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AmeriCorps Update

AmeriCorps Meeting

Topics

- A few key accomplishments
- Some recent changes
- 2010 grant application review
- Highlights of 2011 NOFOs

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2010

Formation of Puerto Rico Commission

Welcome to Maria de Lourdes Lopez-Maldonado,
Executive Director

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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

You responded to the call to put AmeriCorps members in service to address the economic crisis.

- 178 Programs
- 11,000+ AmeriCorps Members
- Almost universally, ARRA grantees have exceeded performance targets

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Sample ARRA Accomplishments (as of March 31, 2010)

| ARRA Performance Measure | Award Target | March 31, 2010 Actuals | % Target Met |
|--|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
| CLIENTS receiving employment and skills training and counseling | 28,718 | 33,528 | 116.75% |
| CLIENTS placed in jobs | 2,166 | 908 | 41.92% |
| CLIENTS with improved academic success | 13,919 | 10,933 | 78.98% |
| CLIENTS receiving services related to financial literacy | 15,462 | 16,513 | 106.80% |
| CLIENTS who are able to remain in their housing | 2,111 | 1,987 | 94.13% |
| EXISTING HOMES and structures rehabilitated, weatherized or made more energy-efficient | 8,824 | 8,430 | 95.53% |
| HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS transitioned into affordable housing | 338 | 323 | 95.56% |
| CLIENTS receiving information on health insurance, health care access and health benefits programs | 103,671 | 106,918 | 103.13% |
| CLIENTS enrolled in health insurance and health benefits programs | 10,240 | 10,535 | 102.88% |
| Community VOLUNTEERS recruited to address needs in their communities | 121,439 | 164,637 | 135.57% |

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Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act

- Pre-application commission/multi-state applicant consultation process
- Combined grant competition.
- Commission input on multi-state applicants
- Full-time fixed-amount grant pilot
- National Performance Measures Pilot

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Serve America Act: Rulemaking

- Final Rule Issued 8/20/2010
- Amends and adds to Trust regulations
- Amends the State and National selection criteria
- Update will be provided by Heather Alarcon from the Office of General Counsel at 2pm on Tuesday

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2010 **Portal Service Location Requirement**

New Requirement to Create Operating Sites and Assign Members to Service locations in the Portal

- Effective for any AmeriCorps members that were enrolled on or after that date.
- Among other benefits, this allows us to know exactly where members are serving and better tell the story of AmeriCorps

(message sent on 9/9/10)

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New Child Care Benefit Administrator

First Financial is the new administrator of the child care benefit. Taking over from NACCRRA.

- Transition began the week of August 9 for members enrolled in non-Recovery grants.
- NACCRRA will continue administering the benefit for members enrolled in Recovery grants.

(message sent on 8/18/09)

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Updated Criminal History Check FAQ

- April 2011 is now identified as the date that FBI background checks will be required
- Clarified that any murder conviction disqualifies an applicant from serving in a covered position
- The Office of Grants Management is leading a session that will take place Tuesday at 10:30 and Wednesday at 8:30

(message sent on 7/26)

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2010 Grant Competition Review

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Landscape Data

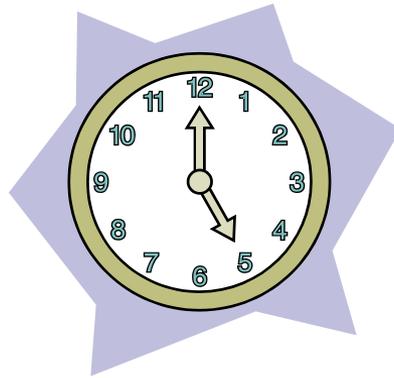
| Category | Number of Programs | Funding | Slots |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Combined Competition | 286 | \$225,420,042 | 36,655 |
| Education Awards Programs (EAP) (single and multi-state) | 31 | \$6,034,161 | 20,389 |
| States without Commissions | 2 | \$288,119 | 30 |
| Territories | 1 | \$488,440 | 26 |
| Indian Tribes | 9 | \$2,169,958 | 188 |
| Competitive Total | 329 | \$234,400,720 | 57,288 |
| Sate Formula | | \$129,140,863 | |
| Competitive & Formula Total | | \$363,541,583 | |

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Let's Remember When.....

January 26, 2010

....4:57 pm



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Compliance Check

- Applicant eligibility
- Correct competition
- Application complete
- Submitted by the deadline

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Peer Review

- Three reviewers + facilitator
- Review program design (Rationale and Approach, Member Outputs & Outcomes, Community Outputs & Outcomes)
- Panels review applications from the same focus area/issue area
- Final Product is a tier for the application (1-4) and brief applicant feedback form based on panel consensus

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CNCS Support of Peer Review Process

- PO involvement in monitoring process
- Office of Grants Policy and Operations support of panels
- Extensive training (written, web-based, and conference calls)

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Post Peer Review Quality Control

Applications may get additional review –

- Abnormalities during initial review (as noted by Panel Facilitator, Program Officer, or other CNCS staff)
- Commission rank
- Known strong history/past performance

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Peer Staff Determination

- Tier of application
- Ranking of panel
- SAA priority areas
- National performance measure pilot
- SAA equitable treatment—urban/rural, program size

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Staff Review

- POs assess entire application
- Score, rank, verify priority areas, other SAA considerations
- Panels—consensus on recommendation fund/not fund, levels
- State Commission input on national applicants, commission rankings/input on their state applications
- Further analysis of SAA priority areas, equitable treatment
- Recommendations to CEO for clarifications

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Consultation & State Commission Input

Before Application Submission:

- National applicants consult with state commissions in locations where they plan to serve
- Commissions and national applicants dialogue as necessary

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2 0 1 0 **Consultation and State Commission Input**

After Application Submission:

- State Commissions invited to provide input on applicants in their state
- Through eGrants, Commissions enter support, do not support, or neutral for each. An additional field is provided for comments.
- Results – most commissions provided input. Most assessments were support or neutral and most comments verified consultation took place.

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Consultation & State Commission Input

How CNCS Used Results:

- Consultation plan of national applicant assessed in staff review
- Commission input analyzed individually for each applicant and across proposed states for trends
- Clarification used to further explore issues raised
- Results used in funding decisions

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Clarifications

Help CNCS make final funding recommendations

Common Clarification Items:

- Request budget corrections
- Further justification for expansion for continuation programs
- Explanation and justification for cost/MSY increases
- Other programmatic issues unclear during staff review

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CEO Decision and Notifications

- CNCS leadership reviews recommendations
- CEO Makes final funding decisions

For 2010

- Highly competitive
- Serve America Act Focus Areas – representation in each of the focus areas in both planning grants and implementation grants awarded

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FAQs

- How many programs opted in to national performance measures?
145 (44%)
- How did rural applicants do in the competition?
67% funded (compared to 58% overall)
- How did the breakdown between single state and multi-state awards compare to 2009?
Proportion to multi-state grantees is 11% greater than 2009

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FAQs continued

- How many full time fixed amount grants were awarded?
18 (does not include EAPs or Professional Corps)
- How many new programs were funded?
76 new single state programs and 16 new multi-state programs

Welcome to Our New AmeriCorps Partners!

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2010 AmeriCorps Members



57,000 + Members to serve
in 2010/2011!

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FY 2011

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FY 2011 Grant Competitions

- NOFO and application instructions have been distributed and posted on the website
- NOFO will be amended with strategic objectives, national performance measures, and the review and selection process the first week of October 2010
- Disaster services has been added as a funding priority
- eGrants will be opened on October 1, 2010

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FY 2011 Planning Grants

- Applications are due November 4, 2010
- Awards made early Feb 2011
- Up to \$1 million total available
- Open to both state commissions and direct applicants

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FY 2011 Program Grants

- Applications are due January 25, 2011
- Minimum living allowance increased by \$300
- Maximum cost per MSY for cost-reimbursement grants increased by \$300 to \$13,300

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FY 2011 Program Grants

- Provide rationale for any requested increases in cost per MSY over the previous year, even if below the maximum.
- Explain any instances of less than full enrollment and retention.
- The full-time Segal Education Award has increased by \$200 to \$5,550

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FY 2011 Program Grants

- Simplified and streamlined selection criteria
 - Remove redundancy, clarify expectations, request only relevant information, and use language that is understandable to both inexperienced and experienced applicants.
- Is national service and volunteerism an appropriate means of addressing the identified community issue?
- Will a measurable impact will result?

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FY 2011 Program Grants

- Reduced character limit from 71,000 to 50,000 characters to further signal our shift to simpler, more focused applications.
 - The portion of applications that exceed the maximum limit will not be reviewed.
- The amended NOFO to be released in October will outline the entire review and selection process so that it is clear to you and your sub-applicants.

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2011 Administrative, PDAT and Disability Grants

- The application instructions have been approved for OMB and will be distributed and posted next week.
- The 2011 allocation will be distributed October 1, 2010
- eGrants will be opened for applications October 1, 2010

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Upcoming Events

- AmeriCorps Financial and Grants Management Institute – November in Detroit, MI
- Disability Inclusion Institute – December in Biloxi, MS

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