



MICHIGAN COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMISSION REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR NEW MICHIGAN'S AMERICORPS PROGRAMS 2021-2022

The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) is pleased to announce a Request for Applications for new Michigan's AmeriCorps programs to start in program year 2021 for a 12-month program cycle.

What is Michigan's AmeriCorps?

Michigan's AmeriCorps is a national service program that involves individuals ("members") providing service to address critical needs in their communities. In exchange for a term 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, public safety, and veterans' needs in our communities. Michigan's AmeriCorps currently consists of 26 programs with more than 1,000 members serving in full- or part-time positions. Members range in age from 17 and up. These programs operate throughout the state to address critical community needs.

See www.michigan.gov/mcsc for more information.

What is the Michigan Community Service Commission?

The MCSC is the administrative agent for Michigan's AmeriCorps. The MCSC funds and supports programs that encourage all Michigan residents to volunteer and serve their communities. The MCSC works to fulfill this mission through a number of programs, projects, and activities focused on service and volunteerism. These programs include AmeriCorps, the Volunteer Generation Fund, and Mentor Michigan+.

The MCSC partners with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to administer Michigan's AmeriCorps. Established in 1993, CNCS engages more than a million Americans each year in service to their communities by providing a way to solve community problems. CNCS plays a crucial role in supporting the American culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility. 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. CNCS has three national service initiatives: 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 teams of members who provide direct service to build or improve communities and generate volunteers to support their efforts.

Michigan's AmeriCorps grants are not intended to support pre-existing programs, nor can they be used to fund or replace existing staff. Funding is intended for recruiting, placing, and supporting individuals to 'get things done' in communities. If there are needs in your community that you believe can be addressed by national service, this program may be a good fit.

The Michigan Community Service Commission has established the following priority areas:

- Disaster Services
- Education
- Economic Opportunity
- Environmental Stewardship
- Healthy Futures
- Safer Communities
- Veterans and Military Families

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. 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, before it is necessary to re compete.

What about program size and grant size?

While the actual size of each program may vary depending on the communities in which it operates, program design, and other factors, applicants are required to apply for at least ten (10) full-time equivalent AmeriCorps members to be considered for funding. Applicants should evaluate their present infrastructure and capacity when considering program size. Applicants are allowed flexibility in developing their budgets, within federal and state limitations.

Is there a match requirement?

Yes. Substantial cash and in-kind match is 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, reaching a 50% minimum match level during the 10th year of funding. Other non-CNCS federal funds may be used as partial match with approval.

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

- Designating a full-time program director to run the program.
- Recruiting, selecting, placing, training, and supervising members.
- Selecting and supporting member service sites and supervisors.
- Submitting quarterly progress reports, monthly expenditure reports, semi-annual federal financial reports, and other reporting as instructed.
- Participating in monthly program director training meetings and calls.
- Participating in statewide member events and activities.

How can I find out more about AmeriCorps?

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 preliminary application guidelines?

The 2021-22 Michigan's AmeriCorps preliminary application guidelines are available on the MCSC website (www.michigan.gov/mcsc).

To apply for 2021-22 Michigan's AmeriCorps funding, interested applicants must first submit a Preliminary Application for peer review. Preliminary Application materials are available at www.michigan.gov/mcsc. For more information about Michigan's AmeriCorps or the application process, please contact Shannon Zoet at zoets@michigan.gov.

MICHIGAN'S AMERICORPS 2021-22 APPLICATION TIMELINE

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Thursday, October 8, 2020 | Intent to Apply survey due in SurveyMonkey (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PB6RJ5H) Financial management surveys and a copy of the applicant organization's most recent independent audit due to MCSC (email to Shannon Zoet: zoets@michigan.gov) |
| Thursday, October 22, 2020 | Preliminary Applications due to the MCSC (email all components to Shannon Zoet: zoets@michigan.gov) |
| October 23 – October 6, 2020 | Peer Review of Preliminary Applications |
| Monday, November 9, 2020 | Notification to applicants whether they have been selected for comprehensive application submission |
| Friday, November 20, 2020 | Competitive comprehensive applications due to MCSC via eGrants |
| April 2021 (tentative) | Formula comprehensive applications due to MCSC via eGrants |
| May 2021 (tentative) | CNCS announces competitive AmeriCorps State & National funding |
| July 2021 (tentative) | Formula AmeriCorps funding announced |

**Note: Applicants not selected for submission to CNCS for competitive funding consideration may be considered for formula funding.*

