Fixed Amount Grants under the Serve America Act

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Fixed Amount Grants

- According to the Serve Act the amount must be “significantly less than the reasonable and necessary costs of administering the program supported by the grant; and

- based on an amount per individual enrolled in the program receiving the grant...”

Opportunities for Fixed Amount Grants in 2010

- Full-time Programs
- Professional Corps Programs (also full-time)
- Education Award Programs

Advantages of Fixed Amount Grants

- OMB Cost Principles do not apply
- No tracking or documentation of cost sharing is required
- Budgets are not required during the application process
- Limited, if any, financial reporting to the Corporation

Disavantages

- Programs can only draw all of the funds awarded if all members enroll (EAP) or if all members enroll and complete service (Full-time and Professional Corps programs)

- Programs must still raise significant support to operate the program

What Requirements Still Apply?

- AmeriCorps members must receive a living allowance of at least $11,800 and health benefits
- Member documentation related to eligibility and criminal background checks must be confirmed and maintained
- Member time-keeping systems must be in place to track member service hours
- Appropriate program management and supervision must be provided

What Requirements Still Apply?

- Performance measures will be carefully scrutinized
- OMB Uniform Administrative Requirements must be followed
- Single Audits must be conducted (if Federal expenditures exceed $500,000/year)

Factors Under Consideration in Setting the Fixed Amount

- Total budgeted cost per member in full-time programs operating from 2007 – 2009
- Corporation share of budgeted cost per member
- Amounts for member costs
- Statutory cost-sharing requirements

Projections to Date

- Full-cost Programs: $13,000
- Professional Corps: $ 2,000
- Programs can propose less than the amounts. CNCS will give priority in the selection process to those that do so.

Additional Guidance

- CNCS will give priority in the selection process to existing programs that have demonstrated experience and capacity to track performance measures.
- Grantees must participate in any evaluation the Corporation conducts on this pilot.
- Grantees will be encouraged to apply for fixed amounts less than the maximum.