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New Yorkers VOLUNTEER

NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION ON NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE



www.newyorkersvolunteer.org

2010 DISABILITY PLACEMENT FUNDS

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The New York Commission has been awarded the maximum New York State Disability Placement Funds allocation of \$65,000. Grant funds are for the placement, reasonable accommodation, and auxiliary services for members and potential members with disabilities, serving in national service programs.

State commissions can provide disability funds to any AmeriCorps State or National, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America program funded under the 2009 Kennedy Serve America Act. This includes AmeriCorps State Competitive, State Formula, and National Direct, as well as Education Award Programs, Indian Tribes, U.S. Territories, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America.

Programs may request funds from the Commission for this purpose on a rolling basis for expenditures incurred in 2010 for both the 2009-2010 and the 2010-2011 program year. Requests will be accepted on a rolling basis throughout calendar year 2010 until funds are exhausted.

Requests for funding will require:

- A proposal narrative containing a description of the placement (outreach and recruitment), reasonable accommodations and or auxiliary services requested and specific justification for why they are needed;
- A budget (see attached)



If the request for outreach and recruitment, reasonable accommodations and or auxiliary services expenses incurred or anticipated during the 2010 calendar year is approved, programs will submit an Appendix X amendment for the approved amount to their current 2009-10 New York State AmeriCorps contract.

When the Commission receives requests for Disability Placement funding in excess of \$2,500 the Commission's representatives will evaluate the request. The Commission may also request a review and opinion from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Commission will make the final funding decision.

Use of Grant Funds. Commissions may use grant funds to provide reasonable accommodations and auxiliary aids to members and potential members in circumstances including, but not limited to the following:

- Provide reasonable accommodations for AmeriCorps State, National, and Senior Corps members and Learn and Serve participants.
- Purchase reasonable accommodation and auxiliary aid equipment that an AmeriCorps State, National, Senior Corps, or Learn and Serve America program uses to assist in the placement of AmeriCorps members with disabilities.
- Partner with disability organizations to develop action plans that result in increases in referrals, member applications, and member support strategies.
- Engage disability inclusion experts to review and provide feedback on existing recruitment, outreach, and programmatic materials on inclusions and accessibility.
- Provide funds to programs for the development of materials in alternative formats.
- Support the costs associated with the development of a state-wide working group made up of representatives

from the commission, Corporation State Office, University Center for Excellence in Disabilities, disability organizations, and self-advocacy groups to develop and implement plans to recruit and retain individuals with disabilities in service positions and to ensure positive experiences.

- Pay for a disability coordinator, disability inclusion expert consultant, or contractor (which may be a disability-related organization) to assist with outreach, recruitment, and training and technical assistance on disability inclusion issues including outreach, recruitment, reasonable accommodation, and retention. The time apportioned to this Grant cannot exceed 1.0 FTE.
- Travel by commission staff whose position is funded through the disability grant, AmeriCorps members, or members of state-wide disability inclusion working groups when such travel is integrally related to facilitating the placement, recruitment, and retention of individuals with disabilities in AmeriCorps State, National, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America programs, including attending CNCS-sponsored trainings that strengthen the commission's disability inclusion function.
- Sponsor training sessions for and with AmeriCorps State, National, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America programs to educate program staff (and/or members) as to how they can increase the participation of individuals with disabilities.
- To modify or enhance an activity or deliverable (e.g., training, brochure, or website) that is intended to achieve objectives outside the scope of these grant funds, prorate the costs accordingly. For example, if a training event has 10 modules, one of which falls within the purposes of the grant funds, the grant funds may be used to defray 10% of the total cost of the training event.
- Support nonprofit organizations promoting competitive and noncompetitive sporting events involving individuals with disabilities (including Special Olympics) are eligible for assistance under the national service laws.

Restrictions on Use of Funds. Commissions may not use these funds to support the following activities:

- Costs attributable to programs that are not funded under subtitle C of Title 1 of the National and Community Service Act such as AmeriCorps VISTA and NCCC.
- Reasonable accommodations and auxiliary aids for program or commission staff, for commissioners, or for community beneficiaries of programs.
- Making the commission's facilities accessible (unless doing so is integrally related to increasing the placement of individuals with disabilities in AmeriCorps State, National, Senior Corps, or Learn and Serve America programs).
- Training of members concerning disability related issues (unless this activity is integrally related to increasing the placement of individuals with disabilities in AmeriCorps State, National, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America programs).
- Research or evaluation (unless this activity is integrally related to increasing the placement of individuals with disabilities in AmeriCorps State, National, Senior Corps, or Learn and Serve America programs).

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides tools and training for volunteer and service programs through the **Resource Center**,

<http://www.nationalserviceresources.org/>

Among the resources is a valuable handbook designed specifically to assist national and community service programs to fully and meaningfully include individuals with disabilities.

“Inclusion, Creating an Inclusive Environment: A Handbook for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities in National and Community Service Programs”

<http://www.nationalserviceresources.org/inclusion-handbook>

This handbook contains information to assist programs in different areas of outreach, recruitment, selection, and retention of participants with disabilities.

For further information regarding 2010 Disability funding requests, contact Eric Czupil, at (518) 473-8882 or eric.czupil@newyorkersvolunteer.ny.gov.