



**AMERICORPS STATE & NATIONAL
POLICY CHANGES AND PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS
FROM 2017 - 2020**

- Reduced the AmeriCorps member retention rate requirement from 100% to 85%.
- Streamlined AmeriCorps State and National performance measures by reducing them from 113 to 41.
- Eliminated the state program director internal notes at state commission meetings.
- Quickly implemented the 1,200-hour (i.e. three-quarter time) member position.
- Streamlined reporting for the Commission Investment Fund in 2018 by eliminating the semiannual report.
- Allowed state commissions to take up to 2% of grant funding for administrative purposes on fixed price grants.
- Increased the cost per Member Service Year (MSY) for full-time fixed price grants so the cost per MSY is aligned with that of cost reimbursement grants.
- Released an embargoed version of the Notice of Funding Opportunity two weeks in advance for state service commissions.
- Reduced the FY19 Notice of Funding Opportunity grant application from 26 pages to 10 pages.
- Eliminated the 20-member minimum requirement.
- Removed the restriction that prohibited applicants from requesting continuation expansions.
- Aligned the grant timeline for the Commission Investment Fund and Commission Support Grant.
- Eliminated the performance measure requirement for the Commission Support Grant and the Commission Investment Fund.
- Eliminated the logic model requirement for the Commission Support Grant.
- Expanded the Commission Investment Fund to allow greater flexibility.
- Supported recruitment efforts by working with the Office of External Affairs to create a national AmeriCorps PSA and invested in a national advertising campaign.
- Supported commissions through the PSA match program.
- Eliminated the semi-annual Volunteer Generation Fund grantee progress report.
- Increased the small state minimum by \$15,000 to \$265,000 for the Commission Support Grant in FY19.
- Increased the funding ceiling to \$850,000 for the Commission Support Grant in FY19.
- Significantly streamlined reporting for AmeriCorps programs by eliminating the semi-annual grantee progress report.



- Released the FY20 AmeriCorps State and National grant calendar, a comprehensive annual grant calendar.
- Incorporated an America's Service Commissions (ASC) track into the AmeriCorps Symposium.
- Ensured that for the first time, all member positions are in the AmeriCorps Portal to support AmeriCorps recruitment efforts.
- Eliminated the Financial Management Survey requirement for the Commission Support Grant and the Commission Investment Fund.
- Allowed commissions to carryover 100% of the Commission Investment Fund for 2019 into 2020.
- Eliminated the e-mail of intent for the AmeriCorps competitive grant process.
- Full-cost fixed awards were made available for all slot configurations.
- Conducted a major overhaul and streamlining of the Financial Management Survey. Reduced the survey to one-page front and back, with no attachments.
- Made AmeriCorps State and National enrollment and exit forms available in English and Spanish.
- Consolidated the program officer and grant officer clarification for new and recomplete applications in FY20.
- Ensured that manual verification for the applicant citizenship process was occurring in 2 to 3 days.
- Increased the number of days to enroll a member from 5 to 8 days.
- Released new member enrollment training resources that were completed in conjunction with AmeriCorps grantees.
- Provided a high level of flexibility to grantees during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Allowed AmeriCorps members to receive their living allowance during suspension during COVID-19.
- Immediately implemented the AmeriCorps State and National provisions of the CARES Act after its passage, including:
 - AmeriCorps State and National members that served more than 50 percent of the minimum hours for their term of service will receive a full education award.
 - Grantees with full-cost, fixed amount grants, that are impacted by COVID-19, may retain the amount of awarded funds based on the total MSY value of enrolled member service positions.
- Provided a match waiver for all AmeriCorps State and National FY19 and FY20 grants.



- Provided a National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) Alternative Search Procedure (ASP) process for grant recipients to request exemptions to NSCHC requirements and extended it to March 31, 2021.
- Released revised FY20 formula guidance that allows commissions to request placeholder applications.
- Allowed state commissions to carryover their unexpended FY19 formula funds.
- Provided greater flexibility to state commission planning grants by not factoring in planning grants in the state commission's overall aggregate cost per MSY and created a planning grant prime in eGrants for the FY20 formula process.
- Created and implemented the new 100-hour AmeriCorps member position.
- Consolidated the program officer and grant officer clarification process for all application types in FY21.
- Removed the limitation on the percentage of unexpended funds commissions may carry over on Commission Support Grant and Commission Investment Fund awards for FY21, allowing commissions to carry over all unexpended funds.
- Increased the minimum living allowance for full-time members from \$12,630 in 2017 to \$15,100 in 2021. This is a \$2,470 increase in four years.
- Increased the cost per MSY by \$2,470 from 2017 to 2021. The growth in the cost per MSY corresponds with the increased minimum living allowance for full-time members during the same time period.
- Provided a match waiver for all AmeriCorps State and National FY21 grants.