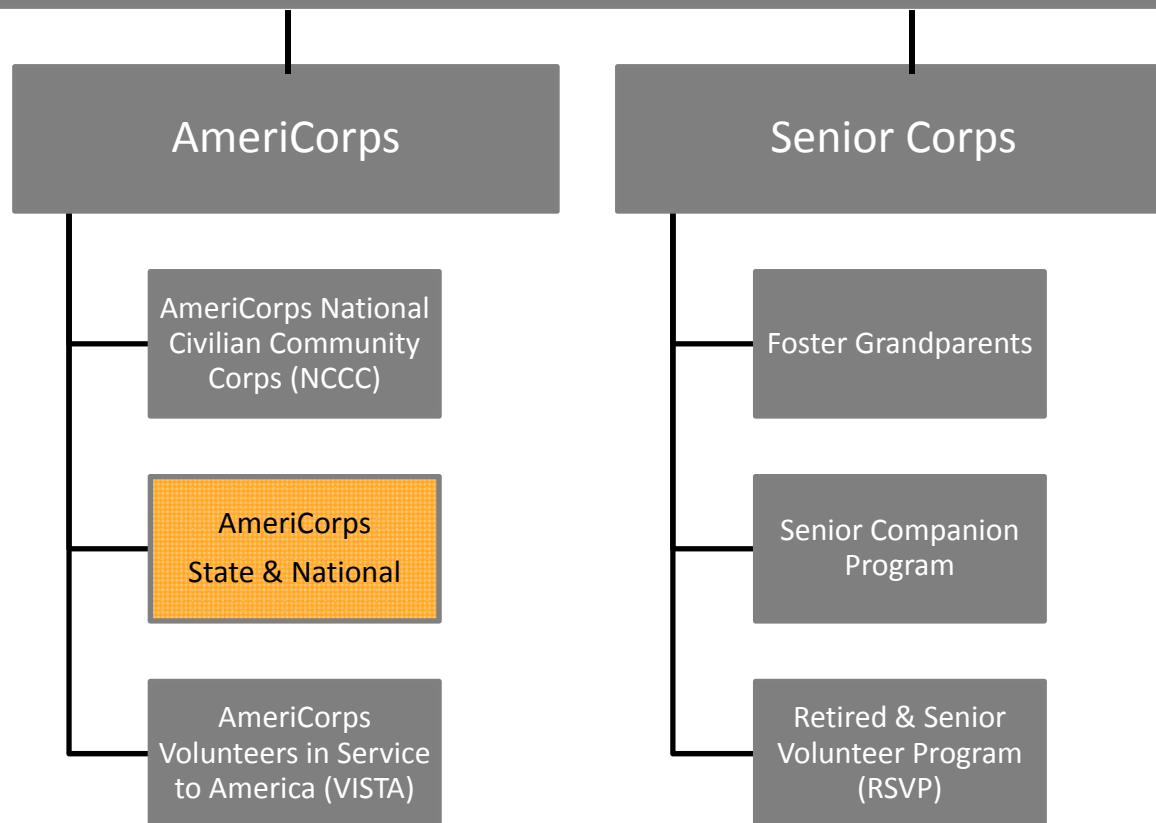




onestar  
foundation

Introduction to AmeriCorps

## The Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS)





AmeriCorps began in 1994 to provide opportunities for Americans to make an intensive commitment to service. The AmeriCorps network of local, state and national service programs engages more than 70,000 Americans in intensive service each year.



**AMERICORPS NCCC**

**LEAVE**

**YOUR**

**MARK**

AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is a full-time, team-based, residential program for men and women ages 18–24. Members live on one of five campuses, located in Colorado; California; Maryland; Mississippi; and Iowa.

The mission of AmeriCorps NCCC is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through direct team-based national and community service. In partnership with nonprofit organizations, state and local agencies, and faith-based and other community groups, members complete service projects in all 50 states and some U.S. territories.

Modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s and the U.S. military, AmeriCorps NCCC is built on the belief that civic responsibility is an inherent duty of all citizens and that national service programs work effectively with local communities to address pressing needs.

# Fight Poverty with PASSION



AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. Authorized in 1964 and founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965, VISTA was incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993.

Each VISTA member makes a year-long, full-time commitment to serve on a specific indirect service project at a nonprofit organization or public agency.

Unlike the AmeriCorps State program, the VISTA program is noncompetitive, does not require a match and accepts concept papers at any time.

If you decide that VISTA may work for your organization, you can download the concept paper instructions on the CNCS Website.

The VISTA program is not managed by OneStar Foundation, so to learn more about the AmeriCorps VISTA program, you can contact the VISTA office at 512-391-2900 or [tx@cns.gov](mailto:tx@cns.gov).





AmeriCorps State and National is the broadest network of AmeriCorps programs.

It provides financial support through grants to public and nonprofit organizations that sponsor service programs around the country, including hundreds of faith-based and other community organizations, higher education institutions, Indian tribes, and public agencies. These groups recruit, train and place AmeriCorps members to meet critical community needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

AmeriCorps National is for organizations proposing to place members in service in at least two states. AmeriCorps National programs become grantees of CNCS.

AmeriCorps State is for organizations proposing to place members in service in only one state. In this case, Texas.



**onestar**  
foundation

In order to administer AmeriCorps State dollars, each state must establish a National Service Commission. OneStar Foundation has been designated as the National Service Commission for Texas.

OneStar is a grantee of CNCS and the AmeriCorps programs we fund are grantees of OneStar, or Sub-Grantees of CNCS.

OneStar Foundation connects partners and resources to build a stronger nonprofit sector in Texas.

OneStar is able to provide AmeriCorps funding to organizations through two pots of money. Formula and Competitive funds.

Congress

- Appropriates Funds

Corporation for National  
and Community Service

- Formula allocation
- Competitive National process

OneStar Foundation

- Selects high quality, impactful grantees

AmeriCorps  
Sub-Grantees

- Recruit, enroll and train members

AmeriCorps Members

- Perform allowable service

Communities in Texas

- Identified local needs are met

# AmeriCorps 2013-2014 Funding Opportunity

*This information is subject to change as CNCS has not yet released the information on the 2013-14 funding opportunity yet. We anticipate that they will release their information in late September or early October. Our information will be updated to reflect any changes at that point. It is also at that point that we will release specific application and submission instructions.*

## MSY: Member Service Year

- 1 MSY is equal to 1 Full-time equivalent member

## Cost Per MSY

- Calculation used to indicate the maximum amount of federal funds that can be requested for your project.
- It is based on the number of MSYs that you are requesting. (total CNCS ÷ total MSYs)

- Designated Focus Area:
  - State Focus Area
  - OR
  - National Focus Area
- Type of Organization
- Minimum Size Corps (20 MSYs)
- Minimum Organizational Capability

*Any application that fails to meet one or more of these requirements will not be eligible for review or funding consideration.*



## 1. State Formula or State Competitive

- Apply for funds to pay for program costs such as member support, operational costs, and administrative costs.
- Match required of 24% for year one (increases starting in year 4)
- Cost per MSY: up to \$13,300

## 2. Education Award Program (EAP) Fixed Amount

- Funds paid out based on enrollment.
- No match required; however, your organization must have the resources to support all program costs.
- Cost per MSY: up to \$800

## 3. Full-Time Fixed-Amount

- Funds paid out based on enrollment AND retention.
- No match required; however, your organization must have the resources to support all program costs.
- Cost per MSY: up to \$13,000

## Education Award Program

- Grantee is paid based on enrollment.
- Program may enroll any member type they wish. (MT, QT, RHT, HT, FT)

## Full-Time Fixed-Amount

- Grantee is paid based on member hours served.
- Program may only enroll Full-Time members.

Term of Service	MSYs	Minimum # of Hours	Living Allowance Minimum	Living Allowance Maximum	Education Award
Full Time	1.00	1700	\$12,100	\$24,200	\$5,550
Half Time	.500	900	N/A	\$12,800	\$2,775
Reduced Half Time	.381	675	N/A	\$9,600	\$2,114
Quarter Time	.265	450	N/A	\$6,400	\$1,468
Minimum Time	.212	300	N/A	\$4,300	\$1,175

*\*The minimum living allowance and education award amounts may change after CNCS releases their instructions.*

To meet the minimum 20 MSY requirement, you may use any combination of member types.  
(except for FTFA programs)

AmeriCorps members learn new skills, acquire qualities of leadership, and gain a sense of satisfaction from taking on responsibilities that directly affect peoples' lives.

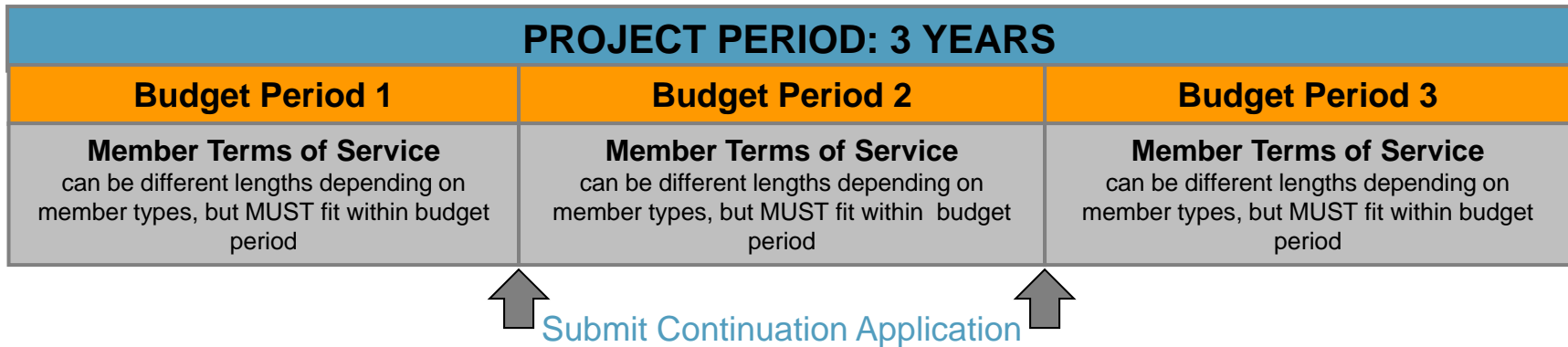
### Member In-Service Benefits

- Living Allowance (*required for Full Time members*)
- Health Insurance (*required for Full Time members*)
- Child Care (*for eligible members only*)
- Student Loan Postponement
- Interest Accrual Payment
- Post-Service Education Award

**Project Period:** organizations apply for AmeriCorps funding for projects that last three years. This three-year period is called the project period. Funding between budget periods is not guaranteed.

**Budget Period:** each three-year project period is divided into three budget periods. Each budget period is no longer than twelve months.

**Member Term of Service:** Member Hours + Length of Service + Other Program Defined Requirements. The member term of service must be completed within one budget period.



- **Reporting**
  - Federal Financial Reports (FFRs) submitted semi-annually and at the conclusion of your budget period.
    - *FFRs are not required for FTFA or EAP programs.*
  - Programmatic Reports submitted semi-annually.
  - Other reports as required
- **Grant Administration**
  - Monthly communication (at a minimum) with OneStar support team.
  - Timely responses from appropriate program staff.
  - Timely submission of reports and other documents.
  - Attendance on webinars and at events by appropriate staff.
  - Full enrollment and retention of members.

The AmeriCorps program is a Federally funded program. As such, the following requirements apply to the program activities and funds expended as part of the program.

- Administrative Requirements
  - 2 CFR 215 (A-110), A-102
- Cost Principles
  - 2 CFR 225 (A-87), 2 CFR 230 (A-122), 2 CFR 220 (A-21)
- Audits
  - A-133
- National and Community Service Act of 1990 (as amended by Serve America Act)
  - 42 USC 12501 *et seq.*, and 45 CFR 2510 *et seq.*
- Applicable Federal Policies
- AmeriCorps Regulations
  - 45 CFR 2520-2550
- AmeriCorps Provisions

The AmeriCorps program is a complex program that can be a unique means to help address an identified community need. But it's not a good fit for all programs and organizations.

- Is this program the right fit for our organization to meet this need?
  - An internal organizational assessment can help determine if your organization has the capacity to manage the grant.
  - Conducting a logic model exercise can help your organization “check” for alignment between the program design and the identified need you are trying to address.
- Does our organization have a commitment to the AmeriCorps program and its goals and outcomes?
  - At all levels of the organization.



### Can you answer the following questions?

- What is the community need that my AmeriCorps\*State program will address?
- What data is available to document the identified need as a compelling need facing the community?
- **Why is AmeriCorps a good fit to meet the identified need?**
- Who would benefit from our program?
- Who else (if anyone) is addressing this need in the community? How can we work together? How is our work different?
- **What is the added value of having an AmeriCorps program in our community?**

In your application you will be asked to discuss how you involved the community in planning and will continue to involve the community in the implementation of the program.

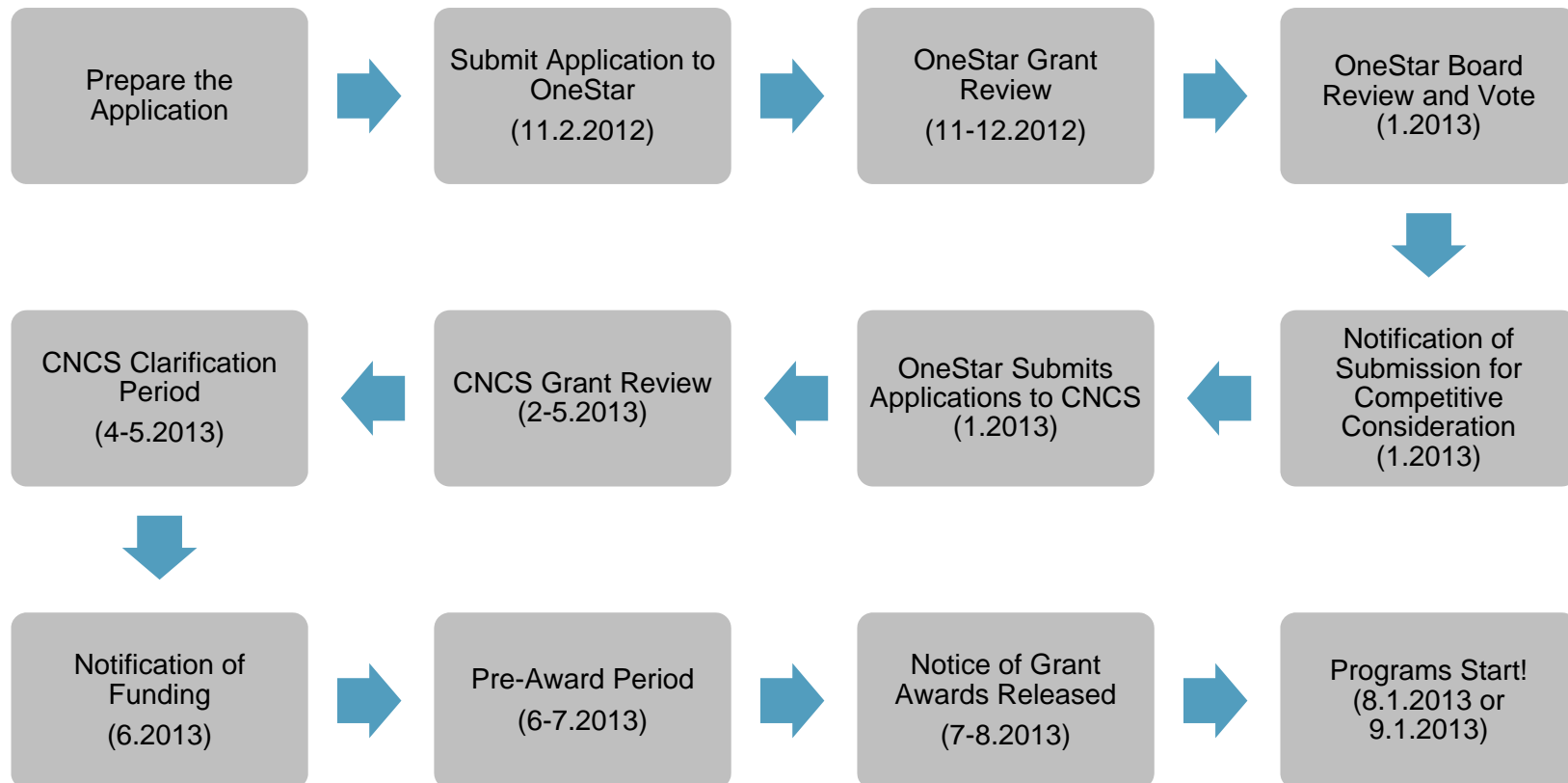
- Forming community involvement groups or advisory committees can be helpful in:
  - Clarifying the community need
  - Helping identify partner sites
  - Providing financial or administrative support
  - Raising awareness of your organization, program, and its activities in your community
  - Making a stronger community impact

Select the most appropriate member type or types for the need and service being performed.

- Is there enough time for members to successfully complete their service term?
  - Build in time into the service year for the unexpected - members unable to serve due to illness or family emergency, host site changes, or other unanticipated events
  - Think about opportunities for members to make up hours if needed
  - Use your program calendar to see the entire year at a glance while planning the member service term.
- **Keep in mind that member activities must be:**
  - Aligned with and driven by the identified community need
  - Measurable and Impact Based
  - Meaningful
  - Allowable

The AmeriCorps State program has a very high administrative requirement.

- **Expectations of programs in managing members:**
  - Programs are responsible for the recruitment, placement, and management of members
  - Programs must track all members' hours served
  - Programs are responsible for enrolling, exiting, and managing all paperwork for members
  - Programs are responsible for the training, development, and day-to-day support of members
  - Programs must keep current, accurate, and compliant member files
  - Programs are responsible for managing member benefits
  - Conducting criminal history checks for members



**Please contact the following individual with any questions:**

**Elisa Gleeson**

Grants Management Specialist

Phone: 512-287-2029

Email: [elisa@onestarfoundation.org](mailto:elisa@onestarfoundation.org)

Availability:

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM CST

Monday through Friday

[www.onestarfoundation.org](http://www.onestarfoundation.org)