

National Service Community Challenge Grants



Overview

With the generous support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Service Year Alliance is offering four \$25,000 grants to organizations that are able to secure a 1:1 new financial match and begin to implement or expand a shared, community-defined goal that will expand national service and meet community needs. The goal of these grants is to help new and existing community collaboratives attract sustainable local funding and bring a model or approach inspired by the Flint National Service Accelerator to their community as a strategy to address local needs.

Application

This \$25,000 grant will be awarded to selected applicants upon confirmation of matching funds to advance strategic place-based national service efforts in your community as defined in the application. The deadline to apply is **October 5, 2021**.

General (cover page)

- Point of Contact name:
- Point of Contact email:
- Applying on behalf of [ORGANIZATION]:
- Geographic area of initiative:
- National Service Community Initiative Name/Service Year Impact Community Name (if applicable):

Proposal

In 1 - 2 pages, using the question prompts below, please explain how you would use the National Service Community Challenge Grant award to sustainably advance national service in your community.

- Which one or more universal national service principles is your community currently working towards (national service at scale, addressing community needs, an opportunity for all, building intentional post-service pathways, and/or fueling civic renewal)? Please provide a brief explanation of the work you are pursuing within the principle(s).
- What specific activities will you engage in to advance this principle(s)? (For example, will you be developing reusable resources accessible to all programs, combining corps member training across programs, developing a new national service model to address unmet community needs, sharing local recruitment across programs, developing a community plan utilizing service at scale, establishing a collaborative of programs and stakeholders, building intentional career and education pathways into local national service programs, etc.). This can be a detailed list or described in narrative form.

- How will you work to make the initiative sustainable beyond this grant (e.g., if the funds will be used for hiring a dedicated staff person, then up to 25% of staff time will be used for fundraising; the activities funded by the grant will be easily maintained with existing staff capacity once completed, etc.)?
- What are your desired outcomes? Please identify the major milestones you believe will demonstrate progress.
- If you are part of a local national service collaborative, what organizations or entities are part of the collaborative and how are they engaged? Are there additional stakeholders you plan to engage during the life of this grant?
- If you are not part of a local national service collaborative, what organizations do you plan to engage in order to form one (i.e., national service programs; local, county, or state agencies or elected officials; community organizations; colleges and universities; etc.)? Have you engaged them to date in preparing for this application?

Required attachments

Project budget

Please provide a detailed project budget that indicates:

- Projected expenses for the \$25,000 challenge grant and matching funds
- The total cost of the project. (If greater than \$50,000 please indicate the additional funding sources you plan to engage and projected expenses)

Match funding requirements

The National Service Community Challenge Grant must be a new financial commitment(s) from a prospective or committed funder(s) that has the potential to be sustainable. Examples include: a foundation or philanthropic entity with strong local interest, a local or state government agency, a corporate partner, etc. Match funds must be in hand by **April 1, 2022**. Funds raised from *June 1, 2021 - April 1, 2022* will be considered eligible to be matched. [Please see application criteria for additional details](#). In 1 page or less, please respond to the following prompts.

- From where are you intending to receive funding to match the National Service Community Challenge Grant award?
- By approximately what date do you anticipate receiving the funding that will qualify for the match?
- Briefly explain the interests of this funder(s) and how you are pursuing funding from them?
- Include an award letter or letter of support from the funder(s), if available. *If an award letter or letter of support is not yet available, the funds from the National Service Community Challenge Grant will be designated as conditional until the matching funds are secured.*

Email completed application to partnerships@serviceyear.org by October 5!

Questions? Service Year Alliance will host the following office hours:

August 25, 2:30-3:30 PM ET

SIGN UP

September 14, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

SIGN UP