

Fixed-Amount Grant Pilot for 2010

The Serve America Act authorizes the Corporation to award fixed-amount grants in 2010. In 2010, these fixed-amount grants are available for programs that enroll full-time members only. Fixed-amount grants allow programs to apply for a fixed dollar amount per member. The fixed amount awarded per member is significantly less than the cost of running an AmeriCorps program and the applicant must raise the additional revenue necessary to operate the program. EAP programs, which have been authorized to receive fixed-amount grants for many years, may continue to enroll less-than-full-time members.

An AmeriCorps program that receives a fixed-amount grant is like any other AmeriCorps program except that, unlike the more typical cost-reimbursement grant, the fixed amount grant does not require:

- Compliance with OMB Cost Principles.
- Detailed, line-item budgets.
- Corporation FFRs.
- Match or documentation of match.

Applicants, other than Professional Corps and EAP, can apply for up to \$13,000 per full-time member. Applicants for Professional Corps fixed-amount grants may apply for up to \$2,000 per member. Applicants for EAP fixed-amount grants can apply for up to \$800 per member. The amount per full-time member requested will be a competitive factor in the Corporation's selection process.

Priority will be given in the selection process to organizations that have demonstrated the capacity to track and report on performance measures.

Performance Measurement

Fixed-amount grant applicants in the education priority area will be required to select national education performance measures. Applicants proposing non-education programs will propose their own performance measures. We will be assessing these measures based on their connection to program outcomes and their potential to inform the Corporation's development of national measures. All performance measures will be negotiated prior to grant decision-making and award, and will be held to a high standard. Higher priority will be given to program models and measures informed by effective and proven practices, as well as existing evaluation literature. .

Evaluation

Applicants approved for a fixed-amount grant must agree to participate in evaluations the Corporation will conduct of this pilot program. One such evaluation is designed to measure whether fixed-amount grants reduce the burden on recipients of grant administration. We also anticipate evaluating the correlation between decreases in administrative burden and increases in capacity to meet performance measures. Applicants must also agree to participate in any other relevant evaluations conducted by the Corporation