



MICHIGAN COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMISSION NOTICE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR NEW AND RE-COMPETING MICHIGAN'S AMERICORPS PROGRAMS

The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) are pleased to announce the availability of federal funds to support new and re-competing Michigan's AmeriCorps programs to start in the fall of 2017 for a 12-month program cycle.

What is Michigan's AmeriCorps?

Michigan's AmeriCorps is a national service program, similar to a domestic Peace Corps, that involves individuals (called "members") in providing service to address critical needs in their communities. In exchange for a year of service, members receive a living allowance and an education award to help pay for education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, to pay for educational training, or to repay qualified student loans.

Michigan's AmeriCorps engages the energy and idealism of the citizens of Michigan in meeting the most vital education, economic opportunity, health, environmental, disaster preparedness, and veterans' needs in our communities. Michigan's AmeriCorps currently consists of 31 programs with more than 1,000 members serving on a full- or part-time basis. Members range in age from 17 to 70+. The 23 programs partner with more than 300 organizations throughout the state to address the needs of communities.

AmeriCorps members in Michigan have devoted themselves to improving the lives of people in their community by tutoring, mentoring, providing job training and resources, restoring and preserving public lands, creating affordable housing, helping the homeless, and more. See www.michigan.gov/mcsc for more information on Michigan's AmeriCorps.

Who are we?

The MCSC is the administrative agent for Michigan's AmeriCorps. The MCSC funds and supports programs that encourage all Michigan residents to volunteer.

The MCSC works to fulfill this mission through a number of programs, projects, and activities focused on service and volunteerism. These programs include AmeriCorps, Volunteer Generation Fund, Volunteer Michigan, and Mentor Michigan. Annually, the MCSC distributes nearly \$8 million in national service and volunteerism grants. The MCSC partners with the CNCS to administer Michigan's AmeriCorps.

Established in 1993, the CNCS engages more than a million Americans each year in service to their communities by providing a way to solve community problems. The CNCS plays a crucial role in supporting the American culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility. The CNCS works with governor-appointed state commissions, nonprofits, faith-based groups, schools, and other civic organizations to provide opportunities for Americans of all ages to serve their communities. The three major national service initiatives of CNCS include AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and the Volunteer Generation Fund.

Why should my organization apply for a Michigan's AmeriCorps program?

Michigan's AmeriCorps provides people-power. Funds provided through Michigan's AmeriCorps support a team of members who provide direct service to build or improve communities and generate volunteers to support their efforts. The Michigan Community Service Commission has established the following priorities:

- Education
- Health
- Environment
- Job preparedness and financial stability
- Safe, affordable housing
- Veterans
- Disaster Preparedness

If there are needs in your community in these areas that you believe can be addressed by the involvement of people serving together, then this program may be for you.

Michigan’s AmeriCorps grants are not for the purchase of program supplies or materials, nor can they be used to fund or replace existing staff. The Michigan’s AmeriCorps funding is intended for recruiting, placing, and supporting individuals to ‘get things done’ in communities.

Who is eligible to apply?

Educational institutions (local school districts, intermediate school districts, colleges, and universities, etc.), local government entities, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations that have their 501(c) 3 status and have been in existence for at least three years are eligible to apply for a Michigan’s AmeriCorps program.

Can I partner with other organizations to apply for a Michigan’s AmeriCorps program?

Yes. You are encouraged to partner with other organizations in your community or throughout the state to apply for AmeriCorps funding. One organization must serve as the legal applicant and fiduciary. When partnering with other organizations, the MCSC encourages you to seek organizations that share a similar mission or focus on similar issues.

What types of grants are available?

The MCSC funds operating grants that support fully developed plans to establish a new Michigan’s AmeriCorps program or to support, expand, or replicate an existing program. Grant awards will cover a period that includes one year of operation. Grants may be renewed for two additional years, subject to annual review and the availability of federal appropriations.

Program size and grant size?

Programs must be large enough to achieve a demonstrable impact on the communities served. While the actual size of each program may vary depending on the size of the communities in which it operates, the design of the program, and other factors, applicants are required to apply for at least ten (10) full-time equivalent AmeriCorps members. In order to be considered for competitive funding by CNCS, the applicant must request a minimum of 20 members. Applicants should evaluate their present infrastructure and capacity when considering program size.

Grant requests may vary in size depending on the type and scope of the proposed program. Applicants are allowed flexibility in developing their budgets, within federal and state limitations. No program funded through the MCSC formula allotment shall receive more than 20% of Michigan’s total formula funding from the CNCS. In addition, the MCSC has set a target for the average federal cost per full-time equivalent member for each Michigan’s AmeriCorps program.

Is there a match requirement?

Yes. Substantial cash and in-kind matches are required from the applicant. All program costs require at least a 24% cash and in-kind match during each of the first three years of funding, with match requirements increasing incrementally after year three. Programs reach a maximum 50% minimum match level during the 10th year of funding. Programs may use other non-CNCS federal funds as part of their match, with prior approval.

What are the responsibilities of operating a Michigan’s AmeriCorps program?

Responsibilities include:

- Recruiting, selecting, placing, training, and supervising members.
- Designating a full-time program director to run the program.
- Selecting and supporting member service sites.

- Submitting quarterly progress reports, monthly expenditure reports, and semi-annual federal financial reports.
- Participating in monthly training and technical assistance meetings or calls for program directors.
- Participating in statewide member events and activities.

How can I find out more about AmeriCorps?

The MCSC will be offering a new applicant face-to-face informational session in Kalamazoo on September 7, 2016. Webinars will be offered on August 31 and September 6, 2016. The session will provide a general overview of AmeriCorps, the key elements of successful AmeriCorps programs, an opportunity to explore how AmeriCorps may address issues in your community, and how to apply for funding.

If you would like to attend one of the new applicant information sessions, please complete the online registration form at www.surveymonkey.com/r/TCSYNXR by **August 29, 2016**. If you need assistance with registration, or if you would like a hard copy of the concept paper guidelines, please contact Kassondra Bennett at bennettk12@michigan.gov.

For additional information on AmeriCorps, you can visit the MCSC website at www.michigan.gov/mcsc or the AmeriCorps website at www.americorps.gov.

How do I get a copy of the concept paper guidelines?

The 2017-18 Michigan’s AmeriCorps concept paper guidelines will be available at the new applicant information sessions. The guidelines will also be available on the MCSC website beginning August 19, 2016 (www.michigan.gov/mcsc). If you do not have internet access, you may request a hard copy by completing the request form below. Application guidelines will be mailed within five working days upon receipt of the request.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

If you have any questions regarding Michigan’s AmeriCorps or the application process, please contact:

Jeanine Yard at (517) 512-4497, yardj@michigan.gov, or
 Megan Foresman at (517) 512-4506, foresmanM@michigan.gov, or
 Shannon Zoet at (517) 512- 4544, zoets@michigan.gov .

MICHIGAN'S AMERICORPS CONCEPT PAPER AND APPLICATION TIMELINE

August 19	Concept paper guidelines available on the MCSC website (www.michigan.gov/mcsc)
August 29	Outreach Session RSVP due to MCSC
August 31	Outreach Session – Webinar (9:00 – 11:00am)
September 6	Outreach Session – Webinar (1:00 – 3:00pm)
September 7	Outreach Session – Kalamazoo (1:00 – 4:00pm)
September 28	Intent to Apply forms (and financial management surveys for new applicants only) due to MCSC
October 7	Concept Paper due to MCSC
October 24	Peer Review
Oct. 31-Nov. 2	Live concept presentations, if applicable (Lansing)
November 2	Notification to applicants if they have been selected for comprehensive submission
November 10	Required technical assistance meeting in Lansing for applicants selected for comprehensive submission (10:00am-4:00pm)
December 14	Comprehensive applications due to MCSC via eGrants
May 2017	CNCS announces approved Competitive AmeriCorps applications

**Note: New applicants not selected for submission to the CNCS for competitive funding may be considered for formula funding.*