

integrity of the AmeriCorps national service network, these Governor-sponsored programs should in fact be as similar as possible to traditional AmeriCorps programs. Accordingly, the following AmeriCorps program requirements (which are discussed in greater detail in the application) will apply to these programs. Other program, grant, and administrative requirements will be set forth in the application materials.

Program Eligibility and Design

The Corporation will accept applications from a state Governor proposing to sponsor a national service program in his or her state that addresses the unmet education, public safety, human, or environmental needs in the community served, and provides a direct and demonstrable benefit that is valued by the community. The Corporation is looking for high-quality programs that (1) are "getting things done" in communities, (2) strengthen communities, and (3) develop participants. For this educational awards-only initiative, the Corporation seeks to support programs that are innovative and that can support all program and participant costs (other than educational awards) through sources other than the Corporation.

By "getting things done", programs will help their communities meet education, public safety, human or environmental needs through direct and demonstrable service. Programs must be large enough to achieve a demonstrable impact on the community served. Accordingly, the Corporation encourages programs to enroll at least 20 full-time participants, regardless of whether they are placed individually or in teams.

To strengthen communities, programs should engage a full range of local partners to build a self-sustaining commitment to service. To this end, service projects should be designed, implemented, and evaluated with extensive and broad-based local input, such as consultation with representatives of the community served; appropriate community-based agencies; foundations; businesses; local labor organizations representing employees of service sponsors; and local government.

To develop participants, programs should provide appropriate training, education, supervision, and support, and emphasize the ethic and skills needed for productive, active citizenship.

To help promote a national identity for all AmeriCorps programs and Members, programs must agree to

identify the program and its Members as part of the Corporation's larger national effort and to participate in activities designed to promote national identity.

The Corporation intends to monitor programs supported through this program to the same extent that it oversees its other programs. Programs will be required to cooperate with the Corporation and its evaluators in all its monitoring and evaluation efforts.

Participant Recruitment, Development and Benefits

Programs must select their participants in a non-partisan, non-political, and non-discriminatory manner. Programs are encouraged to recruit participants who possess leadership potential and a commitment to the goals of national service, regardless of the participant's educational level, work experience, or economic background. In recruiting and placing their participants, programs must not displace any employee or position, or otherwise violate the nondisplacement provisions of the Corporation's regulations, which are published at 45 CFR 2540.100(f). In addition, programs should strive to build strong communities by engaging diverse participants and staff in service activities and encouraging mutual understanding and cooperation. Programs must actively seek to include participants and staff from the communities in which projects are conducted, as well as individuals of different races and ethnicities, education levels, socioeconomic backgrounds, both men and women, and individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities.

Programs must provide participants with the training, skills, and knowledge necessary to perform the tasks required in their respective projects. In addition, programs must provide support services that help participants: (1) who are completing a term of service to make the transition to other educational and career opportunities; and (2) who have not completed their secondary education to earn the equivalent of a high school diploma.

Programs must provide full-time participants with a living allowance of between \$7,945 and \$15,890 per year. Programs are not required to provide a living allowance to part-time participants, but if they choose to do so, then the living allowance should be prorated according to the number of hours of service per year. Programs that were in existence prior to the signing into law of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 (September 21, 1993) are not required to provide a

living allowance to their participants. Such programs that choose to offer a living allowance, however, are exempt from the minimum requirement but not from the maximum requirement (for example, they may offer a living allowance of between \$0 and \$15,890).

Programs must provide each full-time participant with basic health care coverage if he or she is not otherwise covered by a health care policy that provides certain minimum benefits at the time he or she is accepted into the program. Finally, programs must provide reasonable accommodation, including auxiliary aids and services based on the individualized need of a participant who is a qualified individual with a disability.

Eligibility for the Educational Award

Participants who successfully complete full-time or part-time terms of service are eligible for educational awards for each of up to two terms of service. Full-time participants must serve at least 1700 hours during a period of not less than 9 months and not more than a year. Part-time participants must serve at least 900 hours during a period of not more than two years, except if the part-time participant is enrolled in an institution of higher education while performing some or all of the service, then the individual must perform at least 900 hours of service during a period of not more than three years. Full-time educational awards are \$4725 and part-time educational awards are \$2362.50.

Prohibited Service

Prohibited activities may not be performed by participants in the course of their duties, at the request of program staff, or in a manner that would associate the activities with the national service program or the Corporation. These activities include:

(1) any effort to influence legislation, as prohibited under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501);

(2) organizing protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes;

(3) assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing;

(4) impairing existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements;

(5) engaging in partisan political activities, or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to any public office;

(6) engaging in religious instruction, conducting worship services, providing instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious educational or worship, constructing or