

Volunteer Generation Fund

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. PURPOSE OF VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUNDING

The VolunteerNC Volunteer Generation Fund grant is funded by AmeriCorps, formerly the Corporation for National and Community Service. The mission of AmeriCorps is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. Through AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps Seniors, and the Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF), AmeriCorps has helped to engage millions of citizens in meeting community and national challenges through service and volunteer action.

VolunteerNC seeks to fund effective approaches that expand volunteering, strengthen the capacity of volunteer connector organizations to recruit and retain skills-based volunteers, and develop strategies to use volunteers effectively to solve problems. **Specifically, VGF subgrants will support efforts that expand the capacity of volunteer connector organizations to recruit, manage, support, and retain individuals to serve in high-quality volunteer assignments.**

Applicants that receive funding under this Notice must directly carry out the activities supported under the award.

Subgrants to community-based entities must include one or more of the following:

- Address activities consistent with the priorities set by the state's service plan (<https://www.nc.gov/html/2026-2028-volunteernc-state-service-plan>).
- Recruit, manage, or support volunteers to a community-based entity such as a volunteer coordinating agency, a nonprofit resource center, a volunteer training clearinghouse, an institution of higher education, or a collaborative partnership of faith-based and community-based organizations.
- Provide technical assistance and support to strengthen the capacity of local infrastructure organizations, address areas of community need, and expand the number of volunteers statewide.

2. FUNDING INITIATIVES & PRIORITIES

VolunteerNC is accepting applications for the following initiatives. Funds will be awarded based on availability.

- a. **Staff Positions-** Funding is available to support Volunteer Coordinator positions. Volunteer Coordinators are expected to identify community needs and should plan and implement programs to address those needs. Performance measures include the number of volunteer hours recruited and served as a result of the Volunteer Coordinator's efforts and the number of individuals or families served as a result of the Volunteer Coordinator's efforts. Individuals serving in funded positions must pass a three-part National Service Criminal History check.
- b. **Youth Engagement-** Funding is available to provide scholarships for youth who participate in service-oriented leadership and training programs. Performance measures include the number of youth who complete leadership and training programs under scholarships, and the number of individuals served as a result of programs planned and implemented by youth, if applicable.
- c. **Volunteer Systems-** Funding is available for the purchase of platforms, software, or other systems that support the recruitment and management of volunteers.
- d. **Volunteer Events/National Days of Service-** Funding is available to support the planning and implementation of volunteer events and National Days of Service projects. National Days of Service include 9/11 Day of Service (September), MLK Jr. Day of Service (January), Global Youth Service Day (April), and National Volunteer Week (April). At least one individual from the applicant's organization must pass a three-part National Service Criminal History check.
- e. **Training-** Funding is available for organizations to offer training in the areas of disaster services, community resiliency, volunteer management, Service Enterprise, civic engagement, veterans and military family engagement, community health, and other areas that help nonprofits to be more efficient and build capacity.

VolunteerNC will prioritize organizations that serve:

- Communities affected by disaster
- Military families and veterans
- Youth
- Rural communities

To receive priority consideration, applicants must show that the priority area is a significant part of the program focus and intended outcomes and must include a high-quality program design. Proposing programs that receive priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

3. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

VolunteerNC will require applicants seeking funding to recruit and manage volunteers to use the following performance measures.

- Number of volunteers recruited or managed
- Number of volunteer hours served

VolunteerNC will require applicants seeking funding to provide ongoing training to nonprofits to use the following AmeriCorps National Performance Measures.

- G3-3.4 (output): Number of organizations that received capacity building services
- G3-3.10A (outcome): Number of organizations that increased their effectiveness, efficiency, and/or program scale/reach.

4. PROGRAM AUTHORITY

AmeriCorps' legal authority to award these grants is the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 12653p).

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

1. ESTIMATED AVAILABLE FUNDS

VolunteerNC has \$300,000 available for this VGF funding opportunity.

2. ESTIMATED AWARD AMOUNT

Award amounts will vary, as determined by the scope of the projects. Estimated award amounts will range from \$10,000 - \$20,000.

3. PROJECT PERIOD

VolunteerNC anticipates making awards beginning October 1, 2026. Award periods must end on or before September 30, 2027.

4. TYPE OF AWARD

VGF subgrants will be awarded on a cost reimbursement basis.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Funding may be awarded to the following types of entities:

- Nonprofit organizations

- State or local governments
- Schools or institutions of higher learning

Under no circumstances will a for-profit business be awarded VGF funds, nor should VGF funds provide a direct benefit to a for-profit business.

2. OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Applications that propose to engage in activities that are prohibited under AmeriCorps' statutes, regulations, or the terms and conditions of its awards are not eligible to receive AmeriCorps funding. Please review the 2026 Terms and Conditions for Volunteer Generation Fund Grants for more details. <https://www.americorps.gov/sites/default/files/document/2026-04/2026-Volunteer-Generation-Fund-Terms-and-Conditions.pdf>

B. UNPAID FEDERAL TAX LIABILITY

Under appropriations provisions annually enacted by Congress, if VolunteerNC is aware that any entity has any unpaid federal tax liability—

- that has been assessed
- for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed
- that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability

—that entity is not eligible for an award under this Notice. However, this exclusion will not apply to an entity which a federal agency has considered for suspension or debarment and has made a determination that suspension or debarment is not necessary to protect the interests of the federal government.

Pursuant to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, an organization described in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(4) that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply for AmeriCorps funding.

C. SUSPENSION OF FUNDING LIST

VolunteerNC shall not disburse financial assistance to any entity that is on the Suspension of Funding List. <https://www.osbm.nc.gov/stewardship-services/state-grants-management/suspension-funding-list>

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications are due to VolunteerNC by **5:00pm EDT on Friday, September 4, 2026**.

To access the online application, please go to <https://www.nc.gov/working/volunteer-opportunities/volunteernc>.

Pending the availability of funds, VolunteerNC may conduct a second call for VGF applications in fall 2026 and a third call for VGF applications in winter 2027.

2. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications shall be made through The Grant Gateway. All supporting documentation must be either uploaded and included at the time the application is submitted or emailed to volunteernc@nc.gov with “VGF Application” in the subject line, within 24 hours. Incomplete applications may be rejected.

2. CONTENT

- Complete the online portion of the application.
- Submit a proposed budget for the project using the VGF budget template and include the source(s) of matching funds.
- Provide any supporting documentation including proof of nonprofit status and the most recently filed form 990 or 990EZ.

3. FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

A. AWARD FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Awards under this Notice are subject to cost share or matching requirements. The amount of federal funding provided will be limited to the required percent of the total allowable costs for the funded activity, as determined under 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E-Cost Principles and described in Section C.2. For the 2026-2027 Program Year, VGF subgrantees are required to provide 50% of matching funds.

4. OTHER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A. ELECTRONIC APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applicants are required to submit applications electronically via The Grant Gateway.

If circumstances make it impossible for an applicant to submit in The Grant Gateway, applicants should contact VolunteerNC for further guidance. Applicants should be prepared to submit a written explanation and any other documentation or evidence that supports their inability to submit their application electronically.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. REVIEW CRITERIA

Applications shall be evaluated by VolunteerNC staff. Programs meeting funding criteria as determined by staff reviewers will be submitted to the Commission for funding approval. Funding shall be determined by the following criteria:

A. EVIDENCE OF NEED-

- Evidence of an unmet need within a community
- The extent to which the need satisfies VolunteerNC funding priorities

B. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES-

- The extent to which the applicant convincingly links the identified need, proposed interventions, and the anticipated outputs and outcomes.
- The extent to which the program design aligns with the purpose of the VGF.

C. PROGRAM IMPACT-

- The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that the proposed project is likely to have a notable, positive impact as measured by the magnitude of the effect on the need(s).
- The extent to which the objectives and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable.

D. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY-

- The extent to which the organization has the experience, staffing, and management structure to plan, implement, and evaluate the proposed project and the necessary plans and infrastructure to provide programmatic and fiscal oversight, day-to-day operational support, and data collection.

E. COST-EFFECTIVENESS-

When reviewing the proposed budget, VolunteerNC will consider the following criteria. Written responses to the criteria are not required as part of the narrative.

- The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives, design, and potential significance of the proposed project.
- The extent to which the budget is clear and in alignment with the program narrative.
- The extent to which the budget includes adequate resources to carry out the program effectively.
- The extent to which the program demonstrates that financial and in-kind resources will be obtained to support program implementation.
- Whether the applicant adequately budgets for its required share of costs.

2. APPLICATION REVIEW

A. INTERNAL REVIEW

VolunteerNC Staff Reviewers will assess applications based on the Evidence of Need, Goals and Objectives, Program Impact, Organizational Capability, and Cost-Effectiveness Criteria. Staff Reviewers will also consider the priorities and strategic considerations detailed in this Notice. All Staff Reviewers will be screened for conflicts of interest.

B. APPLICANT CLARIFICATION

VolunteerNC may ask an applicant for clarifying information. VolunteerNC staff will use this information to make funding recommendations. A request for clarification does not guarantee an award. Applicants may be recommended for funding even if they are not asked for clarifying information. An applicant's failure to respond to a request for clarification adequately and in a timely manner may result in the removal of its application from consideration. Clarification responses should be complete and correct upon submission.

C. RISK ASSESSMENT

VolunteerNC staff will evaluate the risks to the program posed by each applicant, including conducting due diligence to ensure an applicant's ability to manage federal funds. This evaluation is in addition to the assessment of the applicant's eligibility and the quality of its application on the basis of the Selection Criteria. Results from this evaluation will inform funding decisions. If VolunteerNC determines that an award will be made to an applicant with assessed risks, special conditions that correspond to the degree of assessed risk may be applied to the award. Additionally, if VolunteerNC concludes that the reasons for an applicant having a poor risk assessment are not likely to be mitigated, the application may not be selected for funding.

In evaluating risks, VolunteerNC may consider some of the following criteria:

- financial stability

- financial capacity to manage Federal funds
- quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in applicable OMB Guidance
- applicant’s record in managing previous AmeriCorps awards, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards, including:
 - timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements
 - accuracy of data reported or validity of performance measure data reported
 - conformance to the terms and conditions of previous federal awards
 - meeting matching requirements
 - the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards
- information available through OMB-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, such as:
 - Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)
 - U.S. Treasury Bureau of Fiscal Services
 - Dun and Bradstreet
 - SAM
 - “Do Not Pay”
- reports and findings from single audits performed under Uniform Administrative Guidance and findings of any other available audits or investigations
- IRS Tax Form 990
- applicant organization’s annual report
- publicly available information, including information from the applicant organization's website
- applicant’s ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. FEDERAL AWARD NOTICES

VolunteerNC will make awards following the subgrant selection announcement.

Results of this competition will be announced, beginning October 1, 2026. All applicants, successful or not, will be notified of funding decisions via email. Notification of an award is not an authorization to begin subgrant activities. A Notice of Grant Award or Memorandum of Agreement signed by the Executive Director of VolunteerNC is the authorizing document for subgrant activities. An awardee may not expend federal funds until the start of the Project Period identified on the Notice of Grant Award or Memorandum of Agreement.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

A. UNIFORM GUIDANCE

All awards made under this Notice will be subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 2205.

B. REQUESTS FOR IMPROPER PAYMENT INFORMATION

AmeriCorps may, from time to time, request documentation from recipients in order to monitor the award or to comply with other legal requirements, such as the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002, as amended. Failure to make timely responses to these requests may result in award funds being placed on temporary manual hold, reimbursement only status, or other remedies may be applied as appropriate.

C. AMERICORPS TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All awards made under this Notice will be subject to the FY 2026 AmeriCorps General Terms and Conditions, and the FY 2026 Volunteer Generation Fund Terms and Conditions. These Terms and Conditions contain detailed, mandatory compliance and reporting requirements. Current versions of the AmeriCorps General and Volunteer Generation Fund Terms and Conditions are available at <https://www.americorps.gov/grantees-sponsors/manage-your-grant#terms-and-conditions-heading>.

D. NATIONAL SERVICE CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK REQUIREMENTS

The National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) is a specific screening procedure established by law to protect the beneficiaries of national service. The law requires grantees to conduct and document NSCHCs on persons (including award-funded staff, national service participant, or volunteer) receiving a salary or if their salary is being used as match for the grant through a program receiving AmeriCorps funds. An individual is ineligible to serve in a position that receives such AmeriCorps funding if the individual is registered, or required to be registered, as a sex offender or has been convicted of murder. The cost of conducting NSCHCs is an allowable expense under the award.

VolunteerNC shall utilize one vendor AmeriCorps has engaged to conduct the required NSCHCs. Failure to conduct an NSCHC may result in significant disallowed costs.

Any individual employed or serving in a covered position must consent to the following checks, which will be conducted by VolunteerNC.

- A nationwide name-based search of the National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW);

- A name- or fingerprint-based search of the statewide criminal history registry in the person's state of residence and in the state where the person will serve/work; and
- A fingerprint-based FBI criminal history check.

See 45 CFR § 2540.200–§ 2540.207 and AmeriCorps' National Service Criminal History Check Resources for complete information and FAQs.

3. USE OF MATERIAL

To ensure that materials generated with AmeriCorps funding are available to the public and readily accessible to recipients and non-recipients, AmeriCorps reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to obtain, use, modify, reproduce, publish, or disseminate publications and materials produced under the award, including data, and to authorize others to do so (2 CFR §200.315).

4. REPORTING

Recipients are required to submit a variety of reports which are due at specific times during the life cycle of an award. All reports must be accurate, complete, and submitted on time. At a minimum, recipients must track the number of volunteer hours generated by positions supported with VGF funds or the number of individuals receiving assistance as a result of VGF funded activities unless otherwise agreed to in recipient's Notice of Grant Award or Memorandum of Agreement.

Subgrantees must submit progress reports semiannually and monthly or quarterly reimbursement requests that include all supporting documentation for applicable expenses (e.g. receipts, staff timesheets/payroll, paid invoices, in-kind contribution documentation, etc.). All staff listed under the Personnel Section of the Grant Budget Narrative are required to complete timesheets that utilize OMB best practices. Personnel timesheets must:

- Be completed and approved at a minimum of once per month.
- Be signed by both the employee and his or her supervisor.
- Represent the actual time spent conducting activities directly associated with management of the AmeriCorps grant/program.
- Accurately capture the total amount of hours worked on all projects.

At the end of the award period, recipients must submit final financial and progress reports that are consistent with the close-out requirements. The final reports are due 30 days after the end of the agreement.

Once the subgrant is awarded, recipients will be expected to have data collection and data management policies, processes, and practices that provide reasonable assurance that they are reporting high-quality performance measure data. At a minimum, recipients should have

policies, processes, and practices that address the following five aspects of data quality for themselves and for subrecipients (if applicable):

- the data measures what it intends to measure
- the data reported is complete
- the recipient collects data in a consistent manner
- the recipient takes steps to correct data errors
- the recipient actively reviews data for accuracy prior to submission.

Failure to submit accurate, complete, and timely required reports may affect the recipient's ability to secure future VolunteerNC or AmeriCorps funding.

G. OTHER INFORMATION

1. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Recipients should contact VolunteerNC if they require assistance applying for or administering VGF subgrants.

VolunteerNC will host a virtual office hour on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, from 2:00-3:00pm EDT to answer applicant questions. To register for the office hour, please go to https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/2nBaFE-1S_ui_HUB8nswzA.

2. RE-FOCUSING OF FUNDING

VolunteerNC reserves the right to re-focus program dollars for this competition in the event of disaster or other compelling needs.

3. REIMBURSEMENT

Budget requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and VolunteerNC reserves the right to disallow the use of funds for any budget line-items deemed to be inappropriate purchases using federal funds. Inappropriate purchases include, but are not limited to:

- Meals/food purchases for volunteers or staff
- Entertainment
- Profit-generating purchases or activities
- Equipment purchases or capital expenditures that exceed \$5,000
- Property
- Fundraising expenses
- Lobbying, political, or any prohibited activities

4. BRANDING INFORMATION

Branding for subgrantees must include language identifying the source of funding for their program along with approved logo. Language to include: "This program is funded by a subgrant from the AmeriCorps Volunteer Generation Fund through VolunteerNC." Training on the branding requirements will be held shortly after notice of funding on the Basecamp platform provided. Please note VGF communications to subgrantees will come from Basecamp. Each new subgrantee will be emailed a link to join Basecamp once they are approved and the grant agreement is signed by all parties. Subgrantees are expected to read and implement all posts to Basecamp.

H. IMPORTANT NOTICES

1. PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENT:

Public reporting burden for collection of information under this Notice of Funding is estimated to average six hours per submission, including reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing the application and reporting forms. AmeriCorps informs people who may respond to this Notice of Funding that they are not required to respond unless the OMB control number and expiration date are current valid. (See 5 C.F.R. 1320.5(b)(2)(i).) The OMB Control Number for the information collection is 3045- 0047. It expires on 9/30/2026.

2. PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT:

The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C § 552a) requires that we notify you that the information requested under this Notice of Funding is collected pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 12592 and 12615 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 as amended, and 42 U.S.C. 4953 of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 as amended. Purposes and Uses - The information requested is collected for the purpose of reviewing grant applications and granting funding requests. Routine uses may include disclosure of the information to federal, state, or local agencies pursuant to lawfully authorized requests. In some programs, the information may also be provided to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to determine the existence of any prior criminal convictions. The information may also be provided to appropriate federal agencies and contractors that have a need to know the information for the purpose of assisting the government to respond to a suspected or confirmed breach of the security or confidentiality or information maintained in this system of records, and the information disclosed is relevant and unnecessary for the assistance. Effects of Nondisclosure - The information requested is voluntary; however, to be a recipient of this grant program, disclosure of personal or sensitive information is required to receive federal benefits.

