



Prepare your Organization to Compete for Grants

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Puerto Rico & USVI

www.nationalservice.gov



Do you know them?





Learning Objectives

During this session will cover:

- How to access valuable information about CNCS grants, what are the requirements for competition and what type of support you will receive from the agency.
 - Time tables to submit Concept Papers and/or Letters of Intention.
 - Role and Responsibilities of the sponsor.
- Main Points:
- ❖ Program Administration
 - ❖ Transparency
 - ❖ Collaborative Model/Work



Corp for National and Community Service

- CNCS is the federal agency that since 1993 engages more than 5 million Americans in service through its core programs, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, ***United We Serve***.
- As the nation's largest grantmaker for service and volunteering, CNCS plays a critical role in strengthening America's nonprofit sector and addressing our nation's challenges through service.
- CNCS harnesses America's most powerful resource – the energy and talents of our citizens – we believe that everyone can make a difference; CNCS empowers Americans and fosters a lifetime of service.

How to access information...

The screenshot shows the Grants.gov website with the following elements:

- Browser:** Chrome, address bar shows <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/home.html>.
- Grants.gov Header:** Logo with tagline "FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED.", navigation menu (HOME, ABOUT, SEARCH GRANTS, APPLICANTS, GRANTORS, SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM, FORMS, OUTREACH, SUPPORT), and search bar.
- Main Content:**
 - About Grants.gov:** Text describing the site as a place to find and apply for federal grants, with a "Learn more about Grants.gov" button.
 - Find Open Grant Opportunities:** Filter tabs for "NEWEST OPPORTUNITIES", "BROWSE CATEGORIES", "BROWSE AGENCIES", and "BROWSE ELIGIBILITIES". Below is a table of opportunities.
 - Grants.gov Updates:** Includes a "Grants.gov Calendar" section, a yellow warning box for "Grants.gov Scheduled Maintenance Outage: February 14-17, 2015", and a "Grants.gov Notices" section.
 - Grants.gov Releases:** Section for recent changes and enhancements.
 - Grants.gov Blog:** Section for up-to-date status of maintenance and outages.
 - Financial Assistance:** Section stating that Grants.gov does not provide personal financial assistance and directing users to USA.gov.
 - Suspect Fraudulent Activity?:** Section with a warning that the US Government does not require payment.

Funding Opportunity Number	Opportunity Title	Agency
G15AS00031	Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, Southern Appalachian CESU	Geological Survey
15-540	Promoting Research and Innovation in Methodologies for Evaluation	National Science Foundation
15-541	Cyber-Physical Systems	National Science Foundation
15-538	Basic Research to Enable Agricultural Development	National Science Foundation
15-539	Professional Formation of Engineers	National Science Foundation
RFA-674-15-000004	Improving Case Outcomes for Gender-Based Violence Pilot Project (ICOP)	South Africa USAID-Pretoria
20150415-HB	Awards for Faculty	National Endowment for the Humanities

How to access information...

NOFO – Notice of Funding Opportunities / NOFA – Notice of Funding Availability

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Grants' page on the National Service website. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'http://www.nationalservice.gov/build-your-cap'. The page features a dark blue navigation bar with links for 'About CNCS', 'Newsroom', 'Programs', 'Focus Areas', 'Special Initiatives', and 'National Service Blog'. Below the navigation bar, a breadcrumb trail reads 'Home » Build Your Capacity » Grants'. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column, titled 'Build Your Capacity', contains a 'Grants' section with links for 'Applying for AmeriCorps State and National Grants', 'Funding Opportunities', 'Previous Funding Opportunities', 'Managing AmeriCorps Grants', 'Managing Senior Corps Grants', 'eGrants', 'Criminal Background Check Requirements', 'Learning and Best Practices', 'New to National Service', and 'FAQs'. The middle column, titled 'Funding Opportunities', provides an overview of the grants provided and includes a link to the 'Notices of Funding Availability / Notice of Funding Opportunities archive page'. Below this, a section for 'Current Funding Opportunities' lists a 'Social Innovation Fund Notice of Funding Availability FY 2015' dated 'Mar 17, 2015' with a 'See Previous Funding Opportunities' link. The right column features a 'New Funding Opportunities' section with a 'Sign Up Now' button and a 'National Service In Your State' section with a map of the United States and a 'Read More' button. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system clock indicating '10:38 PM 2/2/2015'.

How to access information...

You **must** have an account with eGrants

2/2/2015, 10:27 PM, EST

help

Corporation for NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

eGRANTS

LOGIN

User Name

Password

Remember me

[Forgot your password? Get help](#)

[Don't have an eGrants account? Create an account](#)

[View system rules of behavior](#)

The Corporation for National and Community Service actively monitors this system and software activity to maintain system security, availability, and to ensure appropriate and legitimate usage. Any individual who intentionally accesses a Federal computer or system without authorization, and who alters, damages, makes unauthorized modifications to, or destroys information in any Federal interest computer, or exceeds authorized access, is in violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-474). Any evidence of possible violations of proper use or applicable laws found as a result of this monitoring may be turned over to Corporation Management and law enforcement. Any individual found to be in violation of the system proper use rules or law could be

How to access information...

Q. How do I ensure that I'm aware of any changes or new information?

The best way to ensure you get emails to inform you of changes or new information is to sign up for updates by using the email link on the blue bar at the top of our website (www.nationalservice.gov) and check the box for "Funding Opportunities." Also, check the FAQs every week for additions to the NOFO/NOFA.

Q. Applicants should have their IRS designation 501(c) 3 to participate in the different programs from CNCS? Yes! *

Q. If an organization has applied for 501(c) 3 status and is waiting for it to be approved, can they find an organization to act as fiscal agent to apply for the grant? Would both organizations' names be on the grant application?

CNCS requires one legal applicant organization. An organization can find a fiscal agent to serve as the legal applicant and if/when the 501(c) 3 status is complete, CNCS can change the legal applicant for the grant application, should it be selected for funding.

How to access information...

- ***Q. What documents do I need to read in order to apply for funding?***
- You must read the Notice of Funding Opportunity,
- NOFO Glossary and the Application Instructions for the competition you are interested in.
- Federal Regulations, C.F.R. is also an important reference.
- Strategic Plan and National Performance Measures.

- ***Q. What are AmeriCorps' performance measurement requirements?***
- AmeriCorps programs must have an aligned output and outcome that reflects the program's primary intervention and aligns with the program's theory of change.

- ***Q. What are National Performance Measures?***
- CNCS has established six Focus Areas (see CNCS's Strategic Plan): **Economic Opportunity, Education, Healthy Futures, Disaster Services, Environmental Stewardship, and Veterans and Military Families** based on the priorities included in the Serve America Act. Within these Focus Areas, as well as for Capacity Building, CNCS has created National Performance Measures in order to aggregate the results of similar programs and demonstrate the impact across our agency programs and initiatives.

How to access information...

Q. What is a theory of change?

A theory of change is a theory for how an intervention can address or solve a stated problem. A theory of change articulates a problem, a proposed intervention, and the change (outcomes) that is expected to result from delivering the intervention.

Underlying the theory is a set of assumptions, supported by evidence, about why the intervention is likely to lead to the outcomes. A Logic Model means a well-specified conceptual framework that identifies key components of the proposed process, product, strategy, or practice (i.e., the active “ingredients” that are hypothesized to be critical to achieving the relevant outcomes) and describes the relationships among the key components and outcomes, theoretically and operationally

Timetable VISTA Program

- **VISTA Programs** (managed by the CNCS State Office) are available twice a year, around 6 months before February and July (depending on volunteer space available).
- Concept Papers are always welcome. A Concept paper is the first steps towards a potential evaluation for a VISTA Grant.
 - http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/upload/VISTA_Concept%20Paper_2014.pdf
- Number of volunteers, scope and reach of the program depends on several administrative factors such as personnel, previous CNCS experience and time vested in managing the program.

Timetable VISTA Program

- **VISTA members or volunteers** receive a monthly living stipend of \$973, health insurance, training and child care expenses (if applicable).
- At the end of a successful service year they can opt for The Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of **\$5,730** or a cash stipend of **\$1,500**.
- Plus the benefits of fully serving their community, learning new skills or building the experience needed for a new carrier.

Timetable Senior Corps

Senior Corps connects today's 55+ with the people and organizations that need them most. We help them become mentors, coaches or companions to people in need, or contribute their job skills and expertise to community projects and organizations. Volunteers receive guidance and training so they can make a contribution that suits their talents, interests, and availability.

- ❖ Foster Grandparents Program
- ❖ Senior Companion Program
- ❖ RSVP – Retired Service Volunteer Program
- ✓ See NOFO page for future opportunities

Timetable AmeriCorps (State and National)

The PR State Commission for Voluntarism is responsible to manage the AmeriCorps program in Puerto Rico. Opportunities to submit proposals are available once a year:

1. November Orientation
2. January Letter of Intention
3. March Present the Proposal
4. Aug-Sept Notice of Approval

Role and Responsibilities

- Program Sponsors are responsible for managing the program and comply with the law(s).
- Program Supervisors are responsible for communicating with CNCS and helping members complete a full year of service.
- CNCS will provide guidance and T/TA.
- Annual audits
- Site visits
- Programs are expected to participate of CNCS Special Initiatives -
www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives

Role and Responsibilities

Main Points:

- ❖ Program Administration
- ❖ Transparency
- ❖ Collaborative Model/Work

Resources

- www.nationalservice.gov
- VISTA Campus – www.vistacampus.gov
- CNCS' Performance Measurement framework - www.nationalservice.gov/resources/performance-measurement
- Knowledge Networks - www.nationalservice.gov/resources
- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) - www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionCfr.action?collectionCode=CFR
- Puerto Rico State Office 787-766-5314, PR@cns.gov
- PR Commission on Voluntarism 787-721-7000, x6055 <http://comisionvoluntariado.pr.gov/>