section for the additional documents that should be read alongside this document. In addition to the application requirements found under “Important Documents”, please also see “Serve New Mexico Requirements” for additional requirements under this grant opportunity.

EVALUATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

The Commission will use the following procedures to select programs for consideration for Operational AmeriCorps funding:

1. New and recompeting applicants must submit their applications electronically through either eGrants or Electronic submissions must be uploaded to the Agency’s Bonfire portal to be deemed responsive. Electronic submissions must be submitted via the following website:
<https://nmdws.bonfirehub.com/projects> .

If an application meets the minimum criteria, it will be reviewed and scored by peer reviewers. Peer reviewers will assess applications based on the Program Design and Organizational Capability criteria. Additionally, Commission board members may also review applications. The role of the Commission

staff is to facilitate the best possible peer review through technical assistance, training and support. Commission staff may be available to the peer reviewers for such support throughout this period.

2. Concurrent with the Peer Review, Commission staff will score the Budget and Budget Narrative, and complete a Technical Review of the Performance Measures, which are not scored.
3. After the peer review, staff will review the results for fairness and consistency. Some applications may be selected for a Quality Control assessment. This additional level of review may be used to assess: Applications for which there are significant anomalies; or applications submitted by high-performing current grantees that received a low score in Peer Review.
4. After staff and peer review, a Clarification Period may occur allowing the applicant to provide additional/clarifying information, if requested. A request for clarification does not guarantee an application may or may not be approved for funding.
5. Based upon all information collected, the current program status, past performance, recruitment, and expenditure of current and past funds, Commission staff will present recommended applications and funding recommendations to the Serve New Mexico Commission Board. The Commission Board members have the opportunity to discuss each application and vote to approve or not approve the recommendations presented.
6. After the Commission determines its funding selections for both the competitive and formula pool, the Commission staff will notify all applicants via email whether their applications are selected.
7. If your application is selected for funding by the Commission, you may be asked to work with Commission staff to make technical and other minor changes in your application to ensure that your application adheres to all AmeriCorps statutes and regulations, or to clarify any areas that are vague, nonresponsive, or confusing. An application may be removed from Commission funding consideration (following Peer Review and staff scoring) if the applicant does not timely respond to requested clarification items and resolve all clarification items. When you are crafting your application, please keep the eGrants character and page limits in mind to prevent the need to excise large portions of your application in eGrants.
8. Successful applicants will be required to submit their application via the AmeriCorps web-based system, eGrants. It is recommended that applicants create an eGrants account and begin the application creation process as soon as possible before the deadline. Applicants should draft the application as a word document and copy and paste content into the appropriate eGrants fields no later than 10 days before the deadline. Please note the length of a document in Word processing software may be different than what will print out in eGrants.
9. Successful applicants will also be required to fill out and return additional documentation to the Department of Workforce Solutions Department.

10. The Commission is expected to make its grant selections by November 20, 2026. However, that date is solely within the discretion of the Commission and is subject to change.
11. If your application is selected for funding by the Commission, you will need to complete the Grant Agreement with the Commission and with NMDWS before programming can begin and before you can receive any funds. The Commission and its host agency, NMDWS, may be the administrators of any grant you are awarded through this RFA. You would also be required to meet the funding requirements of the Department of Workforce Solutions and State of New Mexico Procurement prior to being awarded a grant.
12. If your application is not selected by the Commission for funding, you may request feedback from the Commission, according to a process determined by the Commission. You may be notified, following the announcement of final awards by the Commission, on how to request feedback.

Application and Award Timeline

Listed below is the schedule of actions related to this application, which must be completed unless otherwise changed by the Commission. In the event that the Commission finds it necessary to change any of the dates or times in the calendar of events listed below, it will do so by issuing an amendment to this RFA, which may or may not be a formal notification. Meeting dates will be posted on the Commission's website at <https://www.dws.state.nm.us/serve/nm>. Meetings are publicized as open meetings.

Application Process

Application Process
Determine whether your organization should apply directly to AmeriCorps or the Commission
Submit a Notice of Intent to Apply within Bonfire portal https://nmdws.bonfirehub.com/projects by October 9, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. MST
Obtain a UEI Number if your organization does not already have one
Establish an eGrants account (egranets.cns.gov)
Write a high-quality application response to the RFA
Submit the application via Bonfire portal https://nmdws.bonfirehub.com/projects by the deadline on October 30, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. MST
Deadline to enter final application into eGrants by January 6, 2027

This RFA should be read together with the AmeriCorps Regulations, 45 CFR §§ 2520-2550, the Notice of Funding Opportunity, Mandatory Supplemental Guidance, Application Instructions, and the Performance Measure Instructions which are incorporated by reference. The full regulations are available online at www.ecfr.gov. The TTY number is 800-833-3722. For a printed copy of related material, call 202-606-7508.

Important Dates

- Notification of Intent to Apply:** Applicants are required to submit a Notification of Intent to Apply, Readiness Checklist, and an agency-specific W9 for this competition. These should be submitted at <https://nmdws.bonfirehub.com/projects> by **October 9, 2026**.

- **Deadline:** Applications are due to the Commission via the Bonfire portal, <https://nmdws.bonfirehub.com/projects> by **October 30, at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time.**
- **Deadline:** Applications are due to AmeriCorps eGrants by **January 6, 2027.**
- **Application Notification:** Successful applicants will be tentatively notified by **mid-April 2027.**

Important Documents

This document is to be read alongside the following documents that can be found on the Bonfire portal (see Files tab):

- 2027 AmeriCorps State and National Notice of Funding Opportunity
- 2027 AmeriCorps State and National Mandatory Supplemental Information
- 2027 AmeriCorps State and National Application Instructions
- 2027 AmeriCorps State and National Performance Measures Instructions
- 2027 Applicant Determined Performance Measures Instructions

Please continue to check the AmeriCorps State and National Grants websites for any updates, revisions, or retractions that relate to the documents referenced above.

This RFA serves to note any deviations, additional requirements, or restrictions placed on the 2027-2028 AmeriCorps Notice. Please note the change in dates and deliverables that vary from the NOFO referenced above.

Serve New Mexico Requirements

In addition to the requirements set forth in the ASN Notice of Funding Opportunity, the ASN Mandatory Supplemental Information, ASN Application Instructions, and ASN Performance Measures, the following requirements or deviations must be reflected in the applications submitted to the Serve NM Commission for consideration under this grant opportunity.

1. **Eligibility:** In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements as defined by AmeriCorps State and National, applications must meet the following requirements to be eligible to apply to the Serve New Mexico Commission.
 - a. Current AmeriCorps State and National Program under the Serve NM Portfolio for 2026-2027.
 - b. 3 years of prior AmeriCorps State and National Funding within the last 7 years. Program must be in good standing with both Federal and State agencies over the last 7 years.
 - c. Planning Grants are not included in this opportunity.
 - i. There will be a separate funding competition for Planning Grants and 1-2 year Operational Programs in Spring 2027.
2. **MSY (Member Service Year)**
 - a. Operational Programs who do not meet the minimum 20 slot requirement of the NOFO must submit a 1-page document outlining how this requirement is prohibitive for their program and their plans to meet this threshold in the future. Programs that do not meet the 20 slot requirement will be considered for Formula Funding only.
 - b. Applicants who were previously funded through National Direct must meet the NOFO requirement of 20 slots.

3. **Narrative:** Applicants to the Serve New Mexico Commission must include the following information in the Narrative Section to address the following information in order to be considered as part of the overall application.
 - a. Education and Training Waiver- In addition to the NOFO requirements, applicants who wish to include education and training activities between 21%-50% training time, must provide the following information:
 - i. What training are you proposing and what slot types will be taking these training courses.
 - ii. What are the total hours required for the trainings.
 - iii. Are these training part of the Eligible Training Provider List or an institution of higher learning.
 - iv. How are these trainings part of a service-to-career pathway and are industry specific and recognized.
 - b. Applicants need to describe what makes their program uniquely New Mexican and include an awareness and promotion campaign for their communities and state.
4. **Budget Section:** The following information needs to be included in at least one of the following sections: Budget, Budget Narrative, or supportive information included in the Narrative and then included in the Budget.
 - a. Fully define the source of funds and provide whether the sources are secured or anticipated.
 - b. If funds are not secured, the applicant must provide letters of commitment from the proposed source(s).
 - c. Expenses to be included in the budget for training or explanation of partnerships
 - d. Source of funds must include the Member Living Allowance, Section II: AmeriCorps Member Positions must be secured and categorized as cash.
 - e. Must include in the budget and narrative travel expenses for program staff to attend up to four out of town trainings up to 250 miles outside of the program location.
 - f. Must include in the budget and narrative travel expenses for members to attend up to three 2-day trainings in the greater Albuquerque, Santa Fe areas, and a training 120 miles outside of the program location.
 - g. Budget must be included for branded AmeriCorps gear for each member requested and program staff
 - h. Must include one full-time staff or two part-time staff to administer the program and finance person must be included even if the costs are not claimed on this grant.
 - i. It is recommended that the member living allowances are at least the equivalent to the minimum wage for the slot type if not higher. The amount must not exceed \$25,000 per MSY for those who are providing below the minimum wage for living allowances. Those that are below this minimum must include in the narrative a recruitment and retention plan to address this need.
5. **Additional Material**
 - a. Supply letters of Commitment for Host Sites
 - i. If a program is unable to provide the letters of commitment, they must provide a one-page document identifying partners and describe the level of commitment that has been expressed by the partners and will be expected to provide letters of commitment prior to a contract being awarded.

Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

This is meant to be a helpful guide to understanding the document in its entirety.

2027 AmeriCorps State and National Notice of Funding Opportunity- This document is produced by AmeriCorps and outlines the purpose, restrictions, criteria, and submission information required to apply for this grant opportunity. **MUST BE READ ALONGSIDE THIS RFA.**

AmeriCorps, previously known as the Corporation for National and Community Service or “The Corporation”- the federal agency that administers all AmeriCorps and Senior Corps grants.

Application Instructions- Document published by AmeriCorps that provides essential information and requirements when applying and operating an AmeriCorps grant, including instructions for calculating specific line items for the application budget, narratives, logic models, program information, etc. **MUST BE READ ALONGSIDE THIS RFA.**

Bonfire Portal- New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions e-procurement system that is used to submit bids and proposals online.

Commission Staff- New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions employees charged with the day-to-day operations of AmeriCorps oversight, including program support and development.

eGrants- The internet-based application system AmeriCorps utilizes to formally fund all applications.

AmeriCorps State and National Mandatory Supplemental Information- Intended to provide applicants with additional information for the preparation of their applications under the AmeriCorps State and National Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity, published by AmeriCorps. The Supplemental Guidance provides both detailed definitions of certain terms included in the RFA, as well as additional details regarding how to properly submit an application under the RFA. **MUST BE READ ALONGSIDE THIS RFA.**

MSY- Member Service Year, one MSY is the equivalent of one Full-Time term of service. MSY is used to calculate the cost to AmeriCorps or the Commission of your AmeriCorps program. AmeriCorps funds are contingent on the number of MSYs requested by the program. The total MSYs a program requests depends on the number and type of slots/AmeriCorps member positions included in a particular program design.

Slot Type	Hours	MSY
Full Time	1700	1
Three-Quarter Time	1200	0.7
Half-Time	900	0.5
Quarter-Time	450	0.26455027
Minimum-Time	300	0.21164022

NMDWS, DWS- New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions; the department that administratively houses the Serve New Mexico Commission.

Performance Measure Instructions- Specific document published by AmeriCorps that provides essential information and requirements when building an aligned performance measure. **SHOULD BE READ ALONGSIDE THIS RFA.**

Peer Reviewer- Community member recruited and selected based on their knowledge of AmeriCorps programming, and/or the selection criteria and focus areas.

RFA- Request for Applications; this document, used to identify organizations with viable program AmeriCorps designs to be considered for funding.

Serve New Mexico Commission, the Commission- the Serve New Mexico Commission is the governor-appointed statewide Commission board that is charged with oversight of state-funded AmeriCorps programs.