

**2020 AmeriCorps State Competitive Commission Recommendations**

**Competition Background**

AmeriCorps is a National Service program funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service. AmeriCorps projects address a combination of national service priorities to meet critical needs of our nation and addresses community problems. These include disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and military families. Within these issue areas, programs may submit proposals that address specific problems of local communities. AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award from the National Service Trust that can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

**Grant Proposal Review Process**

For the first round of review we asked new and recompeting applicants to submit Logic Models that were reviewed by Serve DC staff. We received eight logic models and invited six applicants to submit a full application. Two applicants did not meet the application deadline and were unable to continue in the competition.

The full application was due to Serve DC on Friday, November 1, 2019: All applications were received on time.

The staff and peer reviews were completed on December 4th with one peer reviewer, one commissioner, and three Serve DC staff members. The staff reviewers used a scoring rubric that aligned with the RFA.

Serve DC staff recommends submitting all applications to CNCS, with the plan to perform two rounds of clarifications to strengthen any noticeably weak segments of the applications, from December 13-19, 2019. The total amount of requested funding is $4,140,188, with a total of 517 AmeriCorps member slots.

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| **Applicant** | **Description** | **Peer/Commissioner Review** | | **Combined Staff Review** | **Commission Ranking** |
| Literacy Lab | The Literacy Lab proposes to have 20 AmeriCorps members who will provide low-income preschool children with daily, targeted early literacy intervention through the DC Reading Corps Program in pre-K classrooms in Washington, DC. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for increasing the school readiness for 169 pre-kindergarten students. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage 20 volunteers who will be engaged in activities to promote children's literacy. | 73 | 95 | 85 | 1 |
| City Year | City Year Washington DC proposes to have 155 full-time AmeriCorps members who will provide full-day education services to students in 19 public schools in the District of Columbia. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for providing in-school and after-school English or math academic support and/or social emotional development coaching to 1,860 students of which 348 students will improve literacy, 263 will improve math, and 572 will self-report increased school engagement. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage 1,000 volunteers, who will be engaged in physical service projects on national service days. | 80 | 86 | 85 | 2 |
| Teach for America | Teach For America DC Region proposes to have 60 MSY AmeriCorps members who teach for two years in low-income and under resourced schools in Washington, D.C. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for increasing the academic achievement of the over 3,840 of students they teach. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage 100 volunteers who will be engaged in supporting students in classrooms and schools. | 78 | 82 | 80 | 3 |
| Jumpstart | Jumpstart DC proposes to have 225 AmeriCorps members who will deliver its evidence-based early education program to 617 children in Washington, DC. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for increasing the kindergarten readiness of 404 preschool-aged children from low-income communities by implementing a curriculum designed to improve key language, literacy, and social-emotional skills. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage 500 leveraged volunteers who will be engaged in service projects that benefit preschool children and their families in the same communities. | 65 | 98 | 75 | 4 |
| Reading Partners | Reading Partners proposes to have 37 AmeriCorps members who will manage the day-to-day operations of our one-on-one literacy tutoring program for economically disadvantaged students at 20 Title I elementary schools in Washington D.C. At the end of the program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for measurably increasing the literacy skills of at least 560 high-need target students. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage 1,050 volunteers who will be engaged in individualized reading tutoring through our model. | 82 | 75 | 80 | 5 |
| City Gate | City Gate proposes to have 20 AmeriCorps members who will provide program and support services for a major expansion of an out-of-school program designed to close the achievement gap and open a pathway to long-term academic and life success for economically-disadvantaged students at five sites in Wards 7 & 8. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for helping 200 economically disadvantaged, minority students in grades K-12 to increase academic performance, maintain grade level progression, improve behavior outcomes, and begin building social capital for long-term success in education, employment, and civic engagement. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage 40 volunteers who will be engaged in tutoring and assisting in off-site expeditionary learning. | 58 | 75 | 60 | 6 |