





The Michigan Community Service Commission




Administers These Programs:

- Michigan's AmeriCorps
- Learn and Serve – Michigan
- Mentor Michigan
- Governor's Service Awards





Corporation for NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE




- CNCS is the Federal Agency that administers all National Service Programs
 - AmeriCorps
 - Learn and Serve
 - Senior Corps
 - Special initiatives and Days of Service
- www.nationalservice.gov





AmeriCorps at the National Level



- Administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).
- Established in 1993
- 75,000 AmeriCorps members serve each year nationwide
- Different AmeriCorps Programs
 - AmeriCorps State: Michigan's AmeriCorps
 - AmeriCorps*VISTA
 - AmeriCorps National Direct
 - AmeriCorps NCCC



AmeriCorps Funding Source



Federal legislation authorizes funds to National Service Programs, including AmeriCorps

The CNCS administers the federal dollars as mandated in legislation

- Applicants from all states compete for a pool of dollars
- Programs meeting national priorities given preference
- Michigan receives a set amount of dollars
- Based on population
- Programs meeting state priorities given preference



AmeriCorps at the State Level




The MCSC is the administrative agent for Michigan's AmeriCorps.



Michigan's AmeriCorps Facts



- 19 Michigan's AmeriCorps programs in 2009-10, with approx. 1200 member slots.
 - Includes nearly 300 members funded w/ Recovery funds
- In 2008-09, members ranged in age from 18 to 66, with an average age of 26.
- 75% were female; 25% were male.
- Approximately 45% had some college experience. 19% have a high school diploma/GED. 5% had graduate work or a graduate degree.





2009-2010 Michigan's AmeriCorps Grantees

- American Red Cross of Greater Grand Rapids
- Baraga-Houghton-Keewenaw Child Development
- Camp Fire USA
- Charlevoix Emmet ISD
- City Year Detroit
- Communities in Schools Detroit
- Eastern Michigan University
- The Guidance Center
- Good Samaritan Ministries
- Huron Pines
- Ingham County/Power of WE
- The Literacy Center
- Marquette-Alger RESA
- Michigan Campus Compact
- Michigan Habitat for Humanity
- Michigan Primary Care Association
- Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness
- MSU Extension 4-H
- University of Michigan





Eligible Applicants



- Educational institutions
- Government/State Entities
- Non-profit organizations with a 501(c)3 status
- Must have been in existence for at least 3 years.





What is AmeriCorps?

- A National Service Program (commonly referred to as the domestic Peace Corps)
- Programs focus on community needs in one of four areas: Education, Environment, Public Safety, Disaster Preparedness, or Human Needs
- Members serve in programs and provide direct service and help organizations build capacity to address community needs.





AmeriCorps is . . .

- People power
- A team of members addressing a compelling need
- A way to leverage local & federal resources



AmeriCorps Goals

- Program goals include:
 - Needs and Service Activities
 - Strengthening Communities
 - Participant Development



Needs and Service Activities

- Direct Service: to meet compelling community needs by providing a direct benefit that is valued by the community.
- Capacity Building: activities such as volunteer recruitment and management play an important role in addressing community needs and ensuring the sustainability of AmeriCorps-supported activities.
- Direct service and capacity-building activities are both integral strategies for effective national service programs.



Participant Development

Citizenship: Develop lifelong ethic of service.

Training: Supervision & training must be provided.

Required Hours: Up to 20% of member hours can be devoted to training.

Opportunities: Provide leadership opportunities for members and encourage personal growth.






Strengthening Communities

Programs strengthen communities by:

- Mobilizing Community Assets
- Generating Volunteers
- Involving the Community
- Engaging diverse staff and AmeriCorps members






AmeriCorps is Not . . .

- A staffing program
- A one person team
- Cheap labor
- A way to fund your organization
- A bricks & mortar grant






Prohibited Activities

Members are prohibited from engaging in:

- Lobbying, religious instruction, advocacy, and some fundraising
- Clerical and/or custodial positions
- Other prohibited activities are detailed in the application guidelines






Michigan's AmeriCorps 2010-11 Application Process







Program and Grant Size

- Programs must request a minimum of 10 full-time members or equivalent (FTE).
- Target average federal cost per FTE \$13,000 or below. Maximum is \$16,000. Grant size is determined by size of the program.
- Grant size may be limited based on funding availability





Funding Priorities



- Education
- Healthcare
- Energy & the Environment
- Economic Renewal
- Mentoring
- Prisoner Re-entry
- Nonprofit Capacity Building

*Funding not exclusive to priority areas





Program Models



- A program's design is determined by applicant, and based on community need:
 - Single Site Model
 - Multi-site Model
 - *Local, Regional, Statewide*
 - Education Award Only Model





Member Eligibility, Recruitment & Selection



- Members are recruited, selected and trained by each program.
- Members must be at least 17, possess a high school diploma, GED (or agree to work toward it), or equivalent, and be a U.S. Citizen or legal resident alien.
- Members must meet any additional qualifications as determined by the program.





Member Terms of Service

- Members serve
 - Full time (1,700 hours within a 9 to 12 month period),
 - Half Time (900 hours),
 - Reduced Half Time (675 hours),
 - Quarter Time (450 hours), or
 - Minimum time/summer-only (300 hours).
- Members must complete a term of service within 12 months.
- Members can serve additional terms, but will only receive 2 education awards.



Member Benefits

- **Living Allowance**
 - Full-Time (min./max.) \$11,800-\$23,600
 - Other member living stipends prorated
- Health Care (FT Only)
- Child Care (FT Only)
- Training



Education Award Levels

- \$5,350 full-time
- \$2,675 half-time
- \$2,038 reduced half-time
- \$1,415 quarter-time
- \$1,132 minimum time/summer only



Other Requirements & Responsibilities

Programs Provide:

- Member Contract
- Grievance Procedure
- Evaluation/ Outcome measurement
- Identification (Site and Member)
- Site agreements
- 1 FTE Program Director

Programs Also:

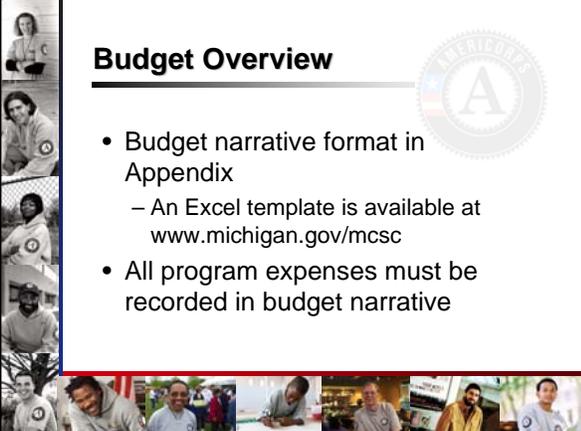
- Supervise sites
- Report on program and financial activities
- Attend monthly director meetings
- Participate in statewide events





Budget Overview

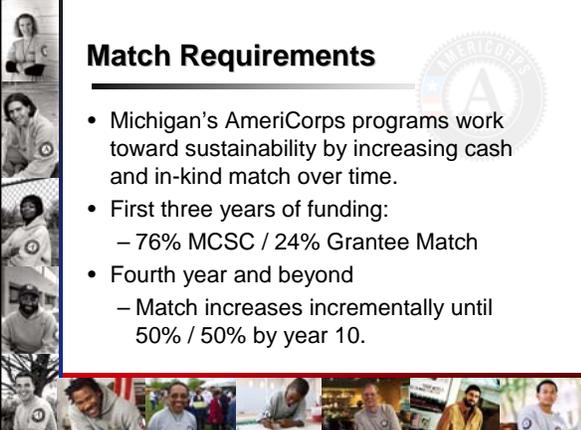
- Budget narrative format in Appendix
 - An Excel template is available at www.michigan.gov/mcsc
- All program expenses must be recorded in budget narrative





Match Requirements

- Michigan's AmeriCorps programs work toward sustainability by increasing cash and in-kind match over time.
- First three years of funding:
 - 76% MCSC / 24% Grantee Match
- Fourth year and beyond
 - Match increases incrementally until 50% / 50% by year 10.





Keep in Mind

All AmeriCorps programs:

- Generate volunteers
- Provide citizenship training to members
- Measure and account for impact
- Partner with faith-based and small community-based organizations





2010 – 2011 Application Process

Submission Instructions

- Intent to Apply due October 15
- First Draft Application due October 28 to MCSC
 - One unbound original and five bound copies
 - Title Page
 - Past Accomplishments
 - Program Narrative
 - Budget Narrative
 - Latest Financial Audit
 - Submission Checklist





2010 – 2011 Application Process

- First draft due October 28, 2009
- Peer and Staff Review
- Comprehensive Grant Application due December 21, 2010
- Funding decisions announced May, 2010
- New programs required to complete summer-long planning phase
- Programs start Fall, 2010





Selection Criteria

- Rationale and Approach (40%)
- Member Support (10%)
- Sustainability (10%)
- Organizational Capability (20%)
- Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (20%)



Tips for Writing a Successful Proposal

- Fully read the application package.
- Follow the application guidelines for spacing and font size.
- Answer the questions according to the guidelines.
- Address all criteria with detail.
- Do not include attachments.
- Answer the questions according to the weight assigned.
- Do not copy & paste existing applications.
- Submit your application according to the requirements/checklist.



For More Information on AmeriCorps

Visit:

- www.americorps.gov
- www.michigan.gov/mcsc