CLLS AmeriCorps Initiative 2022-2023: Getting Started

August 10, 2022
Agenda

- Review of Opportunity
- Two Great Members
- How Do We Sign Up?
- Key Information
Questions?

- Please put your questions in Chat, and we’ll answer after the presentation.
- We’ll also have an “open mic (and camera)” session at the end if you prefer to ask verbally.
Review of Program Basics
For Libraries
AmeriCorps Basics

• Federal program supports volunteers in getting things done!
• “Domestic Peace Corps”
• Members are not employees, but they receive a living allowance and education award
• Full year commitment (or until hours complete)
• **1961** President Kennedy establishes the Peace Corps

• **1964** As part of the "War on Poverty," President Lyndon B. Johnson creates VISTA - Volunteers in Service to America

• **1994** Under President Clinton, AmeriCorps established - 28 years ago! The first class of AmeriCorps members (20,000 strong) begins serving in more than 1,000 communities

• **2016** AmeriCorps enrolls its 1 millionth member at a swearing in done by an astronaut on the international space station!

• **2019** AmeriCorps celebrates its 25th year
Some benefits:

Living Allowance
Receive a modest bi-weekly living allowance to cover basic expenses.

End of Service Award
Earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award ($6,095) to pay for current education expenses, and to repay qualified student loans.

Professional Development
Sharpen your skills and bolster your resume.

Health Benefit
Some AmeriCorps programs offer limited health benefit.

Jobs with Leading Employers
Connect to a network of over 500 employers from all sectors who value AmeriCorps experience.

And many more benefits...
You can find them at: AmeriCorps.gov/Join
CLLS Initiative and Opportunity

• Focus on **Capacity Building** and Pandemic Recovery
• CLLS libraries may apply
• AmeriCorps members serve in your program
  • Tutor
  • Recruit learners and volunteers
  • Work on family literacy programs
  • Assist with other programs and operations
  • Promote learner leadership
  • May include Adult Learners on Staff
Statewide Scope:
20 FT members
30 HT members
20 QT members

Each participating library should have at least two members.
## Cost Share Expectations UPDATED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Minimum Hours</th>
<th>Living Allowance*</th>
<th>Education Award</th>
<th>Local Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Time</td>
<td>1700</td>
<td>25,500</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>5,000*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Half Time</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>3,247.50</td>
<td>2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quarter Time</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>1,718.25</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Member Requirements

• Must complete application and interview

• Must complete all items required for member file, including signed Member Service Agreement
Member Requirements

• Must be U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or legal permanent resident alien of the United States

• Must pass specific background checks (Truescreen and Fieldprint)
Meet Two Great AmeriCorps Alums!

Stories from California Libraries
How Does My Library Sign Up?

2022-2023
For libraries

• Application: act NOW, first come, first served for two positions

• If all slots are not filled, your library may apply for additional positions
For libraries

• Notification ASAP (within one week)

• Your program should begin recruiting immediately after notification
For libraries

• Recruitment resources on https://libraryliteracy.org/special-projects/

• Sample application may be modified by your program (logo, local contact information)
For libraries

How can a library add more ESL funding?

• If you already have CLLS ESL funding, fill out a budget modification form.
• If you don’t have CLLS ESL funding, ask to apply now and CSL will unlock application.
Timeline

1. **August 2022**
   CLLS programs apply

2. **August-Sept**
   Programs recruit & screen members

3. **September**
   Site supervisor training

4. **October**
   Member training & service begins

5. **Oct 2022 - Sept 2023**
   Members complete service
Key Information  
2022-2023
What Are Statewide (not local) Responsibilities?

• Statewide project administration and leadership
  • Literacyworks provides most support systems
  • Project administrator Kathy St. John
  • CLLS is project partner
  • Pacific Library Partnership is lead grant agency
What Are Statewide (not local) Responsibilities?

• Centralized background checks and verification
• Statewide initial and ongoing virtual training for members (AmeriCorps basics, literacy basics, networking, website)
• Set up online timekeeping and tracking mechanism
• Processing timecards, living allowances, local travel reimbursements
• Site supervisor training on AmeriCorps requirements and standards
What Are Local Responsibilities?

• **Recruitment and selection** of members, including interviews and checking references
• **Supervision**
• Fostering a sense of belonging and success
• **Cost share** per member
• Sign **agreement/MOU** to participate
What Are Local Responsibilities?

• Workspace
• **Local training** (tutor training, local program orientation)
• **Supervisor participation** in statewide training and other activities
• Timekeeping (via America Learns product) and goal-based recordkeeping to support statewide reporting
A Few More Rules

Prohibited activities

Unallowable activities
Prohibited activities

AmeriCorps is a federal program and enjoys bipartisan support. Under the Serve America Act, it includes many rules and regulations, including what are called Prohibited Activities, such as influencing legislation, engaging in partisan political activities, and engaging in religious instruction. Information is included in the orientation.

Members and program staff are still free to do these activities on their own time.
Unallowable activities

In addition to those that are termed ‘Prohibited’ there are also other activities that aren’t allowed to be performed by AmeriCorps members.

These relate to keeping members from causing issues with labor organizations, as well as simply seeking to always represent the best use of taxpayer dollars.

Put simply, AmeriCorps wants to ensure that members are doing the service they are funded to do - as described in their program’s awarded grant.
Unallowable activities

▪ Activities that **fall outside of the scope** of the approved grant, performance measures, and position description

▪ Member training that exceeds the 20% aggregate rule

▪ Activities that would violate the **non-duplication** and **non-displacement** requirements
Ready to apply?

• [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CLLSappAmeriCorps](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CLLSappAmeriCorps)

• Applications open **now** and will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. You may apply for TWO members (no more or less) although you may request additional positions in case they become available.

• Libraries are responsible for recruiting and selecting members.
Thank you!

Questions?

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