



MI Climate Corps Application FAQ

1. Do we have to apply for a Planning to Operational Grant?

No, planning grants are available to provide you with resources to develop a program. Planning grants offer the option to use consultants with an understanding of AmeriCorps and how to utilize it as a strategy to impact climate change, as well as assist you with writing an application for an operational grant. However, you may apply for a MI Climate Corps operational grant without first receiving a planning grant.

2. When is the Concept Form Due?

The Concept Forms will begin to be reviewed on October 3rd and strong Planning to Operational applicants will be selected on a rolling basis until October 31.

3. Do we have to submit a Concept Form even if we are not requesting a planning grant?

Yes, all applicants must first complete the [Concept Form](#) by October 31. If you are applying for a Planning to Operational Grant, it is in your best interest to submit as early as possible. The MCSC will begin reviewing applications on October 3 and will continue until the POG funds are expended. This will allow selected applicants to begin working with consultants as soon as possible.

4. Can we still apply if we just heard about the opportunity, and it is after October 31th?

Yes, you should submit your [Concept Form](#) and inform us of your situation.

5. What is the difference between a Planning to Operational Grant (\$20,00) and a Planning Grant (\$75,000)?

The Planning to Operational Grant Application process is intended to award planning grants for up to \$20,000 to allow program to access the support of consultants to assist in planning and writing an operational grant application that will start in 2023. The second Planning Grant process is intended to award up to \$75,000 to organizations that want a longer time to plan. They will not submit an operational grant application until the fall of 2023 with their program starting in 2024.

6. How many AmeriCorps members do we need to have as part of my program?

Typically, programs will have 10 or more members due to the cost of having a full-time program director and running the program usually dictates the need for 10 members. Some programs would prefer to have less than 10 members and will request to not have a full-time staff member. These applications will be considered, if the budget demonstrates the ability to manage the program with the resources that less than 10 members will generate.

7. Do we need to have a full-time program director to manage the program?

Typically, programs should have at least 10 full time equivalent members. In order to stay within the maximum cost per member amount (\$28,800 per full time equivalent member slot) and have adequate funds to cover the costs of operating an AmeriCorps program, including a full-time program director, programs usually require 10 members. However, some programs are able to identify additional non- AmeriCorps resources and can support the operating costs with less than 10 members. Your application will be considered if your budget allows for you to manage a program with less than 10 members.

8. Does the program need to address issues of the MI Healthy Climate Plan?

Yes, all successful programs will address one or more elements of the MI Healthy Climate Plan.

9. If we receive an award in 2023, will we receive funding in 2024?

Yes, if your program is making progress toward meeting its performance measures and goals, the MCSC will consider you for funding for a second year.

10. Do we need to provide a match for the grant?

Yes, 24% match is required for new programs. This can be in-kind or cash match.

11. How large of a grant may we request?

There is not an upper limit of funding that your organization may request, but it must not exceed \$28,800 per full time equivalent member. The MCSC has \$1.3 million available to be distributed to the strongest applicants.

12. I don't see guidance on what is required to officially apply for a planning grant, what do I need to do to apply for funding?

If you submit a Concept Form and state that you are interested in a Planning Grant (either the Planning to Operational 2023 or longer time-frame Planning to Operational 2024), your request will be considered. If after the review it is determined your program idea is strong enough, you will receive follow-up guidance on how to submit the planning grant application to be awarded funds. It will be a streamlined process in which we will provide assistance.