

2023 State Commission NOFO - Membership Assistance Funds

Purpose of NOFO

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America's Service Commissions (ASC) is issuing this competition to identify and select state service commissions to establish member assistance funds to assist AmeriCorps members who are impacted by financial stress.

Initiative Overview and Goals

ASC has received a two-year, \$750,000 commitment (\$375,000 per year) from the Schultz Family Foundation to launch and sustain member assistance funds for 20 state service commissions - ten (10) commissions for the 2023-24 and ten (10) commissions for 2024-25 AmeriCorps program years.

Program Description

The target population for this initiative is AmeriCorps members ages 17-25 who are experiencing circumstances that require access to member assistance funds in times of financial stress or hardship. Through Schultz Family Foundation's National Service Challenge to seed innovative strategies to make national service a pathway of opportunity for all young people, we know that some common financial stressors that impact members' ability to complete their term of service include transportation, healthcare, food, and housing challenges. ASC and the selected technology provider will work with participating state service commissions and will determine, based on their members and their needs, the criteria for accessing funds. The technology provider will supply data sets of applications and funds disbursement that can be analyzed by state service commissions to ensure case management for referrals to other benefits that could assist impacted members.

As part of this project, ASC will conduct quarterly learning community calls with participating commissions to share emerging best practices regarding fund awareness, fund parameters, fund utilization, and member retention. ASC will also encourage participating commissions to conduct focus groups and surveys of their members to help inform the parameters of their respective funds. Member retention and exit data will be utilized to refine assistance fund efforts in the future.

Award Amounts

ASC intends to make ten grant awards of up to \$25,000. Each participating commission may request up to \$25,000 via the Schultz Family Foundation grant, which must be matched dollar for dollar by the commission.

Eligible Applicants

State service commissions in good standing with ASC.

Project Period

The project funding period is anticipated to run June 2023 through June 2024. Commissions participating will be responsible for securing funding for the second program year and beyond. State service commissions will need to establish sustainability plans that include identify funding sources to maintain the established

member assistance funds beyond June 2024.

Important Dates

- **NOFO Released: Monday, May 15, 2023**
- **Application TTA Call: Wednesday, May 31, 2023, 3:00pm ET. [Register for the call.](#)**
- **Proposals Due: Friday, June 9, 2023 by 5:00pm ET**
- **Announcement of Commissions Selected: Week of June 12, 2023**
- **Targeted Launch Date of First Round of Member Assistance Funds: August 1, 2023**
- **Targeted Launch Date of Second Round of Member Assistance Funds: August 1, 2024**

For further information contact:

Brad Kmoch

Chief Advancement Officer, America's Service Commissions

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2023 State Commission NOFO - Membership Assistance Funds

Contact Information

1. Please enter the contact information for the person that should be notified regarding the status of this application

Name	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Address 2	<input type="text"/>
City/Town	<input type="text"/>
State/Province	<input type="text" value="-- select state --"/>
ZIP/Postal Code	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number	<input type="text"/>

2. Who will be the staff person in charge of the facilitation, planning and implementation of this grant?

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Title/position:	<input type="text"/>

3. Briefly comment on the capacity of the commission and staff person to facilitate, plan, and implement this grant:

4. Are you requesting matching funds?

- Yes
 No

2023 State Commission NOFO - Membership Assistance Funds

Budget and Requested Match Funding Amount

5. Indicate your organization's **annual operating budget (CSG, CIF, match):**

6. Total grant funding requested (please indicate your matching grant request any amount **up to \$25,000**)

7. Match Funding: please identify how the commission will meet the dollar-for-dollar matching requirement, including amount of CSG dollars and any philanthropic partners who have committed funding in support for this initiative.

2023 State Commission NOFO - Membership Assistance Funds

Needs Assessment

8. Provide a brief assessment of why this funding is needed

9. Describe your plan to better understand the challenges facing the members in your state/territory:

2023 State Commission NOFO - Membership Assistance Funds

Program Narrative

10. Describe how you will promote this opportunity to your members (note: only members age 17-25 are eligible for assistance):

11. Describe your plan for identifying members who may need financial assistance:

12. Detail your intended outcome(s) that will happen as a result of receiving this grant:

2023 State Commission NOFO - Membership Assistance Funds

Sustainability Plan and Timeline

Note: commissions must make a good faith effort to secure match funding by December 31, 2023.

13. Describe how the commission will sustain this program beyond the matching grant period:

14. Provide a timeline for the work you will do with this grant between August 1, 2023 and July 31, 2024