



AmeriCorps State and Youth Mental Health Corps Funding Opportunities

2025 - 2026 Grant Applications

Introductions and Housekeeping

In the chat please share your:

- Name
- Organization
- Title/Position
- Geographic area served

UServeUtah Mission

The mission of the Utah Commission on Service and Volunteerism (UServeUtah) is to engage all Utahns in solving community needs through national service, volunteerism, and community engagement.

As the state's central coordinating body for service and volunteerism, UServeUtah is responsible for developing, implementing, and sustaining a vision and culture of national service and community engagement within the state.

AmeriCorps Purpose and Goals

“Improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.”

AmeriCorps Pledge

I will get things done for America to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier. I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities. Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere. I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond. I am an AmeriCorps member and I will Get Things Done!

The AmeriCorps Agency (formerly CNCS)

AmeriCorps is the federal agency that administers all National Service Programs

- AmeriCorps VISTA, NCCC, State & National
- AmeriCorps Seniors: Senior Companions, Foster Grandparents, RSVP
- Special Initiatives: Mayor's Day of Recognition, National Service Safety Stand-down, etc.
- National Days of Service: MLK Day of Service & 9/11 Day of Service

www.americorps.gov

AmeriCorps Seniors

Service opportunities specifically for individuals 55 and older.

Three programs:

- **Foster Grandparent Program:** Volunteers mentor and guide students to higher academic achievement.
- **RSVP:** Volunteers use their specific skills and talents to serve in a variety of volunteer activities.
- **Senior Companion Program:** Volunteers serve as friends and companions by providing assistance and friendship to seniors to keep them independent longer and provide respite to family caregivers.



AmeriCorps VISTA

Volunteers in Service to America

- Helps community organizations implement grassroots solutions to alleviate poverty.
- Members serve full time for a year
- Funding comes directly from the federal agency, through a regional office.
 - UServeUtah also has limited VISTA positions available for economic development.
- Behind the scenes, capacity-building (recruiting volunteers, raising funds, managing projects, etc.)



AmeriCorps NCCC

National Civilian Community Corps

- Program for young adults 18 – 24
- Members serve full-time for 10 months
- Serve in teams of 10-14
- Based out of four regional campuses across the country
- Take on 6 – 8 week projects across their region relative to conservation, revitalization, homeland security, disaster preparedness, and more



AmeriCorps State and National

- Largest branch of AmeriCorps – Over 80,000 members serving annually
- State (single state) & National (multi-state)
- Most of the funding is administered by Governor-appointed state service commissions
 - e.g. UServeUtah
- Provides grant funding to schools, nonprofits, government agencies, and faith-based organizations to operate AmeriCorps programs
- Members engage in direct service and capacity building to address compelling community needs
- Projects must enhance an organization's mission
 - Cannot duplicate pre-existing activities/positions,
 - Cannot displace staff or volunteers
 - Cannot supplant state or local funds
- Should focus on at least one of the six AmeriCorps focus areas
- 10 member service year (MSY) minimum

Eligibility for an AmeriCorps Grant

- Nonprofit Organizations
 - Community/Regional/Statewide
 - Faith-Based
 - Secular
- Government agencies
 - State/County/Local
- Education
 - School Districts
 - Nonprofit Private
 - Nonprofit & Public Higher Ed Institutions

AmeriCorps State Grant Opportunities

- **Cost Reimbursement Grant:** Program design based upon an approved budget with a match requirement that adheres to program rules.
- **Fixed Amount:** Grantees awarded a specific amount per MSY with no match requirement or approved budget. Reimbursement based on member hours served.
- **Education Award Program (EAP):** Grantees are awarded a small amount of funding and use their own organizations resources for member living allowances and program costs.
- **Professional Corps:** Grantees are awarded a small amount of funding. Must place qualified professionals in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals. Member salaries and benefits must be paid by the organization where the member serves and not included in the budget.
- **Planning Grant:** One year award for an organization to plan how they will manage and utilize an AmeriCorps program.

Youth Mental Health Corps Grant Opportunity

- **Non-Federal Funding:** This is supplemental funding for selected AmeriCorps programs (new or existing) sponsored by philanthropic dollars to support a time limited grant from August 2025 - August 2027.
 - The [Youth Mental Health Corps](#) is an initiative that supports youth mental health in schools and communities while providing members service-to-career pathways in behavioral health.
 - For Utah, the YMHC service-to-career pathways are Community Health Worker (CHW) and Mental Health School Navigator (MHSN) and support the Education and Healthy Futures focus areas of AmeriCorps.
 - During their service, members will earn a certificate and/or higher education credits in the behavioral health field.
 - To qualify for the supplemental funding, a program must qualify for an AmeriCorps operational grant (ie - cost reimbursement or fixed amount).

AmeriCorps Focus Areas

- **Education:** Improve school readiness, education and behavioral outcomes, and preparation for successful post-secondary degree attainment for economically disadvantaged youth.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Support increase citizen behavioral changes in environmental stewardship, including: Increased energy and water efficiency, renewable energy use, or improving at-risk ecosystems.
- **Veterans and Military Families:** Engage Veterans in service and support the needs of veterans, active duty personnel, and family of deployed military personnel.
- **Healthy Futures:** Address health care needs within communities, including: access to health care, aging in place, and addressing childhood obesity.
- **Economic Opportunity:** Promote and foster economic opportunity for economically disadvantaged individuals within communities through financial literacy, housing assistance and job training.
- **Disaster Services:** Increase resiliency and capacity of communities and individuals to prepare for, respond to, recover from disasters.

Compelling Community Needs

AmeriCorps programs address critical community needs including, but not limited to:

- Improving graduation and degree attainment rates (education)
- Reducing youth obesity rates (healthy futures)
- Invasive weed removal (environmental stewardship)
- Improving school performance (education)
- Helping homeless individuals/families secure safe & affordable housing (economic opportunity)
- Disaster and first-aid education (disaster preparedness)
- Providing counseling for veterans (veteran & military families)

2025-2026 State of Utah Funding Priorities

- **Housing:** Programming that specifically addresses housing stability, homelessness alleviation or prevention, or increases the number of affordable housing units in Utah.
- **Mental Health:** Programming that engages youth or young adults in efforts to improve mental health outcomes or provides a direct mental health benefit to youth or both. (Youth Mental Health Corps programs)
- **Service to Career Pathways:** Program models that incorporate workforce development by providing members with specialized training, certifications, higher education credits, or other support to help them successfully transition into the workforce following their service.
- **State Service Initiatives:** Programs that align with state service initiatives funded or prioritized by the legislature, governor, or lieutenant governor.

Who is an AmeriCorps Member?

- An individual enrolled for an intensive term of service (100-1700 hours per year)
 - Focuses on direct service and/or capacity building, and volunteer recruitment
- U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States
- Passes a National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC)
- At least 17 years of age (no upper age limit)
 - *YMHC members must be between the ages of 18 - 24*
- Cannot displace a volunteer or a staff person
- Earn an Education Award for a successful term of service
- Most receive a modest living allowance
- Full-time members are eligible for:
 - Health insurance
 - Childcare (eligibility requirements apply)

AmeriCorps Member Activities

Example member activities:

- Tutoring/mentoring elementary students
- Connecting families to adequate healthcare
- Assisting families with securing safe/affordable housing
- Assisting veterans with seeking employment
- Providing educational enrichment programs for youth
- Developing and conducting environmental education
- Conducting community awareness programs
- Implementing nutrition and physical activity programs
- Capacity building projects in a nonprofit or government agency
- *Anticipated activities for Community Health Worker and Mental Health School Navigator members will be similar and/or may vary. They could include locations in the community, inside the schools, and/or with afterschool programs.*

AmeriCorps Member Limitations

- Cannot duplicate other services or displace employees or volunteers
- 80% of service hours must be direct service or capacity building
- Member development up to 20% of hours
- Fund-raising is limited to raising funds for the AmeriCorps program and limited to 10% of the member's hours
- Service member - **not an employee**
- Must follow a clearly defined service position description
 - *For the YMHC, it must be a Community Health Worker or Mental Health School Navigator*
- Must pass a National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC)
- Must not participate in prohibited activities during service

AmeriCorps Member Prohibited Activities

1. Attempting to influence legislation;
2. Organizing or engaging in 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. Participating in, or endorsing, events or activities that are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties, political platforms, political candidates, proposed legislation, or elected officials;
7. Engaging in religious instruction, conducting worship services, providing instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious instruction or worship, constructing or operating facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship, maintaining facilities primarily or inherently devoted to religious instruction or worship, or engaging in any form of religious proselytization;

AmeriCorps Member Prohibited Activities

8. Providing a direct benefit to
 - a. A business organized for profit;
 - b. A labor union;
 - c. A partisan political organization;
 - d. A nonprofit organization that fails to comply with the restrictions contained in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 related to engaging in political activities or substantial amount of lobbying except that nothing in these provisions shall be construed to prevent participants from engaging in advocacy activities undertaken at their own initiative; and
 - e. An organization engaged in the religious activities described in paragraph C. 7. above, unless AmeriCorps assistance is not used to support those religious activities;
9. Conducting a voter registration drive or using AmeriCorps funds to conduct a voter registration drive;
10. Providing abortion services or referrals for receipt of such services; and
11. Such other activities as AmeriCorps may prohibit.

AmeriCorps Member Prohibited Activities

12. Census Activities: AmeriCorps members and volunteers associated with AmeriCorps grants may not engage in census activities during service hours. Being a census taker during service hours is categorically prohibited. Census-related activities (e.g., promotion of the Census, education about the importance of the Census) do not align with AmeriCorps State and National objectives. What members and volunteers do on their own time is up to them, consistent with program policies about outside employment and activities.

13. Election and Polling Activities: AmeriCorps members may not provide services for election polling locations or in support of such activities.

14. Fundraising limitations: AmeriCorps members cannot serve more than 10% of their hours on fundraising. They also may not raise funds for living allowances or an organization's general (as opposed to project/program) operating expenses or endowment.

15. Grant writing: AmeriCorps members cannot serve hours while writing grant applications for any Federal agency including AmeriCorps.

2024 - 2025 AmeriCorps Member Benefits

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	MSY	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Living Allowance	Education Award
Full-time	1,700	1.0	\$20,400	\$40,800	\$7,395.00
Three Quarter Time	1,200	.70	n/a	\$28,560	\$5,176.50
Half-time	900	.50	n/a	\$20,400	\$3,697.50
Reduced Half-time	675	.381	n/a	\$15,504	\$2,817.14
Quarter-time	450	.265	n/a	\$10,608	\$1,956.35
Minimum-time	300	.212	n/a	\$8,568	\$1,565.08
Abbreviated time	100	.056	n/a	\$2,448	\$416.17

AmeriCorps State Program Requirements

- Grants provide partial funding for organizations to operate an AmeriCorps program
- 10 Member Service Year (MSY) Minimum
- Program staff:
 - One dedicated FTE (equivalent) to manage the program (not required for planning grantees)
- 3-year funding cycle, with a continuation application each year
- \$25,000 Maximum Cost per MSY
- Max/Min Living Allowance requirements
- Cost reimbursement programs must meet minimum match requirements
 - Cash and/or In-Kind
 - Other Federal Funds with approval from the funding agency
 - Match requirement increases over time

Minimum Match Requirements

Minimum Match Requirement (Cost Reimbursement Grants Only)				
AmeriCorps Funding Year	Years 1-3	Years 4-6	Years 7-9	Years 10+
Grantee Share Requirements	24%	26%	28%	30%

AmeriCorps State Program Requirements

- Funds are for the program expenses, not general organizational expenses.
- Example program expenses:
 - Member living allowance
 - Benefits
 - Member & staff training
 - Supplies
 - Etc.
- Organizations that receive grants are responsible for recruiting, selecting, and supervising members to serve in their programs.
 - *The YMHC has additional expectations of programs specific to member recruiting as well as member development and experience.*

Youth Mental Health Corps Grant Requirements

- The YMHC grant will provide partial, supplemental funding for organizations (new or existing) that operate an AmeriCorps program.
- The minimum slot requirement is 20.
 - Slots may be new or repurposed.
 - Slots may be full or part-time.
- Program staff:
 - Depending on the program and its host site, a licensed behavioral health professional may be required.
- 2-year funding: August 2025 - August 2027
- Programs must meet operational grant requirements of AmeriCorps State Programs.
 - The YMHC grant will offer up to an additional \$2,000 per slot.
 - Eligible expenses include personnel, member costs, and host site costs.
- Additional program and member expectations to support grant requirements specific to member development and training needs will be developed.
 - Programs must track additional quantitative and qualitative data.

Operational Budget Example

- Ten MSY Operational Program
 - 10 MSY x \$25,000 Max Cost/MSY = \$250,000 (Total Allowable Grant)
 - $\$250,000 / .76 = \$328,947$ (Total Budget)
 - $\$328,947 - \$250,000 = \$78,947$ (24% Minimum Required Match)
 - UServeUtah retains 2% = -\$5,000
 - **Remaining budget = \$323,950**
- Full time members at minimum living allowance:
 - 10 MSY x \$20,400 = \$204,000
 - **\$323,950 - \$204,000 = \$119,950**
 - Is ~\$120,000 enough to cover program staff, healthcare, and other operating costs?
 - Can I recruit at minimum living allowance?

Performance Measurement and Data Collection

- Must identify one or more aligned output and outcome
 - National Performance Measure or Applicant Determined
 - Follow 2025 AmeriCorps Performance Measure Instructions
 - Example: Education Focused Program
 - Output Measure: ED1A: Number of individuals served
 - Outcome Measure: ED5A Number of students with improved academic performance
- Must have accurate data collection processes that avoid duplication
- Must have effective data collection tools
 - E.g. Standardized testing, pre-post surveys, etc.
- Data must be available to you and reported on a quarterly basis
 - *YMHC performance measurement and data collection will align with existing AmeriCorps operational program requirements. Programs must track additional quantitative and qualitative data.*

Benefits of an AmeriCorps Grant

- Expands organizational capacity to meet critical community needs
- Provides funds to support program administration
- Gives access to training & technical resources
 - *The YMHC includes certificate and/or credit attainment for the members as well as targeted job search and job development resources.*
- National network of organizations
- Skilled AmeriCorps members are often later hired by their host organizations
- Members and volunteers gain a better understanding of community needs/challenges and how to solve them.
- Some member benefits covered by AmeriCorps/ UServeUtah
 - Education Award, Child Care, Member Assistance Program

Halfway - Is AmeriCorps State a Good Fit?

- Does my organization address a compelling need in an AmeriCorps focus area?
- Would the program support my organization's mission and strategic plan?
- Will AmeriCorps members create a positive impact that can be documented?
- Will the program provide services not already offered in the community?
- Will my agency have the organizational, technological, and fiscal capacity to manage a federal grant program with at least 10 MSY?
- *Youth Mental Health Corps:*
 - *Does my agency have the capacity for additional member recruitment, development, and training needs?*
 - *Can my agency invest in and commit to technical assistance?*

2025 - 2026 Application Process

UServeUtah uses a multi-step application process.

- The initial application allows organizations an opportunity to:
 - Explain the proposed program,
 - Demonstrate potential community impact, and
 - Show the capacity needed to manage an AmeriCorps program
- AmeriCorps Utah committee and peer review process
- If selected to submit a full application:
 - Applications are revised for submission to the AmeriCorps agency
 - Clarifying program details for AmeriCorps compliance
 - Submission of full applications in the eGrants system

AmeriCorps Application Components

Applicants must submit an application with the following components:

- Title Page (1 page)
- Executive Summary (Follow the template -1 page max)
- Logic Model Worksheet (2 pages max)
- Performance Measurement Worksheet (2 pages)
- Program Narrative - (Qualtrics survey format)
- Budget Proposal Worksheet (varies)
- Continuation Changes Narrative (existing programs)
- Other Required Documents
 - See items listed in the application instructions

AmeriCorps Application Criteria

Scored Narrative Sections

- Program Design
(60% of overall score)
- Organizational Capacity
(25% of overall score)
- Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy
(15% of overall score)

AmeriCorps Application Criteria

Program Design (60% of overall score)

- Community Need (30% of program design)
 - Clearly describe the need
 - Why was it chosen?
 - Data justifying resources for the community need
 - Describe target community

AmeriCorps Application Criteria

Program Design (60% of overall score)

- Member Utilization (25% of program design)
 - What activities will the member perform?
 - Why do you need AmeriCorps members?
 - What is the number of members requested? (Minimum of 10 MSY)
 - What types of member slots & why?

AmeriCorps Application Criteria

Program Design (60% of overall score)

- Program Impact (30% of program design)
 - Expected change in attitude, behavior, condition, or skill
 - Evidence based intervention(s)
 - What will be measured
 - What measurement tools will be used
 - Evaluation

AmeriCorps Application Criteria

Program Design (60% of overall score)

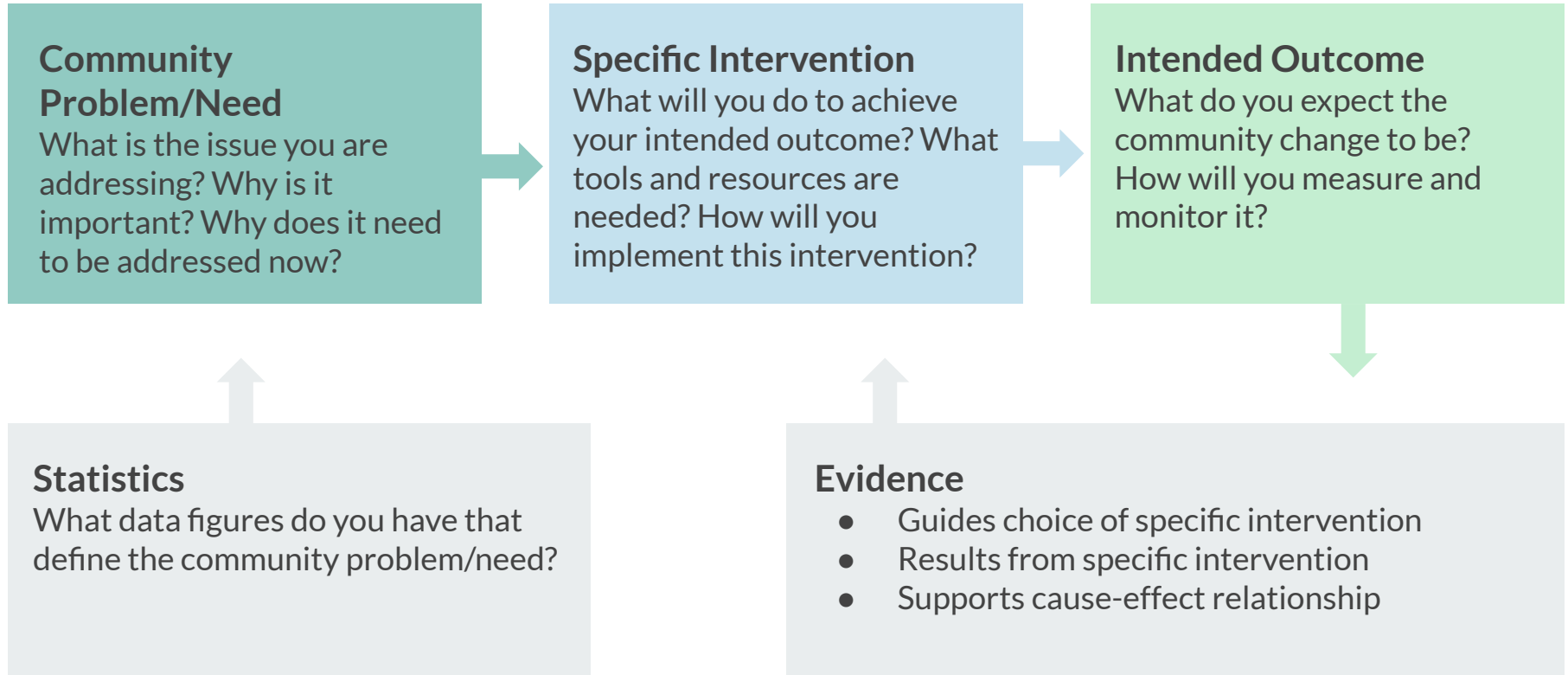
- Member Experience (15% of program design)
 - Powerful service experience
 - Increase in lifelong civic engagement
 - Connectivity with other AmeriCorps members
 - AmeriCorps identity

AmeriCorps Application Criteria

Program Design (60% of overall score)

- Other items to consider
 - Volunteer Generation
 - Recruiting and maintaining volunteers
 - How does your program link outcomes to the need?
 - Theory of Change Model
 - Logic Model Worksheet

Theory of Change Model



Theory of Change Model Example

Community Problem/Need

Children reading below grade level in 3rd grade

Specific Intervention

Individualized tutoring 3 times/week for 20 min on five “building block” literacy skills through reading, writing and verbal communication activities

Intended Outcome

Students are able to read at 3rd grade level (as measured by 3rd grade reading exam)

Statistics

Statistics on the number of students at below grade level in program’s service area; Research on why reading proficiency by 3rd grade is important.

Evidence

- Research on building block skills leading to reading proficiency
- Research on design, frequency, duration of tutoring sessions

AmeriCorps Application Criteria

Organizational Capacity (25% of overall score)

- Sound Organizational Structure
- Success in Securing Community Support
- Compliance & Accountability

AmeriCorps Application Criteria

Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (15% of overall score)

- Clear, reasonable and cost-effective
- Budget aligns with application narrative
- Ability to meet minimum match requirement

Completing the Budget

- Detailed instructions are provided in application instructions
- Budget reminders:
 - Health insurance must be provided for full-time members
 - You are accountable to meet the match % shown on the application budget
 - Some grant funding can be moved - up to 10% of the total program budget
 - If there is a chance you will need to spend in a specific category budget funds there
 - Unemployment insurance – No employer/employee relationship
 - General liability insurance requirements
 - \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$3,000,000 for the life of the policy
 - State as additional insured party
 - Equipment: Single items over \$10,000 (other items are supplies)
- UServeUtah retains 2% of grant funds for administrative costs
 - Cost reimbursement and planning grants: Commission Fixed Amount line
 - Fixed grants: Reduced from the contract amount

Budgeting for a New Cost-Reimbursement Program

- Proposed MSY x Maximum Cost Per MSY (\$25,000)
 - $10 \text{ MSY} \times \$25,000 = \$250,000$ (Max grant funding that can be requested)
- Determine the total budget needed for operating and member costs
 - What will the program actually cost?
- Decide where to place the requested grant funding
 - Ensure you meet minimum match requirements
 - Year 1 through 3 – Match must be 24% or more of the total budget
 - Ensure your total requested grant funds are less than the max cost per MSY
- Complete the administrative costs section based on the application instructions
- Re-adjust grant funding as needed and re-check total cost

Administrative/ Indirect Costs

- Follow the detailed budget instructions closely. Multipliers are used to calculate these amounts.
- Methods for budgeting administrative/indirect costs:
 - AmeriCorps-Fixed Percentage Method (Five/Ten Percent Fixed Administrative Costs Option)
 - Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate
 - This method must be used if your organization has a federally approved indirect cost rate
 - De Minimis Rate of 15% of Modified Total Direct Costs
 - This method must be used if your organization has used it for other federal awards
- UServeUtah's 2% comes from the administrative/ indirect section
- Indirect costs are drawn down as a percentage of the actual direct costs (not the budgeted amount).

2025 - 2026 Continuation Applicants

Continuation applicants:

- Must submit an application.
 - *A separate, abbreviated application for the YMHC is required for interested programs*
- Are not required to submit a full program narrative in Qualtrics unless:
 - The program is requesting an increase in total funding or MSY
- Use the Continuation Changes Section (fillable PDF) to record:
 - Changes in MSY or Slot Types;
 - Changes in operating sites;
 - Significant changes in program scope or design;
 - Changes to performance measures including targets;
 - Significant changes to monitoring structures or staffing;
 - Budget revisions
 - e.g. adjustments for FT minimum living allowance requirements.
 - Right-sizing

Continuation Right Sizing Policy

- Programs that did not meet 100% enrollment in the most recent program year with a closed enrollment period must:
 - Critically assess their continuation request for MSY/slots
 - Request only what can be realistically filled
- Programs may request a higher cost per MSY if:
 - Tied to recruitment related expenses or higher living allowances
 - The request adheres to Max Cost/MSY and Min/Max Living Allowance
 - If there is no increase to the total grant request as a result, a full narrative is not needed
 - Record the changes in the continuation narrative
- The Commission reserves the right to decline any proposed changes.
- The Commission also reserves the right to review, adjust, and/or decline funding for programs that have significant compliance issues as identified by UServeUtah staff.

Additional Youth Mental Health Corps Application Components

Interested applicants must apply and qualify for an AmeriCorps operational grant. They must submit concurrently a separate application for YMHC funding that consists of the following components:

- Youth Mental Health Corps Narrative
 - Program Summary
 - Program Design (60%)
 - Outcomes and Measures (25%)
 - Budget Worksheet (15%)

Application Component Information

- When submitting intent to apply please specify:
 - Cost Reimbursement, Fixed Amount, EAP, or Planning Grant *and whether or not you are also applying separately for the YMHC grant*
- Cost Reimbursement, Fixed Amount, and EAP Programs:
 - Same Application Instructions
 - Separate Fillable PDFs
 - Narrative (survey format)
- Planning Grants:
 - Separate Application Instructions
 - Separate Fillable PDF
 - Narrative (survey format)
- *YMHC Grant*
 - *Separate Application*
 - *Separate Narrative (saved as a searchable PDF)*
 - *Budget Template*

2025 - 2026 Application Timeline

- February 26-28 2025: Applicant information sessions
- March 3, 2025: Application materials available
- March 10, 2025: Intent to apply due
- April 11, 2025: Application deadline
- April - May 2025: Formula grant review period
- Mid-May 2025: Applicants notified of decision
- Mid-May 2025: Successful applicants submit full applications
- Programs begin operation:
 - August 1, 2025,
 - October 1, 2025, or
 - January 1, 2026

Next Steps

- Application materials posted by March 3, 2025 at:
 - userve.utah.gov/americorps-grant-application-information/
- Notice of Intent to Apply
 - Send email to gregbates@utah.gov by March 10, 2025
 - Include the name of your organization
 - One paragraph description of the type of program you are proposing
 - If you are applying for a cost reimbursement, fixed-cost, EAP, or planning grant
 - *Also, specify if you will request YMHC funding*

For More Information

Application Materials:

userve.utah.gov/ameri-corps-grant-application-information/

Staff Contacts:

AmeriCorps State:

- Greg Bates
- gregbates@utah.gov
- 801-928-3769

Youth Mental Health Corps:

- Yvette Woodland
- ymwoodland@utah.gov
- 801-835-4347

Social Media:

@userveutah on X, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn

Questions?

Thanks!