



AmeriCorps has finalized a new rule that will enhance accessibility of AmeriCorps State and National Grants to organizations serving underserved individuals and communities. This effort is directly supported by President Biden’s executive order on advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the Federal Government, issued on January 20, 2021.

The final regulation includes:

1. Modifies grantee match requirements

The final rule limits AmeriCorps State and National grantees’ required share of program costs, known as “match” or “cost share,” to a scale that starts at 24 percent for the first three-year grant cycle and increases incrementally with each successive three-year grant cycle, until it reaches 30 percent in the tenth year of the grant cycle and beyond.

2. Clarifies match waiver requirement

The rule simplifies the match waiver criteria to align with the criteria used by AmeriCorps Seniors, creating greater parity across national service programs. It aims to help organizations focus on their missions without being overly burdened by funding requirements, allowing organizations that meet one of the four listed criteria to qualify for a match waiver including: difficulty securing funding in the first three years of operations; economic

downturn or disaster restricting local funding; unexpected discontinuation of local support; or organizational revenue less than \$500,000.

3. Support job readiness waiver flexibilities

Under the current rule, there is a 20 percent limit to the aggregate total of hours in a program that AmeriCorps members may spend in education and training activities. The new rule allows AmeriCorps to grant waivers of education hour limitations for apprenticeship programs, job training and readiness programs, activities to support attainment of GEDs and other credentialing or primarily enrolls economically disadvantaged members.

4. Removes term limit barriers

The rule also removes the four-term limit regardless of the length of term, allowing individuals to serve the number of terms needed to equal the value of two full-time education awards.



Advancing Equity and Accessibility

One of AmeriCorps' primary goals is to make AmeriCorps State and National grants more accessible, enabling organizations to better serve underserved individuals and communities. This aligns with the agency's broader mission to foster equity and inclusivity in all our programs and initiatives. This was one of the main drivers in the rulemaking process.

This effort is directly supported by President Biden's executive order on advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the Federal Government, issued on January 20, 2021. This executive order underscores the administration's commitment to breaking down barriers to equity and ensuring federal support reaches those most in need.

The AmeriCorps' Strategic Plan for 2022-2026 also outlines our goals and commitments for the coming years. Goal 1 of this plan focuses on partnering with communities to alleviate poverty and advance equity, a cornerstone of our rulemaking efforts for AmeriCorps State and National grants.

Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback

In response to a proposed rule issued October 6, 2023, AmeriCorps received 370 comments. Stakeholders highlighted the grantee match requirements as a significant barrier to equity. Feedback from stakeholders also pointed out education/training hour limits and member term limits as areas that needed reconsideration. This feedback, summarized in the Federal Register, was instrumental in shaping AmeriCorps' approach to making AmeriCorps State and National grants more equitable and accessible.



AmeriCorps' rulemaking process for AmeriCorps State and National grants is a testament to our unwavering commitment to **equity, accessibility, and community service**. By addressing these critical areas, we aim to empower organizations to make a more significant impact on the communities they serve, ensuring that no one is left behind.