

**Individual Match Waiver Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for
AmeriCorps Applicants and Grantees
June 2022***

1. What is the purpose of match?

In addition to being a requirement for most grant, non-AmeriCorps funds enables AmeriCorps programs to fully implement their programs since the AmeriCorps share alone is not sufficient.

2. Why is the blanket match waiver for any AmeriCorps grants not currently a viable option?

Congress has not relieved the agency of the obligation to consider waivers on a case-by-case basis. When the COVID-19 pandemic initially presented an unanticipated, unprecedented, nation-wide hardship, AmeriCorps did utilize the fullest extent of its authorities to respond to the unique emergency by providing an emergency and temporary blanket waiver of all match requirements. After more than a year and following specific Congressional action to address the emergency without authorizing the agency to continue such waivers indefinitely, AmeriCorps cannot presently justify extending that limited blanket waiver coverage. Given that blanket waivers can only be justified under rare and extreme circumstances, the agency cannot override statutory requirements indefinitely.

3. What is the rationale for requiring match on American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds?

AmeriCorps understands that grantees and communities are still feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ARP funds are aimed at supporting their recovery. However, Congress did not provide additional match waiver authority in the ARP. AmeriCorps recognizes that statutory match requirements may pose challenges for certain grantees and the agency wants to work with your organizations to learn more about – and get feedback to address – any unnecessary complexities attendant to the current process to approve an alternative match schedule.

4. How did AmeriCorps handle waiver requests in the past?

AmeriCorps historically received very few waiver requests, and the vast majority were approved.

5. How has AmeriCorps made the waiver request easier?

AmeriCorps recognizes some of our applicants and grantees are still facing unprecedented circumstances, both with the lingering issues related to COVID-19 and the influx of ARP funding. As a result, AmeriCorps revised the waiver process to make it easier to apply and review by:



- using Microsoft Forms for consistency and efficiency
- allowing applicants and current grantees not in the final year of their project period to request waivers
- requiring self-certified justifications rather than documentation to support waiver requests
- committing to doing an initial review within 30 days of receiving requests to the extent possible.

6. How has AmeriCorps made the waiver request more transparent?

AmeriCorps is proactively disseminating the waiver request process via live AmeriCorps Seniors and AmeriCorps State and National Grantee Calls and written updates, posting on respective program webpages, and posting with current funding opportunities. Additionally, AmeriCorps will post a list of all requested waivers and whether they were approved or not annually.

7. How did AmeriCorps determine the criteria?

The criteria are repeated verbatim from the respective programs' regulations in 45 CFR.

8. What is if I have submitted a waiver request using the prior process?

Your request is being reviewed. You do not need to resubmit using this process.

9. When can applicants and grantees apply for match waivers?

Applicants and grantees can apply for match waivers at the time of submitting new, recomplete, renewal, and continuations as well as throughout their entire period of performance. If not done at the time of application, an amendment will be required if the waiver is approved.

10. Will this information be shared publicly?

Yes. AmeriCorps will post summaries of all match waiver requests as well as whether they were approved or denied on its website annually.

Please contact MatchWaivers@cns.gov and copy your portfolio manager if you have any additional questions. These FAQs will be updated as warranted. Thank you.