

# 2024-25 AMERICORPS FORMULA PROGRAM GRANT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## Q&A



**AmeriCorps**

Presented by Élyse Chay, RFP Manager

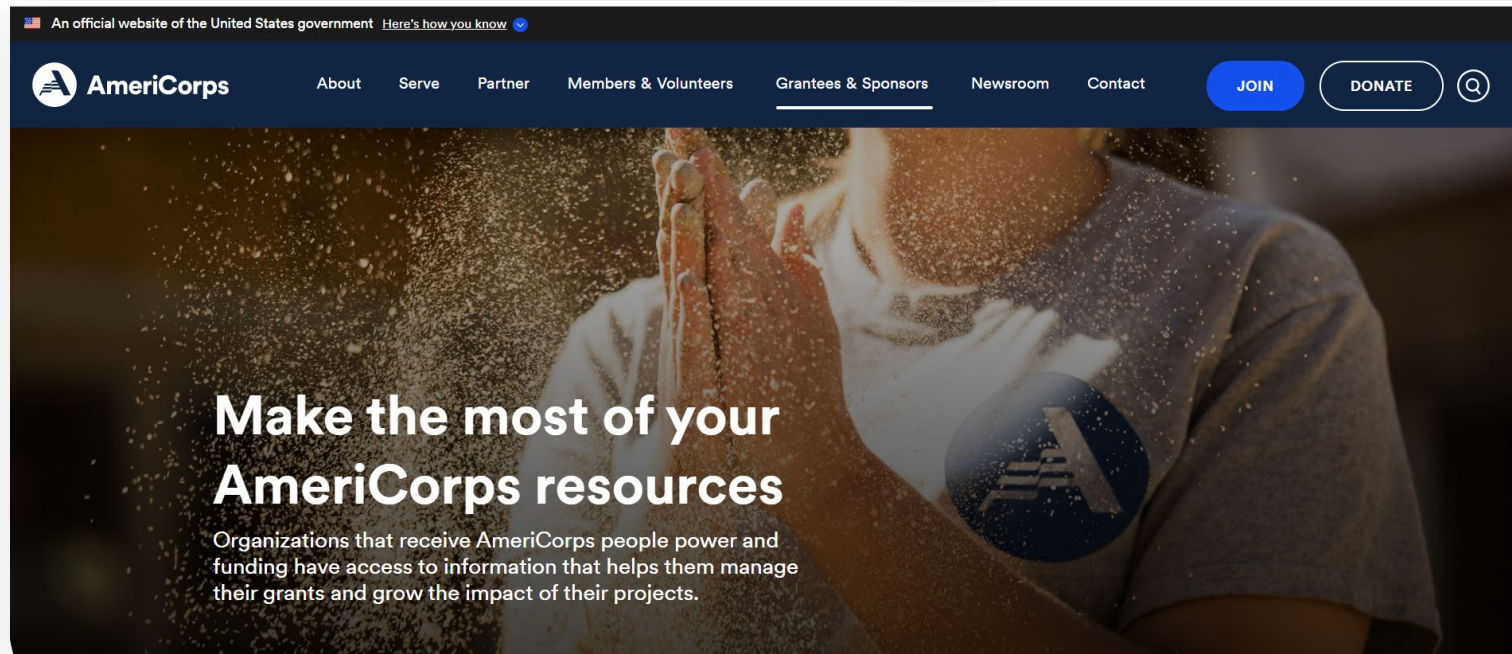
Questions? Email [ServeWisconsin@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:ServeWisconsin@Wisconsin.gov)

[Serve Wisconsin website](#)

# Resources



- ❑ [AmeriCorps.gov](https://www.americorps.gov)
- ❑ [AmeriCorps Resources and Tools](#)
- ❑ [Serve Wisconsin website](#)



# Request for Proposals



AmeriCorps



## Formula Program Grant

AmeriCorps Formula Program (Operational) Grantee organizations initiate, improve, or expand the ability of an organization and community to provide services to address local unmet environmental, educational, public safety (including disaster preparedness and response), or other human needs.

AmeriCorps members serving in programs funded by Formula Program Grants engage in:

- direct service activities that meet local needs or
- capacity-building activities that improve the organizational and financial capability of nonprofit organizations and communities to meet local needs by achieving greater organizational efficiency and effectiveness, greater impact and quality of impact, stronger likelihood of successful replicability, or expanded scale.

AmeriCorps State Formula Program Grants are awarded to fund a portion of program costs and AmeriCorps members' living allowance. Serve Wisconsin

# New/Recompete



- Program Design narratives
  - ▣ Community Problem and Logic Model
  - ▣ Evidence Base: Evidence Tier and Evidence Quality
  - ▣ Funding Priority
  - ▣ Member Experience
- Organizational Capability narratives
  - ▣ Organizational Background and Staffing
  - ▣ Member Supervision
  - ▣ Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility

# New/Recompete

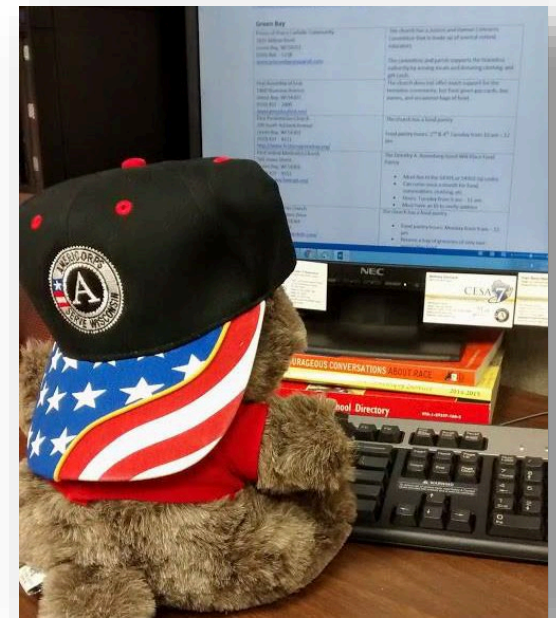


- Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy narratives and budget
  - ▣ Member recruitment
  - ▣ Member retention
  - ▣ Data collection
  - ▣ Budget alignment to program design
- Budget
  - ▣ No errors
  - ▣ Follow budget instructions exactly

# Continuations



- ❑ **Do not modify** the original narrative
  - ❑ Executive Summary
  - ❑ Rationale & Approach/Program Design
  - ❑ Organizational Capability
  - ❑ Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy
  - ❑ Evaluation Summary or Plan
  - ❑ Amendment Justification and
  - ❑ Clarification Information



# Continuations



- ❑ Expectation: maintain consistent program design
  - ▣ Changes in Operating Sites
  - ▣ Significant Changes in Program Scope or Design
  - ▣ Changes to Performance Measures
  - ▣ Significant Changes to Monitoring Structures or Staffing
  - ▣ Budget Revisions
- ❑ If no changes, leave “N/A”
- ❑ Maximum of 6 pages

# Additional Documents



- ❑ AmeriCorps Operational and Financial Management Survey
- ❑ Alignment with Wisconsin State Service Plan
- ❑ Additional document checklist
- ❑ Cost reimbursement budget checklist

*See Table 7 for the full list of required additional documents*



# Selection Process



## New and Re compete Applications

- ▣ Compliance and eligibility
- ▣ External/peer review
- ▣ Internal/staff review
- ▣ Financial risk assessment
- ▣ Clarification and feedback
- ▣ Program Evaluation & Development Committee
- ▣ Serve Wisconsin Board

# Selection Process



## Continuation Applications

- Performance scoring
  - ▣ Progress reports
  - ▣ Financial reports
  - ▣ Serve Wisconsin staff's knowledge
  - ▣ Compliance with the *Terms and Conditions*
- May award applications in an amount less than the requested level of funding

# Tips



- New/Recompete applications
  - ▣ Explain how – explicitly describe how the proposed project will meet the criteria
- Continuation applications
  - ▣ Do not modify narrative sections except *Continuation Changes*
- Be clear and succinct
- Use an impartial proofreader/reviewer

# AmeriCorps Budget



- ❑ Some required expenses include:
  - ▣ Travel to Serve Wisconsin-approved training (\$2,000)
  - ▣ 2% Administrative fee that Serve Wisconsin retains
- ❑ Match is required
  - ▣ At least 24% of grand total
  - ▣ Grantee match can come from cash and/or in-kind sources
    - Must be documented
  - ▣ Except with permission, may not come from federal sources

# Proposal Assessment



If your proposal successfully passes peer/staff review...

- Program Evaluation & Development Committee Review
  - Applicants give 5-minute presentation at April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting in Madison
  - Committee will use staff recommendation, fit in Wisconsin's portfolio, and your presentation to determine funding recommendation
- WI National & Community Service Board Review – May 15<sup>th</sup>

# Important Dates



- ❑ February 5 – Request for Proposals released
- ❑ February 22 – Notice of Intent to Apply Due
- ❑ March 8 – Last day for questions
- ❑ March 12 – Application & Additional Documents deadline
- ❑ April 30 – PE&D Committee Meeting
- ❑ May 9 – WNCS Board Meeting

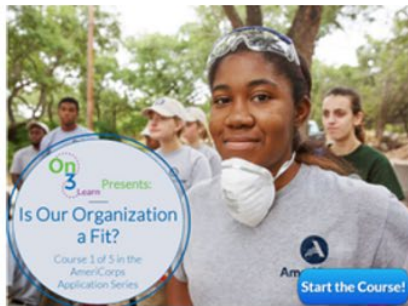
# Reminders



- ❑ Stick to the instructions in the Request for Proposals
- ❑ Explain acronyms and abbreviations
- ❑ No prohibited activities
- ❑ Page limits

# Support

## Course Offerings



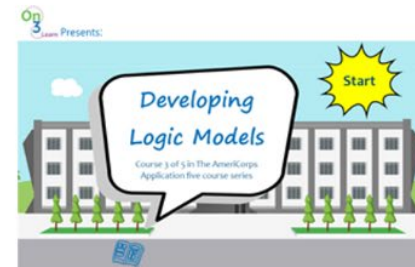
Is Our Organization a Fit?

[Learn More](#)



Understanding the Overall Application and Narrative

[Learn More](#)



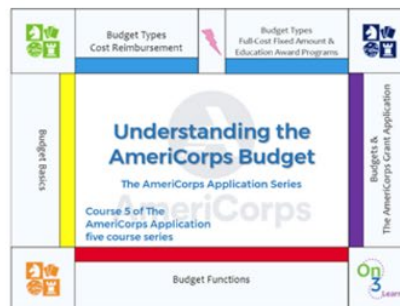
A course to help you become a program design superhero!

Developing Logic Models

[Learn More](#)



Selecting and Developing Performance Measurements



Understanding the AmeriCorps Budget



# Resources



Wisconsin  
Evaluation  
Collaborative



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## Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative (WEC)

conducts and supports program evaluations within education and community systems through partnerships with school districts, professional associations, state agencies, education-based community organizations, and Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs).

We are a community of evaluators with diverse content and methodological expertise from across WCER and the School of Education at UW-Madison. In addition to the network of experienced evaluation professionals, WEC includes an outreach clinic that provides services to small projects through applied training of graduate students in evaluation and research methods.

## What's New at WEC

# Resources



[About Serve Wisconsin](#) [AmeriCorps](#) [Grants](#) [Volunteer](#) [Press and Publications](#) [Get Social!](#)

[Disaster Services](#) [Governor's Service Awards](#)

AmeriCorps  
Stories



## The S-Files Podcast Series

Welcome to The S-Files, which is your look into the impacts and stories of AmeriCorps members and volunteers serving throughout the State of Wisconsin. Each episode, we will be digging into their Service Stories, or S-Files, to learn about the people and programs whose service is meeting critical needs across Wisconsin and enriching the lives of the people and communities they serve.

The S-Files launched in October 2021, with new episodes published every few weeks. Episodes can be listened to below, accessed on various podcast hosting sites, or you can subscribe to follow our service stories by visiting [The S-Files Podcast Series website](#).

### EPISODE PLAYLIST - 25 MOST RECENT EPISODES (NEWEST IN PLAYER)



THE S-FILES • EPISODE 48

### Leading the Sober Strong program while serving w...

A dark-themed podcast player interface showing a play button, progress bar, volume icon, and episode title. Below the player are links for "SUBSCRIBE", "SHARE", and "MORE INFO".

MORE EPISODES

- Leading the Sober Strong program while serving with MCHS Recovery Corps 32 min

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[Amazon Music and Audible](#)

[Podcast Addict](#)

# Resources



- [Serve Wisconsin Formula Program Grant Request for Proposals](#) webpage
- [On3Learn](#) courses - for free

Questions to [ServeWisconsin@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:ServeWisconsin@Wisconsin.gov)

Thank you for your interest!