

## CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

### CFDA 94.006 AMERICORPS

#### I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The AmeriCorps national service program provides funds to national and locally based organizations to carry out national service programs described in 42 USC 12572(a) and (b).

#### II. PROGRAM PROCEDURES

Of the funds available for AmeriCorps programs, the Corporation for National and Community Service (Corporation) allots 35.3 percent to Commissions on National and Community Service in the various States, 1 percent for Indian Tribes, and 1 percent for the U.S. Territories. The State Commissions do not directly operate programs. State Commissions subgrant funds to organizations selected competitively by the State to operate community service programs within their States. After setting aside the aforementioned funds, the remaining funds are distributed competitively through the respective State Commissions or directly by the Corporation to non-profit organization that will operate in two or more States.

In addition to grants to fund AmeriCorps programs, State Commissions also receive grants from the Corporation to finance their administrative operations. These grants are made under a program titled State Commissions (CFDA 94.003), which is not included in Part 4 of this Supplement.

AmeriCorps grantees recruit and train individuals as AmeriCorps members. Full-time AmeriCorps members receive a living allowance and are eligible for health insurance and childcare benefits (if they are not otherwise covered while participating in the program). After satisfactorily and successfully completing the required term of service, the AmeriCorps members receive a voucher crediting them with a post-service educational benefit, which may be used to pay off qualified student loans or pay qualified education costs. The Corporation records the Federal liability for an AmeriCorps member's education benefit at the time the Corporation awards a grant to an entity. Upon application from the AmeriCorps member and verification from the lender or educational institution, the Corporation's National Service Trust transmits the funds to the lender or institution. AmeriCorps members who successfully complete a term of service are also eligible for the payment of interest that accrues on qualified student loans during a period of national service forbearance.

#### Source of Governing Requirements

The AmeriCorps program is authorized under the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 USC 12501 *et seq.*), as amended, and the implementing regulations in 45 CFR parts 2510 through 2524. NOTE: The Serve America Act (Pub. L. No. 111-13, enacted April 21, 2009) made substantial changes to the compliance requirements related to AmeriCorps programs, effective October 1, 2009. This program summary distinguishes, as necessary, between the requirements in effect before the Serve America Act amendments and those in effect after the amendments.

### III. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

**In developing the audit procedures to test compliance with the requirements for a Federal program, the auditor should first look to Part 2, Matrix of Compliance Requirements, to identify which of the 14 types of compliance requirements described in Part 3 are applicable and then look to Parts 3 and 4 for the details of the requirements.**

#### A. Activities Allowed or Unallowed

1. Funding is provided to carry out a full- or part-time national service program. Activities allowed include recruiting, training and supervising AmeriCorps members, paying living allowances to AmeriCorps members, paying health insurance premiums and child-care benefits for eligible AmeriCorps members, paying certain employment-related taxes, paying staff and other costs for program management, internal evaluations, and reimbursement of grantee administrative costs (42 USC 12572, 12574, 12581, 12581a, 12583, and 12594; 45 CFR sections 2520 to 2524; 2540 to 2543; and 2545 to 2550).
2. Prior to October 1, 2009, grant funds could not be used to
  - a. provide a direct benefit to any (1) business organization organized for profit; (2) labor union; (3) partisan political organization; or (4) organization engaged in religious activities (unless the assistance is not being used to provide religious instruction, conduct worship services, provide instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious instruction or worship, construct, operate, or maintain facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship, or proselytize);
  - b. assist, promote, or deter union organizing, impair existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements, or organize or engage in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes;
  - c. attempt to influence legislation;
  - d. engage in partisan political activities, or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to a State or local public office;
  - e. participate in, or endorse, activities that are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties, platforms, candidates, proposed legislation, or elected officials;
  - f. perform any service or engage in any activity prohibited under the nonduplication, nondisplacement, or nonsupplantation provisions relating to employees and volunteers in 42 U.S.C. 12637 and 45 CFR 2540.100;
  - g. conduct a voter registration drive; or

- h. finance the outcome of an election to Federal, State or local public office (42 USC 12584 and 12634; 45 CFR section 2520.65).
- 3. Effective October 1, 2009, in addition to the restrictions listed above, grant funds may not be used to provide abortion services or referrals for receipt of such services (42 USC 12584, 12584a, and 12634; 45 CFR section 2520.65).

## E. Eligibility

### 1. Eligibility for Individuals

- a. AmeriCorps members must be citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent resident aliens of the United States, and must be not less than 17 years old at the time of enrollment into the program. The statute does, however, permit certain types of programs to enroll participants who are out of school youths at least 16 years of age (42 USC 12591; 45 CFR section 2522.200). The regulations (45 CFR sections 2522.200(c), (d), and (e)) describe acceptable documentation for determining status as a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States.
- b. *Criminal History Checks*
  - (1) As of November 23, 2007, grantees must perform criminal history checks for all candidates to become an AmeriCorps member and/or to be employed as grant-funded staff who will have contact on a recurring basis with children, persons age 60 or older, or persons with disabilities. For each covered individual, a grantee must conduct: (a) a State criminal registry check or an FBI fingerprint check; and (b) a National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) check. For AmeriCorps members and covered grantee staff who are serving as of November 23, 2007, only the NSOPW check is required. An individual who is registered, or required to be registered, on a State sex offender registry, is deemed unsuitable to serve in a covered position. Grantees may adopt other disqualifying offenses. An individual who refuses to consent to a criminal registry check is also ineligible to serve (45 CFR sections 2522.205-207 and 2540.200 through 2540.207).
  - (2) For each individual selected to serve in a position that will receive a grant-funded living allowance, stipend, education award, salary, or other remuneration **on or after October 1, 2009**, the grantee must conduct both: (1) a State criminal registry check or an FBI fingerprint-based check and (2) a name-based search of the NSOPW. An individual who is required to be registered on a State sex offender registry, who has been convicted of murder, or who refuses to consent to a criminal history check is ineligible to serve.

Grantees may adopt other disqualifying offenses (42 USC 12645d; 45 CFR sections 2522.205-207 and 2540.200-207).

- (3) Individuals who started service, or who were hired by a project on or after April 21, 2011, and who have recurring access to vulnerable populations must now undergo a three-part heightened check, which includes the NSOPW check, the State Repository Check, and the FBI Fingerprint Check. While the three-part check applies to anyone hired, or who began service, on or after April 21, 2011, the third check does not have to actually be conducted on these covered individuals until 60 days after the publication of the final rule (regulation) on Criminal History Checks for Corporation programs, which is currently being prepared by the Corporation, as long as the covered individual is accompanied by another individual who is authorized to have recurring access to these vulnerable populations (Section 189D(d), Serve America Act; 76 FR 39361 *et seq.*, July 6, 2011).
- c. Living allowances are paid on the basis of an AmeriCorps member's selection and enrollment as a full-time participant in a program. The living allowance that an AmeriCorps member receives is not to be considered or treated as a wage or a salary. The installment payments of living allowances are not dependent upon the actual number of hours spent on service. Most full-time AmeriCorps members are to receive a living allowance during the installment period of at least 100 percent, but not more than 200 percent, of the total average annual subsistence allowance provided to VISTA volunteers. For particular program years, the limits on the living allowances are as follows (42 USC 4955 and 12594; 45 CFR section 2522.240):

<b><u>Program Year</u></b>	<b><u>Minimum Allowance</u></b>	<b><u>Maximum Allowance</u></b>
2008-2009	\$11,400	\$22,800
2009-2010	\$11,400	\$22,800
2010-2011	\$11,800	\$23,600
2011-2012	\$12,100	\$24,200

- d. Current information on the minimum and maximum amounts of AmeriCorps living allowances is available from the Office of Grants Management at the Corporation's Headquarters at (202) 606-6966.
- e. While most full-time AmeriCorps members cannot receive a living allowance higher than the maximum amount set forth above, the statute permits professional corps members to receive a living allowance in

excess of the maximum allowance authorized in the statute. However, in this instance, Corporation funds may not be used to pay for any portion of the living allowance (42 USC 12594(c); 45 CFR section 2522.240).

- f. An AmeriCorps member who is authorized to serve a reduced term of service may be provided a prorated living allowance for that authorized reduced term of service (42 USC 12593 and 12594; 45 CFR sections 2522.220 and 2522.240).
- g. Living allowance requirements do not apply to Education Award Only programs (42 USC 12581a(c)).

**2. Eligibility for Group of Individuals or Area of Service Delivery – Not Applicable**

**3. Eligibility for Subrecipients – Not Applicable**

**G. Matching, Level of Effort, Earmarking**

**1. Matching**

- a. For grants funded from FY 2006 and earlier appropriations –
  - (1) *Operational Costs* – Except for living allowances, child-care allowances (if applicable), health insurance premiums (if applicable), and certain employment-related taxes, the Corporation's share of the cost of activities carried out under the grant cannot exceed 75 percent. However, the terms of AmeriCorps program grants often require programs to provide higher operational matching amounts than 25 percent. The program must provide its matching amount in the form of cash, or in kind, fairly evaluated, including facilities, equipment, or services. The program may provide for its operational matching amount through State sources, local sources, or, when authorized, from other Federal sources. The Corporation may waive, in whole or in part, the minimum match requirement (25 percent) in any fiscal year if the Corporation determines that such a waiver would be equitable due to a lack of available financial resources at the local level (42 USC 12571(e); 45 CFR sections 2521.45 and 2521.70).
  - (2) *Member Support Costs* – The Federal share, including Corporation and other Federal funds, of the living allowance provided to an AmeriCorps member may not exceed 85 percent of the minimum required living allowance. The grantee must provide the remaining funding for living allowances from non-Federal cash sources. The Corporation will pay up to 85 percent of the cost of health care coverage that includes the minimum benefits specified by the

Corporation. The Corporation specifies the minimum benefits required as part of its grant provisions (42 USC 12594(a) and (d); 45 CFR sections 2522.240(b)(5) and 2522.250(b)).

- b. Beginning in FY 2006, unless the Corporation grants a waiver, the grantee's required share of program costs, including member support and operating costs, will incrementally increase to a 50 percent overall share by the tenth year and any year thereafter that it receives a grant without a break in funding of 5 years or more (45 CFR sections 2521.60 and 2521.80). The timetable is included in 45 CFR section 2521.60(a). Other requirements that govern matching are included in 45 CFR sections 2521.35, 2521.40, 2521.45, and 2521.50.
- c. Beginning with the Corporation's FY 2008 appropriations, grantees are required to meet an overall minimum share requirement of 24 percent for the first three years that they receive AmeriCorps funding. Grantees in their fourth or subsequent years of funding will be required to meet the overall minimum share requirements specified in 45 CFR section 2521.60. The Corporation coordinates the implementation of this provision for those grantees that were covered under its minimum share requirements implemented by regulation in 2005 (paragraph III.G.1.b, above). These overall matching requirements override the separate member support and operating expense matching requirements specified in paragraphs III.G.1.a.1 and III.G.1.a.2, above. Grantees may apply for and receive a waiver of the overall matching requirements under 45 CFR section 2521.70 (Pub. L. No. 110-161, Division G, Section 407).
- d. Matching requirements do not apply to fixed-amount grants and Education Award Only program grants (42 USC 12581(l)(4) and 12581a(c)).

**2.1 Level of Effort – *Maintenance of Effort*** – Not Applicable.

**2.2 Level of Effort – *Supplement Not Supplant***

Funds provided by the Corporation must be used to supplement the level of State and local public funds expended for services of the type being assisted in the previous fiscal year. This requirement is satisfied if the aggregate expenditure for a particular program for the fiscal year in which services are to be provided will not be less than the aggregate expenditure for the program in the previous fiscal year, excluding the amount of Federal assistance provided and any other amounts used to pay the remainder of the costs of AmeriCorps programs (42 USC 12633).

### 3. Earmarking

No more than five percent of assistance provided by the Corporation can be used for the combined administrative expenses of the grantee and its subgrantees (42 USC 12571(d); 45 CFR sections 2521.30(h) and 2540.110). Limitations on administrative costs do not apply to fixed-amount grants and Education Award Only program grants (42 USC 12581(l)(4) and 12581a(c)).

## L. Reporting

### 1. Financial Reporting

- a. SF-270, *Request for Advance or Reimbursement* – Not Applicable
- b. SF-271, *Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement for Construction Programs* – Not Applicable
- c. SF-425, *Federal Financial Report* – Applicable

### 2. Performance Reporting – Not Applicable

### 3. Special Reporting

The following form is submitted to the Corporation for each AmeriCorps member and is used by the Corporation to support the member's eligibility for a post-service education benefit. A roster of members enrolled/completed during the period should be obtained from the Corporation, to assure that the universe of forms submitted, as provided by the entity, is complete. Rosters may be obtained by contacting the Corporation's Director of Trust Operations at (202) 606-7546.

*National Service Enrollment Form (OMB No. 3045-0006)* – This form is used by the Corporation to enroll participants in the National Service Trust. Enrollment is the process through which a grantee notifies the Corporation that it has selected an individual to serve as an AmeriCorps member who may be eligible to receive a post-service education benefit upon successful completion of the individual's term of service.

*Key Line Items* – The following line item contains critical information:

Part 3 – *AmeriCorps member enrollment information.*

### 4. Section 1512 ARRA Reporting – Applicable

### 5. Subaward Reporting under the Transparency Act – Applicable for non-ARRA funding

## **CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

### **CFDA 94.011 FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM CFDA 94.016 SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM**

#### **I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

Foster Grandparent Program grants are awarded to allow participants to serve as mentors, tutors, and caregivers for children and youth with special or exceptional needs or circumstances identified as limiting their academic, social, or emotional development. Foster Grandparents serve in community organizations such as schools, Head Start programs, and youth centers.

Senior Companion Program grants are awarded to allow participants to provide assistance and friendship to older persons with special needs who are homebound and usually living alone. By taking care of simple chores, providing transportation to medical appointments, and offering contact to the outside world, Senior Companions often provide the essential services that keep older persons from having to enter nursing homes. They also assume the duties of informal caretakers for short periods of time to give the caretakers a respite from their duties.

#### **II. PROGRAM PROCEDURES**

The Corporation for National and Community Service (Corporation) awards Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion program grants only to State and local public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes that have the capability to administer such grants. These sponsors are legally responsible for all programmatic and fiscal aspects of the project, and may not delegate or contract this responsibility to another entity. Consequently, the program has no subrecipients (42 USC 5011(a) and 5013(a); 45 CFR sections 2551.22 and 2552.22).

In both programs, participants aged 55 (or 60 prior to October 1, 2009) and older serve from 15 to 40 hours per week and, if they meet income eligibility requirements, receive small non-taxable cash stipends and other direct benefits to help offset the costs of serving. In addition, participants who do not meet the income eligibility requirements may serve as non-stipended Foster Grandparents or Senior Companions. Those participants receive all direct benefits, other than the stipend, to offset the costs of serving (42 USC 5011(a) and (d) and 5013(a) and (b); 45 CFR part 2551, subpart J and 45 CFR part 2552, subpart J).

Prospective sponsors submit applications for Foster Grandparent or Senior Companion grants to the Corporation, which reviews them and makes final funding decisions (45 CFR sections 2551.91 and 2552.91).

#### **Source of Governing Requirements**

These programs are authorized under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, Title II (42 USC 5000 *et seq.*) and their implementing regulations found in 45 CFR parts 2251 and 2552.



### III. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

**In developing the audit procedures to test compliance with the requirements for a Federal program, the auditor should first look to Part 2, Matrix of Compliance Requirements, to identify which of the 14 types of compliance requirements described in Part 3 are applicable and then look to Parts 3 and 4 for the details of the requirements.**

#### A. Activities Allowed or Unallowed

1. Grant funds may be used for stipends for participants who meet income levels set by the Corporation (42 USC 5011(a) and (d) and 5013(a) and (b); 45 CFR sections 2551.43 and 2551.44 and 2552.43 and 2552.44).
2. Grant funds can also be used for other direct benefits for stipended Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions, such as: transportation costs; physical examinations; accident, liability, and excess automobile insurance covering participants during their volunteer activities; meals; and, costs for recognition of participants' volunteer efforts. Grant funds are also available for budgeted amounts of staff, office space, staff travel, and other administrative costs of the organization sponsoring the program (42 USC 5011(a) and (d) and 5013(a) and (b); 45 CFR sections 2551.46 and 2552.46).
3. No Federal or required non-Federal funds can be used to pay any costs, including direct benefits or administrative costs, associated with non-stipended Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions (42 USC 5011(f)(4) and 5013(b); 45 CFR sections 2551.104 and 2552.104).
4. Foster Grandparent and Senior Companions grant funds may not be used to influence the outcome of any election to public office, to facilitate voter registration, or to provide voters or prospective voters with transportation to the polls. Grant funds may not be used by the non-Federal entity in any activity for the purpose of influencing the passage or defeat of legislation or proposals by initiative petition, except (a) when a legislative body or committee requests a program sponsor or participant to draft, review or testify regarding measures or make representations to the legislative body or committee, or (b) in connection with an authorization or appropriations measure directly affecting the operation of the Foster Grandparent Program and/or Senior Companion Program (42 USC 5043(c); 45 CFR sections 2551.121 and 2552.121).
5. No Foster Grandparent or Senior Companion grant funds shall be directly or indirectly used to finance labor union or anti-labor union organization or related activity (42 USC 5044(d); 45 CFR sections 2551.121(d) and 2552.121(d)).

## **E. Eligibility**

### **1. Eligibility for Individuals**

- a. To be eligible to be paid a stipend, Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions must be at least 55 years old (or 60 years old prior to October 1, 2009); meet income guidelines; and be physically, mentally, and emotionally capable of serving on a person-to-person basis. Income eligibility is based on the applicant's total annual income (including the total annual income of the applicant's spouse), less allowable medical expenses. Effective October 1, 2009, to be income-eligible, an applicant's income must fall at or below 200 percent of the poverty level as annually established by the Department of Health and Human Services for the State in which he or she resides.

The annual income eligibility levels for all areas are available at Senior Corps web site (<http://www.seniorcorp.gov/>) under "Manage Current Grants" and from the Corporation's State Offices or the National Senior Service Corps at the Corporation's headquarters at (202) 606-5000. Stipends for Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions are \$2.65 per hour effective April 1, 2002. This may be increased by the Corporation from time to time. Current information on the amount of the hourly stipend is also available from the Corporation's State Offices or from the National Senior Service Corps at the Corporation's headquarters (42 USC 5011 and 5013; 45 CFR sections 2551.41 through 2551.44 and 2552.41 through 2552.44).

Foster Grandparents and Senior Companion programs may enroll persons who are at least 55 years old (or 60 years old prior to October 1, 2009), but who do not meet the income guidelines as non-stipended Foster Grandparents or Senior Companions (45 CFR part 2551, subpart J and 45 CFR part 2552, subpart J).

- b. As of November 23, 2007, grantees must have performed criminal history checks for all applicants to become Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions and/or to be employed as grant-funded staff who would have contact on a recurring basis with children, persons age 60 or older, or persons with disabilities. All Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion volunteers were included in this category. For these individuals, grantees must have conducted State criminal registry checks and National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) checks. For Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions and covered grantee staff who were serving as of November 23, 2007, only the NSOPW check was required. An individual who was registered, or required to be registered, on a State sex offender registry, was deemed ineligible to serve in a covered position. Grantees may have adopted other disqualifying offenses. An individual who refused to consent to a criminal registry check was also ineligible to serve

(45 CFR sections 2551.26 through 2551.32, 2551.42, 2552.26 through 2552.32, and 2552.42).

- c. For each individual selected to serve in a position that received a grant-funded living allowance, stipend, education award, or salary on or after October 1, 2009, the grantee must have conducted both (1) a State criminal registry check or an FBI fingerprint-based check and (2) a name-based search of the NSOPW. An individual who (1) is required to be registered on a State sex offender registry, (2) has been convicted of murder, (3) makes a false statement concerning his or her criminal history background, or (4) refuses to consent to a criminal history check is ineligible to serve. Grantees may adopt other disqualifying offenses (42 USC 12645d; 45 CFR sections 2522.205-207 and 2540.200-207).
- d. Individuals who started service, or who were hired by a project, on or after April 21, 2011, and who have recurring access to vulnerable populations must now undergo a three-part heightened check, which includes the NSOPW check, the State Repository Check, and the FBI Fingerprint Check. While the three-part check applies to anyone hired, or who began service on or after April 21, 2011, the third check does not have to actually be conducted on these covered individuals until 60 days after the publication of the final rule (regulation) on Criminal History Checks for Corporation programs, which is currently being prepared by the Corporation, as long as the covered individual is accompanied by another individual who is authorized to have recurring access to these vulnerable populations (Section 189D(d), Serve America Act; 76 FR 39361 *et seq.*, July 6, 2011).

**2. Eligibility for Group of Individuals or Area of Service Delivery – Not Applicable**

**3. Eligibility for Subrecipients – Not Applicable**

**G. Matching, Level of Effort, Earmarking**

**1. Matching**

The non-Federal entity is required to contribute at least 10 percent of the total cost of a project from non-Federal sources or authorized Federal sources, unless the Notice of Grant Award specifies a lower percentage (42 USC 5011(a) and 5013(a); 45 CFR sections 2551.92(a) and 2552.92(a)).

**2. Level of Effort – Not Applicable**

**3. Earmarking**

An amount equal to 80 percent of the Federal share of a Foster Grandparent or Senior Companion program grant must be used for stipend and other direct benefits for Foster Grandparents or Senior Companions, unless the Notice of Grant Award specifies a different percentage. Direct benefits for Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions include stipends, insurance, transportation, meals, physical examinations, recognition, and uniforms, if necessary (45 CFR sections 2551.92(e) and 2552.92(e)).

**L. Reporting****1. Financial Reporting**

- a. SF-270, *Request for Advance or Reimbursement* – Applicable
- b. SF-271, *Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement for Construction Programs* – Not Applicable
- c. SF-425, *Federal Financial Report* – Applicable

**2. Performance Reports** – Not Applicable**3. Special Reports** – Not Applicable**4. Section 1512 ARRA Reporting** – Not Applicable**5. Subaward Reporting under the Transparency Act** – Not Applicable